FOOD SECURITY AND LIVELIHOODS ASSESSMENT OF LEBANESE HOST COMMUNITIES

ASSESSMENT REPORT

LEBANON - JUNE 2015

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

REACH Informing more effective humanitarian action

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Acknowledgements

The Food Security and Livelihood Assessment (FSLA) report was prepared by REACH through a Letter of Agreement with the Food and Agricultural Organisation of the United Nations (FAO) representation in Lebanon. It is part of FAO's technical support services to the Ministry of Agriculture (MoA), REACH would like to express its deep gratitude to MoA and FAO for the partnership, trust and technical guidance throughout the process. REACH is also grateful for the 855 Lebanese households, 40 Key Informants and 30 focus group discussions participants who gave their time to answer questions and provide invaluable information for this research.

Summary

Context

The Syria Crisis, now in its fourth year, has forced more than nine million people to flee their homes. Around 6 million of these are believed to be internally displaced within Syria, while more than three million people have fled the country altogether. Lebanon, despite being the smallest of the countries neighbouring Syria, hosts the largest population of displaced Syrians. According to the data published by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) 1,146,405 displaced Syrians have registered in Lebanon since the onset of the crisis [1]. This significant population of displaced Syrians, approximately amounting to one quarter of the Lebanese population, has taken refuge in up to 1,700 neighbourhoods, towns, and villages across the country; indeed, latest data suggests that many localities have more displaced Syrians than Lebanese host community members.

The prolonged displacement of such significant numbers of displaced Syrians has placed an ever-increasing strain on Lebanese host communities. Basic services have become stretched to breaking point in many communities, and competition over access to affordable housing and livelihood opportunities, sufficient to meet household needs, has intensified. As a result of this situation, the recent Lebanon Crisis Response Plan (LCRP) has outlined a strategy for the Government of Lebanon and the humanitarian / development community, to work towards ensuring the needs of Lebanese most vulnerable inhabitants, including displaced populations and hosting communities, are met.

Assessment

Based on a similar and successful partnership in Jordan, in August 2014, REACH was contracted by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the Ministry of Agriculture (MoA) to conduct a national level assessment on the food security and livelihoods situation of Lebanese host communities. The assessment aimed to provide humanitarian and development actors, as well as the Ministry of Agriculture, with baseline information in order to establish a comprehensive strategy for food security and livelihoods interventions targeting host communities. The FSLA was informed by a secondary data review that showed a clear lack of information on Lebanese host communities. This review was conducted as part of the first phase of the interagency Multi Sector Needs Assessment (May 2014).

The assessment consisted of several phases. A series of data collection and analysis exercises were undertaken between September and December 2014. First, as mentioned above, a desk review was commissioned to collate and synthetize the most up-to-date secondary data available on the agriculture, food security and livelihoods situations of Lebanese host communities. Second, primary data collection was undertaken. It combined focus group discussions with targeted qualitative key informant interviews and a household survey. This report presents the findings from the assessment.

[1] *http://data.unhcr.org/syrianrefugees/country.php?id=122, accessed 16/01/2015*

Key Findings

Demographics and Household Composition

- Surveyed Lebanese households are overwhelmingly headed by males (86 per cent) and include an average of 4.9 individuals. Education-wise, nearly half of heads of household have received primary education while more than a quarter reported having received no education.

- Eight per cent of the assessed Lebanese households have displaced Syrians living in their household or on their property. However, in Bekaa, one fifth of households reported having displaced Syrians in their household or on their property.

Socio-economic Profile

- Although labour market conditions in Lebanon were already unfavourable prior to the Syria Crisis, due to high unemployment rates, mismatches between labour supply and demand, and a prevalence of both low quality and low-productivity jobs, these problems have been exacerbated by the Syria crisis.

- Households have at least one member engaged in an activity to provide for them, generally in agriculture, self-employment, a public security profession or a low-skilled skilled service job. However, a majority of surveyed Lebanese households reported a decrease in income in the past 24 months. According to them, the top reasons for decrease in income are the decline in purchasing power and the lack of job opportunities.

- One of the main consequences of the Syria crisis on the labour market is the increase in labour supply which is leading to a rise in unemployment among Lebanese. As a result, according to qualitative data, many are choosing to relocate to urban areas or in some cases foreign countries in search of job opportunities.

- Signs that Lebanese host communities are struggling to cope with the changes in livelihoods are the fact that debt is prevalent among households. More than half of interviewed Lebanese households reported having incurred debt in the last 24 months. To buy food and to pay for health expenses are the two main reasons why households have incurred debt in the last 24 months.

Household Needs and Assistance

- While assessed Lebanese households' have many needs such as health, additional food and agricultural inputs; additional food was picked as the most important need by 25 per cent of households and health by 18 per cent of households. Agricultural inputs were chosen as the third most important need by 13 per cent of households.

- The great majority of surveyed Lebanese households reported not having received any assistance in the past twelve months.

- The abovementioned household needs, especially considering the reported lack of assistance, suggest an integral need for the expansion of the inclusion of Lebanese host communities in humanitarian and development interventions.

Agriculture

- Agriculture is a main source of livelihood in Lebanon. Indeed, according to the household survey, 39% of the total surveyed Lebanese population can be considered to form Lebanon's agricultural population. The data revealed that vegetables are the most common type of crop throughout the country and that one per cent of the surveyed Lebanese population raises livestock with a preference for small cattle herds.

- The sector has seen a dramatic decrease in crop yield over the last 24 months, threatening food security as well as the livelihood source of those involved in the sector. Overall, results showed that 42 per cent of Lebanese crops are currently yielding less than 50 per cent of what they did 24 months ago. The main factor for decrease in crop yield was the reduction in accessible water.

- In order to mitigate the impact of the Syria crisis and other factors on agriculture, programs need to take into consideration farmers' main agricultural needs which are fertilizers, pesticides and machinery. Moreover, according to KI interviews and FGDs, the establishment of effective agricultural cooperatives and efficient and transparent market supervisory systems are crucial in this matter.

Food Security

- While food security is not an immediate problem for Lebanese host communities at the country level, several operational areas already have a portion of their population affected by food insecurity. If the situation is not addressed and its evolution not monitored, this may lead poor households to becoming increasingly vulnerable to future shocks.

- In terms of utilization, a majority of Lebanese households that were interviewed, report eating three meals per day. However, seven per cent say that they are eating fewer meals than usual. In addition, the data shows that five per cent of households have a poor Food Consumption Score.

- While physical access to food is mostly problematic in Akkar and the South, economic access is compromised all over the country. Food and non-food related coping strategies are widespread. Commonly reported non-food related coping strategies are the use of savings or taking credit/borrowing money; both of which have financial implications that could increase the risk of food insecurity in the future.

- In order to maintain stability of supply, Key Informants and Focus Group Discussion participants recommended regulating food prices and avoiding an embroilment of the security situation.

- Improving food availability would be recommended to increase self-reliance of households and communities as the agriculture sector itself has suffered since the start of the Syria crisis.

Contents

Figures, Tables and Maps

Georgraphic Classifications

Operational Area	Refers to UNHCR regional operational areas in Lebanon. There are five UNHCR sub-office regions in Lebanon: Akkar, Bekaa, Mount Lebanon/Beirut, Tripoli T5 and South. The operational area of **Akkar** coincides with the governorate of Akkar, and the governorate of **Bekaa** is comprised of the districts of Baalbek, El Hermel, Rachaya, West Bekaa and Zahle. However, the operational area of **Beirut & Mount Lebanon** includes the governorates of Beirut and Mount Lebanon. **Tripoli + T5** operational area refers to the districts of Tripoli, Batroun, Bcharre, El Minieh-Dennieh, Koura and Zgharta. **The South** operational area includes the governorates of South and El Nabatieh.
Governorate/ Mohafazat	Largest administrative division below the national level. Lebanon has eight governorates: Akkar, Baalbek-Hembel, Bekaa, Beirut, Mount Lebanon, Nabatieh, North and South.
District/Caza	Second largest administrative division below the national level. Each governorate is divided into districts or cazas. Lebanon has 26 districts.
Cadastre/ Cadastral zone	Geographic classification which are below the level of district/caza. Cadastral is not an administrative division and is used solely by humanitarian and development practitioners in Lebanon. Cadastrals may encompass one or more contiguous villages/neighbourhoods.
Municipality	Smallest administrative division in Lebanon. Municipalities serve villages and urban areas. There are 985 municipalities in Lebanon.

Abbreviations and Acronyms

BML	Beirut & Mount Lebanon
EMMA	Emergency Market Mapping and Analysis
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
FGD	Focus Group Discussion
FSLA	Food Security and Livelihoods Assessment
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GoL	Government of Lebanon
IAMP	Inter-Agency Mapping Platform
ILO	International Labour Organization
IS	Informal Settlements
KI	Key Informant
LBP	Lebanese Pound
LCRP	Lebanon Crisis Response Plan
MoA	Ministry of Agriculture
MSNA	Multi-Sector Needs Assessment
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
OCHA	United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
PRS	Palestinian Refugees from Syria
PRL	Palestinian Refugees from Lebanon
TR5	Tripoli + T5 (El Batroun, El Koura, Zgharta, Bcharre and El Minieh-Dennieh)
UNICEF	United Nations Children Fund
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
VASyR	Vulnerability Assessment of Syrian Refugees in Lebanon
WFP	United Nations World Food Programme

Overview and Methodology

Background

The Syrian conflict has resulted in the largest humanitarian isaster in the world, with more than 7.6 million internally displaced and 3,322,487 displaced persons[2]. The humanitarian situation continues to deteriorate and the violence shows no sign of slowing down. As a result, neighbouring countries have tried to accommodate these massive population influxes. Indeed, the number of Syrians who have found refuge in Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon or Turkey has now reached a staggering 3.3 million. Lebanon has taken in the biggest number of displaced persons and therefore hosts the largest per capita displaced population in the world[3].

The prolonged displacement of such significant numbers of displaced Syrians has placed an ever increasing strain on Lebanese host communities. Basic services have become stretched to breaking point in many communities, and competition over access to affordable housing and livelihood opportunities, sufficient to meet household need, has intensified. As a result of this situation, the recent Lebanon Crisis Response Plan (LCRP) has outlined a strategy for the Government of Lebanon and the humanitarian / development community, to work towards ensuring the needs of Lebanese most vulnerable inhabitants, including displaced populations and hosting communities, are met.

Based on a similar and successful partnership in Jordan, in August 2014, REACH was contracted by FAO and MoA to conduct a national level assessment on the food security and livelihoods situation of Lebanese host communities. This assessment aims to provide humanitarian and development actors with baseline information in order to establish a comprehensive strategy for food security and livelihoods interventions targeting host communities. It also aims to allow MoA to better understand the impact of short and medium term interventions conducted in support of Lebanese host communities.

The purpose of the Food Security and Livelihoods Assessment (FSLA) was to examine in detail the impact of the Syria crisis on Lebanese host communities, which, up till now, has been widely unexplored owing to the humanitarian community's focus on displaced Syrians. Precisely, information about the food security and livelihoods (particularly rural livelihoods) situation of Lebanese host communities is limited. This information gap is limiting the humanitarian response to affected populations.

To effectively address this information gap, the assessment underwent several phases. Over a four-month period, between September and December 2014, a series of data collection and analysis exercises were undertaken. First, a desk review was commissioned to collate and synthetize the most up-to-date secondary data available on the agriculture, food security and livelihoods situation of Lebanese host communities. The secondary data review identified some of the broad challenges Lebanese host communities face in these sectors and revealed the overall lack of information on these topics. Second, primary data collection was undertaken. It combined focus group discussions with targeted qualitative key informant interviews and a household survey. This report presents the findings from the assessment.

[2] *http://ec.europa.eu/echo/files/aid/countries/factsheets/syria_fr.pdf*
[3] *http://lhif.org/4lebanon/*

Objectives and Methodology

The assessment was undertaken over a four-month period, between September and December 2014, and utilised a mixed methods data collection methodology. Prior to the launch of primary data collection a secondary data review, building off the MSNA, was conducted to collate the most up to date available information on the agriculture, food security and livelihoods (with a focus on rural livelihoods) situation of host communities in Lebanon and identify information to inform the development of primary data collection tools.

Following the completion of the secondary data review phase, the Food Security and Livelihoods Assessment's primary data collection phase combined quantitative data collection methods with comprehensive, targeted qualitative key informant (KI) interviews and focus group discussions (FGDs). This mixed method data collection was chosen to help triangulate information, provide a contextualized and nuanced analysis and yield a comprehensive dataset relating to household socioeconomic profiles, livelihoods, food security and agriculture. The sections below lay out a more detailed breakdown of each part of the assessment process.

Data collection	Period	Total
Key Information Interviews	23rd September – 18th November 2014	40 (8 per operational area)
Focus Group Discussions	23rd September - 12th November 2014	5 (1 per operational area)
Household Assessments	7th October – 13th November 2014	855 (171 per operational area)

Primary Data Collection

Key Informant Interviews

KI interviews were conducted from the 23rd of September to the 18th of November 2014. **The interviews were conducted with agricultural related stakeholders,** including but not limited to, representatives of the Ministry of Agriculture, Chamber of Commerce, and Industry / Agriculture, and agricultural engineers, investors, producers, and heads of agricultural cooperatives.

The data collected from these interviews aimed to inform economic and market analysis as to potential livelihood developments, and to provide community level information to contextualise data collection through household level assessments. Eight KI interviews were conducted in each operational area (Akkar, Tripoli T5, BML, Bekaa and South) by specially trained moderators accompanied by several note takers. The interview summaries were then coded and analysed in the qualitative data analysis computer software NVivo.

Focus Group Discussions

FGDs with farmers, selected through key informant referrals, were conducted in each of the five operational areas to gain a better understanding of perceptions, challenges and needs of Lebanese host communities working in agriculture in the aftermath of the Syrian Crisis. Specifically the topics of agriculture, rural livelihoods and food securitywere explored in detail during FGDs (see Annex IV for the focus group discussion guide).

Household Assessments

The final phase of data collection was a household level random sample of Lebanese households, representative at the operational level.In total 855 Lebanese households were interviewed (171 per operational area) in October and November 2014. To facilitate the random selection of Lebanese households, a sample was purchased by FAO from a market research agency. This sampling methodology enabled the results to be representative at the national level with a confidence level of 95 per cent and a 7.5 per cent margin of error. As such, REACH was able to conduct anoperational area-level statistically significant analysis of the collected data in order to inform both national and area specific strategic planning.

Operationally, enumerators were split into mixed-sexteams of two and assessed 10 households in each cluster (see Map 1). When possible, the sample purchased by FAO was used to contact households, in other cases where sample households were unable to be contacted a transect walk was used in the field to randomly select Lebanese households for assessment.When selected, heads of households were requested to answer a comprehensive food security and livelihoods focused assessment spanning the thematic areas of demographics, household shelter and infrastructure, livelihoods, food security,needs and assistance, agriculture and livestock and market access. Where appropriate, indicators were standardised with previous REACH / FAO assessment tools and previous food security and livelihoods assessments conducted in Lebanon.

The household-level data collection was completed using the Open Data Kit mobile data collection platform deployed on Android smart-phones to reduce the incidence of inaccuracies and inconsistencies in the data collection and cleaning processes.

Challenges and Constraints

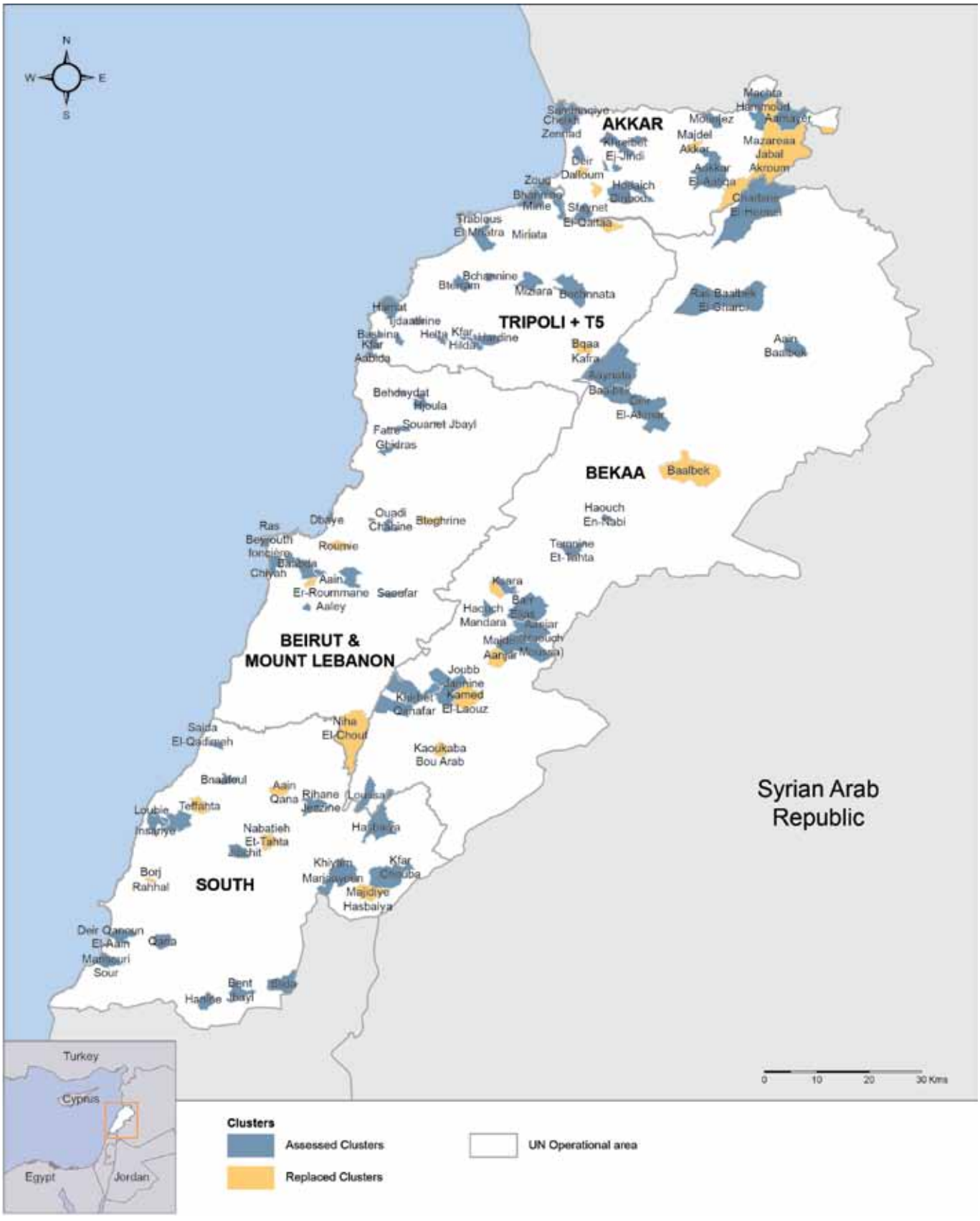
Focus Group Discussions

- Most FGD participants were gathered and brought to the table through prominent KIs in the operational areas. For the sake of better representation, it might have been more beneficial to conduct the FGDs after the completion of the HH surveys. That way, the collected data could have been able to provide the assessment team with the contact details of farmers previously met in the field.

Household Assessments

- Contacting Lebanese households who were selected as part of the random sample proved challenging. This can be attributed to the significant volume of calls which are placed to Lebanese households by market research companies. Consequently, households did not always appreciate it when information officers attempted to schedule meetings with them even when proper introduction techniques were used. It might have been better to devise a geographic targeting system specific to each cluster, whereby households would have been targeted randomly based on their geographic location within their community.

Map 1: Assessment cluster selection for household survey



Context

Socio-economic situation

According to the Multi Sector Needs Assessment Phase One report, **the main employment sectors in Lebanon are: services; financial intermediation; insurance and trade.** The informal economy (the segment of an economy that is not taxed or regulated) is estimated to contribute 30 per cent of Lebanon's total GDP. The MSNA highlighted that an estimated 40 per cent of employees work in the informal sector, which is characterized by low wages and weak social protection.

A 2012 World Bank report on the Lebanese labour market[4] found that **over the last decade the Lebanese economy had been growing but without creating enough jobs,** particularly for women and youth. Specifically, between 1997 and 2009, the gross domestic product expanded at an average rate of 3.7 per cent per year, yet employment grew by only 1.1 per cent. In 2012, 70 per cent of working age men and only 24 per cent of working age women were in the labour force. The report also highlighted that unemployment rates were significant amongst youth (34 per cent), women (18 per cent) and workers with tertiary education (14 per cent). The large majority of the unemployed were reportedly under 35 years of age.

In September 2013, the World Bank projected that 1.3 million displaced Syrians would have entered Lebanon by end-2013. As a result of this influx, **the World Bank expected a 30 to 50 per cent increase in labour supply, which would have a particular impact the employment opportunities of Lebanese women, youth and unskilled workers.** The overall unemployment rate was projected to increase by up to 10 per cent. An additional 220,000-324,000 Lebanese, primarily unskilled youth, were expected to become unemployed, thus doubling the unemployment rate to over 20 per cent. In order to stabilise the labour market, the World Bank estimated that a US$ 166-242 million economic stimulus would be required.

Although the recent assessments on the impact of the crisis in Syria on the labour market are largely based on the perceptions of the Lebanese population more so than quantitative data, they provide strong insight into the potential nature of the problem. For example, qualitative data collection has provided reports that a direct consequence of the Syria Crisis on the Lebanese labour market is the increased competition for jobs. Indeed, as Syrians generally work for lower salaries, longer hours and without social security benefits, the **competition between Lebanese workers and Syrian workers is reportedly high.** Additionally, the crisis in Syria and the influx of displaced Syrians are perceived to have caused a decrease in household income[5]. This perception has become a contributing factor towards increased hostility between displaced and host communities. However, a segment of the host community population, primarily landowners, owners of enterprises and other members of the Lebanese middle to upper class, are benefitting from the influx as a result of the availability of Syrian labourers demanding low wages[6].

Agricultural Production Systems

According to FAO, the agriculture sector in Lebanon (including crops, livestock, fisheries and forestry production) represents, on average, **about 6.4 per cent of the country's annual Gross Domestic Product** (GDP) (from 2001 to 2010). This is considerably less than neighbouring Arab countries but is consistent with Lebanon's higher level of per capita income, as well as its more urbanized and diversified economy. However, agricultural value added per square is higher in Lebanon than in many nearby countries, reflecting a higher intensity of production and greater focus on high value crops (fruits and vegetables). Lebanon's annual agricultural output is estimated at 2.7 million tonnes, with a total value of US$ 1.2 billion.

Although agriculture represents a small portion of Lebanon's service-oriented economy, it is **a major source of livelihoods for its population.** Indeed, approximately 20 to 25 per cent of Lebanon's active population is involved in the agriculture sector, including full-time and part-time workers as well as seasonal family labour[7]. Female farmers constitute some nine per cent of the total farmers, and are involved mainly in the production of dairy products, food preserves and subsistence farming[8].

[4] *Republic of Lebanon, Good Jobs Needed. The Role of Macro, Investment, Education, Labor and Social Protection Policies ("Miles"), World Bank, 2012.*
[5] *Assessment of The Impact of Syrian Refugees In Lebanon and Their Employment Profile, International Labor Organization Regional Office for the Arab States, 2013*
[6] *Lebanon Multi Sector Needs Assessment Phase One report, 2014*
[7] *Lebanon Agriculture Sector Note: Aligning Public Expenditures with Comparative Advantage, World Bank (January 2010).*
[8] *Lebanon, Plan of Action for Resilient Livelihoods, Food Security Response and Stabilization of Rural Livelihoods. Addressing the Impacts of the Syria Crisis. 2014-2018. FAO*

Lebanon's Mediterranean climate allows for the cultivation of a wide variety of crops that would normally grow in both cold and tropical countries. Major regions for crops, meadows and pastures include the BekaaValley (more than 40 per cent of the total cultivated land), the North, especially in Koura District and Akkar Governorate (26 per cent of total cultivated land), and the South with the coastal region from Sidon to Tyre (where intensive agriculture is also present in greenhouses). Mount Lebanon and Nabatiyeh are also important agricultural zones, although with lower shares of cultivated land due to their hilly landscape[9].

In spite of this prevailing situation, available secondary data shows that **the Syria crisis is disrupting the agricultural supply chain.** The agricultural supply chain is affected on several levels; trade patterns are changing, farmers are having problems with access and availability of land, the cost of agricultural inputs is increasing, and livestock raisers are facing challenges of their own, such as escalating feed prices and decreasing market prices of animals and animal products[10].

According to FAO, four major developments in agricultural trade flows were observed in neighbouring countries in 2011 and 2012. First, there has been a decline in total agricultural trade. Second, bilateral agricultural trade with Syria and in transit trade through Syria has considerably dropped. Third, there has been a significant change in trading routes in the region. Finally, informal trade across the borders with Syria has increased[11].

Lebanon's agricultural production has also been affected by the poor security situation and conflicts in the areas bordering Syria. Lebanese host communities cannot always access their farmland or move freely during important stages of crop development and harvest. This has resulted in some farmers having to abandon or sell their land. Moreover, the growing number of Informal Settlements (IS) is also affecting land use and "as the number of displaced Syrians continues to rise, further ISs growth will inevitably encroach on agricultural lands and put those lands out of production" [12].

The Syria Crisis has had a major impact on imports of agricultural inputs and their cost. Before the crisis, Lebanese farmers, particularly in the border regions, treated their crops with cheaper Syrian products that they had bought through informal trade or "smuggling" routes. Syrian products were cheaper as a result of being heavily subsidised by the Syrian government. Lebanese farmers say their production costs have increased as they have been forced to buy more expensive Lebanese or imported agricultural inputs[13]. Additionally, livestock production faces challenges such as the decrease in feed supplies, the increase in the costs of veterinary visits and drug supplies combined with the shortages in veterinary services[14].

Food and Nutrition Status

The secondary data review revealed that there is a lack of information on the food and nutrition status of Lebanese host communities. However, some data on the use of coping strategies exists.

To mitigate the effects of a decrease in purchasing power, host communities have been resorting to coping strategies such as relying on personal / family savings, increasing their debt, or reducing the number / size of meals eaten by day. Results from the OCHA/REACH Host Community Vulnerability Assessment indicate that they are increasingly applying a range of both food and asset-based coping strategies. These ranged considerably by region, and included reducing the number of meals, borrowing money for food, purchasing food on credit, and purchasing lower quality or cheaper food. Selling land or household assets, relying on remittances and depending on aid were also reported[15]. UNDP's assessment found that in Bekaa, 19 per cent of respondents were purchasing food on credit and/or borrowing food while 9 per cent of respondents did so in the North[16]. In terms of relying on humanitarian actors for food, 4 per cent of respondents in Bekaa and 13 per cent of respondents in North said they did so[17].

[9] *Agriculture Fact Book, Investment Development Authority of Lebanon (IDAL).*
[10] *Lebanon, Plan of Action for Resilient Livelihoods, Food Security Response and Stabilization of Rural Livelihoods. Addressing the Impacts of the Syria Crisis. 2014-2018. FAO*
[11] *Impact of the conflict on Syrian economy and livelihoods, Syria Needs Analysis Project (July 2013).*
[12] *Survey on the Livelihoods of Syrian refugeesin Lebanon, Oxfam (2013).*
[13] *Lebanon, Plan of Action for Resilient Livelihoods, Food Security Response and Stabilization of Rural Livelihoods. Addressing the Impacts of the Syria Crisis. 2014-2018. FAO*
[14] *Ibid.*
[15] *Host Community Vulnerability Assessment, OCHA/REACH (June 2014)*
[16] *Rapid Assessment of the Impact of Syrian Crisis on Socio-Economic situation in North and Bekaa, UNDP (2012).*
[17] *Ibid.*

Main Findings

Demographic and Household Composition

This section of the report provides an overview of the main demographic characteristics of Lebanese households surveyed, including: the size of households; household composition in terms of age and sex; household heads and their level of education; and presence of displaced Syrians. It is important to note that the figures presented in this section are based on the FSLA surveyed sample and may deviate from national figures.

The report finds that:

- Lebanese households are overwhelmingly headed by males (86 per cent) and include an average of 4.9 individuals. Education-wise, nearly half of heads of household have received primary education and more than a quarter reported having received no education.
- Eight per cent of surveyed Lebanese households have displaced Syrians living in their household or on their property. However, in Bekaa, one fifth of households reported having displaced Syrians in their household or on their property.

The survey found that 86 per cent of surveyed Lebanese households[18] are male-headed, and 14 per cent are female-headed. Overall, 36 per cent of households reported having at least one male member between the age of 18 and 30, and 39 per cent of households stated that they had at least one female member of the same age range. Additionally, 66 per cent of households reported having at least one male member between the age of 31 and 59, and 68 per cent of households stated that they had at least one female member of the same age range.

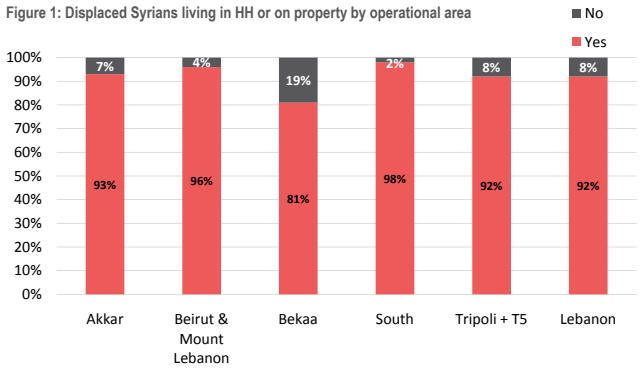
The average number of total individuals per household is 4.9. BML has the lowest average number of total individuals per household (3.9), and Akkar has the highest (6.8), followed by Tripoli T5 (4.6).

Education-wise, 47 per cent of heads of household reported having completed primary education while 27 per cent reported having no formal education. Secondary education was completed by 13 per cent of heads of households and university was attended by only 10 per cent. Dissagregation at the operational level showed that BML has the highest proportion of university educated heads of households (18 per cent) followed by Tripoli T5 (11 per cent). Akkar, which is, according to a study by the Lebanese Ministry of Social Affairs, the poorest area in the country[19], has the lowest proportion of university educated heads of households (4 per cent). The majority of heads of household in Akkar (54 per cent) said they had received only primary education. This confirms the findings from the Forgotten Akkar report of the Mada Association which stated that Akkar records low enrollment rates at most educational levels, particularly at the secondary and university levels, where it has registered the lowest enrollment in Lebanon[20].

Presence of Displaced Syrians

Unlike Jordan, Iraq and Turkey, there are no refugee camps in Lebanon. This is the result of long-standing Government of Lebanon (GoL) policy. Consequently, displaced persons live in informal settlements, rented housing, or are hosted by families/communities[21]. This assessment identified that eight per cent of Lebanese households that were interviewed have displaced Syrians living in their household or on their property. **Bekaa has by far the highest proportion of households (19 per cent) living with displaced Syrians in their household or property followed by Tripoli (8 per cent).** This corroborates the Inter-Agency Mapping Platform (IAMP) data, which found that the largest concentration of informal settlements (predominately located on private land) are located in Bekaa (834 IS) followed by the North (481).

Figure 1: Displaced Syrians living in HH or on property by operational area



[18] *A household is defined as a group of people who routinely eat out of same pot and live on the same compound (or physical location). It is possible that they may live in different structures. Sharing the pot is the unifying factor for households.*

[19] *Global Wealth Distribution Shows Growing Inequality, Alakhbar, October 18, 2013.*

[20] *Forgotten Akkar, Socio-Economic Reality of the Akkar Region, Mada Association, 2008.*

[21] *Syrian refugees, a snapshot of the crisis – in the Middle East and Europe.*

Socio-economic Profile

This section of the report presents findings on the livelihoods, expenditures, level of income and debt of Lebanese host communities.

The report finds that:

- All households had at least one member engaged in an activity to provide for them in the 30 days prior to the survey. At the national level, regular employment is most common.
- The main sources of livelihoods of Lebanese households are agriculture, self-employment, public security professions and low-skilled skilled service jobs.
- The main consequence of the Syria crisis on livelihoods in Lebanon is the increase in labour supply which is leading to a rise in unemployment among Lebanese.
- Although livelihood sources have generally not changed in the past 24 months, a majority of Lebanese households report a decrease in income. The top reasons for decrease in income are the decline in purchasing power and the lack of job opportunities.
- Displaced Syrians also represent a source of income for Lebanese households through rent and the provision of services such as agricultural or construction work.
- Household debt is prevalent among Lebanese households. More than half of Lebanese households reported having incurred debt in the last 24 months.
- Lebanese households tend to spend a significant amount of their household income on food.

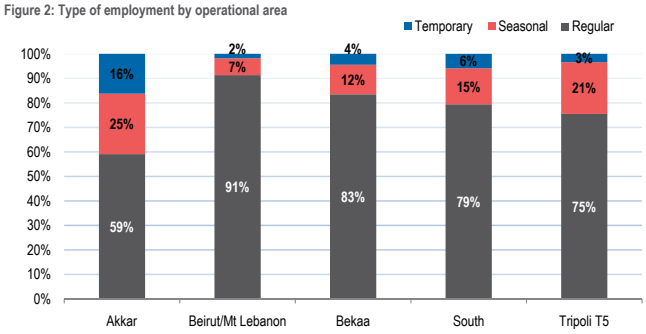
Employment

The assessment showed that 10.2 per cent of Lebanese households did not have any member engaged in an activity to provide for the household in the 30 days prior to the survey. Among them, 18.4 per cent declared that their usual primary source of income is agriculture-related, followed by 13.8 per cent who are business owners.

At the national level, regular employment is most common (78 per cent), followed by seasonal (16 per cent) and temporary (six per cent) employment[22]. BML has the highest proportion of people with regular employment compared to other operational areas. **Data reveals that a considerable proportion of Lebanese in Akkar are employed on seasonal or temporary contracts**. Specifically, a quarter of employed people in Akkar are employed seasonally and 16 per cent have temporary jobs. The prevalence of such insecure jobs means that many workers in Akkar are not entitled to the numerous benefits regular employment offers (such as social security, unemployment benefits, paid holidays, etc…).

The assessment found that **37 per cent of Lebanese households have an agriculture-related activity as their first source of income**. This confirms the information collected in the secondary data review[23] which stated

Figure 2: Type of employment by operational area



that while the agricultural sector represents a small portion of Lebanon's service-oriented economy, it is a major source of livelihoods for its population. Nearly one third (31 per cent) of households who have agriculture related activities as a first source of income are located in Bekaa; more than a quarter (27 per cent) are located in the South.

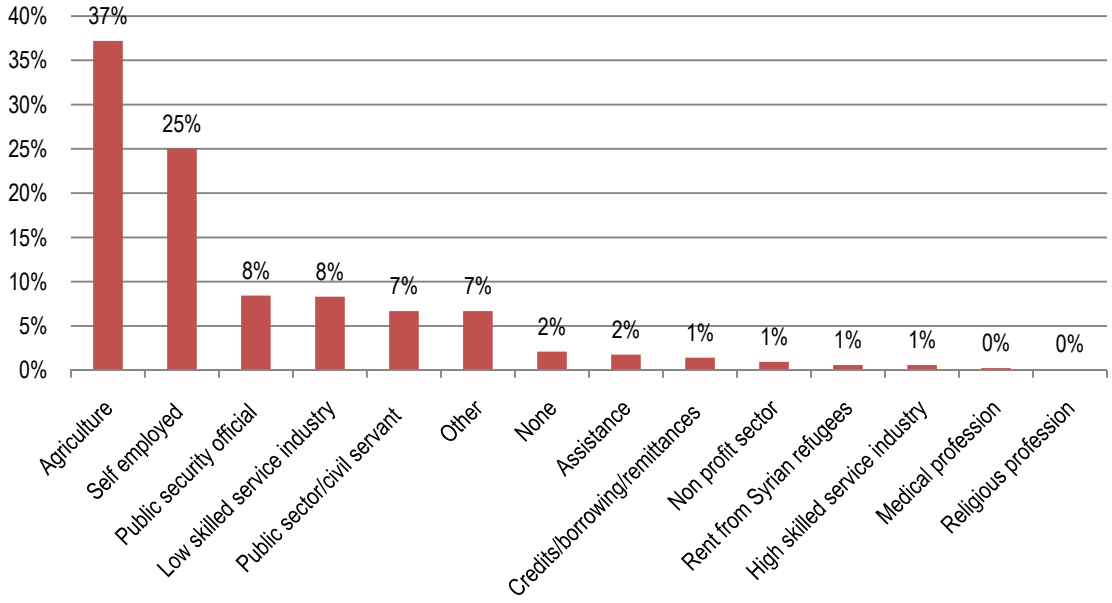
Self-employment[24] is the second most common income source (25 per cent) among surveyed Lebanese households. The majority of households who have self-employment as a first source of income are located in BML. Public security professions (such as the military) and low-skilled skilled service jobs are also common sources of income in Lebanon (seven per cent each).

[22] *Permanent workers are employees with paid leave entitlements in jobs or work contracts of unlimited duration. Temporary workers are employees on a fixed term contracts. Seasonal workers are workers who hold implicit or explicit contracts ofemployment where the timing and duration of the contract is significantly influenced by seasonal factors such as the climatic cycle, public holidays and/or agricultural harvests.*

[23] *Food Security and Livelihoods Assessment Secondary Data Review, REACH/FAO, January 2015*

[24] *This includes business owners and business professions.*

Figure 3: Main source of livelihood



Challenges and changes to livelihoods

The secondary data review found that, prior to the Syria Crisis; labour market conditions in Lebanon were already unfavourable. The country was experiencing high unemployment rates, mismatches between labour supply and demand and a prevalence of both low quality and low-productivity jobs. The qualitative research part of the assessment revealed that these problems have worsened significantly due to the Syria Crisis.

Increase in labour supply

KI interview and FGD analysis suggests that the **most tangible effect of the Syria Crisis on livelihoods relates in the first instance to the increase in labour supply.** According to them, this increase "has led to obvious changes in employment and labour market patterns in the past 24 months" (FGD participant, Bekaa). One of these changes being an increase in competition for jobs and a rise in unemployment among Lebanese. KI interviews and FGD participants mentioned that Lebanese employers were employing Syrians over other groups, as they were willing to accept lower standards of working conditions and benefits. Overall, the qualitative component of the assessment revealed the widespread perception that Lebanese host communities are being discriminated against and denied opportunities that they would previously have had access to.

FGD participants and KIs in all operational areas communicated their impression that displaced Syrians are working in all sectors. They added that the increase in unemployment is leading to rural exodus and emigration. Lebanese are migrating to cities in the search for job opportunities or leaving Lebanon to go work abroad if they have the opportunity to do so (especially young Lebanese people).

> **"Since they [Syrians] are more than ready to do any job for half the salary a Lebanese would agree to, Lebanese employers are hiring them directly, thus forcing the now unemployed Lebanese to either move out of the governorate toward big cities or even leave the country".**

Several KIs and FGD participants said that the Syria Crisis has also had a positive impact on livelihoods in Lebanon. The availability of cheap labour due to the increase in population was one positive outcome of the crisis according to them.

> **"The cheap Syrian labour has helped farmers who wanted to cultivate their lands. Syrian labour costs less than Lebanese or Palestinian labour. Lebanese and Palestinians demand 30,000 LBP per day; while Syrians ask for 25,000 LBP per day for any agriculture activity." (KI, South).**

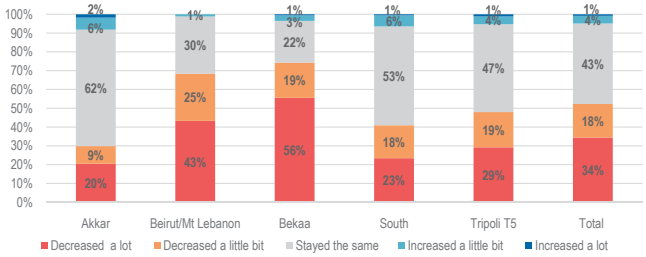
Finally, some farmers noted that the increase in population was leading to an increase in demand for food, which they saw in a positive light.

Changes in income

More than half Lebanese households (52%) reported that their income had decreased over the last 24 months. Regarding the extent of the income decrease, 34 per cent of households reported that their income had decreased a lot (-50%) and 18 per cent reported it had decreased a little bit (-25%). Only a minority (five per cent) said it had increased (25 to 50% increase). **Of interest here is the notable proportion of households in Bekaa who have seen their income decrease a lot over the past 24 months (56%).** This could be explained by the fact that, as noted in the SDR[25], the highest concentrations of displaced Syrians and Lebanese returnees are actually located in rural, agricultural districts and, as a consequence a large number of Lebanese host communities living in these areas have either lost their jobs due to competition, or have seen their incomes significantly reduced.

In BML, 43 per cent of households also said that their income had decreased a lot over the last 24 months. In Akkar, on the other hand, a majority of respondents (62%) reported that their income had not changed over the same period of time. Nearly one quarter (22 per cent) of those who reported that their income had not changed over the last 24 months were in the military. This suggests that being in the military is a type of livelihood host communities can rely on in Akkar.

Figure 4: Changes in income in the last 24 months (by operational area)



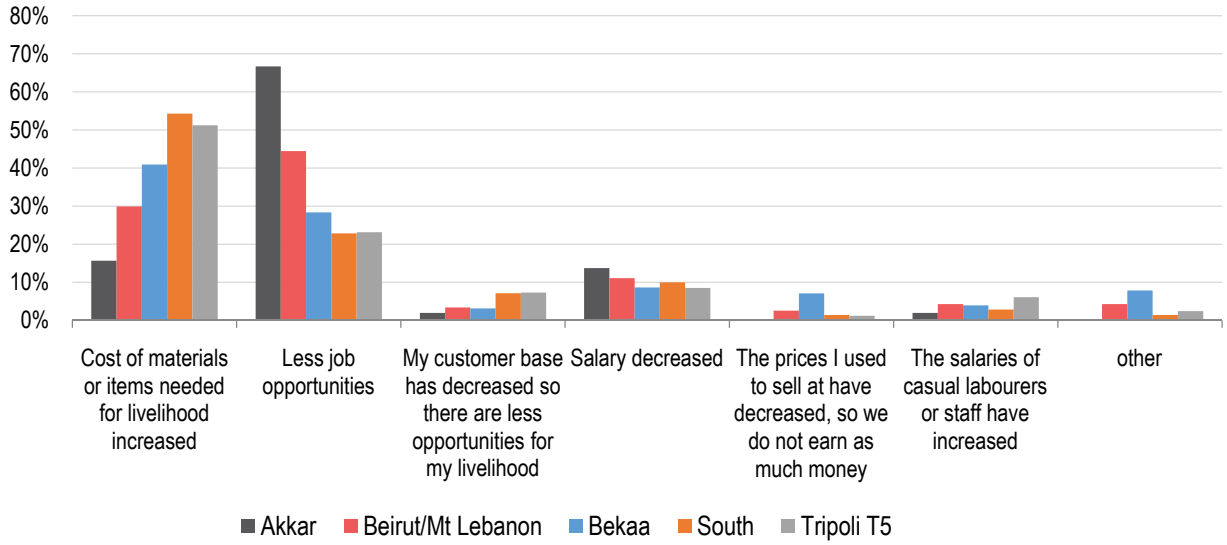
Reasons for decrease in income

The increase of the cost of materials or items needed for livelihoods and the fact that there are less job opportunities are the two main reasons why incomes have decreased over the past 24 months in Lebanon.

The increase of the cost of materials or items needed for livelihoods was cited as a major reason for decrease in income by 54 per cent of households in the South, and 51 per cent of households in Tripoli T5. The other major reason for the decrease in income; the decrease in job opportunities can be linked to the Syria Crisis as the latter has intensified competition for employment opportunities between Lebanese host communities and displaced populations (as discussed previously). **In Akkar, the diminution of job opportunities was a significant reason for decrease in overall income.** Indeed, 67 per cent of respondents whose income had decreased in the past 24 months said it was due to less job opportunities. This may be due to the fact that competition for low skilled jobs in the agricultural sector has particularly increased as agriculture was one of the major livelihood sources of displaced Syrians when they lived in Syria.

Decreases in salaries were also mentioned by 14 per cent of respondents in Akkar as a reason for a decrease in income. In Bekaa, seven per cent of respondents said that their income had decreased in the past 24 months because the prices they used to sell at decreased.

Figure 5: Reason for decrease of income over the past 24 months (by operational area)



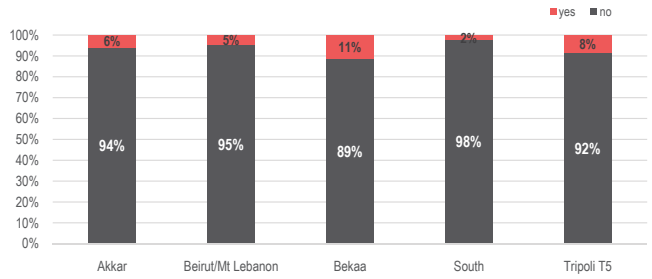
[25] *Food Security and Livelihoods Assessment Secondary Data Review, REACH/FAO, January 2015*

Income generation from displaced Syrians

Although displaced Syrians are often blamed for the increased competition for jobs and the subsequent lack of job opportunities, they can also be a source of income for Lebanese households. Indeed, the secondary data review found that some landlords and land-owners are renting space or land and are in some cases making significant profits[26].

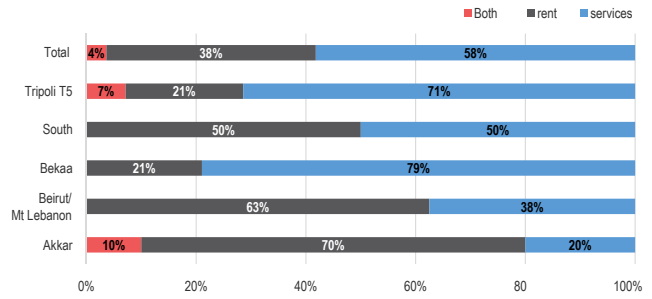
The survey confirmed these findings and revealed that, in Lebanon, **eight per cent of households receive rent or services from displaced Syrians living on or off their properties**. More than 10 per cent of the population is receiving rent or services from displaced Syrians living on or off properties in Bekaa, and eight per cent in Tripoli. However, in the South, only two per cent of households reported receiving rent or services from displaced Syrians in exchange of housing.

Figure 6: Receiving rent/services from displaced Syrians (on or off property)



In general, Lebanese host communities tend to receive services from displaced Syrians (58 per cent). Regarding differences between operational areas, in Bekaa and Tripoli, services are most commonly received (79 per cent and 71 per cent respectively). However, in Akkar and BML it is more usual to receive rent from displaced Syrians (70 per cent and 63 per cent).

Figure 7: Rent/Services/Both by operational area



The assessment found that on average, Syrians were paying US$ 229 per month rent to Lebanese hosts. Similarly, the Vulnerability Assessment of Syrian refugees, conducted in 2014 found that the average rent was US$ 205[27] per month, while the 2013 publication of the same assessment reported it was US$ 250 back then[28].

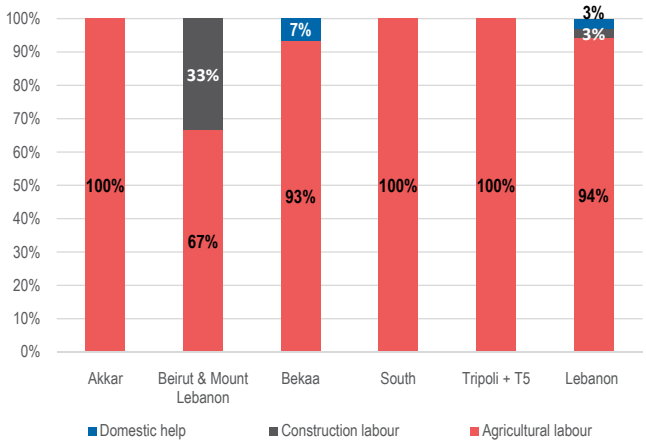
At the operational area level, rents tend to be more expensive in BML and Tripoli T5 with Lebanese landlords receiving nearly US$ 300 per month from displaced Syrians living on their properties (see Table 1). In the South, landlords receive the lowest rents from displaced Syrians (on average 133 US$ per month).

Table 1: Average rent in US dollars per operational area

Operational area	Average monthly rent in US Dollars
Akkar	251
Beirut/Mt Lebanon	296
Bekaa	181
South	133
Tripoli T5	285

Regarding services, Lebanese households who receive services from displaced Syrians reported that they generally hired them as agricultural labour (94 per cent). In Akkar, all services received consist of agricultural labour. However, in BML, a significant portion of Lebanese receiving services from displaced persons received construction labour (33 per cent). In Bekaa, even per cent of services received from displaced Syrians were in the form of domestic help. The fact that displaced Syrians are rarely hired as domestic help (only 3 per cent at the national level) may be due to the fact that, traditionally, Lebanese hire women from African or Asian countries such as Ethiopia, Bangladesh and the Philippines, as domestic workers[29].

Figure 8: Type of services received from displaced Syrians



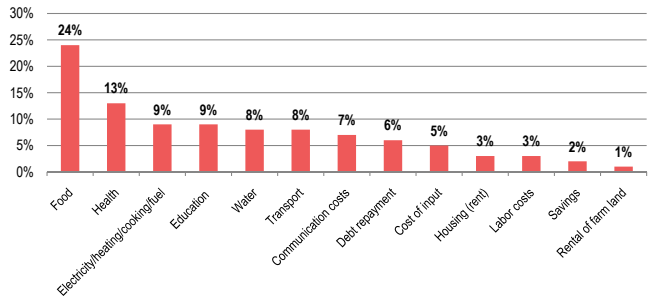
[26] *Food Security and Livelihoods Assessment Secondary Data Review, REACH/FAO, January 2015*
[27] *Vulnerability Assessment of Syrian Refugees in Lebanon 2014, WFP, UNICEF, UNHCR*
[28] *Vulnerability Assessment of Syrian Refugees in Lebanon 2013, WFP, UNICEF, UNHCR*
[29] *Migrant Domestic Workers Guide*

Expenditures and Debt

Expenditures

Households were asked what percentage of their total expenditure they spend on different basic needs. The data revealed that a majority of Lebanese households (76 per cent) are property owners and do not spend any household income on rental costs. On average, when households do not own the house they live in, they spend 13 per cent of their income on rent. Energy is a significant part of Lebanese households' monthly expenditure. Indeed, on average 9 per cent of their income is spent on electricity, heating and/or cooking fuel. **Lebanese households tend to spend a significant amount of their household income on food. Indeed, on average, a quarter (24 per cent) of their income is spent on food,** while 60 per cent of them spend one to 25 per cent their money on food. Health also represents a significant portion of Lebanese households' expenditure. Households spend on average 13 per cent of their income on health (medicine, treatment, etc.).

Figure 9: Average percentage of total income spent on basic needs per month



KIs and FGD participants mentioned that the Syria crisis is steadily increasing the cost of basic needs like food, health and education. They also noted that the increase in demand for rented accommodation has raised rental prices drastically.

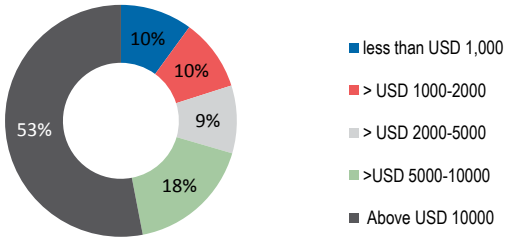
> **"The increase in population is leading to inflation in prices due to the increase in demand and consumption on everything from food, to electricity, to water" (KI, Akkar).**

Expenditure of Lebanese households should be monitored on a regular basis to assess if the share of total expenditure on certain basic needs increases while income remains at the same level or decreases; as this could result in an increasingly challenging situation for hosting communities.

Debt

The assessment found that household debt is prevalent among the assessed households. More than half of Lebanese households (51%) reported having incurred debt in the last 24 months. The data collected shows that in Akkar and Bekaa, a larger proportion of households have incurred debt in the last 24 months (67 % in Akkar and 60 % in Bekaa). Comparatively, in the South, a lesser percentage of households reported having incurred debt in that same period of time (32 per cent). **More than half of Lebanese households, who have incurred debt in the last 24 months, currently have a debt of more than 10,000 dollars.**

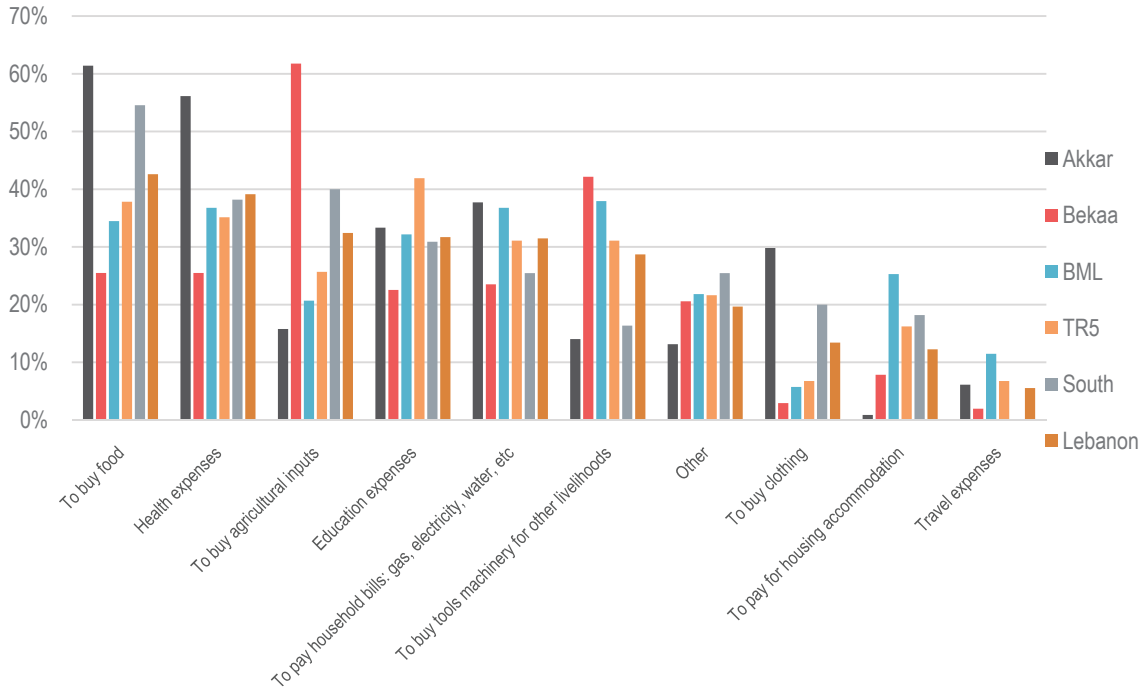
Figure 10: Amount of debt per household (incurred in the last 24 months)



Of those households that have taken on debt in the last 24 months, 43 per cent mentioned buying food as one of the three main reasons to do so, while 39 per cent did so to cover health expenses.**Other widespread reasons for taking on debt include buying agricultural inputs and paying for education expenses** (both mentioned by 32 per cent of households as one of the three main reasons to take on debt), and paying house expenses such as gas, electricity and water (31 per cent).

When disaggregated at the operational area level, data shows that 61 per cent of Akkar households who took on a debt in the last 24 months mentioned buying food as one of the reasons to do so. In Bekaa, the main reasons why households have debt are to buy agricultural inputs (62 per cent of households mention it as one of the main reasons) and to buy tools/machinery for other livelihoods use (42 per cent). When it comes to households in the South, 55 per cent of them mentioned buying food as one of the main reasons that caused them to incur debt in the last 24 months while 40 per cent mentioned buying agricultural inputs.

Figure 11: Main reasons households incur debt by operational area



Of those 32 per cent of Lebanese households who mentioned buying agricultural inputs as one of the main reasons to incur debt in the last 24 months, 75 per cent consider the ability to buy pesticides as one of the main drivers to do so, 73 per cent for fertilizers and 47 per cent for seeds.

Household needs and assistance

This section of the report provides an overview of Lebanese households' main needs.

The report finds that:
- Health, additional food and agricultural inputs are households' top three non-cash needs.
- Generally, Lebanese households report having received no assistance in the past 12 months.

Reported household needs

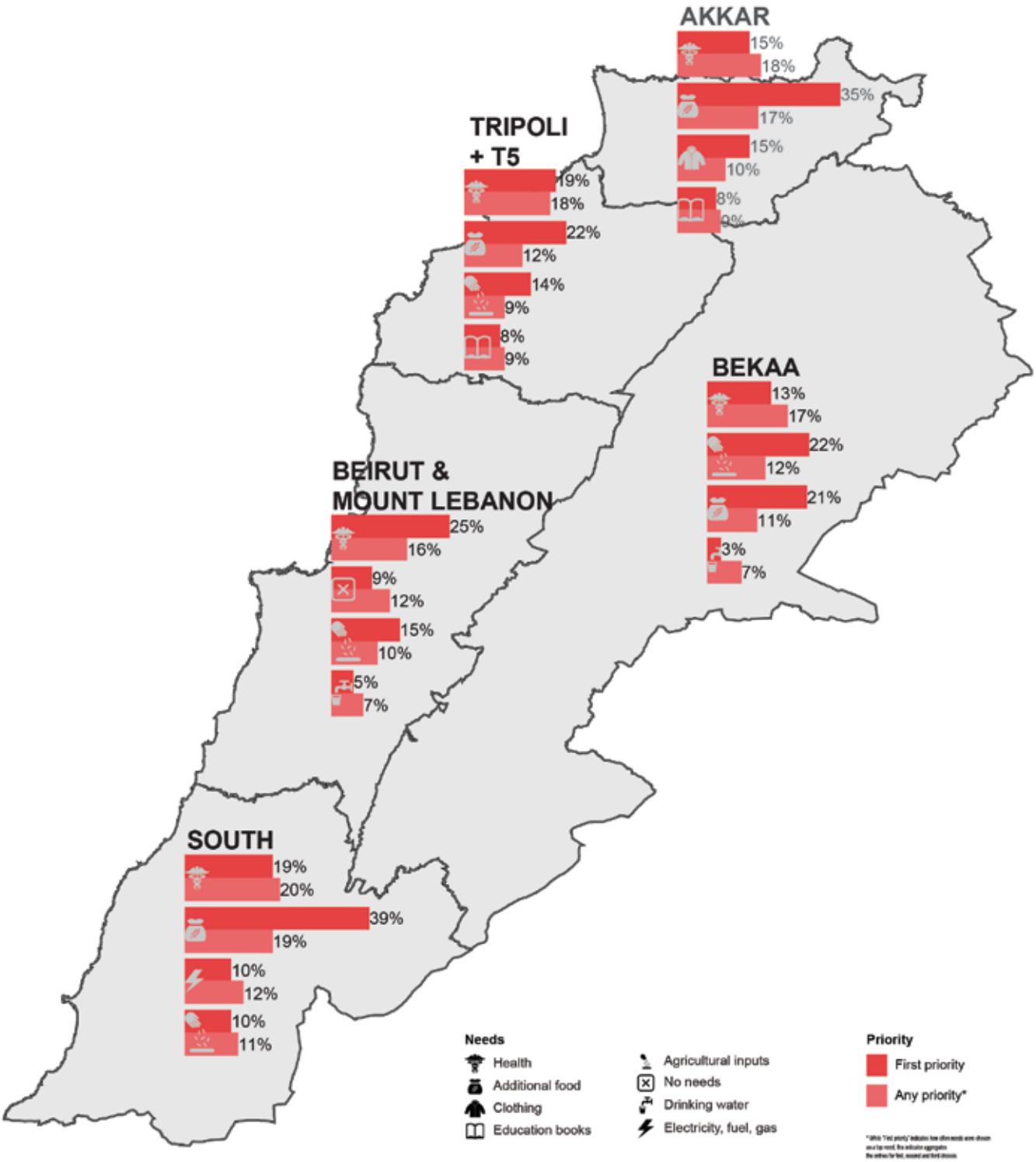
Lebanese' households were asked what their top three non-cash needs were. Overall, a **quarter of households said that additional food was their most important need**. Health was picked as a most important need by 18 per cent of households. Agricultural inputs were chosen as a most important need by 13 per cent of households. When looking at what households picked regardless of their importance ranking, health was most frequently chosen (25 per cent of households). When disaggregated at the operational area level (see Map 2), data reveals that health is most often picked as any priority while additional food is most often picked as a top priority. Notably, in the Bekaa, the need that was chosen the most as a top priority was agricultural inputs, which highly reflects the Bekaa's deeply agricultural identity.

Assistance

Lebanese households were asked about any assistance they had received at the time of assessment. Specifically, selected households were asked about received assistance in the form of food, cash,non-food items, education, health, protection, shelter, WASH, support to agricultural related livelihoods, support to livestock related livelihoods, and technical trainings.

Confirming available secondary data, the assessment identified that **a lack of assistance has been directed towards the Lebanese population**. When assistance had been received by households interviewes, it was most commonly in the form of food aid, however this assistance reportedly reached less than one per cent of the population.

Map 2: Reported household needs



Agriculture

This section of the report presents findings on the state of agriculture in Lebanon in the surveyed households/survey sample.

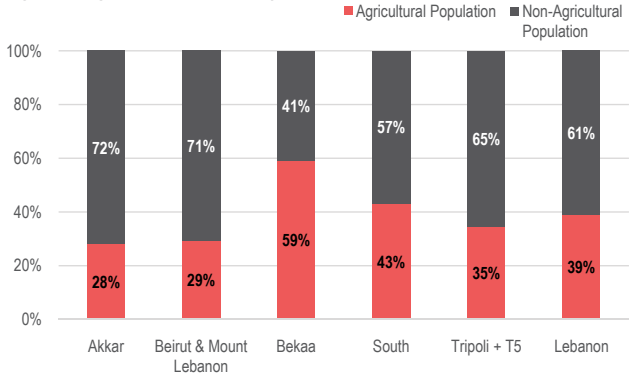
The main findings of this section are:

- The HH survey found that 39 per cent of the total surveyed Lebanese population can be considered to form Lebanon's agricultural population.
- temporary crops (cereals and vegetables) are heavily relied upon in the surveyed households throughout Lebanon
- Most crops are yielding less than what they did 24 months ago.
- The main obstacles impeding the development of rural livelihood activities according to KIs are water access, lack of supervision over traders and competition from new Syrian farmers.
- One per cent of the surveyed Lebanese population raises livestock with a reliance on small cattle herds.
- The three main agricultural needs for farmers are fertilizers, pesticides and machinery.
- The three main livestock needs for raisers are fodder, material for shelter and cattle.

Agriculture population of the survey

Data collected through the assessment shows that Lebanon's agricultural population, in other words people who have an agricultural activity as a 1st, 2nd and/or 3rd source of income and who work a land that is larger than 1 dunum, can be estimated to amount to 39 per cent of the surveyed Lebanese population. The following graph details the repartition of the Lebanese agricultural population by operational area.

Figure 12: Agricultural population by operational area



It can be noticed that Bekaa has the largest agricultural population, with 59 per cent of its inhabitants involved in agricultural activities, followed by the South with 43 per cent. On the other hand, Akkar and BML have the smallest agricultural populations, with 28 and 29 per cent of their total populations being part of the Lebanese agricultural population, respectively. This can be explained by their apparent reliance on other sources of livelihood since a bit more than a quarter of households in Akkar have a major breadwinner in the military. Additionally, results have indicated that nearly 40 per cent of households in BML mostly rely on private, non-agricultural businesses. Based on agricultural census (2010) the total number of agricultural holders in Lebanon is distributed as follows: Bekaa (43%); Akkar (16%); Notrh (10%); South (11%); Nabatiyeh (11%) and Mount Lebanon (9%)

As for the type of tenure, cultivated lands across Lebanon in the surveyed sample, are mostly owned by the same people who work them (59 per cent). The second most common type of tenure is rental of lands with, for example in Akkar 31 per cent of the agricultural population opt to rent the lands they cultivate.

Water sources for irrigation

The assessment indicated that 36 per cent of Lebanese farmers rely on traditional irrigation of their lands while only 16 per cent solely rely on direct precipitation. The remaining 47 per cent opt for a supplemental irrigation. Moreover, 39 per cent of those who manually irrigate their crops do so from wells that are dug on their lands while 31 per cent use water that is brought to their lands through canals. 14 per cent pump it from rivers, lakes or ponds. The following table represents the operational areas' dependence on water sources for agricultural production:

Table 2: Water sources for agricultural production

Source of Irrigation	Akkar	Beirut & Mount Lebanon	Bekaa	South	Tripoli + T5	Lebanon
Well	37%	36%	45%	46%	24%	**39%**
Canal	39%	30%	27%	22%	44%	**31%**
River, lake, pond	12%	16%	15%	13%	13%	**14%**
Truck	12%	14%	3%	11%	9%	**9%**
Bore Hole	0%	2%	7%	2%	2%	**4%**
Network	0%	2%	3%	6%	7%	**4%**
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

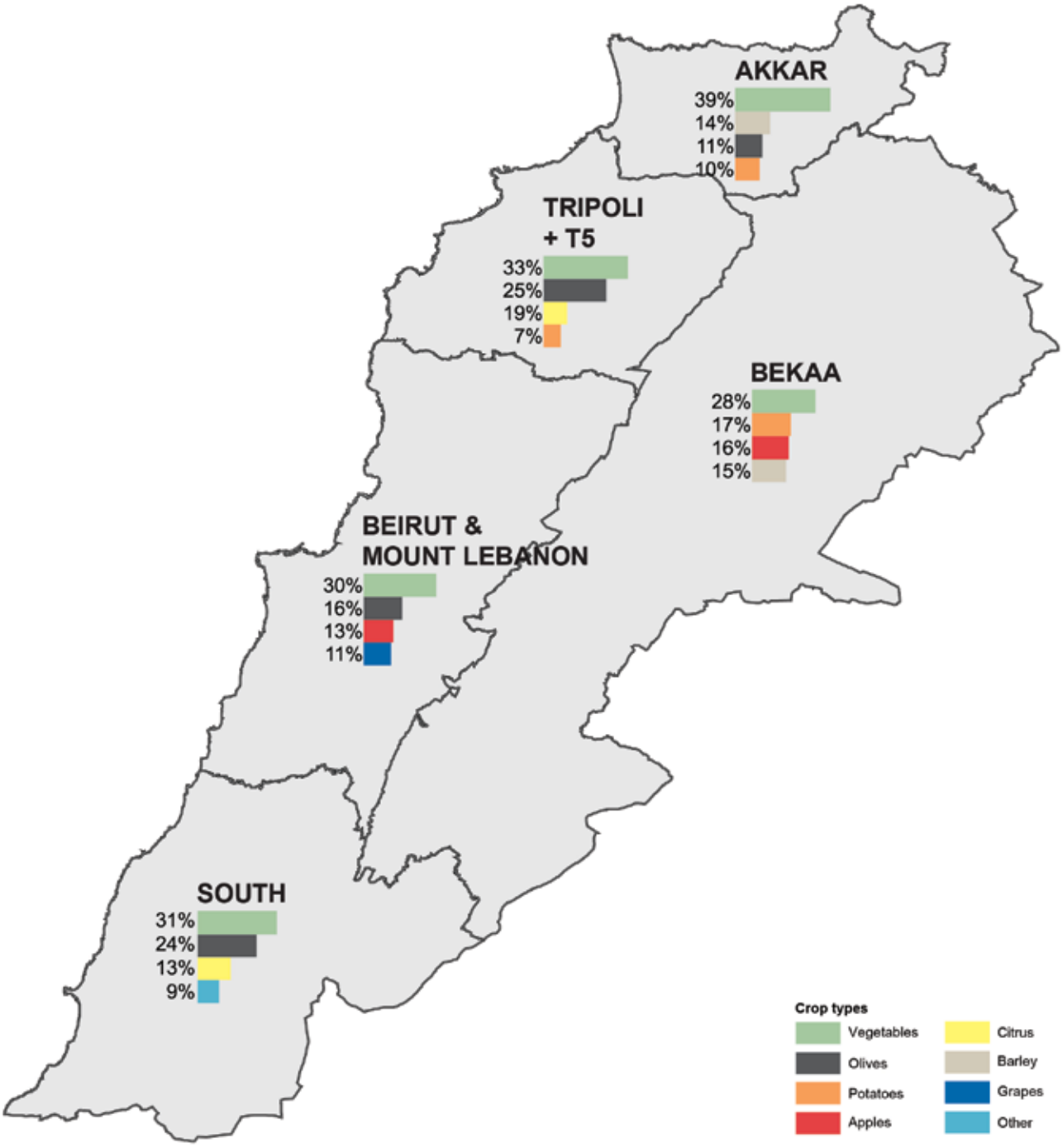
Crops

In terms of what is cultivated by the surveyed sample in Lebanon, **the assessment results described a clear cultivation of a diverse array of crops but also a large reliance on vegetables,** which constitute approximately 31 per cent of all the reported crop types, disregarding crop size. Furthermore, olives proved to be the second most relied upon crop with 16 per cent, while potatoes make up 10 per cent. According to the latest agricultural census (2010), fruit trees constitute 54% of the total cultivated area (including olives) followed by cereals (20%) and vegetables including potatoes (17%).

When broken down, it is noticeable that **vegetables are the main crop type in all operational areas with Akkar relying the most, with vegetables making up 39 per cent of its crops.** However, only TR5, BML and the South have olives as second most relied upon crop type with 25 per cent, 16 per cent and 24 per cent respectively. Akkar has barley in that spot with 14 per cent while Bekaa has potatoes with 17 per cent.

Figure 13: Crop types cultivated in Lebanon by sample households

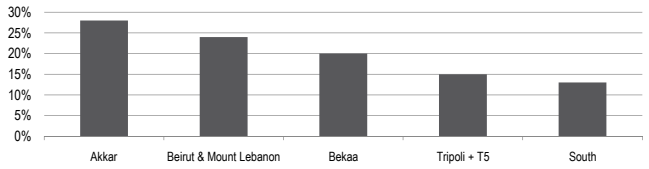
Map 3: Top 4 crops in Lebanon by operational area



Livestock

While it was reported that 12% of the Lebanese population currently keep livestock, with Akkar and Bekaa having the biggest shares of that figure, with 27 per cent each., the assessment indicated that **one per cent refer to themselves as livestock herders.** The following graph shows the repartition of livestock raisers across the five operational areas.

Figure 14: Distribution of livestock raisers in operational areas



When it comes to the types and sizes of available livestock in Lebanon, 25 per cent of those who are raising livestock in currently do so with cattle herds ranging between 1 and 5 animals with Akkar having 43 per cent of its livestock in this category. On the other hand, 17 per cent of Lebanese livestock owners raise poultry in flocks of 11 to 50 animals; this number can mostly be witnessed in BML with 27 per cent of its livestock in this category. Based on census (2010) the distribution of herders across Lebanon is as follows: Akkar (32%); BaalbeckHermel (19%), North (14%); Bekaa (12%), Nabatiyeh (10%); Mount lebanon (10%), South (5%)

Main Challenges faced by the Agricultural Sector

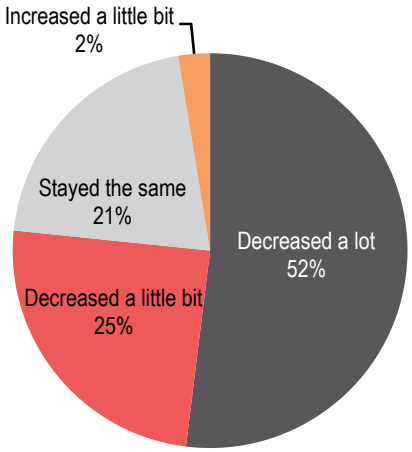
Crop Yield Decrease

In order to prove that the Lebanese agricultural sector is indeed facing challenges, it seems necessary to first portray the degree to which agricultural production is being affected. The assessment therefore focused on measuring changes in crop yield over the last 24 months.

On the whole, results showed that **42 per cent of Lebanese crops are currently yielding less than 50 per cent of what they did 24 months ago while 21 per cent are yielding a bit more than 50 per cent.**

Water Access

When asked about the reasons behind this significant decrease, households mostly pointed the finger at a **dramatic reduction in accessible natural resources, mainly water.** Specifically, 58 per cent of crop yield decreases have been linked to this reduction, while only 20 per cent could be traced back to a higher cost of agricultural inputs.



It seems that the most affected crop type is apples with 52 per cent of planted crops having their yield decreased by more than 50 per cent and 25 per cent planted crops still having decreased yet to a lesser extent (less than 50 per cent). Moreover, 47 per cent of the cases in which a decrease in crop yield of any size has been noticed were due to a reduction in water availability. However, a substantial 25 per cent were due to an increase in agricultural input cost.

When it comes to access to water, KIs stated that due to the precipitation shortage of the last two years, some rivers and wells have run dry, and that most of the remaining water bodies have become polluted or have been infiltrated by salt water, especially on coastal areas. The lack of water means that **farmers now need to purchase water for irrigation,** therefore increasing their agricultural production costs.

Lack of Supervision over Traders and Service Providers

Consequently, and as most conducted KI interviews informed us, **a combination of factors is currently forcing farmers to change crop types. Mentioned factors were mostly linked to decreases in water availability and access, but also market prices.** Specifically, KIs explained that when farmers are heading to the market to sell their produce, they are discovering that the offered prices are very low relatively to the cost they paid to plant the crops.

As was just mentioned, increases in market prices have been noticed when it comes to both agricultural outputs but also, inputs. Indeed, **67 per cent of farmers reported that agricultural input prices have increased compared to 24 months ago,** of which 47 per cent blamed the traders for manipulating the prices as there is limited oversight from regulatory bodies. On the other hand, only 11 per cent attributed the increase to a change in international prices and import taxes since some agricultural inputs are being shipped from overseas.

> **"The agricultural sector is overlooked and no political power or party is taking care of it". He added: "the traders lie at farmers concerning prices and tell them they weren't able to sell their products or that they were sold at very low prices."** (KI, Beirut & Mount Lebanon)

Establishing a system of regulatory bodies for the market, mostly in the form of agricultural cooperatives, is one of the most common recommendations from KIs. Indeed, they consistently pointed out the fact that **traders are controlling the market and setting food prices which is highly detrimental to farmers**. Several KIs mentioned that traders were also working with Syrian farmers to sell their products on Lebanese markets in order to push prices down.

> **"Farmers should be able to work hand in hand and settle for a unified price and not accept to settle for a different one."** (KI, South)

> **"An agricultural cooperative should set prices and will be responsible of the market processing of all products. This cooperation would receive farmers from nearby villages, and it should have many branches to cover all areas."** (KI, Beirut & Mount Lebanon)

Syrian Competition

KI interviews also stated that **the Syrian Crisis led a considerable amount of displaced persons to take on agriculture in Lebanon**. In comparison to Lebanese farmers, Syrian farmers seem to have more access to cheap labour, due to the fact that they are being helped by their family members on the lands they are cultivating, and also cheaper agricultural inputs since they have the ability to access markets, both official and unofficial, in Syria.

This, in addition to the belief that Syrian farmers are accepting to sell their produce at a much lower price, is leading some Lebanese farmers to switch crop types to ones that are currently not being planted by the formers, such as orchards. Anecdotally, Bekaa KIs and FGD participants mentioned **a substantial switch to illegal narcotics that have proven to be very beneficial to farmers due to their high level of profitability.**

On another note, KI interviews have also notified us **that the Syrian Crisis has also pushed some Lebanese farmers to give up on their agricultural lands and switch their land use to residential units** since there is now a higher demand for them due to the severe population increase that resulted, especially on the coastal areas of Akkar.

Livestock

The assessment indicated that one per cent of the Lebanese population is currently raising livestock, 47 per cent of which have been reported to be doing it solely for household consumption.

Only 36 per cent of Lebanese farmers who raise livestock reported that they have sold some livestock in the past 6 months with Bekaa ranking in top position with 64 per cent. In the cases where people have sold livestock, it has been mostly done because of urgent need for money (58 per cent). Moreover, 28 per cent of the cases happened as a part of the farmers' normal source of livelihood.

Availability of Services

As the Lebanese agriculture sector is clearly facing a variety of challenges, it is therefore obvious that farmers are in dire need for services that are offered by both governmental and non-governmental actors. While **overall the majority of households reported not receiving any agricultural assistance,** KIs informed us that people involved in agriculture have access to a multitude of services provided by the MoA, INGOs and local NGOs. Offered services can be categorized as per the following:

- Veterinary services (vaccinations, husbandry…)
- Agricultural inputs (pesticides, fertilizers, herbicides…)
- Technical support (agricultural engineering/ machinery…)
- Agricultural extension
- Trainings and financial services were also mentioned but to a lesser extent

However, the majority if KIs added that the **current agricultural services distribution patterns were insufficient, poorly organized and, most of the time, unjust.**

> **"These aids are insufficient because they are handed over to municipalities and they do not distribute these fairly; there is a lot of interference by political authorities."**
> (KI, South)

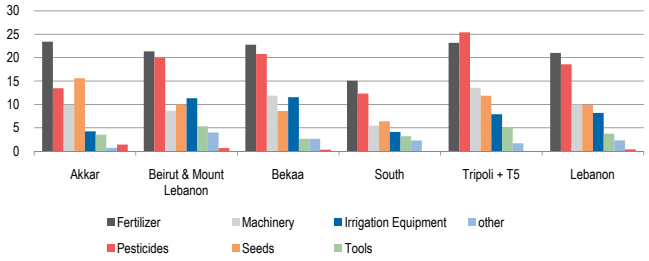
Needs

Agricultural Needs

Having exhibited that the **offered governmental and non-governmental agricultural services are currently unable to meet need**, it seems necessary to evaluate the remaining agricultural needs of Lebanese farmers. This part of the report will outline the collected top three agricultural needs for Lebanese farmers.

Respondents were given the chance to input their top three agricultural needs while indicating which should be considered as a first, second and third priority. When all three priorities are combined, **agricultural needs of Lebanese farmers proved to be fertilizers** with 21 per cent, **pesticides** with 19 per cent and **agricultural machinery** with 10 per cent. However, when first priorities are solely taken into consideration, fertilizers proved to be the most required agricultural need with 33 per cent, followed by agricultural machinery with 18 per cent, then seeds with 14 per cent.

Figure 16: Combined agricultural needs by operational area



Indeed, the majority of KIs interviewed said that current agricultural services were insufficient. While the following did not necessarily come up in the household surveys, KI interviews informed us that **the provision of agricultural extensions as well as trainings are key needs that need to be addressed in order to resolve problems caused by changes in rural livelihoods**. Indeed, providing farmers with the abovementioned is crucial to bridge the gap in expertise and knowledge of new agricultural techniques. These trainings and extensions should also be accompanied by follow-ups that ensure the farmers' information retention so that they do not fall back to their old, and sometimes inefficient, traditional ways.

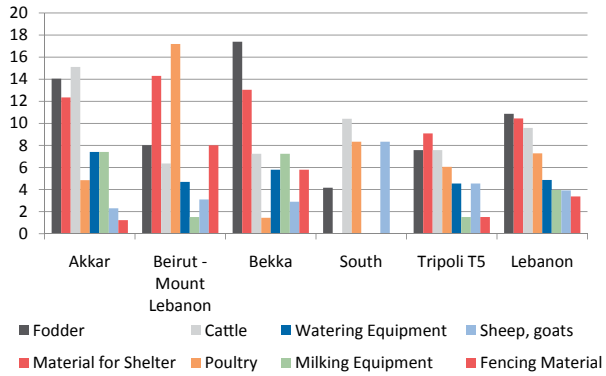
> **"It is necessary to offer farmers agricultural guidance and trainings instead of money. New techniques are helpful but only if farmers are taught how to use and adapt to these techniques"**. (KI, Bekaa)

As can be noticed in the above graph, the third most mentioned need for farmers is access to machinery. Indeed, KIs mentioned that the establishment of agricultural cooperatives should entail helping out the local farmers by supplying them with the opportunity to use these much needed agricultural tools that can therefore be equally used by all farmers for free.

Livestock Needs

When it comes to livestock raisers' needs, and by combining answers of all priorities, **the top three livestock needs for Lebanese farmers was reported to be fodder with 11 per cent, material for shelter and cattle with 10 per cent each**. However, when it comes to first priority, cattle proved to be the most required livestock need with 23 per cent, followed by fodder with 18 per cent, then poultry with 8 per cent.

Figure 17: Combined livestock needs by operational area



Food Security

This section of the report presents findings on food security and several of its indicators. As defined by the FAO World Food Summit held in 1996, food security "exists when all people, at all times, have physical and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food to meet their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life". This section is structured around the four main pillars of food security which are: utilization, access, stability and availability.

The main findings of this section are:

- **Utilization**: Majority of Lebanese households report eating three meals per day. However, seven per cent say that they are eating fewer meals than usual. The data shows that five per cent of households have a poor Food Consumption score.
- **Access**: While physical access to food is mostly problematic in Akkar and the South, economic access is compromised all over the country. Food and non-food related coping strategies are widespread. Commonly reported non-food related coping strategies are the use of savings or taking credit/borrowing money; both of which have severe financial implications that increase the risk of food insecurity in the future
- **Stability**: Main problems concerning food in Lebanon are food prices, weather variability and a poor security situation.
- **Availability**: The agriculture sector has been seriously affected since the start of the Syria Crisis (see section on Agriculture), therefore threatening food availability. Home production is widespread in Lebanon and should be built upon to improve self-reliance of households and communities.

General Food Utilization

Food utilization is one of the four pillars or dimensions of food security. Among other topics, food utilization addresses how much food people eat, and what and how they eat[30]. In this section, findings on number of meals and the Food Consumption Score (FCS) are highlighted. The FCS, a tool developed by the United Nations WFP, is a composite score based on dietary diversity, frequency of consumption and relative nutritional importance of different food groups. The FCS is both an indicator of food utilization as well as access.

Number of meals

The majority of surveyed Lebanese households (79 per cent) reported eating three meals the day at the time of assessment. However, nearly two in 10 households (17 per cent) said they had eaten two meals the previous day and another four per cent said they had only eaten one. Differences were observed at the regional level. Indeed, in Bekaa and Tripoli T5, respectively six and five per cent of respondents said they had eaten only one meal the day prior to the survey while in BML and the South, only two and one per cent of households said so (see figure 18).

When asked how this compares to the usual number of meals they consume, the majority (93 per cent) of respondents said that it was the same as always. However, **seven per cent of respondents said they were having fewer meals than usual.** In BML, only four per cent of households said they were eating fewer meals than usual. **The South and Akkar had the biggest proportions of households eating fewer meals than usual** with 10 per cent and eight per cent respectively (see figure 19).

Figure 18: Number of meals eaten by HH yesterday (by operational area)

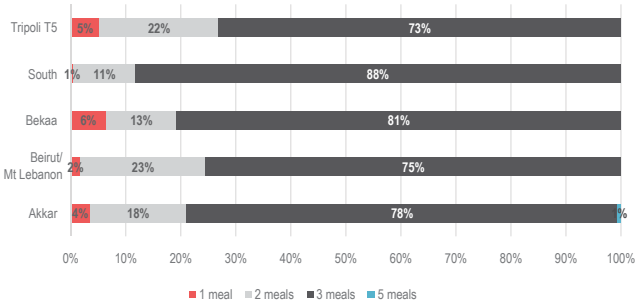
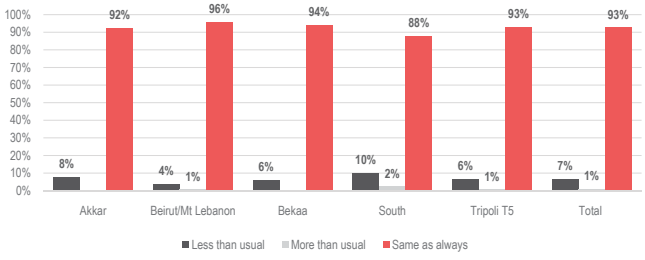


Figure 19: Number of meals compared to usual

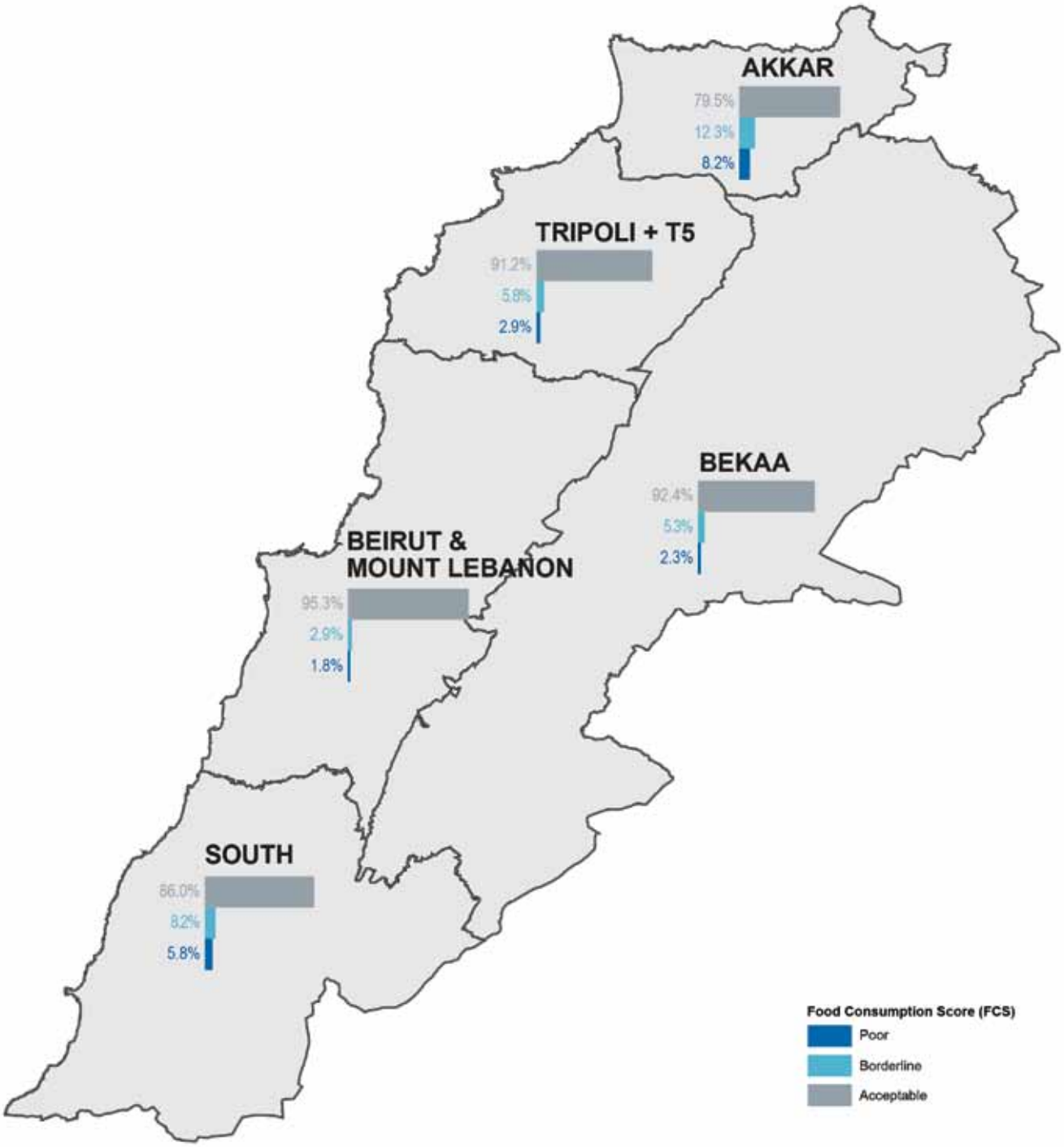


[30] *Basic Concepts of Food Security: Definition, Dimensions and Integrated Phase Classification, Yadav Sharma Bajagai*

Food Consumption Score

According to the assessment, **88.9 per cent of the Lebanese population has an acceptable Food Consumption Score**[31] (see Appendix I for calculation details). However, 6.9 per cent of the population was found to have a borderline score and 4.2 per cent had a poor food consumption score. **At the operational area level, Akkar has the largest proportion of households with a poor FCS, with 8.2 per cent of households calculated to have a poor FCS. Bekaa, on the other hand, sees only 2.3 per cent of its inhabitants with a poor FCS.** This may be due to the fact that in Bekaa, food is known as being generally cheaper and agricultural production is widespread. BML has the highest proportion of households with an acceptable food consumption score (95.3per cent).

Map 4: Food Consumption Score (FCS) by operational area



[31] *FCS score is based on regional thresholds set by the World Food Programme*

Access

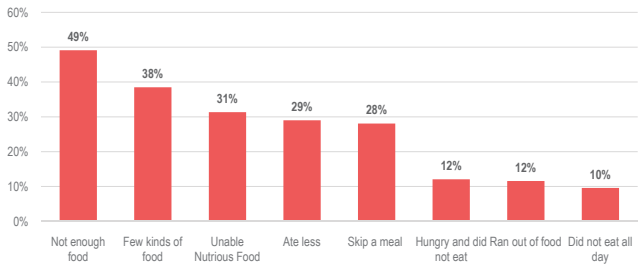
This section looks at Lebaanese' host communities' access to food, which is one of the four pillars of food security. Access includes physical and economic access to food.

Economic Access to food

Lack of money or resources

Although only a minority of Lebanese are eating fewer meals than usual on a daily basis, the assessment found that during the last 12 months, many households found themselves in difficult situations in regards to food because of lack of money or other resources (see figure 20). Consequently, this affected their food consumption. Indeed, **nearly half of respondents (49 per cent) said they had been worried about not having enough food to eat over the past year.** Another 38 per cent of households said they had only eaten a few kinds of food and 31 per cent said they had been unable to eat healthy and nutritious food over the last year. These numbers show that food consumption is a clear issue among Lebanese households.

Figure 20: Use of food-related coping strategies in the last 12 months due to lack of money or other resources

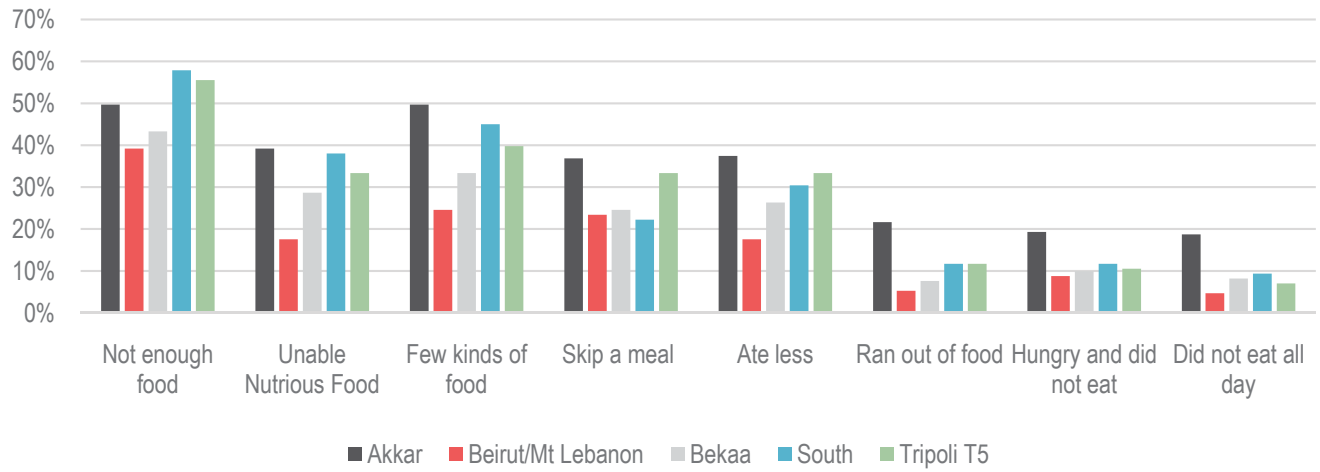


Akkar, Tripoli and the South were the regions where reports of food-related problems due to lack of money or other resources were most common. Indeed, 58 per cent of respondents in the South and 56 per cent in Tripoli T5 said that, over the past year, they had been worried about not having enough food.

In Akkar, households found themselves in more severe situations in regards to food availability. Indeed, 22 per cent of respondents simply ran out of food at least once over the last twelve months. Moreover, 19 per cent of respondents also went without eating for a whole day over the past year. The same proportion of respondents said there had been a time over that same period where they were hungry but did not eat.

In BML, not having enough food (50 per cent), eating only a few kinds of foods (25 per cent) and having to skip a meal (23 per cent), were the three most common food-related problems households faced over the past year (see figure 21).

Figure 21: Use of food-related coping strategies in the last 12 months due to lack of money or other resources (by operational area)

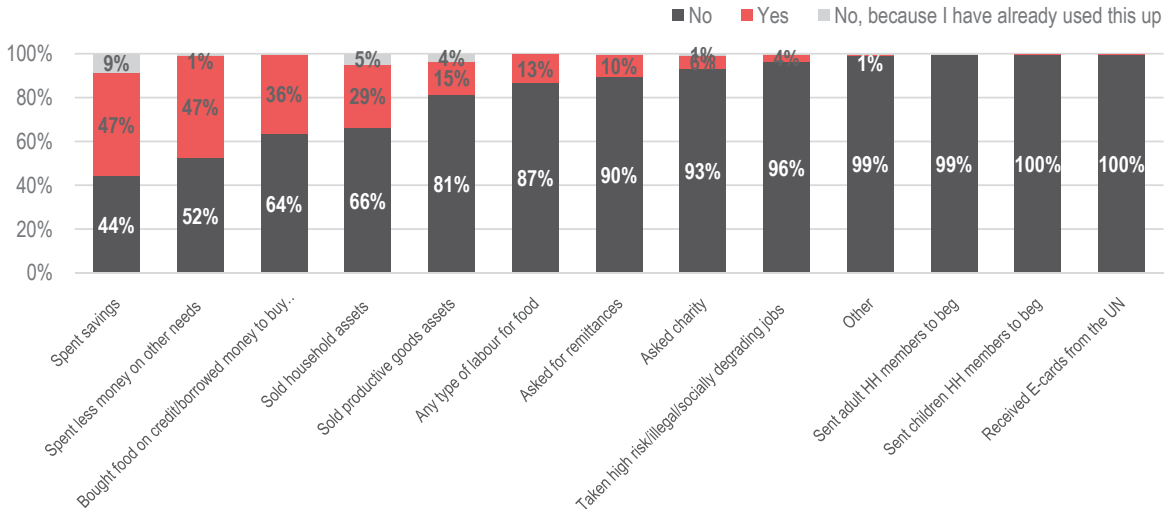


Coping Strategies (Food and non-food related)

The secondary data review found that higher food prices, have decreased purchasing power amongst the poorest populations in Lebanon[32]. As a result of this decrease, many vulnerable Lebanese host community members have been resorting to coping strategies, however, the extent of their use was unreported. Therefore, through this assessment Lebanese households were asked to list the most common coping strategies (both food and non-food related) that they relied on when they are unable to meet their households' needs for food.

Common non-food related coping strategies among the assessed Lebanese households are to spend savings (47 per cent), spend less money on other needs such as education and health (47 per cent), followed by buying food on credit/borrowing money to buy food (36 per cent). Spending savings is a particularly prominent fall-back mechanism to deal with short-term insufficiency of food as nine per cent of households reported they had not used this coping mechanism in the last 30 days because they had already exhausted available savings. Selling household assets as well as productive goods assets are also common coping mechanisms among Lebanese households (see figure 22).

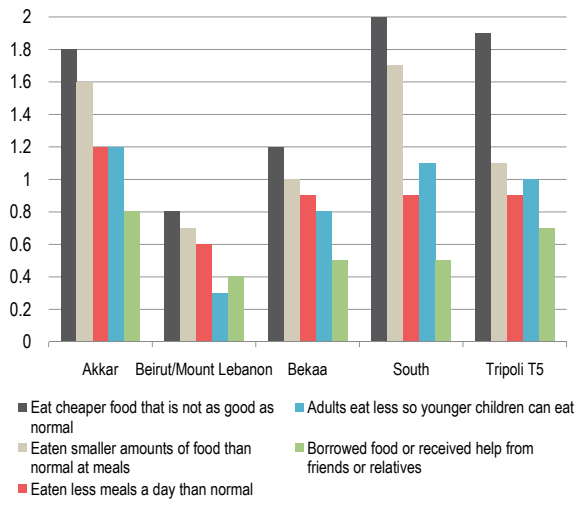
Figure 22: Non-food related coping mechanisms



Households were asked to report the number of times they had resorted to food-related coping mechanisms in the week prior to the assessment. Overall, eating cheaper food that is not as high quality as normal is the most common food-related coping strategy. Households in the South, Tripoli and Akkar reported resorting to this strategy approximately twice a week. Eating smaller amounts of food than normal at meals is the second most common food related coping strategy.

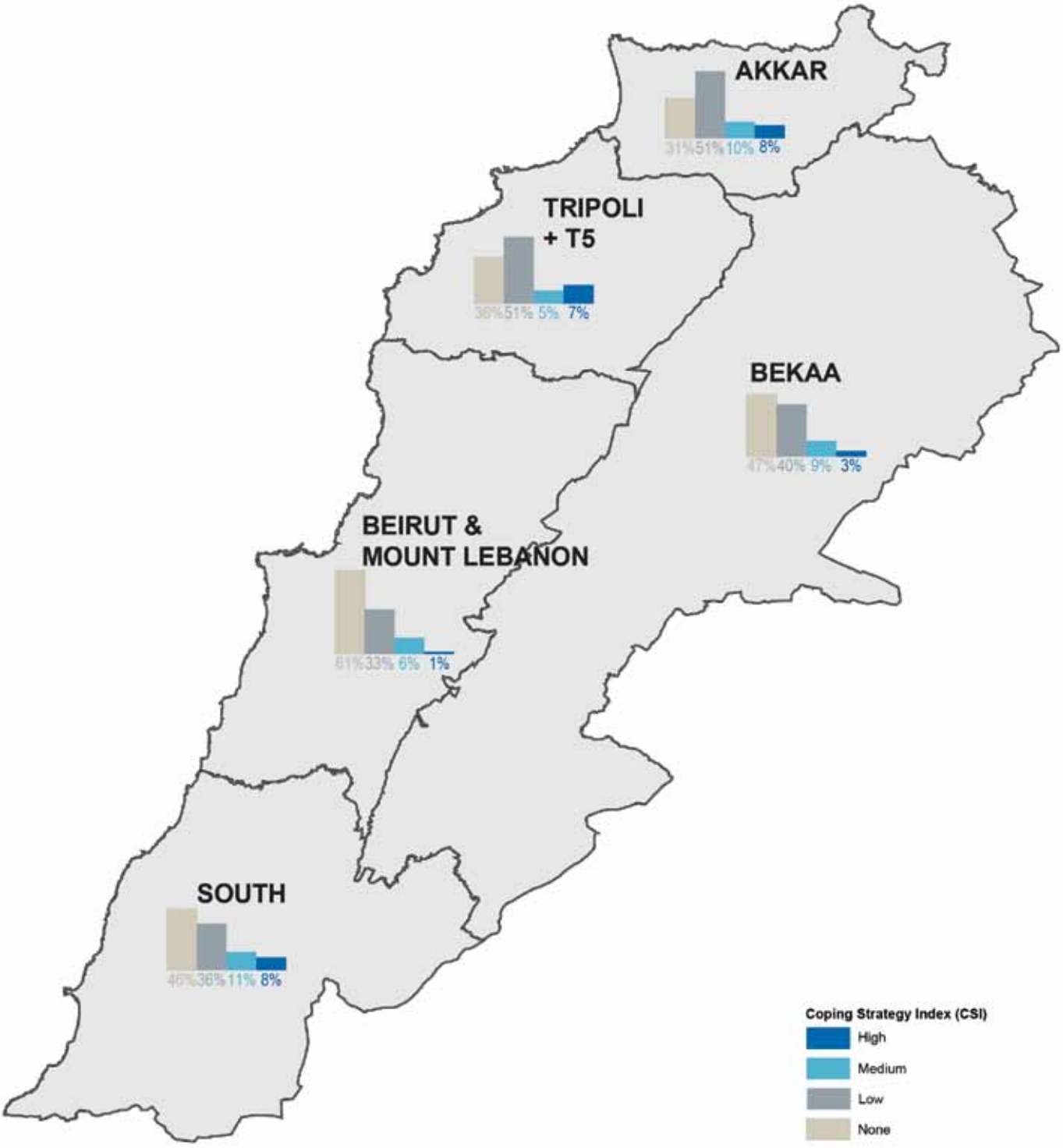
The assessment also used the Coping Strategies Index (CSI) as an indicator of household food security. The CSI is gauged through a series of questions about how households manage to cope with a shortfall in food for consumption and which results in a simple numeric score (for more information see Appendix II). The survey found that 44 per cent of Lebanese households do not rely on coping strategies, while 42 per cent have a low reliance on coping strategies. However, eightper cent of the population have a medium reliance on coping strategies and five per cent rely heavily on coping strategies. At the operational area level, Beirut had the biggest proportion of households with a no reliance on coping mechanisms (60 per cent). In each of the South and Akkar, eight per cent of households rely heavily on coping strategies (see Map 5).

Figure 23: Average number of days per week food related coping strategies are used



[32] *Food Security and Livelihoods Assessment Secondary Data Review, REACH/FAO, January 2015*

Map 5: Reliance on coping strategies (Coping Strategy Index)



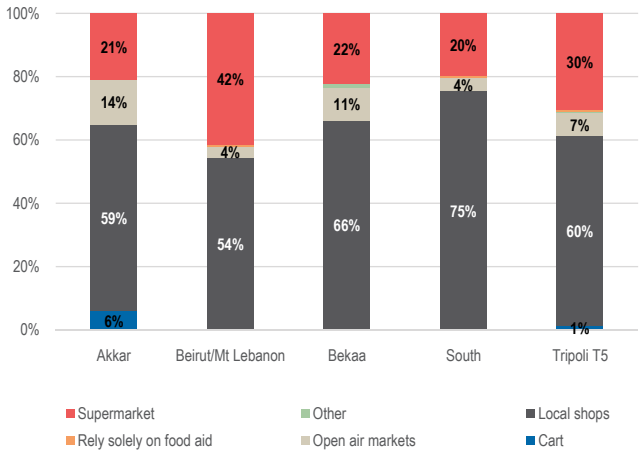
Physical access to food

Transport and market infrastructure are key determinants of market accessibility. Without these, physical access to food is compromised. To evaluate Lebanese access to markets, the assessment asked households which type of market they usually go to in order to purchase food, which mode of transport they use to get there, and how long it takes them.

Type of markets used

At the national level, local shops (63 per cent) and supermarkets (27 per cent) are the two main locations to purchase food. Nonetheless, some differences were observed at the operational area level. **Open-air markets are more popular in Akkar and the Bekaa.** Indeed, in Akkar, 14 per cent of households go to open air markets to purchase food, and 11 per cent do so in Bekaa. Comparatively, in BML, only four per cent of households usually purchase food in open-air markets. In BML, households generally purchase food either in local shops (54 per cent) or supermarkets (42 per cent). **Finally, carts are more commonly used to purchase food in Akkar (6 per cent) than in any other operational area.** Households that rely on carts for purchasing food may be more vulnerable to food insecurity as the limited choice of food types provided there could lead to poor diet diversity. In addition, carts usually sell local produce and are therefore much more susceptible to external effects (i.e. weather), and as such may reduce the level of food security of households.

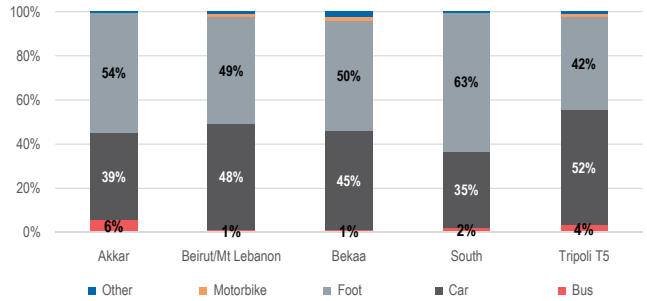
Figure 24: Market used for purchasing food by operational area



Mode of transport to market

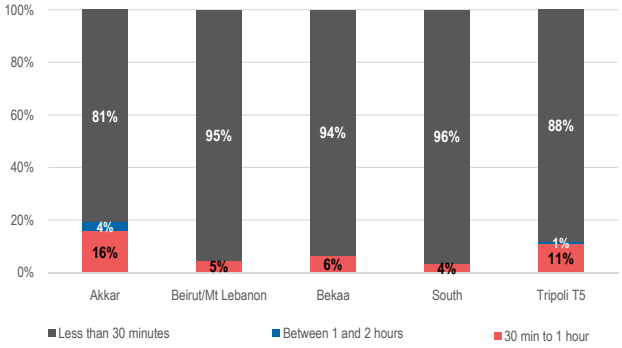
In terms of mode of transport, Lebanese either go to the market on foot (51 per cent) or by car (44 per cent). Only a minority of Lebanese report using the bus to reach the market (3 per cent), most probably due to the country's relatively limited public transport infrastructure and network. Akkar has the largest proportion of inhabitants who use the bus to reach the market (6 per cent). In the South, nearly two third (63 per cent) of the population reachs the market on foot (see Figure 25).

Figure 25: Mode of transport to reach market by operational area



In addition, households were asked how long it takes them to reach the market (see Figure 26). At the national level, 91 per cent of respondents said it takes them less than 30 minutes, eight per cent said it takes them 30 minutes to an hour and only one per cent reported taking between one and two hours. Households in Akkar face the most difficulties in accessing markets with more than 16 per cent of them saying it takes 30 minutes to one hour to reach the market, and four per cent saying it takes between 1 and 2 hours. In Tripoli T5, 11 per cent of the population takes 30 minutes to an hour, and one per cent takes more than one hour. This demonstrates the need for additional markets in the North to ensure populations are close to a location where they can purchase food. Otherwise, physical access to food is compromised. Moreover, during winter or if the security situation worsens (possibly leading to roads being blocked) this could potentially become a bigger problem and impede some households from getting sufficient food.

Figure 26: Time to reach market by operational area



Cost to reach market

Finally, the cost of reaching the market is an important determinant of physical access to a place where one can purchase food. In general, the assessment shows that surveyed Lebanese households pay less than LBP 2000 to reach the market (62 per cent). A little more than one third (34 per cent) pays LBP 2000 to 10000. Only four per cent pay LBP 10000 or more. At the operational area level, it is cheaper to travel to the market if you are residing in the South. Indeed, 73 per cent of households in the South pay less than LBP 2000 to reach the market. **Akkar, on the other hand, sees 13 per cent of its population having to travel to markets for LBP 10000 To 20000,** which can be attributed to the significantly longer travel times experienced by Akkar residents.

Stability

This section evaluates stability, one of the four pillars of food security. Stability refers to the ability to obtain food over time and is determined by natural conditions (e.g.: weather variability) and political and economic factors (e.g.: unemployment, rising food prices). In Lebanon, stability of supply and access is of particular concern due to the impact of the Syria Crisis on the economy and on the security situation. Moreover, poor weather conditions have raised concerns for the future. This section was mostly informed by the FGDs and KI interviews conducted in all five operational areas.

Economic factors

Rising food prices

All KIs and FGD participants interviewed said there is sufficient food in their respective operational areas. However, a majority of them indicated that food prices are the key problem all over the country. Indeed, they noted that food prices were continuously increasing. Food quality was also mentioned as a major problem. However, most interviewees said that good quality food was still available but at a higher cost.

Economic vulnerability of households

When asked which populations would be affected by food insecurity in Lebanon, KIs mostly said it would be displaced Syrians and Lebanese host communities. Several KIs replied that Palestinian Refugees from Syria (PRS) and Palestinians Refugees in Lebanon (PRL) would also be affected. However, when asked who would be most affected, the majority of KIs said it would be Lebanese host communities. The fact that the latter do not receive any aid or support from the UN and INGOs was the main reason for this.

> "If there is a food insecurity issue, the population that will be most affected will be Lebanese and then Syrians because Syrians are viewed as displaced persons and thus receive help and donations from NGOs". (KI, Beirut & Mount Lebanon).

Political factors

According to the KIs, a threat to Lebanon's stability of supply and access is the fact that it is not self-sufficient. Most KIs think that Lebanon is relying too heavily on food imports. The Multi Sector Needs Assessment (MSNA) showed that the country is heavily dependent on imported food from Syria; in particular, inhabitants of the border towns in Lebanon are dependent on Syria as a major source of imported food products and other groceries. However, Syria has seen a significant drop in its food production and the security situation has been restraining all transportation through the country, threatening food imports into Lebanon.

According to the qualitative data analysis, an increase in security problems in the country would push additional households into situations of food insecurity. Many KIs and participants of the FGDs said that road closures would be the most problematic consequence of a significant decrease in the security situation on stability of supply and access.

> **"The most important threat to food security is the security situation because whenever there are security issues people cannot go out of their houses or go down to other regions such as Beirut. In these situations roads, exits and entries to towns are closed. Safety/security is the mother of the economy, agriculture, and trade"**. (KI, Bekaa).

> **"There have already been road closures. For example the blocking of the road in Dahr al Baydar[33] prevented some products of getting in or out from the area"** (KI, Bekaa).

Hence, in order to avoid food insecurity in Lebanon, KIs and FGD participants generally recommended maintaining a stable security situation. Another common response was to work towards self-sufficiency.

> **"We are not self-sufficient; we import everything even if we produce almost everything. He added "the government should try at least being self-sufficient in the basic crops like cereals in order to resolve problems of food insecurity"**. (KI, South)

Producing food at the household level could be a solution to decreasing dependency on food imports from other countries. This will be discussed in a further section.

Weather variability

Weather variability is known to place significant stress on food production and availability. According to the Secondary Data Review, the MoEW confirmed that the 2014 rainy season was a meteorological drought and warned of a potential hydrological drought for the current year[34]. KIs and FGD participants echoed the MoEW's concerns. The section on Agriculture further explains how weather variability is affecting food production in Lebanon.

Availability

Food availability addresses the "supply side" of food security and is determined by the level of food production, stock levels and net trade[35]. A further section dedicated to Agriculture will examine in detail the current status of the agriculture sector in Lebanon and evaluate the impact of the Syria crisis on production. This is crucial in order to assess availability of food at the national level. Nonetheless, as discussed previously, economic and physical access to food is problematic in some regions of Lebanon and suggests that alternative production mechanisms should be envisaged.

[33] *Main transport route between Beirut & Mount Lebanon and the Bekaa Valley*
[34] *Food Security and Livelihoods Assessment Secondary Data Review, REACH/FAO, January 2015*
[35] *An Introduction to the Basic Concepts of Food SecurityFood Security Information for Action, Practical guides FAO.*

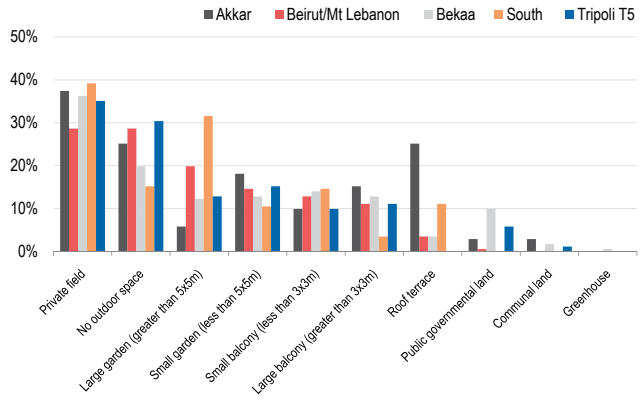
Home production

As seen previously, although a majority of surveyed Lebanese households are considered food secure, approximately 14 per cent have a borderline or poor food consumption score. Furthermore, coping strategies, both food and non-food related, are widely used all over the country. This suggests that in Lebanon the common use of coping strategies could be helping to maintain a high FCS. Despite this, a further deterioration of the security situation (road closures/closed borders) or an additional dry season could push supplementary households into situations of food insecurity. **Home production could help households and their communities reach self-reliance.** Having a self-reliant food system means that food is produced, processed, and controlled locally as much as possible; food sources are multiple and varied; and community members are involved in decision-making[36]. While self-reliance may not be easily reachable simply through home production, the latter can **enable easy access to fresh plant and animal food sources in both rural and urban locales.** Food items from home gardens add substantially to the family energy and nutritive requirements on a continuous basis[37]. In addition to addressing food insecurity, home production can provide benefits such as income and livelihood opportunities for resource-poor families. In order to assess Lebanese households' potential (physical and technical) and willingness to produce food the survey asked several key questions. The results of these questions are explained in the sections below.

Access and use of outdoor space

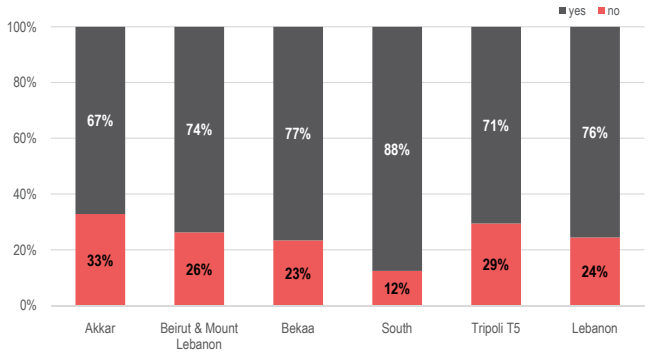
First, households were asked if they had access to an outdoor space. **Overall, while nearly one quarter (24 per cent) of the population does not have access to an outdoor space, the remaining 76 per cent have access to some sort of outdoor space.** The most common types of outdoor spaces are private fields (35 per cent), large gardens (16 per cent), small gardens (14 per cent) or small balconies (12 per cent). Interestingly, Akkar has the biggest proportion of households with access to roof terraces (25 per cent) among all operational areas.

Figure 27: Access to outdoor space by operational area



The majority (76 per cent) of Lebanese who have access to outdoor space currently plant fruit and/or vegetable on it. In the South, nearly 9 in 10 (88 per cent) households reported planting fruit and/or vegetables in their outdoor space. Akkar is the region where the least households are planting fruit/vegetable in their outdoor spaces (67 per cent), possibly due to difficulties in accessing water (see Access to water section below).

Figure 28:Planting of fruit/vegetable in outdoor space

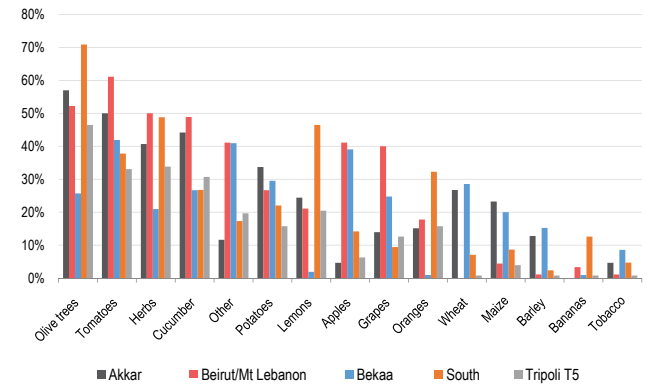


More than half of households (55 per cent) who have access to an outdoor space and plant in it reported planting olive trees. The second most common crop among people with outdoor spaces is tomatoes (47 per cent) followed by leafy vegetables (42 per cent) and cucumbers (37 per cent).

In BML, households most commonly plant tomatoes (61 per cent) in their outdoor space. In the South, olive trees (71 per cent), leafy vegetables (49 per cent) and lemons (46 per cent) are the three most common plantations. In Akkar, olive trees (57 per cent), tomatoes (50 per cent) and cucumber (44 per cent) are most commonly planted in outdoor spaces.

[36] *Home gardens: a promising approach to enhance household food security and wellbeing, DilrukshiHashiniGalhena, Russell Freed and Karim M. Maredia, 2013.*
[37] *Ibid.*

Figure 29: Fruit/vegetable crop cultivated in outdoor space

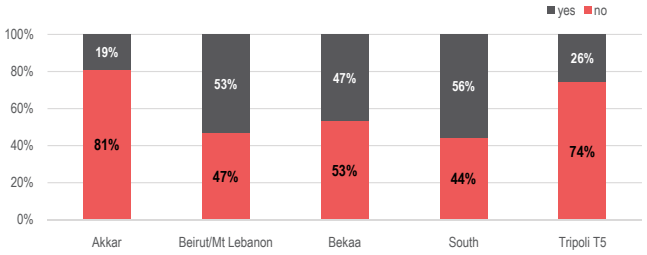


In general, in Lebanon, households that plant fruit, vegetables or other crops in their outdoor space tend to use them for their personal consumption (80 per cent). Selling what they produce is also relatively common (20 per cent), with approximately 60 per cent of households who sell their produce doing so in the country. Some notable differences appeared between operational areas. In Akkar, Beirut and Tripoli T5 households, tend to consume their production rather than sell it. In Beirut and Mount Lebanon, 91 per cent of households consume their production and 41 per cent of them sell it. In Akkar, 94 per cent consume their production and 35 per cent sell it. In Tripoli T5, 86 per cent consume their production and 54 per cent sell it. In Bekaa, it is the opposite, with a majority of households selling their production (84 per cent), while only 49 per cent consume their production. In Bekaa, 15 per cent of households that plant fruit/vegetables or other crops in their outdoor space freely give them to other households as gifts or community support.

Interest in home production

Households who have access to an outdoor space but do not plant in it were asked if they would be interested in planting fruit and/or vegetables if they were provided with inputs and training[38].

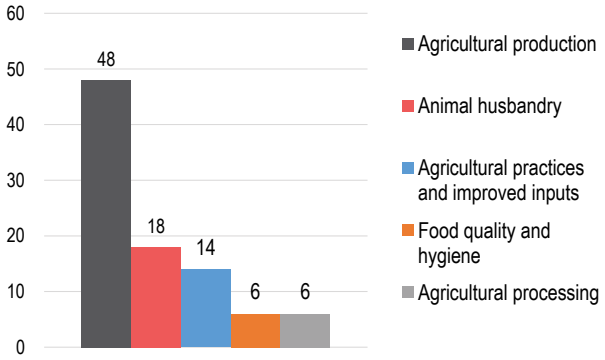
Figure 30: Interest in planting fruit and/or vegetables if provided with inputs and training



The South (44 per cent) and Mount Lebanon and Beirut (53 per cent) are the two operational areas where households are most interested in planting fruit/vegetables in their outdoor space if provided with the necessary inputs and trainings. In Akkar, a majority of households (81 per cent) said they were uninterested in planting even if provided with the necessary inputs/trainings. In Tripoli T5, 74 per cent of households are also uninterested in doing so.

Agricultural production and animal husbandry are the two main types of trainings households (N.B.: HH who have an outdoor space and do not plant in it but are interested in planting if provided with the necessary trainings/inputs) would benefit from.

Figure 31: Type of training households would benefit from



Overall, as seen previously, a majority of households who have access to an outdoor space already plant in it (76%). **Therefore, the real challenge lies in maintaining, growing or diversifying home productions that already exist**. However, in order to do this, there is a need to gather additional information on the training and inputs households who are already planting would benefit from most.

[38] *This amounts to 159 households altogether, therefore results here can only be considered indicative specifically at the operational area level.*

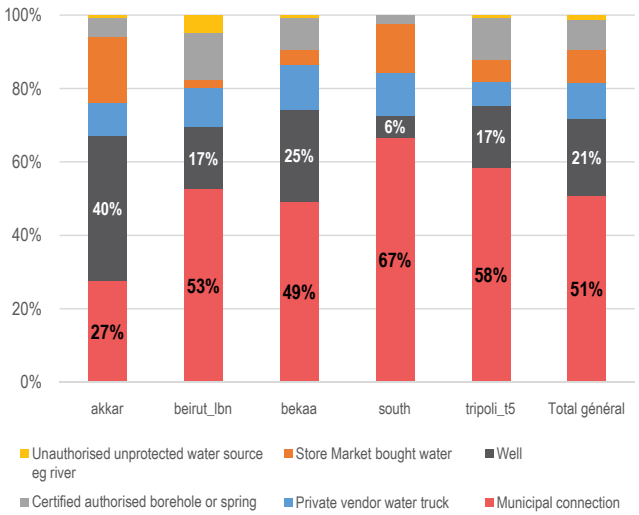
Access to water

In order to successfully implement home production programs, it is essential to ensure that the conditions needed for them are present. One crucial component of home production is access to water, which was explored in the assessment (how and where households access water and if they face any constraints accessing it).

Overall, more than half of Lebanese get water for household or commercial use from municipal connections (51 per cent), and 21 per cent get water from wells. In Akkar, 40 per cent of households get water from wells, a higher proportion than in any other operational area. Indeed, only 27 per cent of households in Akkar access water via municipal connections. In 2011, a UN report on the socio-economic situation in Akkar had already highlighted that only 54 per cent of houses in Akkar were connected to public water networks while 21 per cent had no running water at all[39]. The absence of a fully functional public water network in Akkar means that developing home production will be challenging.

The majority of surveyed Lebanese householdsreported that they faced issues accessing sufficient water (54 per cent). The main obstacles to water access in Lebanon are its availability[40] (90 per cent) and its price (51 per cent). At the national level, not having enough water storage facilities is a constraint for 13 per cent of the population. In Beirut, 80 per cent of households said that water is too expensive. In the South, the main problem is availability of water. Indeed, 95 per cent of households said it was an obstacle to water access. Water storage is more of an issue in Akkar (18 per cent) and BML (20 per cent).

Figure32: Main source of water for HH and commercial use



[39] *Socio-Economic Situation in Akkar in Light of the Crisis in Syria, United Nations Resident Coordinator Sub-Office, North Lebanon. July 2011.*
[40] *Water is not available to households as often as they need it*

Conclusion

The Food Security and Livelihoods national assessment was conducted to provide humanitarian and development actors, and the Ministry of Agriculture, with baseline information in order to facilitate the development of a comprehensive evidence-based strategy for food security and livelihoods interventions targeting Lebanese host communities.

The FSLA was informed by a secondary data review that revealed a clear lack of information on Lebanese host communities. With the publication of the LCRP in January 2015, the humanitarian and development response realigned to incorporate both lifesaving household level interventions and community resilience programming. As such, an increased emphasis is now placed on interventions targeting vulnerable Lebanese communities which are hosting large displaced populations.

This assessment is therefore crucial for the humanitarian and development community to determine in which areas are located the most vulnerable Lebanese households. Overall, the assessment found that food security is not an immediate problem for Lebanese households. Indeed, 88.9 per cent of Lebanese households have an acceptable Food Consumption Score (FCS) and 44 per cent do not rely on coping strategies. However, 4.2 per cent of the population was found to have a poor FCS. At the operational area level, Akkar has the largest proportion of households with a poor FCS, with 8.2 per cent of households calculated to have a poor FCS.

In addition, in terms of livelihoods, the assessment found that a majority of Lebanese households reported a decrease in income (the top reasons for it being the decline in purchasing power and the lack of job opportunities) and having incurred debt in the last 24 months. Households reported that they generally incurred debt to be able to buy food or to pay for health expenses.

Finally, the agricultural sector in Lebanon has seen a dramatic decrease in crop yield over the last 24 months. The assessment found that surveyed households reported that the crops are currently yielding less than 50 per cent of what they did 24 months ago. First and foremost, this is due to a decline in natural resources and more specifically the reduction of water availability. The decline in crop yield is a threat to food security as well as to the livelihood source of those involved in the sector.

As a result of the aforementioned livelihood and food security situation of Lebanese households and its potential further deterioration as the Syria crisis continues, a food security surveillance system is needed to regularly monitor the status of Lebanese households and enable early and appropriate responses to shocks and stress that can threaten food security.

In terms of programs, home production programs targeting vulnerable Lebanese households could be put in place to increase self-reliance of these households and their communities and generally improve food availability. Interventions in Akkar and the South are to be prioritized as the assessment revealed that these areas were more vulnerable, even though.based on all previous assessments Ballabeck-Hermel governorate has also shown to be one of the most vulnerable areas; this has not appeared in this FSLA due to the fact that Ballabeck-Hermel has been considered as part of Bekaa operational area.

ANNEX I: Food Consumption Score

Definition: The frequency weighted diet diversity score or "Food consumption score" is a score calculated using the frequency of consumption of different food groups consumed by a household during the 7 days prior to the survey.

The FCS is a composite score based on dietary diversity, frequency of consumption and relative nutritional importance of different food groups. Food items are grouped into 9 standard food groups with a maximum value of 7 days per week. It measures the frequency of consumption of each food group as well as the nutritional value of the consumed food to yield a comprehensive portrait of household food security and consumption patterns. Much as with the wealth index, enumerators recorded the reported number of times a given food group was consumed over the course of the 7 days prior to the assessment and the PCA was applied to assign each household with a score ranging between 0-112. After this, each household was assigned an FCS class – "Poor", "Borderline" or "Acceptable".

Calculation steps:

1. Using the standard 7-day food frequency data, group all the food items into specific food groups (see groups in table below).
2. Sum all the consumption frequencies of food items of the same group and recode the value of each group above 7 as 7.
3. Multiply the value obtained for each food group by its weight (see food group weights in table below) and create new weighted food group scores.
4. Sum the weighed food group scores, thus creating the food consumption score (FCS) for each household.
5. Using the appropriate thresholds (see below), recode the variable food consumption score, from a continuous variable to a categorical variable and assign an FCS class ("Poor", "Borderline" or "Acceptable").

During the household survey, the data was collected in the following manner and using the food groups and weights set out below:

"Over the course of the last 7 days, how many days did your household consume the following foods? (all values greater than 7 (i.e. 7 = 7 days) should be recoded as 7 (i.e. 10 = 7 days)?"

Food Consumption groups	FCS Score
Poor	<= 28
Borderline	>28 – 42
Acceptable	>42

Food groups	Weight	Justification
Main staples	2	Energy dense/usually eaten in larger quantities, protein content lower and poorer quality (PER less than legumes, micro-nutrients (bound by phytates).
Pulses	3	Energy dense, high amounts of protein but of lower quality (PER less) than meats, micro-nutrients (inhibited by phytates), low fat.
Vegetables	1	Low energy, low protein, no fat, micro-nutrients
Fruit	1	Low energy, low protein, no fat, micro-nutrients
Meat and fish	4	Highest quality protein, easily absorbable micro-nutrients (no phytates), energy dense, fat. Even when consumer in small quantities, improvements to the quality of diet are large.
Milk	4	Highest quality protein, micro-nutrients, vitamin A, energy. However, milk could be consumed in very small amounts and should be treated as condiment and therefore re-classification in such cases is needed.
Sugar	0.5	Empty calories. Usually consumed in small quantities.
Oil	0.5	Energy dense but usually no other micronutrients. Usually consumed in small quantities.
Condiments	0	These foods are by definition eaten in very small quantities and not considered to have an important impact on overall diet.

ANNEX II: Coping Strategy Index

The Coping Strategies Index (CSI) is an indicator of household food security that is gauged through a series of questions about how households manage to cope with a shortfall in food for consumption and which results in a simple numeric score. In its simplest form, monitoring changes in the CSI score indicates whether household food security status is declining or improving in the short-term. For the purpose of this assessment, a reduced, 7-day CSI was used.

Global experience with the CSI has shown that, typically, food insecure households employ four-five types of consumption coping strategies, all of which were used during the household survey and are displayed below:

1. First, households may change their diet. For instance, households may switch food consumption from preferred foods to cheaper substitutes.
2. Second, the household can attempt to increase food supplies using short-term strategies that are not sustainable/durable over the long term. Typical examples include borrowing money or purchasing on credit. More extreme examples are begging but due to cultural reasons, this strategy was removed from the list of option in the Jordan assessment.
3. Third, households can try to reduce the number of people that need to be fed; a more resilient group within the household (adults, for instance), can forego consumption in favour of more dependent and hence vulnerable groups, such as children or the elderly.
4. Fourth, households can attempt to manage the shortfall by rationing the available food to household members by cutting portion size or the number of meals consumed.

In order to calculate the CSI index at household level, data was gathered in the following manner:

During the last 7 days, how many times (in days) did your household do any of the following in order to cope with lack of food?(No value can be greater than 7, i.e. 7=7 days; 0 = None, 1 = 1 day, 2 = 2 days, 3 = 3 days, 4 = 4 days, 5 = 5 days, 6 = 6 days, 7 = Everyday)

a) Eat cheaper food that is not as good as normal	Weight = 1.0
b) Borrowed food or received help from friends or relatives	Weight = 2.0
c) Eaten less meals a day than normal	Weight = 1.0
d) Eaten smaller amounts of food than normal at meals	Weight = 1.0
e) Adults eat less so younger children can eat	Weight = 3.0

CSI Category	CSI Score (Adapted to Lebanon)
Low	<=18.6
Medium	>18.6 to <=37.5
High	>37.5

ANNEX III: Household Survey Questionnaire

Food Security and Livelihoods Assessment

First of all, inform and ask for households consent:

We are monitoring the food security situation in Lebanon. I would like to ask you some questions about your family. The interview usually takes 45 minutes to complete. Any information that you provide will be kept strictly confidential and will not be shown to other people. The outcome of this information is NOT IN ANY WAY linked to a food response from WFP; it is used strictly for monitoring of food security. This is voluntary and you can choose not to answer any or all of the questions if you want; however we hope that you will participate since your views are important. Do you have any questions? May I begin now?

Note:

- Before the interview, make sure you walk around the household to put answers into context. Ask for permission first, and look at their assets, food present in granary and kitchen, and general conditions of the household. In this way you will be better able to probe answers that don't seem to make sense.
- Specific terms may need to be adjusted to ensure that interview partners understand the meaning (e.g. remittances)

Definitions:

- A household is defined as a group of people who routinely eat out of same pot and live on the same compound (or physical location). It is possible that they may live in different structures. Sharing the pot is the unifying factor for households.
- Definition of HH head: is member of the family who manages the family resources and decisions (He/she is the final decision maker on most of the decision related to income allocation and major family activities).

1. General Information

1.1 Name of Interviewer
1.2 Interview Date
1.3 Governorate
1.4 District
1.5 Town/Village
1.6 GPS coordinates of town/village
1.7 Urban = 1, Rural = 2

2. Household Profile

2.1 What is the gender of person being interviewed?

2.2 What is the gender of the head of household?

2.3 What is the marital status of the head of this household?
Married ☐ Single ☐ Widowed ☐ Divorced ☐ Separated ☐

2.4 What is the highest level of education obtained by the head of this household?
None ☐ Primary Education ☐ Secondary Education ☐ University ☐ Vocational Training ☐ Informal Education ☐

2.5 Does the head of household have a disability *(Any disabilities or chronic illness)*?
Yes ☐ No ☐

2.6 What is the total number of families permanently living in this household, excluding guests and refugees?

2.7 What is the total number of people permanently living in this household, excluding guests and refugees? ____

2.8 How many household members fall into the following age categories
(should not include any refugees living in the household, must equal the total number of household members)

Male	☐ 0-4y	☐ 5-11y	☐12-17y	☐18-30y	☐31-59y	☐60+y
Female	☐ 0-4y	☐ 5-11y	☐12-17y	☐18-30y	☐31-59y	☐60+y

2.9 How many of members of your household have the following disabilities? *(Multiple select)*
☐ Visual Disability ☐ Mental Disability ☐ Physical Disability ☐ Hearing Impairment ☐ Other *(specify)*: _____

2.10 How many pregnant or lactating women are there in your household?
(Cannot be greater than the value entered for 2.7) ☐

2.11 Do any Syrian refugees live in your household or on your property?
Yes ☐ No ☐ *(If no skip to section 3)*

2.12 If yes, how many individual Syrian refugees live in your household or on your property?
☐ (Number) _____

2.13 Do you receive any rent or services from any Syrian refugees, either living on or off your property?
Yes ☐ No ☐ *(If no skip to section 3)*

2.15 If yes, what do you receive?
Rent ☐ services ☐

2.14 If you receive rent, how much rent you receive in total per month?
☐ Lebanese pounds ☐ US dollars

2.15 If you receive services, what do you receive? (Tick all which apply):
a) Agricultural labour ☐
b) Domestic help ☐
c) Construction labour ☐
d) Other ☐ (specify) _____

3. HOUSEHOLD SHELTER AND Infrastructure

3.1 Living space in m2 *(occupied by your HH)*
3.2 Number of rooms *(occupied by your HH)*
3.3 Number of people sharing the rooms
3.4 Number of bathrooms *(able to be used by your HH)*
3.5 Do you have access to any of the following outdoor spaces?
(tick all applicable options – if "No outdoor space is selected, skip to question 3.7)

a) No outdoor space ☐
b) Roof terrace ☐
c) Large balcony (>3m x 3m) ☐
d) Small garden (<5m x 5m) ☐
e) Small balcony (<3m x 3m) ☐
f) Large garden (>5m x 5m) ☐
g) Private field (sub question,6.1 how far from the house? Next to house, >2km from house, >2km from house) ☐
h) Public/governmental land (sub question, how far from the house? Next to house, >2km from house, >2km from house) ☐
i) Communal land ☐

3.6 If Communal land is selected, please specify the type of communal land:

a) Land rented from the government/state/municipality ☐,
b) Property which is shared with family, friends or neighbours ☐,
c) Another type of undivided property ☐
d) Other ☐

3.7 Does your household currently plant any fruits and/or vegetables / or other crops on this outdoor space?
(Not large scale agricultural activities) (If No, skip to question 3.9)

Yes ☐ No ☐

3.3.1 If yes, what do you plant?

a) Bananas ☐	b) Grapes ☐	c) Apples ☐
d) Barley ☐	e) Wheat ☐	f) Maize ☐
g) Tomatoes ☐	h) Potatoes ☐	i) Cucumber ☐
j) Oranges ☐	k) Lemons ☐	l) Tobacco ☐
m) Olive trees ☐	n) Other ☐ (specify) _____	

3.8 If yes, what are the uses of these fruits and/or vegetables/ and or other crops? *(Tick all which apply)*

Selling ☐ Approx. % ☐
Consumption by household ☐ Approx. % ☐
Freely give to other households as gifts or community support ☐ Approx. % ☐
Other _____ *(specify)* Approx. % ☐

3.10 If no, would you be interested in planting fruits and/or vegetables/ and or other crops if you were provided with the necessary inputs and any needed training?

Yes ☐ No ☐

3.11 What type of training would you benefit from?

a) Agricultural production
b) Animal husbandry
c) Agricultural practices and improved inputs
d) Food Quality and Hygiene
e) Agricultural processing
f) Post-harvest practices
g) Adoption of modern machinery and irrigation techniques
h) How to work together in farmers' associations or within cooperatives to better ensure marketing of their products
i) Other *(please specify)*

3.12 What is your primary source of drinking water:

a) Store/Market-bought water
b) Private vendor *(water truck)*
c) Treated/Filtered
d) Other *(please specify)*

3.13 What are the top 3 sources of water for your household & commercial use *(not anything else like irrigation)? (tick and rank top 3 options)*

a) Municipal connection ☐
- Is the Municipal connection shared/not shared with another household?

b) Private vendor *(water truck)* ☐
c) Certified/authorised borehole or spring ☐
d) Store/Market-bought water ☐
e) Well ☐
f) Unauthorised/unprotected water source *(e.g. river)* ☐
g) None ☐ *(only select if respondent/household does not have 3 sources of water)*

3.14 Does your household face any constraints about accessing water?

Yes ☐ No ☐

3.15 If yes, what were the obstacles you faced in terms of accessing water (tick all that apply).

Water not available to household as often as we need it ☐
Water is too expensive ☐
Do not have enough water storage facilities at the household ☐

3.16.If water is not available often, how many days in the last 30 days did you not have any access to water? (Specify for summer and for winter season)

a) Number of days without water in summer *(in a month)*
b) Number of days without water in winter *(in a month)*

3.17 What kind of sewage system does your household use?

a) The household is connected to a sewage system (piped away from household)
b) Waste water from sewage is disposed of into a pit or holding tank (next to the household)
c) Waste water from sewage is disposed of into nature/open drainage
d) I don't know

4. Livelihoods, Income and Expenditure

4.1 Have any members of your household been engaged in any activity to provide for the household in the last 30 days? *(if No, then skip to question 4.4)*

Yes ☐ No ☐

4.2 How many members of your household have been engaged in an activity to provide for the household in the last 30 days?

4.3 How many of these employments are regular, seasonal or temporary?

Regular ☐ Seasonal ☐ Temporary ☐

4.4 What was your household's total combined income for the last month?
(do not include loans or any money borrowed)

☐ Lebanese pounds ☐ US dollars

4.5 What was your household's average annual income over the last two years?

☐ Lebanese pounds ☐ US dollars

4.6 What percentage of your income was from agriculture related activities?

a) 1 to 10% b) 11 to 20% c) 21 to 30%
d) 31 to 40% e) 41 to 50% f) 51 to 60%
g) 61 to 70% h) 71 to 80% i) 81 to 90%
j) 91 to 100% k) None

4.7 What were your household's three main sources of income over the course of the last 30 days?
(tick and rank top 3 options of those provided in the table below. If "Agriculture/Farming" is not selected, skip entire "Agriculture and Livestock" section. Select "None" if a third response is not recorded).

12.a.1 1st source?_____	12.b.1 2nd source? _____	12.c.1 3rd source? _____
12.b.1 Age category in this activity?	12.b.2 Age category in this activity?	12.c.2 Age category in this activity?
Male ☐ 5-11y ☐ 12-17y ☐ 18-30y ☐ 31-59y ☐ 60+y	Male ☐ 5-11y ☐ 12-17y ☐ 18-30y ☐ 31-59y ☐ 60+y	Male ☐ 5-11y ☐ 12-17y ☐ 18-30y ☐ 31-59y ☐ 60+y
Female ☐ 5-11y ☐ 12-17y ☐ 18-30y ☐ 31-59y ☐ 60+y	Female ☐ 5-11y ☐ 12-17y ☐ 18-30y ☐ 31-59y ☐ 60+y	Female ☐ 5-11y ☐ 12-17y ☐ 18-30y ☐ 31-59y ☐ 60+y

4.8 Were these 3 sources of income the same as 24 months ago? *(if yes, skip to question 4.10)*

Yes ☐ No ☐

4.9 If some are not the same, or they have changed, what were your 3 main sources of income 24 months ago?
(tick and rank top 3 options of those provided in the table below; constraint on duplicate responses. If "Agriculture/Farming" is not selected, skip entire "Agriculture and Livestock" section. Select "None" if a second/third response is not recorded).

1st source? _____	2nd source? _____	3rd source? _____

4.10 Has your income increased or decreased in the last 24 months?

a. Increased a lot *(+50%)* ☐
b. Increased a little bit *(+25%)* ☐
c. Stayed the same ☐
d. Decreased a little bit *(-25%)* ☐
e. Decreased a lot *(-50%)* ☐

4.11 If your income has decreased over the past 24 months, what are the top 3 reasons for this?

a. Less job opportunities ☐
b. Salary decreased ☐
c. Cost of materials or items needed for livelihood increased ☐
d. The salaries of casual labourers or staff have increased ☐
e. My customer base has decreased so there are less opportunities for my livelihood ☐
f. The prices I used to sell at have decreased, so we do not earn as much money ☐
g. Other *(specify)*: _____ ☐

4.12 In general, how much do you spend on the following basic needs per month?

a. Housing *(rent)*
b. Electricity/heating/cooking fuel
c. Health *(medicine, treatment, etc.)*
d. Education *(school materials, uniform, etc.)*
e. Water
f. Transport
g. Debt repayment
h. Food
i. Communication costs *(telephone bill, internet connection, phone credit)*
j. Rental of farm land
k. Cost of input *(animal feed, seeds, fertilizers, pesticides, livestock drugs…)*
l. Labour costs

4.13 Have you incurred any debts in the last 24 months? *(if no, skip to question 4.17)*

Yes ☐ No ☐

4.14 If yes, then approximately how much debt does your household currently have?

☐ Lebanese pounds ☐ US dollars

4.15 If yes, when did you take on this debt? *(break down into approximate percentage)*

a. 1 month ago _____
b. During the last six months _____
c. During the last 12 months _____
d. During the last 24 months or more _____

4.16. If yes, what are the main reasons you took this debt?
(tick up to three reasons and note which is the main (1), second (2) and third (3)).

a) To buy food
b) Health expenses
c) Education expenses
d) To buy clothing
e) To pay for housing/accommodation
f) To buy tools/machinery for other livelihoods use *(rent, mortgage, etc.)*
g) To pay household bills *(gas, electricity, water, etc.)*
h) Travel expenses
i) To rent or buy land
j) Other *(specify)*: _____
k) none

l) To buy agricultural inputs:
i. seeds,
ii. livestock
iii. livestock drugs
iv. feed
v. fertiliser
vi. pesticides
vii. machinery for agriculture
viii. tools/equipment
ix. other *(specify)*
x. none

4.17. Do you own any of the following household assets?

Refrigerator	☐ Yes	☐ No
Table/Chairs	☐ Yes	☐ No
Beds	☐ Yes	☐ No
Mattresses	☐ Yes	☐ No
Blankets	☐ Yes	☐ No
Winter clothing	☐ Yes	☐ No
Stove/Kitchen	☐ Yes	☐ No
Washing machine	☐ Yes	☐ No
Sofa set	☐ Yes	☐ No
Heating for house	☐ Yes	☐ No
Water heater	☐ Yes	☐ No
Motorcycle	☐ Yes	☐ No
Television	☐ Yes	☐ No
Kitchen utensils	☐ Yes	☐ No
Computer	☐ Yes	☐ No
Car	☐ Yes	☐ No
Truck	☐ Yes	☐ No
Air conditioning	☐ Yes	☐ No

5 Food Consumption

5.1 Yesterday, how many meals were eaten by this household? ☐ Meals _____

5.2 Is this number of meals: ☐ Same as always ☐ Less than usual ☐ More than usual

5.3 Over the last 7 days, how many days did you consume the following foods?
(no value can be greater than 7, i.e. 7 = 7 days)

a) Cereals *(bread, pasta, wheat flour, burghul)*
b) White tubers and roots *(potato, sweet potato)*
c) Vegetables, yellow tubers, leaves
d) Fruits
e) Eggs
f) Fish and other seafood
g) Pulses, nuts and seeds *(beans, chickpeas, etc.)*
h) Milk and dairy products
i) Oil and fats
j) Sweets *(sugar, honey, jam, cakes, sweet coffee)*
k) Spices and condiments
l) Meat

5.4 During the last 7 days, how many times *(in days)* **did your household do any of the following in order to cope with lack of food?** *(no value can be greater than 7, i.e. 7=7 days; 0 = None, 1 = 1 day, 2 = 2 days, 3 = 3 days, 4 = 4 days, 5 = 5 days, 6 = 6 days, 7 = Everyday)*

f) Eat cheaper food that is not as good as normal
g) Borrowed food or received help from friends or relatives
h) Eaten less meals a day than normal
i) Eaten smaller amounts of food than normal at meals
j) Adults eat less so younger children can eat

5.5. During the last 12 months, was there a time when, because of lack of money or other resources:

a) You were worried you would not have enough food to eat?
b) You were unable to eat healthy and nutritious food?
c) You ate only a few kinds of foods?
d) You had to skip a meal?
e) You ate less than you thought you should?
f) Your household ran out of food?
g) You were hungry but did not eat?
h) You went without eating for a whole day?

5.6 In the past 30 days, has your household done any of the following to meet basic food needs?
0 = No, 1 = Yes, 2 = No, because I have already used this up

a) Spent savings
b) Bought food on credit or borrowed money to buy food
c) Asked for remittances
d) Spent less money on other needs *(e.g. education/health)*
e) Sold household assets *(jewellery, phone, furniture, etc.)*
f) Sold productive goods/assets *(sewing machine, tools/machinery, car, livestock, etc.)*
g) Taken jobs that are high risk, illegal and/or socially degrading
h) Any type of labour for food
i) Sent adult household members to beg
j) Sent children household members to beg
k) Asked charity *(local charity, religious institutions…)* for food *(Restos du Coeur…)*
l) Received E-cards from the UN
m) Other

6 Needs and Assistance

6.1. During the past 12 months, did you receive any type of assistance? Yes, no *(if no skip to next question)*	Source: Gov., NGO, charity, UN agency, religious organisation, local people, *(family abroad?)* other *(specify)*	If yes, how would you rate this assistance in terms of helping your food security and livelihood? For each response options are: A great help, some help, little help, no help, made situation worse	If no help or made situation worse, why was this the case? -Arrived too late -Was manipulated by others -Was not in sufficient quantity -Was the wrong type for my livelihood -Other *(specify)*: _____
Food - for example: - General Food distribution / food vouchers, – School feeding programme,			
Cash – for example: - Government compensation *(cash)* - Cash for work or Food for Work programme - Government compensation *(cash).* - Remittances			
Non-food items – for example: - General items for household - Hygiene items for adults or children - Clothes or blankets			
Education – for example: -free education provided by NGO or UN agency			
Health – for example: -Free health services provided by NGO or UN agency -Does not include social support from the government.			
Protection – for example: -refuge centre for adults of children.			
Shelter – for example: - Cash for specifically for rent - provided accommodation by government, NGO or UN agency.			
WASH – for example: -Latrines or water Infrastructure provided to household or community by NGO, UN or municipality.			

Support to agricultural related livelihood - for example: - Agricultural inputs *(seeds, fertilizers, tools),* - Regeneration of natural resources *(irrigation)* - Business development loan for agriculture			
Support to livestock related livelihood, - for example: - Livestock *(distributed livestock (please note type and #),* - Livestock support *(Fodder, veterinary services).* - Business development loan for livestock.			
Training related to livelihood as part of a programme or initiative *(not formal education or university)*			

6.2 What are the household's top 3 main non-cash needs at this moment in order of importance?
(tick and rank top 3 options; constraint on duplicate responses. Select "None" if third option cannot be recorded or if no "need" is required. If "None", skip to question7.1).

What are the Household›s 3 main non-cash needs at this moment; in order of importance? *(Use the codes below)*			3.10.1 Most important	3.10.2 2nd in importance	3.10.3 3rd in importance
1) No unmet need	8) Psycho-social support	15) Vocational training			
2) More food	9) Clothes/shoes	16) More security			
3) Better quality food	10) Kitchen assets for cooking	17) Sanitation/ sewage			
4) Support for rent/improved shelter	11) Other household assets	18) Drinking Water	|___|	|___|	|___|
5) Cooking fuel, gas, electricity	12) Agricultural inputs	19) Baby food			
6) Medicines/ health	13) Transport	20) Youth activities			
7) Education/ books	14) Credit	21) Other *(explain in comments)*			

7 Agriculture and Livestock

(To be asked only if "Agriculture/Livestock" is selected as a livelihood/income option for question 4.7)

7.1 How much land do you cultivate *(excluding land cultivated/planted by household in outdoor space referred to in question 3.3)?* _____ (Dunums)

7.2 What is the type of tenure/ownership of the land that you cultivate, in % of total? *(Notes for data collector: =Percentage must add up to 100%)*

a) Legal ownership or similar
b) Rented land
c) Other types: as squatter basis, inheritance proceedings etc…
d) Do not know

7.3 What is thetype of tenure of your land?

a) Single-holding / private
b) Partnership: multiple holdings
c) Company
d) Public
e) Religious *(waqf)*
f) Other

7.4 ASK ONLY TENANTS: Do you pay the landowner a portion of your crop/profits from the crop?

☐ Yes ☐ No

7.4.1 If yes, what do you pay (in %)

_____% of the crop / _____% of the profits

7.5 Which share in % of total land is?

☐ Rain fed ☐ Irrigated

7.6 If irrigated, then which source of irrigation water system do you use?

a) River/spring/stream
b) Dams/Hill Lakes
c) Reservoirs/ponds
d) Wells *(underground)*
e) Municipal water supply

7.6 If irrigated, then which method of irrigation water system do you use?

a) Surface irrigation *(flooding)*
b) Sprinklers
c) Localized irrigation *(drip, micro-sprinkler etc..)*

7.6 What main food and cash crops do you normally grow, and have you noticed any change in yield between now and 24 months ago?*(tick all applicable options)*

Crop type	Has there been any change in yield between now and 24 months ago? - Increased a lot (50% or more) - Increased a little bit (+25%) - Stayed the same, - Decreased a little bit, (-25%) - Decreased a lot (-50% or more)	If the yield has slightly decreased or significantly decreased, why do you think this is? -Reduction in natural resources - Increased cost of agricultural inputs - Increased cost of machinery - Increased cost of casual labour - I chose to reduce the area under crop production because of less market demand - I chose to reduce the area under crop production because I am relying on other income sources - Other (specify)	Extra sub questions: If 'loss of natural resources is selected' for any crop, the sub question is: What natural resources have been reduced? *(tick all which apply)* - Water - Soil erosion - Loss of access to land - Tree coverage - Other *(specify)*
Barley / wheat/Maize			
Potatoes			
Vegetables (tomatoes, etc.)			
Citrus (oranges, lemons…)			
Olives			
Nuts, almonds, pistachios			
Grapes			
Pulses (lentils, chickpeas)			
Apples			
Bananas			
Tobacco			
Herbs			
Other (specify)			

7.7. Have you noticed changes in cost of inputs?

A. yes, cost of inputs has risen
B. yes, cost of inputs has decreased
C. no, there have been no changes to the cost of inputs

7.7.1 If yes, why? *(specify)*

7.8 Have you noticed changes in animal production/prices?

a. Yes, animal prices have increased
b. Yes, animal prices have decreased
c. No, animal prices have not changed

7.8.1 If yes, why? *(specify)*

7.9 Does anyone work on your land? *(skip to 7.12 if no)*

a) yes b) no

7.10 If yes, how many people work your land?

_____ *(number)*

7.11 If one or more people work the land, who are they? *(tick all which apply)*

a) Family/friends ☐
b) Permanent Hire ☐
c) Seasonal Hire ☐

7.12 Do you keep livestock?*(if No, skip to question 7.15)*

☐ Yes ☐ No

7.12.1 If yes, then how many of each of the following?

Type of animal	Total number of each animal by gender (F/M)	How many animals are over one year old?	What is the main use for each type of animal? *(tick all that apply)* *(household consumption, selling of live animal, sale of meat, milk, dairy product, other product, ploughing or field preparation, other _____specify)*
Horses/donkeys/mules	F M		
Cattle	F M		
Sheep/goats	F M		
Poultry			
Beehives			
Fish farming (Trout...)			

7.13 Have you sold any livestock/animals over the last 6 months?

☐ Yes ☐ No

7.13.1 If yes, then why did you sell them?

a) Need for money
b) Lack of fodder/pasture/animal feed
c) Could not afford fodder/pasture/animal feed
d) Infertility
e) Lack of shelter to house animals
f) Normal source of livelihood
g) other (specify): _____

7.14 What inputs do you currently need the most in order to support your livelihood?

Main item	Breakdown	Number
Agricultural inputs for crop yield	Machinery	(ask the number of items of machinery)
	Seeds	(specify the number of crops seeds are needed for)
	Fertilizer	(specify the number of crops fertilizer is needed for)
	Pesticides	(Specify the number of crops pesticides are needed for)
	Equipment for irrigation	(do not ask the number)
	Tools	(ask the number of tools needed)
	Materials for barn/shelter	(do not ask the number)
	Other (specify the item)	
Livestock	Horses/donkeys/mules (ask for the number of each type of livestock needed)	
	Cattle	
	Sheep/goats	
	Beehives	
	Fish	
	Poultry	
	Fodder	
	Equipment for watering	
	Equipment for milking	
	Materials for fencing	
	Materials for animal shelter	
	Veterinary drugs	
	Vaccines	
	Other	

8 Market Access

8.1 Which market do you use most for purchasing food?

a) Open air market
b) Local shops
c) Kiosks
d) Rely solely on food aid
e) Other (specify)

8.2 Which mode of transport do you use most often to reach the market?

a) Bus
b) Foot
c) Car
d) Motorbike
e) Other (specify)

8.3 How long does it take you to reach the market?

a) Less than 30 minutes
b) 30 min to 1 hour
c) Between 1 and 2 hours
d) More than 2 hours

8.4 How much does it cost to go and return from the market?

a) Less than 2000 LBP
b) 2000 to 10000 LBP
c) 10000 to 20000 LBP
d) More than 20000 LBP

8.5 (For those who have agriculture as source of livelihoods ONLY) Where do you sell your local products?

a) At farm gates
b) At market places
c) Through agricultural cooperatives
d) Through contracts
e) Other, please specify

9 Follow up

Please can we contact the head of household for more information in the near future? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Name_____

Telephone number_____

Key – sources of income questions:

Possible sources of income in Lebanon:

1. Commercial agriculture/livestock (large scale production (industrial, using tractors and machinery)
2. Smallholder agriculture/livestock (Small plot of land using basic inputs and technology yielding a surplus big enough to sell-on)
3. Subsistence agriculture/livestock (small plot of land using very basic methods and tools producing enough to feed only the household, occasionally produce surplus)
4. Casual unskilled labour (agriculture)
5. Casual unskilled labour (construction, etc.)
6. Self-employed (commercial business owner)
7. Public sector/civil servant (teacher, postal service, public administration).
8. Low skilled service industry (e.g. driver, cleaner).
9. Skilled service industry (nurse, plumber, etc.)
10. Highly skilled service industry (e.g. engineer, finance, tourism, etc.)
11. Public security official (military, police, etc.)
12. Medical doctor
13. Gifts/in-kind assistance from family/friends
14. Governmental aid
15. Humanitarian aid
16. Other (specify)

ANNEX IV: Focus Group Discussion Guide

Introduction

Hello everybody, thank you for being here today. My name is Hady and here are my colleagues Jennifer and Mira. We work for REACH, an international organization that conducts assessments to inform humanitarian and development planning. We are here to discuss your experience with agriculture-related activities over the last 24 months since the Syrian Crisis. We would like to ask you some questions about how your livelihoods have changed, whether the way you produce and what you actually produce has changed and whether you have experienced any difficulties during this period.

You were selected through recommendations of MoA representatives at the governorate level who indicated that you are involved in "Agriculture/Farming" as one of your main livelihood activities and we would just like to know more about some topics such as water access and use, the inputs you use when you produce, land and costs of living.

Given how sensitive some of these questions may be, if there are any questions that you do not want to answer, then that is absolutely fine – just please say that you'd prefer not to answer.

I expect our discussion today to last for around an hour or an hour and a half. Jennifer and Mira will be taking notes to makes sure we do not miss what you have to say and he/she will not be writing down your names or who said what.

A FEW RULES BEFORE WE START:

1. WE WANT YOU TO DO THE TALKING.
   - We would like everyone to participate.
   - I may call on you if I haven't heard from you in a while.
   - Please do not talk over each other/no interrupting. We want a respectful discussion to happen and the note takers need to be able to hear everything that is said clearly.

2. THERE ARE NO RIGHT OR WRONG ANSWERS
   - Every person's experiences and opinions are important.
   - Speak up whether you agree or disagree.
   - We want to hear a wide range of opinions.

3. WHAT IS SAID IN THIS ROOM WILL NOT BE LINKED BACK TO YOU
   - We want you to feel comfortable sharing when sensitive issues come up.

4. WE WILL BE TAPE RECORDING THE GROUP (or not!)
   - We want to capture everything you have to say.
   - We don't identify anyone by name in our report. You will remain anonymous.

Is everything clear? Do you have any questions before we begin? GREAT, let's start.

First of all, can you all introduce yourselves by giving me your name, where you live and telling me what your job is? (Once everyone has introduced themselves, thank them and move to first topic of the FGD).

Outline:

1. **Governorate Agricultural Profiles**
2. **Access to Water**
3. **Access to Inputs**
4. **Market Access**
5. **Livelihoods**
6. **Access to Food**

NB for moderator: If time allows, please ask farmers about potential solutions to their problems.

Governorate Agricultural Profiles

I'd like to ask you about the area you work in to be able to get an idea of the agricultural profile of the governorate.

1. What is the total area of cultivated land in your governorate?

2. What is the ownership of the land that is cultivated?
   a) Owner (%): ☐
   b) Rented land (%): ☐
   c) Other types *(squatter basis, inheritance proceedings etc…)*

3. What is the type of tenure of the land?
   g) Single-holding / private
   h) Partnership: multiple holdings
   i) Company
   j) Public
   k) Religious *(waqf)*
   l) Other

4. What types of livestock are bred in your area/governorate?
   a) Cattle
   b) Sheep
   c) Goats
   d) Poultry
   e) Other *(please specify)*

5. What types of crop are cultivated in your area/governorate?

Access to Water

Let's now talk about your access to water.

6. Which type of farming is practiced in terms of irrigation: irrigated-land, rain fed-land or both?

a) Irrigated land: ☐
b) Rain fed land: ☐
c) Both irrigated and rain fed : ☐

7. If irrigated, then, in general, what is the source of irrigation used in your area?

a) Private vendor (%): ☐
b) Canal (%): ☐
c) River/spring/stream (%): ☐
d) Dams/hill lakes Stream (%): ☐
e) Reservoir/Pond (%): ☐
f) Well (%): ☐
g) Municipal water connection/supply (%): ☐
h) Other type *(specify)*

8. If irrigated, then what are the methods of irrigation used?

a) Surface irrigation *(flooding)*
b) Sprinklers
c) Localized irrigation *(drip, micro-sprinkler etc..)*

9. What do you feel are the biggest problems you face in accessing water for use in agriculture or with livestock? **(select all which apply to the governorate)*

a) Increased cost of water
b) Decreased supply of water
c) Poor quality of water provision infrastructure; a lot of water is lost to leaks

**(prompt only if these options are not listed by respondents. If any of these options are linked to Syrian refugees by any of the respondents, then please note this)*

10. If water prices have risen over the course of the last 24 months for people in this area/governorate, then what effect has this had on livelihoods?
**(Can prompt with the following: how much you produce, ability to expand production)*

11. If yes, then why do you think that water prices have risen in your area?

12. Has water supply decreased over the course of the last 24 months for people in your area? If yes, what effect has this had on livelihoods in terms of agricultural production and why do you think this has happened?

a) Agricultural production increase a little < 25%
b) Agricultural production increased a lot >25%
c) Remained the same
d) Decreased a little <25%
e) Decreased a lot >25%

Access to Inputs

This section of the discussion will see me asking you questions about access to inputs, indebtedness as well as access to loans.

13. In general, what inputs/techniques do the households use for farming/livestock ?
(e.g. improved seed varieties and fertilizers, technology for artificial insemination of animals, etc.)

a) Seeds : local varieties, hybrid/ improved varieties or certified varieties
b) Fertilizers
c) Phyto sanitary Chemical products: Pesticides/Herbicides/Insecticides/Fungicides/others
d) Artificial Insemination
e) Veterinary Services: treatment of diseases, Vaccination…
f) Use of Machinery and Equipment: rented or owned?

14. Are there any inputs/techniques they used before the crisis that are not available now?

15. Are there any new inputs/techniques they have started using since the crisis?

16. What are the main changes you've noticed in the use of agricultural inputs in your area?

17. Are these changes the same for the majority of households in your area/governorate?

18. Do the livestock owners in your area/governorate have access to veterinary services such as vaccinations and veterinary clinics? If so, are these services provided freely by the Government of Lebanon?

19. For all in the group who use agricultural inputs *(such as improved seeds, fertiliser, machinery, etc.)*, where do you get the money to buy these inputs?

a) With profit from the things that they produce
b) They use their produce as collateral and exchange this for inputs
c) Borrow money/debt
d) Other (explain): _____

20. Do you know of anyone that has taken on debt (money or goods such as agricultural inputs) in the last 24 months, and can you tell us what they used it for?
**(do not prompt initially, allow the discussion to take its course without leading. But if discussion is not forthcoming, prompt on the items below and further discuss each (not just a checklist), but indicate which were prompted).*

a) To buy food
b) Health expenses
c) Education expenses
d) To buy clothing
e) To pay for housing or accommodation
f) To pay for household bills (gas electricity, gas)
g) Travel expenses
h) Marriage
i) To buy a house or build a house
j) To buy a car
k) To buy agricultural inputs (ask for which inputs)
l) To rend land
m) To buy livestock
n) To cover livestock expenses (vaccines, treatment, etc.)
o) To buy tools and machinery for livelihood

21. Where are households borrowing this money from (sources of loans)? What are the terms of these loans? Are there better places to get loans from for farmers?

a) Commercial bank
b) Cooperative
c) Private lender
d) International or National NGOs
e) Family or friends
f) Inputs supplier company
g) Other *(specify)*

22. What are the periods of these loans?
a) Less than 12 months
b) 12-24 months
c) >24 months

23. If they have taken on debt in the last 24 months, then what do you feel are the main causes of this in order of importance?
**(do not prompt, allow the discussion to take its course. If more than 3 causes are listed, then please rank them)*

24. Do you think that households in your area are taking on more debt now than they were 24 months ago? If yes, then why do you think this is happening?

Market Access

25. How do you market your agricultural/animal products?

a) Products are sold at farm gate
b) Products are sold at market place
c) Products are sold through agricultural cooperatives
d) Products are sold through contracts
e) Other selling points (specify)

26. What are the issues, if any, regarding market access in your area? Do you face any problems marketing your products?

27. In your opinion, why do these issues exist?

28. . What are the possible solutions to issues regarding market access?

Livelihoods

Let's move on. Now I'd like to ask you about livelihoods and the labour market. By livelihoods, I mean activity(ies) that engage in to earn/make a living. Livelihoods can consist of a range of on- and off-farm activities or procurement strategies that together provide food and/or cash.

25. Have you noticed any changes in employment and labour market patterns in the past 24 months?

26. If yes, what are they? (NB: try to find out if HHs from rural areas have migrated to urban areas in search of work)

27. If you have noticed changes, what do you think the causes of these changes are?

28. In general, who do you hire for agricultural purposes? (Probe for nationals or refugees, seasonal or permanent workers, family vs. hired)

29. Can you tell me why you hire nationals or refugees for agricultural purposes?
(Extra question if time allows around land rented to Syrian refugees for rent)

Access to Food

We will now discuss access to food in your area/governorate and your eating habits/diet.

30. Do you feel that your community's diet has changed over the course of the last 24 months?
If so, then how has it changed?
**(tick all which apply to the group)*

a) We consume more meat
b) We consume less meat
c) We consume more milk and dairy products
d) We consume less milk and dairy products
e) We consume more fruit and/or vegetables
f) We consume less fruit and/or vegetables
g) We consume more staples such as cereals, rice, potatoes
h) We consume less staples such as cereals, rice, potatoes

31. In general, do you feel like you consume more or less food than 24 months ago *(or the same amount)*?

32. Why do you feel that this change in diet has occurred?
**(do not prompt, allow the discussion to take its course without leading).*

33. In general, do you think there is enough *(to assess food security situation of the community/governorate)* available in your governorate? *(see definition of food security)*

a) There is sufficient food
b) There is not enough food
c) There are severe food shortages

34. In your opinion, who is most affected by food insecurity in your governorate?
a) Lebanese host communities (us)
b) Lebanese Returnees
c) Syrian refugees
d) Palestinian Refugees
e) Palestinians Refugees from Syria (PRS)

35. In your opinion, what can be done to resolve problems of food insecurity, if any, in the governorate?

Closing remarks

25. Are there any other major problems that the agricultural sector is facing in your governorate we have not mentioned in our discussion?

26. Are there any other issues/topics that you would like to talk about before we wrap up? Do you feel that there have been any changes *(that have not already been mentioned)* in your Gov./area since the Crisis in Syria? Please explain how these changes have impacted your governorate/area.

If that is all, then we are finished. I'd like to thank you all for your time and answers. This has been extremely helpful. As I said in the beginning, the purpose of this discussion was to help us learn about and understand the issues you face in the agricultural sector in your governorate. As agricultural programs are developed here, we want to be sure they help you address the problems you are facing.

Do you have questions for me? If anyone would like to speak with me in private, I will stay here after we end.

Thank you again for all your help.

ANNEX V: Key Informant Survey Questionnaire

SECTION 1: AGRI-ECOLOGICAL ZONES AND LIVELIHOOD GROUPS

1. Can you tell me what the main agricultural characteristics of your governorate are?

2. What are the main types of livelihood activities in your governorate? (see list of examples) – the main activities that people do to support their livelihoods. By livelihoods, I mean activity(ies) that engage in to earn/make a living. Livelihoods can consist of a range of on- and off-farm activities or procurement strategies that together provide food and/or cash.

3. Can you tell me who are the people mainly involved in these activities (men/women?) and the season at which they take place?

4. How have these evolved in the past 24 months? Have these activities progressed/increased, remained stable, decreased or disappeared?

5. In your opinion, why have these changes occurred? In particular, for the activities which decreased or disappeared, what were the reasons?

6. What are the main obstacles impeding the development of certain livelihood activities you mentioned? (see list of potential obstacles).

7. For the rural livelihood activities you mentioned are declining/disappearing, what has replaced them?

8. Have you heard of agri-ecological zones? If so, can you tell me more about the AEZ in your governorate?

9. What are the challenges/problems for each AEZ at the moment? Have there been any changes in the past 24 months?

1b.
(a): (1) cereals, (2) vegetables, (3) olives, (4) tobacco, (5) fruit trees, (6) forestry, (7) floriculture and nurseries, (8) Aromatic and Medicinal plants, (9) Cattle, (10) sheep, (11) goats, 12. Poultry, 13 Apiculture, 14. Organic farming, 15.Fisheries and Aquaculture 16.Processing of agricultural products 17.Trade 18. Transport 19. Agricultural services 20. Non-agriculturalservices 21Restoration, cafeteria, 22. Hand craft, 23. Cultural and artistic activities 24. Other types of activities

List of potential obstacles to development of livelihood activities:

1. Youth immigration, 2. Absence of Agricultural Loans, 3.Difficulty in accessing agricultural lands, 4. Decrease in agricultural products prices, 5. Access to water for irrigation, 6. Lack/ Absence of agricultural Extension, 7.Lack of skilled Labour 8. Quality of inputs, 9. Pasture/grazing land degradation, 10. Marketing obstacles, 11.Post-harvesting obstacles, 12.Security reasons (including land mines and cluster bombs), 13. Animal feed, 14. Veterinary services access, 15. Pest and diseases, 16. Access to credits

SECTION 2: CHANGES IMPACTING LIVELIHOOD GROUPS

In this section, I'd like to ask you a little more about the changes to the livelihoods groups you have observed.

1. First of all, according to you, what are the three main changes in livelihood groups in the last 24 months?

2. For each of these, are the changes positive or negative?

3. Can you rank them in order of importance

4. In your opinion, what are the reasons/causes for/of these changes?

5. Which of the changes (both positive and negative changes) can be attributed to the impact of the Syrian crisis?

SECTION 3: SOLUTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS TO FACE AND OVERCOME NEGATIVE CHANGES

1. How have people in your governorate coped with the changes to their livelihoods *(focus on rural livelihoods)*?

2. In your opinion, how would you resolve problems caused by changes in rural livelihoods? What is most needed *(type of aid needed/loans/trainings...)*?

SECTION 4: SERVICES AVAILABLE TO LIVELIHOOD GROUPS

1. What services do people potentially have access to (for example; financial services, subventions, veterinary services both private and/or governmental) to help them with their livelihoods?

2. Who provides these services?

3. Are they insufficient/sufficient/excellent? Can you explain why?

4. What other services could be provided to help people in your governorate, especially those involved in rural livelihoods?

SECTION 5: FOOD SECURITY IN YOUR GOVERNORATE

1.In general, are there problems related to food in your governorate *(prices, shortages, quality, lack of diversity, changes in diet)*?

2.In general, do you think there is enough *(to assess food security situation of the community/governorate)* food in your governorate? *(see definition of food security)*

a) There is sufficient food
b) There is not enough food
c) There are severe food shortages

2. In your opinion, who is affected by food insecurity in your governorate?

a) Lebanese host communities
b) Lebanese Returnees
c) Syrian refugees
d) Palestinian Refugees
e) Palestinians Refugees from Syria (PRS)

3.Among these groups, which one is most affected according to you?
Are these groups affected differently by food insecurity?

4.According to you, what are the main reasons for food insecurity problems?

5. In your opinion, what can be done to resolve problems of food insecurity, if any, in the governorate?

SECTION 6: CHALLENGES FACED BY THE AGRICULTURAL SECTOR

1. Overall, what are the major problems the agricultural sector is facing in your governorate?

2. Has agricultural productivity been affected in the past 24 months in your governorate? Has any specific activity been affected?

3. If it has been negatively affected, what are the reasons for this? Negative changes affecting agricultural productivity could include:

a) Lack of water
b) Lack of market access
c) Soil erosion
d) Lack of skilled labour
e) More drought
f) More flooding
g) Soil salinity
h) Pests/diseases outbreaks
i) Poor water quality
j) Deforestation input costs
k) Decrease in product price

4. Have any decisions been taken due to changes or a decline in agricultural productivity? For example, decisions related to agricultural systems could be the change in crop types:

a) Food crops to cash crops
b) Food crops to orchards
c) Food crops to other activities…specify
d) Other specify…

Key factors of changing crop types
a) Market prices
b) Subsidies from government
c) Switch to contract farming
d) Failure of original crop
e) Soil quality improvement
f) Using abandoned land
g) Water availability/access
h) Other…

5. Are there any other problems/challenges related to agriculture, livelihoods/rural livelihoods and food security in your governorate that we have not mentioned during our discussion

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)

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