

VULNERABILITY ASSESMENT 2019

OF REFUGEES OF OTHER NATIONALITIES IN LEBANON



UNHCR
The UN Refugee Agency



INTRODUCTION

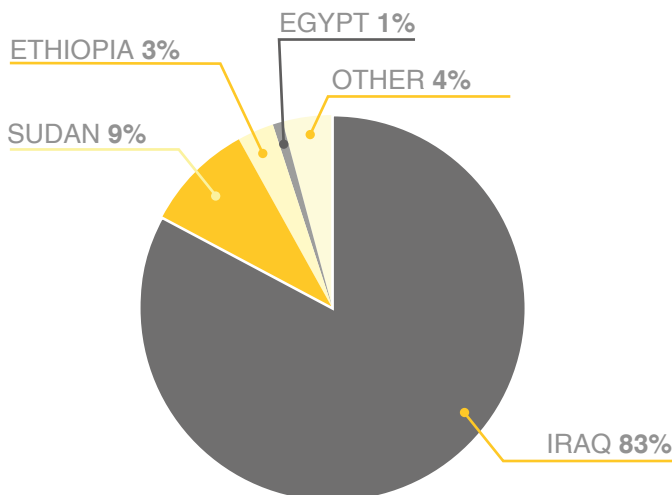
INTRODUCTION

BACKGROUND

While Lebanon continues to host an overwhelming number of Syrian refugees since 2012, refugees and asylum seekers of other nationalities are also seeking refuge in the country, many of which have been residing in Lebanon prior to the Syrian crisis. This group of refugees face serious challenges securing their needs and continue to exhibit high levels of vulnerability.

By the end of April 2019 there were just above 17,600 registered refugees and asylum seekers from countries other than Syria in Lebanon. This group is primarily comprised of Iraqis (83%) who have mostly arrived in 2014 and 2015. The second largest group are the Sudanese, who make up 9% of the population. Other countries of origin include Ethiopia, Egypt, Eritrea, and others.

This report will refer to refugees and asylum seekers from Iraq as “Iraqi refugees” and refugees and asylum seekers from countries other than Iraq as “refugees of other nationalities”.



1. Breakdown of refugees and asylum seekers of nationalities other than Syrian by Country of Origin

PURPOSE

Since 2016, the Vulnerability Assessment of Refugees of Other Nationalities (VARON) has been a key tool for advocacy and program design. The key objectives of the VARON include:

- **Providing a multi-sectoral update of the situation of refugees from Iraq and other countries in Lebanon through an annual household survey.** The survey covers key indicators related to multiple sectors including protection, shelter, water and hygiene, health, livelihoods, socio-economic vulnerability, food security and more.
- **To enhance the targeting for the provision of multi-purpose cash assistance.** The data gathered through the VARON, particularly on expenditure, is used to build econometric models, which are used to determine eligibility for multi-purpose cash and food assistance.



METHODOLOGY

METHODOLOGY

SAMPLING

The assessment surveyed a total of 665 refugee households (1,823 individuals) of Iraqi and other nationalities registered with UNHCR Lebanon. The total number of households in the UNHCR registration database as of March 2019 was used as the sampling pool from which the targeted sample was selected. Sampling occurred through simple random sampling, separately for Iraqi refugees and refugees of other nationalities to ensure representative results for each population group. The distribution of this refugee population in Lebanon is concentrated in 2 of the 26 districts (Beirut and Mount Lebanon). As such, no geographical stratification was applied to the sample methodology.

DATA COLLECTION

Data was collected from the 22nd of April till the 3rd of May 2019, through face-to-face interviews at refugee homes. Enumerators employed by UNHCR partners¹ were trained on the data collection tool, contextual background, methodology and ethical considerations and participated in two days of field testing. Data was entered on electronic tablets at the point of collection using Open Kit Data software. The data was then sent to UNHCR's Refugee Assistance Information System (RAIS) Platform².

The survey tool used is the same as that developed and used for the Vulnerability Assessment of Syrian Refugees (VASyR) with some minor edits where needed. The questionnaire consisted of 486 questions that collect information at both individual and household levels.

The questionnaire included key indicators on demographics, legal documentation, safety and security, shelter, WASH, health, food security, livelihoods, expenditures, food consumption, debt and coping strategies.

¹ UNHCR partners that participated in data collection included Makhzoumi Foundation in Beirut and Mount Lebanon, World Vision International in the Bekaa, Caritas in North Lebanon (including Akkar) and SHEILD in South Lebanon (including Nabatieh).

² RAIS is a platform which stores information on assistance delivery and assessment data of refugees. RAIS is used by all agencies for assistance delivery reporting at the household and individual level.

The questionnaire is a household survey administered typically with the head of household or another adult household member. The interview took around 1 hour per household to complete. The full questionnaire can be downloaded via the following link: <https://data2.unhcr.org/en/documents/download/77729>

DATA ANALYSIS

Demographically, Iraqi refugees make up over three quarters of this refugee population in Lebanon and as such weighting was necessary to ensure that this distribution was adequately represented in the data and subsequent results. Weights were calculated for two groups: Iraqi refugees and refugees of nationalities other than Iraqi.

The weights were calculated using the following formula:

$$w_n = \frac{N_s/N}{n_s/n}$$

Where w_n is the normalized weight, N_s is the total sample frame per nationality, N is the total sample frame, n_s is the number of households visited per nationality and n is the total visited households.

Data analysis was conducted using SPSS version 20 and included the following:

- Data cleaning which included removing any outliers and consistency checks.
- Calculation of indirect indicators such as the dependency ratio, food consumption scores, overcrowding index, coping strategies calculation, among others.
- Descriptive statistical analysis.

LIMITATIONS

The VARON relies on self-reported data, thus response bias remains a limiting factor, as will any survey of this nature. To minimize response bias, enumerators were trained to provide comprehensive details on confidentiality of data and objectives of the survey.

The sampling strategy did not account for specific age groups within the population; thus some indicators could not be calculated (primarily indicators pertaining to infants).

The sampling frame does not include refugee families who may be living in Lebanon but have never approached UNHCR. This remains a gap of information in data of refugees in Lebanon.

The VARON is a household survey where the interview is usually conducted with the head of household or any other adult household member. As such, there are no individual interviews carried out with each family member and obtaining accurate information on particularly sensitive topics is a challenge (i.e. child labor or harassment).



DEMOGRAPHICS

DEMOGRAPHICS

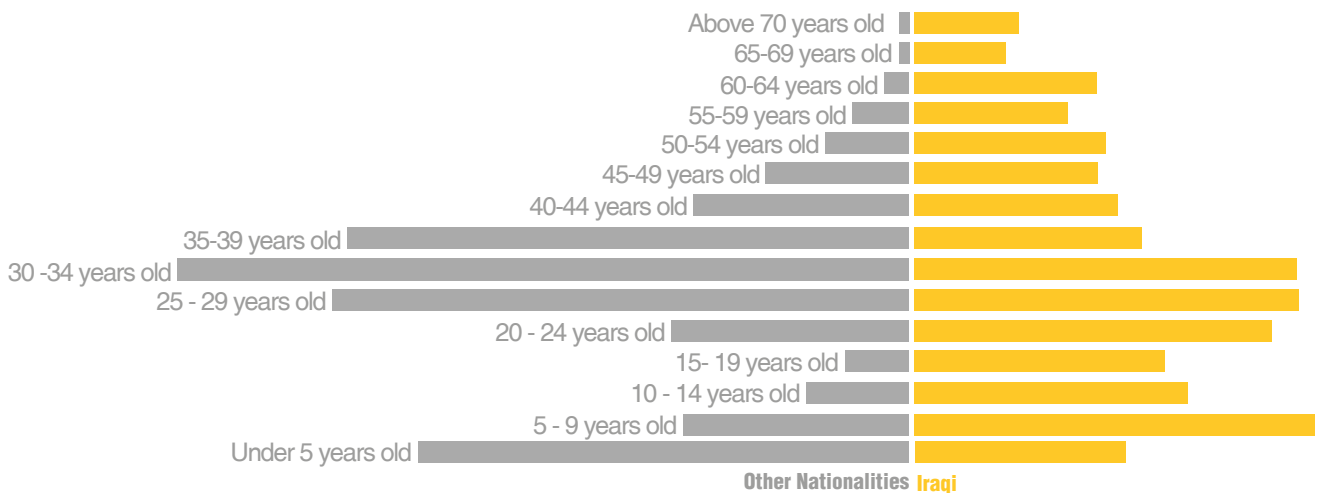
This section provides an overview of key demographic characteristics of refugees in Lebanon. This includes household size, household composition, profile of the head of household, dependency and individuals with specific needs. For the purposes of this assessment, a household is defined as a group of people that live under the same roof, share the same expenses and eat from the same pot. The head of household is the main decision maker.

KEY FINDINGS

- Household size remained stable with Iraqi families having, on average, a larger family size than other nationality households (3.6 compared to 1.8)
- The share of female headed households continued to increase with 19% of families being headed by a female. This share was larger among other nationality households (25%) as compared to Iraqi households (16%).
- The share of households that have at least one member with a specific need (disability, chronic disease, serious medical condition, temporary illness or support in daily activities) increased across all categories of specific needs.

POPULATION PROFILE

Just under one third (28%) of the population was under 18 years of age, 63% were between 18 and 59 years old and 9% were 60 years old or above. Refugees of other nationalities had a higher proportion of individuals in the 18 to 59 age categories as compared to Iraqi refugees (75% compared to 61%), and subsequently a lower proportion of children, adolescents and elderly. This is similar with trends noted in 2018. The gender ratio was found to be 1.04, indicating an almost even split of males and females in the population.



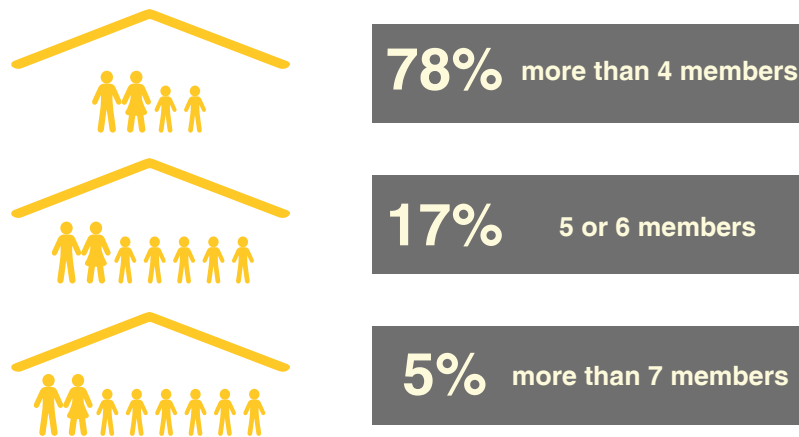
2. Age distribution by nationality

HOUSEHOLD SIZE AND COMPOSITION

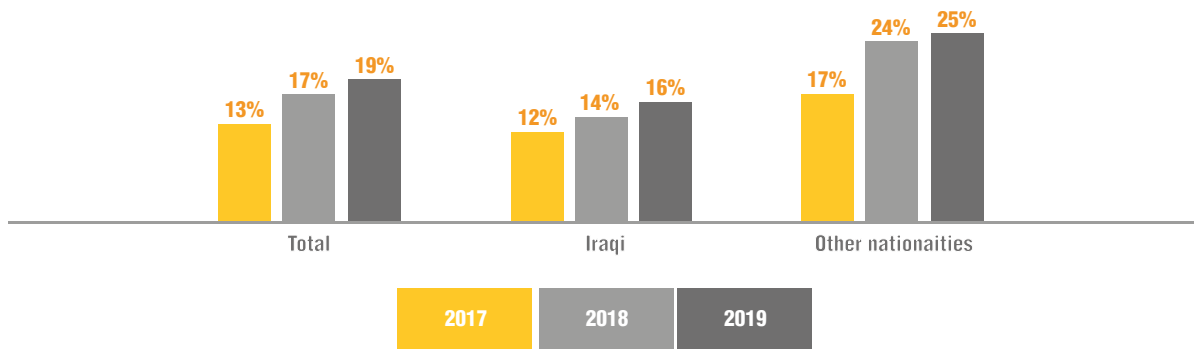
In keeping with previous years, average household size for Iraqis was larger than that of other nationalities (3.6 versus 1.8), both of which are significantly smaller than Syrian households (average household size of 5). Over three quarters (78%) of families had more than 4 members, 17% had either 5 and 6 members and 5% had 7 or more household members.

The proportion of households headed by a woman continued to increase with 19% in

2019, compared 17% in 2018, 13% in 2017. The share of female headed households was significantly higher for other nationality households, compared to Iraqi households, 25% and 16% respectively (compared to 24% and 16% in 2018). Average age of the head of household was 44 for Iraqi households and 35 for other nationality households.



3. Share of households by size (number of members per household)



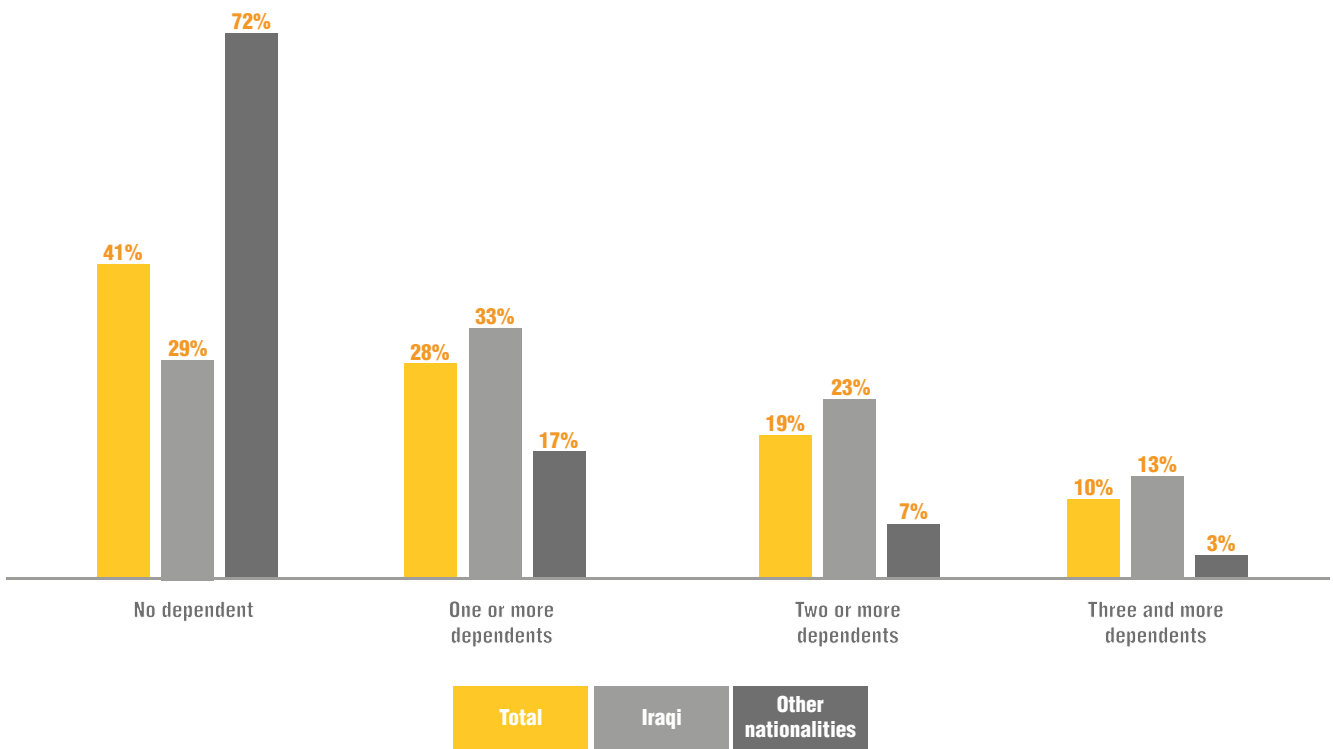
4. Share of female headed households by nationality

DEPENDENCY

The household dependency ratio remained stable across both population groups at 0.54 for Iraqis and 0.32 for other nationalities. This indicates that Iraqi households exhibit a higher share of dependents as compared to other nationalities, likely linked to the larger household size among this group.

Dependents: Household members aged 14 or younger or above 59 years old.

Dependency ratio: Number of dependents in the household divided by the number of non-dependents in the household.

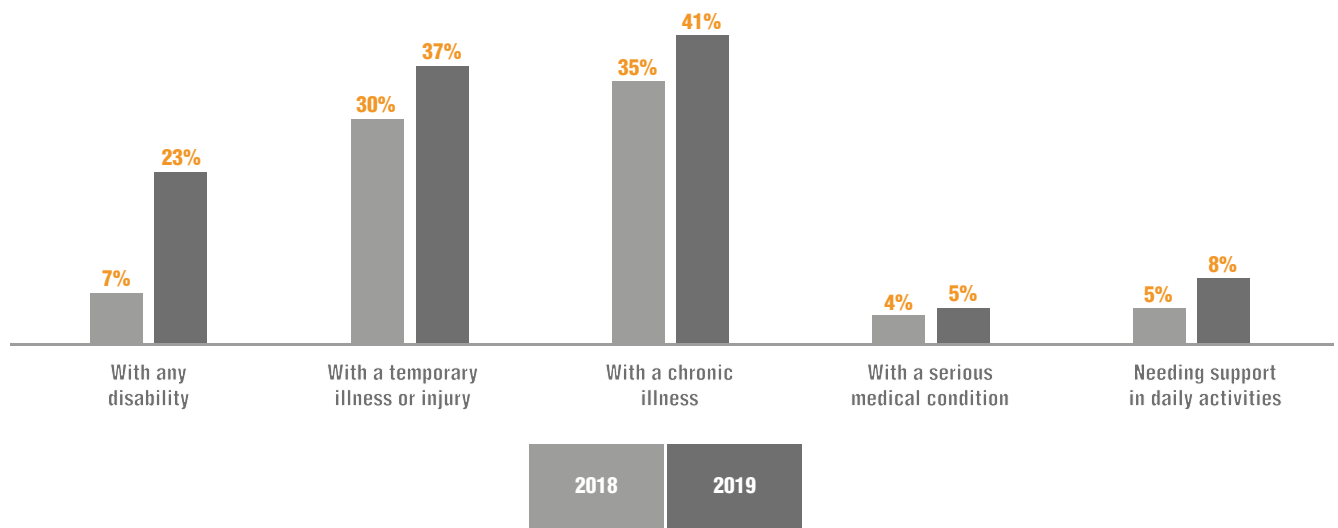


5. Number of dependents among refugee households, by nationality

SPECIFIC NEEDS

The term “specific need” refers to any of the following characteristics: Physical or mental disability, chronic illness, temporary illness or injury, serious medical condition or needing support in basic daily activities¹.

The share of households reporting at least one member with a specific need increased across all categories of specific needs. In 2019, 41% of households had at least one member with a chronic illness, 37% with a temporary illness or injury, 23% with any disability, 8% with someone needing support in daily activities and 5% with a serious medical condition. The increase in households reporting disabled members is likely due to the more detailed assessment of disability in the 2019 survey. This may have led to an increased identification of persons with disabilities- rather than an increase in the number of persons with disabilities in the population since last year.



6. Share of households reporting at least one member with a specific need

1. Specific needs were self-reported by the interviewee.



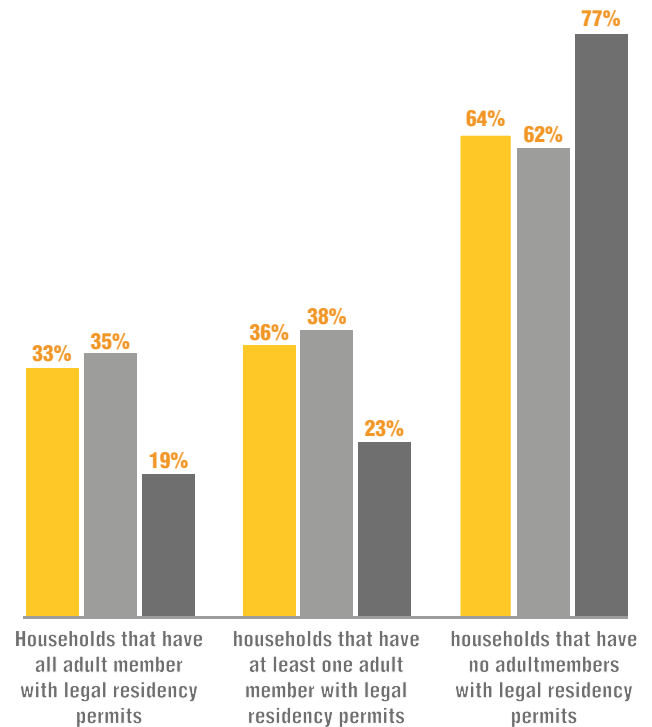
PROTECTION

PROTECTION

This chapter assesses protection-related indicators. Civil documentation findings examine legal residency and birth registration. Additionally, the section includes results on safety and security, as well as community relations.

KEY FINDINGS

- Rates of legal residency among refugees remained stable with 36% of adult individuals holding legal residency permits. A larger portion of Iraqi refugees report valid legal residency as compared to other nationalities.
- A significantly higher share of households reported competition of jobs as a driver of community tensions (44% compared to 23% in 2018). Corresponding, reports of community tension rose with 39% of households reporting an absence of any tension with the host community down from 65% in 2018.



LEGAL RESIDENCY

The share of individuals above 15 years of age reporting legal residency remained stable at only 36%. A higher proportion of Iraqis reported having valid legal residency (38%) compared to 23% among refugees of other nationalities.

At a household level, the share of households where all members had legal residency decreased to 33% from 38% in 2018. Also at the household level, 36% of household had at least one adult member with legal residency, compared to 41% in 2018.

Male-headed household were more likely to have at least one member with legal residency as compared to female headed households (38% vs. 29%) which is likely linked to the need to work and legal residency to avoid arrest. Respondents cited inability to secure a sponsor (61%) and not being able to afford the renewal cost (16%) as the main reasons for lack of legal residency.



7. Legal residency status of refugee households

BIRTH REGISTRATION

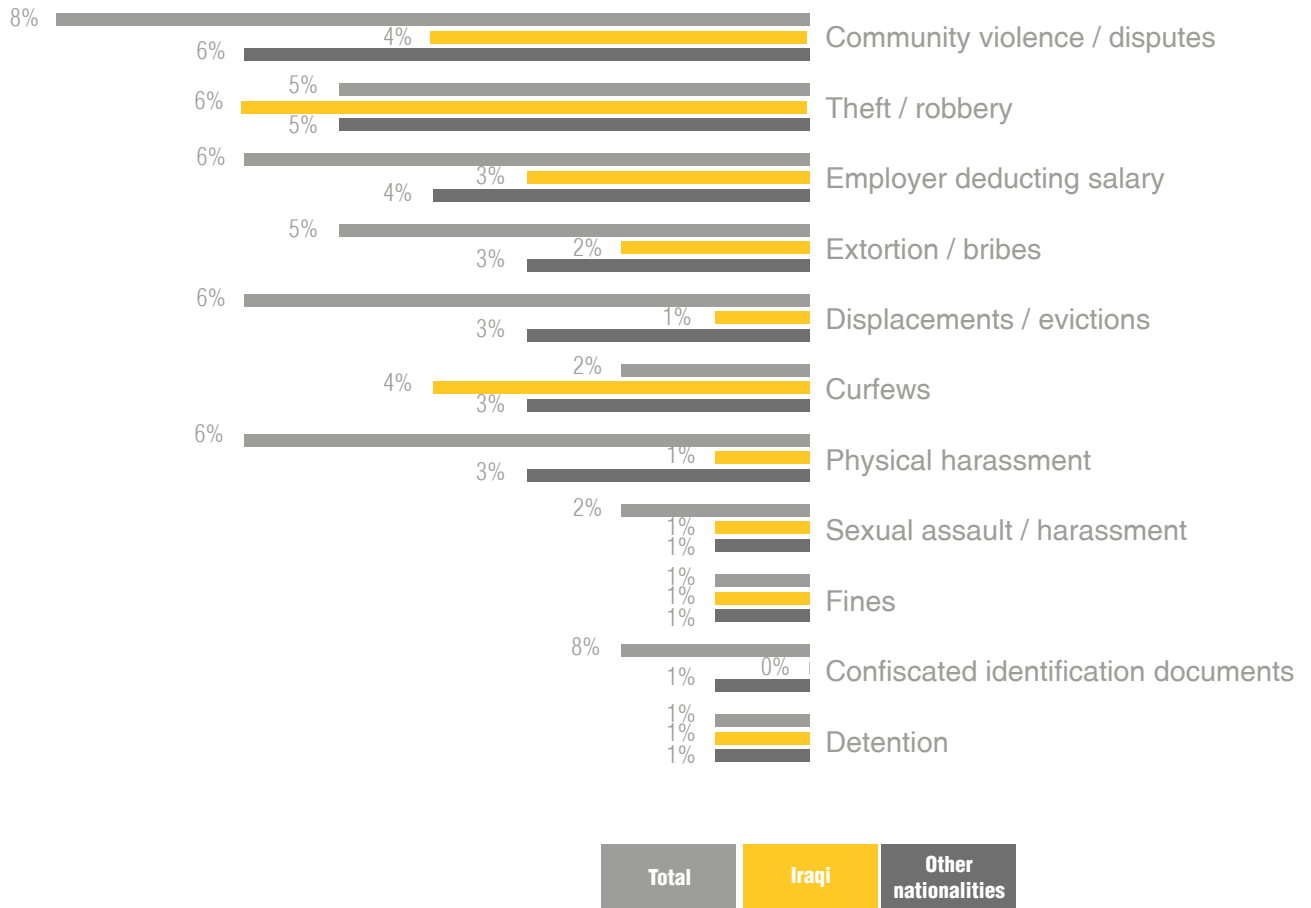
Birth registration for foreigners in Lebanon requires the following steps:

1. Obtaining a notification of the birth from a doctor, hospital or midwife.
2. Obtaining a birth certificate from the Mukhtar.
3. Registering the birth with the competent local civil registry office (the Noufous).
4. Registering the birth with the Foreigners Registry.

On a positive note, 66% of respondents reported successfully registering births that occurred in Lebanon through the Foreigners Registry level, compared to 51% in 2018. Almost all families (97%) had a birth notification from a doctor or midwife, leaving 3% of births with no documentation.

SAFETY AND SECURITY

Similar to 2018, a small portion of households reported having experienced a security or safety incident in the three months preceding the interview. Other nationality refugees were more likely to report most types of incidents, compared to Iraqis.

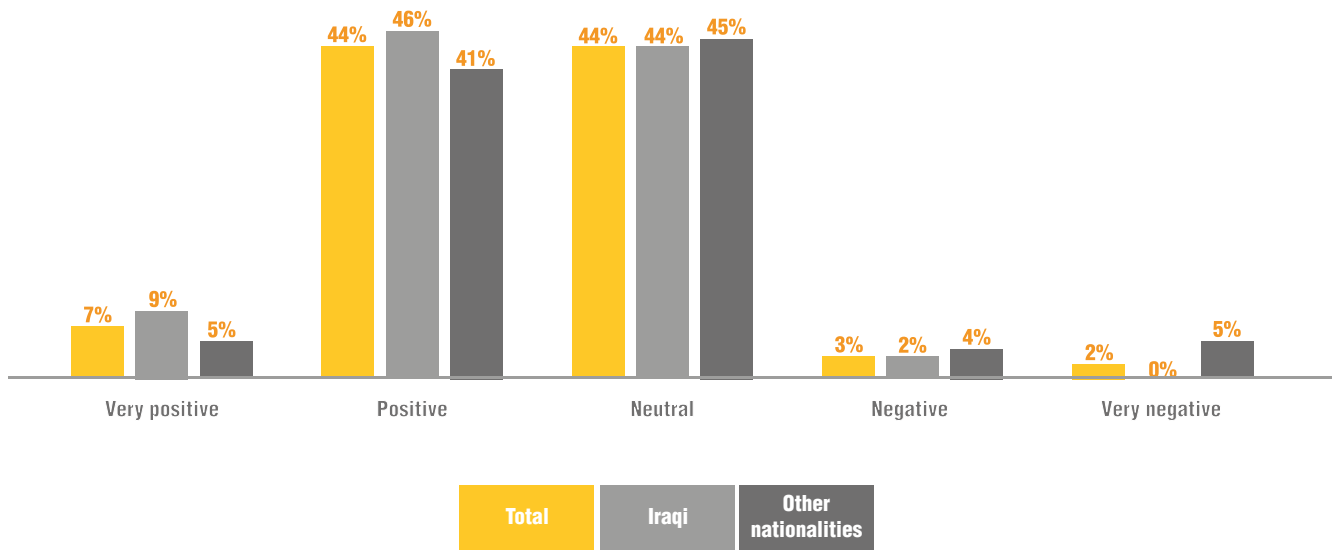


8. Legal residency status of refugee households

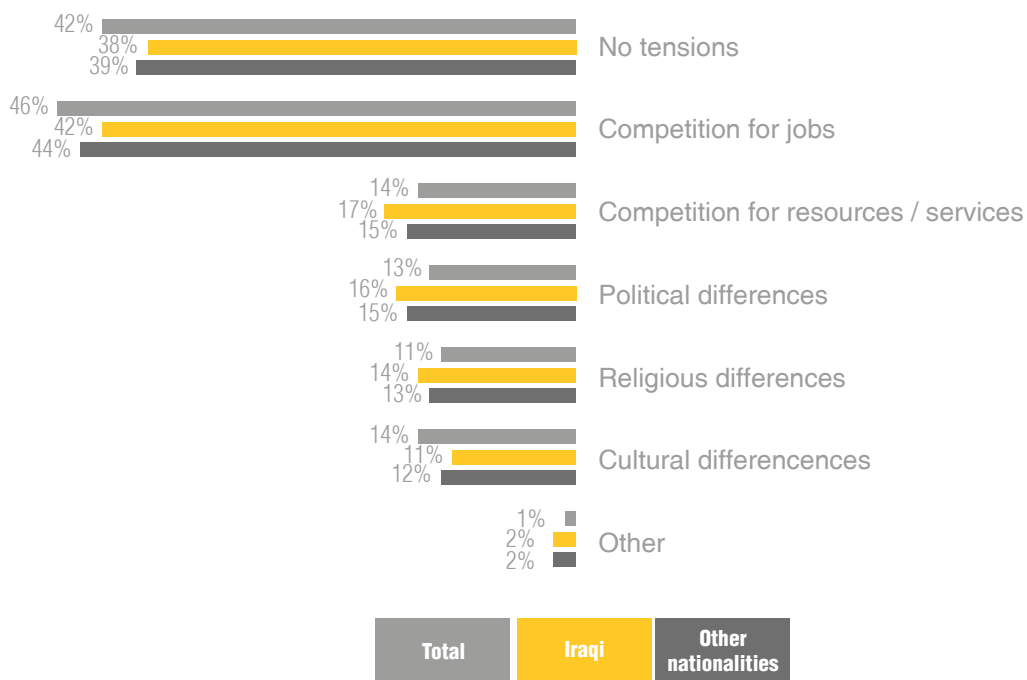
COMMUNITY RELATIONS

Half (51%) rated the quality of their relationship with the host community as either positive or very positive. The remaining bulk rated their relationship as neutral, with only a few (5%) rating it as negative or very negative. However, the share of families that reported that there were no tensions between the refugee and host community decreased significantly since 2018 to 39% from 65%.

This is coupled with a drastic increase in the share of refugee families reporting competition for jobs as the main driver of community tensions (44% compared to 23% in 2018). Other drivers included competition for resources or services (15%), political (15%), religious (13%) or cultural (12%) differences.



9. Number of dependents among refugee households, by nationality



10. Number of dependents among refugee households, by nationality



SHELTER

SHELTER

This section presents the findings related to the physical shelters where refugees reside. This includes rental and occupancy agreements with landlords as well the physical conditions of these shelters. Mobility of households between places of residence is also examined.

KEY FINDINGS

- Rent costs decreased slightly to US\$ 317 per month in 2019. Iraqi refugees continue to pay considerably more for rent compared to refugees of other nationalities (US\$ 392 versus US\$ 184).
- Shelter conditions have drastically deteriorated with a little under half (43%) of families living in substandard conditions and 8% in dangerous conditions.

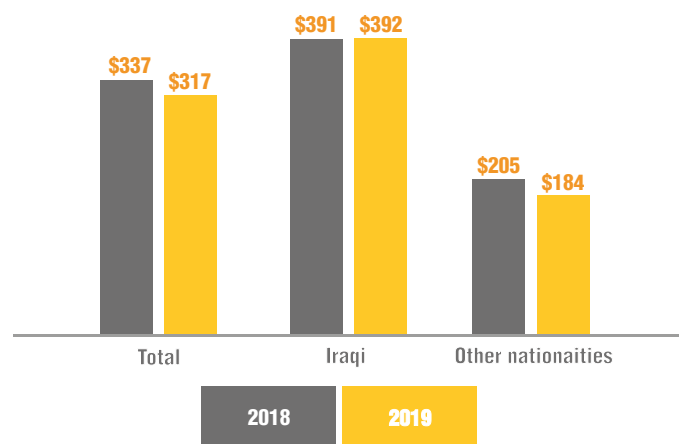
SHELTER TYPE, RENT & OCCUPANCY AGREEMENTS

The vast majority of families reside in residential housing with three quarters (76%) living in apartments or houses and 20% in concierge rooms within residential buildings. Others are spread scarcely across the different shelter typologies, mainly in non-residential shelters.

Rental costs decreased slightly to US\$ 317 from US\$ 337 reported in 2018. Rent reported by Iraqi refugees was over double that reported by refugees of other nationalities (US\$ 392 versus US\$ 184). Rental cost was cited by 41% of families as the determining factor for choosing their current accommodation while 19% stated proximity to work as the main reason. Another 16% chose their current accommodation primarily based on proximity to relatives or friends while 7% were residing in that shelter since they were able to work for rent.

Shelter type	
Residential	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Apartment/house/room • Concierge room in residential building • Hotel room
Non-Residential	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Factory • Workshop • Farm • Active construction site • Shop • Agricultural/engine/pump room • Warehouse • School
Non-permanent	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tent • Prefab unit

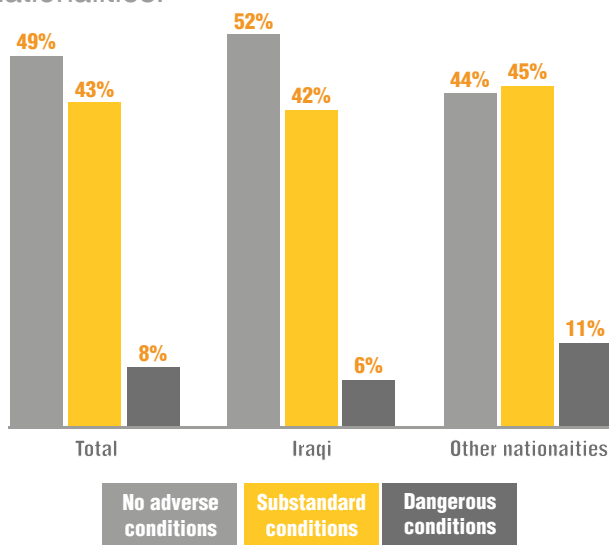
11 Shelters occupied by refugee households are classified in to three categories as per above



12. Monthly rent cost in USD , by nationality

SHELTER CONDITIONS

A smaller proportion of families were living in shelters that were overcrowded (<4.5m²/person) compared to 2018 (11% versus 23%). However, the share of families living in substandard conditions increased substantially to 43%, almost double since 2018 (25%). The share of families living in dangerous conditions also increased to 8% from only 2% in 2018. Shelter conditions seem to have equally deteriorated for both Iraqi families and families of other nationalities.



13. Shelter condition classifications, by nationality



14. Detailed conditions in substandard shelters

MOBILITY & MOVEMENT

Ten per cent of households had moved accommodation in the past six months, similar to 2018. The main cited reason for moving was rental cost (36%), followed by eviction (18%) and end of rental agreement (16%). Evictions were mainly issued by the landlord due to inability to pay rent. A small share of households (3%) stated that they were currently living under an eviction notice. Four percent of families reported that they had been evicted at some point during their time in Lebanon. The share of households who were planning to move in the next six months decreased considerably from 13% in 2018 to 4% in 2019.



WASH

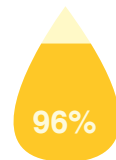
This section analyses the water, sanitation and hygiene situation of refugees in Lebanon looking at safe access to water, and quality of sanitation facilities.

KEY FINDINGS

- The majority of refugees (96%) have access to improved sources of drinking water, most commonly bottled water while 4% rely on unimproved drinking water sources.
- The vast majority of refugees continued to have access to improved sanitation facilities with 97% having access to a flush toilet and 3% having access to an improved pit latrine.

SOURCES & ACCESS TO DRINKING WATER

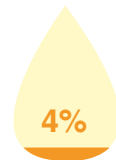
At a similar rate to 2019, 96% of refugees had access to improved sources of drinking water. Bottled water remained the most common source of drinking water among the refugee population (72%). The majority of the remaining relied on tap water or a water network which was available for less than 2 hours per day (12%) or more than 2 hours per day (10%). The remaining 4% were relying on unimproved sources of drinking water namely public or shared water stands or taps. The share of refugees who were able to access a drinking water source on their premise continued to decrease to 59% from 68% in 2018 and 75% in 2017. This was slightly higher among Iraqi refugees (60% compared to 53%).



96% of refugees have access to improved sources of drinking water

Improved drinking water sources includes the following:

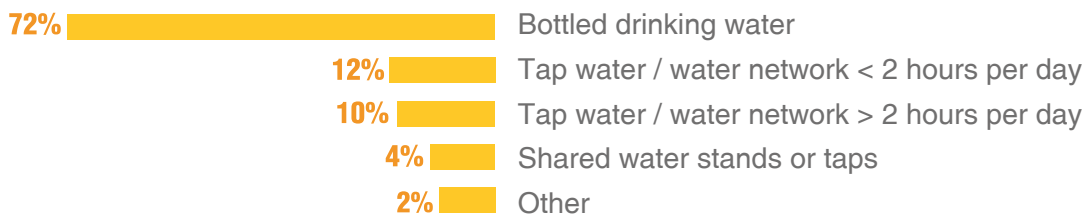
- Household water tap / tap network
- Bottled mineral water
- Water tank / trucked water
- Protected borehole / well / spring
- Piped water to yard / lot



4% of refugees rely on unimproved drinking water sources

Unimproved drinking water sources include the following:

- Public shared water stands / taps
- Unprotected borehole /well/spring
- Rainwater
- Surface water



15. Drinking water sources

SANITATION FACILITIES

The vast majority of refugees continued to have access to improved sanitation facilities with 97% having access to a flush toilet and 3% having access to an improved pit latrine. Flush toilets, however, were more commonly used among Iraqi refugees (99%) compared to other nationalities (86%), 10% of other nationalities refugees were relying on improved pit latrines. The share of other nationality refugees who were using pit latrines with no slabs decreased from 6% in 2018 to 3% in 2019.

EXPENDITURE ON WATER

Similar to 2018, 70% of refugees reported paying for drinking water in the past month. A small portion paid for a public water network (5%) or a private water trucking (1%). On average, Iraqi refugees were paying US\$ 21 per month for drinking water and refugees of other nationalities were paying US\$ 18 per month.

Improved sanitation facilities include:

Flush toilets



Improved pit latrines with cement slabs





EDUCATION

EDUCATION

This chapter describes the school enrollment rates of refugee girls and boys, ranging from 3 to 24 years old. Reasons why children are not enrolled in school are also examined.

KEY FINDINGS

- Both the rate of primary school age children enrolled in primary school and the net intake rate in primary education decreased since 2018, reaching 60% and 7%, respectively.
- Enrollment in lower and upper secondary school for children in the respective age groups was found to be 31% and 16%.
- The number of girls enrolled in comparison to boys was similar for primary school and upper secondary school but higher in lower secondary school.

Participation in formal education

Thirty one percent of surveyed refugee children aged 3 to 5 years old were enrolled in formal pre-primary schools. This is a slight decrease compared to the 39% reported in 2019 and similar across the nationality groups.

ENROLMENT IN PRIMARY & SECONDARY SCHOOLS

60% of **primary school age children (6 to 14 years old)** were enrolled in primary school in 2019, down from 76% in 2018. The net intake rate in primary education, or the percentage of children 6 years of age who entered the first grade of primary school also decreased to 7% from 12% in 2018. In terms of attendance, 77% of primary school age children were attending school. Enrollment in lower and upper secondary school for children in the respective age groups was found to be 31% and 16%.

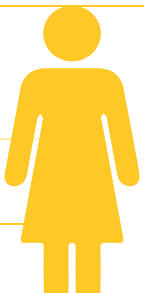
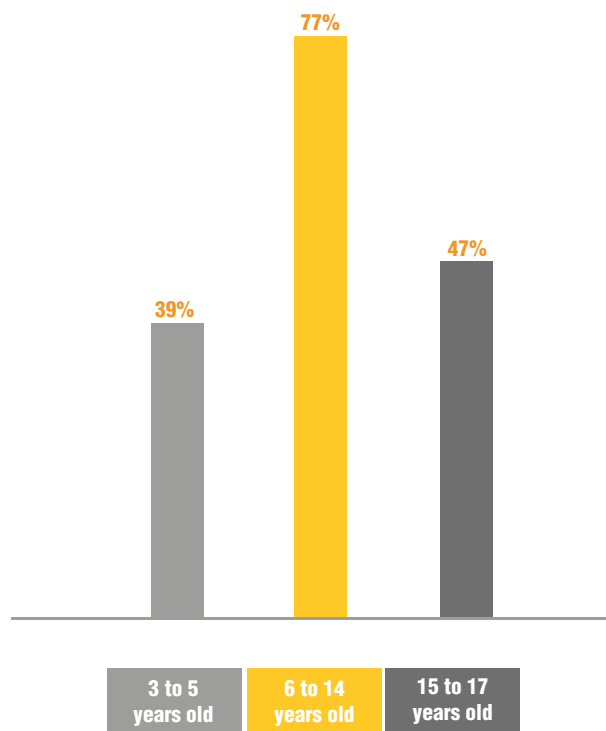
The main reasons cited for not being enrolled in school were cost of education materials (33%) and transportation costs (28%). Ten percent of children were not attending school because they were working and 16% cited that they were not the appropriate age for school.

The **gender parity** index is the proportion of girls enrolled in school over the proportion of boys enrolled in school. If the gender parity index is over 1, it means that school enrolment is higher for girls than boys.



The number of girls in primary school remained almost equal to that of boys. For lower secondary school, enrollment for girls is higher than for boys, especially compared to primary and upper secondary school.

Gender Parity Index	
Primary Gender parity Index	1.8
Lower Secondary	1.69
Upper Secondary	1.22

16. School attendance rates by age group

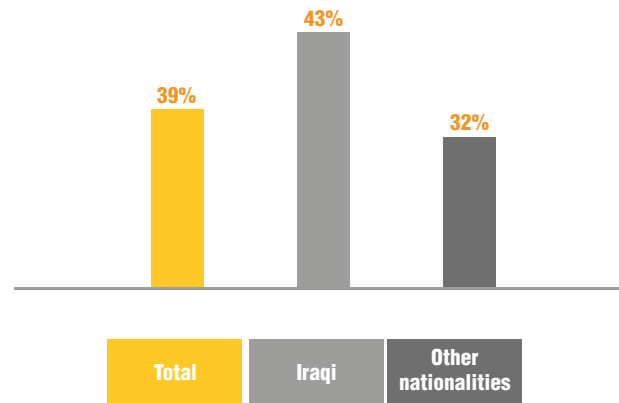


HEALTH

This section assesses the ability of refugees to access primary health care and hospital care at the household level. Health services are available to refugees through primary health care centers, hospitals and mobile medical units. The survey does not reflect on the quality of the received care.

KEY FINDINGS

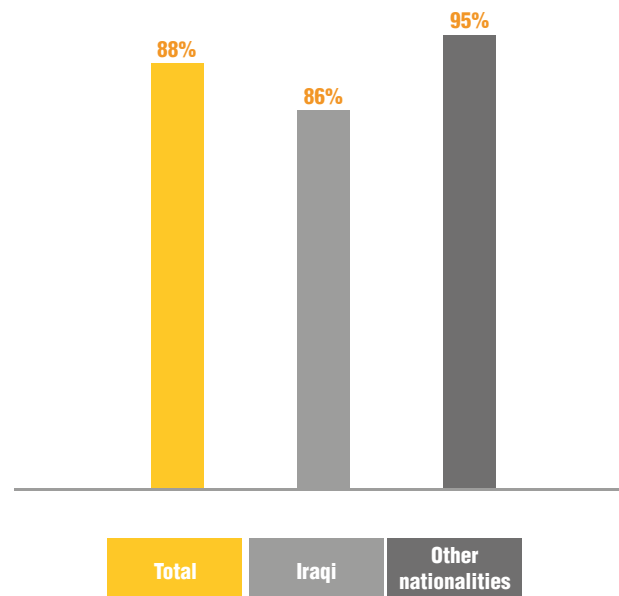
- There was a decrease in the proportion of families that reported needing primary health care (39% compared to 51% in 2018). Ability to access however, increased significantly with 88% of families reporting being able to access the needed care.
- Demand for hospital care decreased to 14% from 24% in 2018. The share of families that were able to receive the needed care increased significantly from 61% in 2018 to 84% in 2019
- Cost remained the biggest barrier to receiving care, for both primary health care and hospital care. This includes doctors' fees, treatment cost, medications and well as transportation costs to health centers or hospitals.



17 Share of households that reported requiring primary health care in the past six months, by nationality

Primary Health Care

Primary health care (PHC) refers to health care that does not require hospital admission. This includes services such as: vaccination, medication for acute and chronic conditions, non-communicable disease care, sexual and reproductive healthcare, malnutrition screening and management, mental healthcare, dental care, basic laboratory and diagnostics as well as health promotion.



18. Among families that required primary health care, share that reported receiving the needed care, by nationality

A smaller proportion of families reported requiring primary health care (PHC) in the six months preceding the interview (43% compared to 51% in 2018). This decrease was mainly among Iraqi refugees where 43% reported needing PHC, down from 51% in 2018. Demand for PHC among refugees of other nationalities remained stable at 32%.

Trends showed an increase in the ability of families to access the needed PHC. Among families that reported needing PHC in the past six months, 88% were able to access it, compared to 78% in 2018 and 62% in 2017. Rates of access were higher for refugees of other nationalities as compared to Iraqis (86% compared to 95%).

Most (65%) families reported paying in full for the received PHC, while 27% reported receiving subsidized care. A small portion (7%) reported receiving the care free of charge. Most commonly (58%) refugees accessed the care through PHC clinics, while others reported visiting a private doctors' clinic (18%) or pharmacist (18%). For those that visited a private doctors' clinic, trust in the physician (55%) and closer distance (30%) were the main cited reasons.

Similar to previous years, cost remains to be the biggest barrier cited by families who could not receive the needed care. This includes fee's associated with doctor visits (cited by 84% of families) as well as cost related the medication, diagnostic tests and/or treatment (60%). Transportation cost was also reported as a barrier by 21% of families. Additionally, 20% of families reported that they were rejected by the healthcare provider. Few (4%) were unable to receive the care due the long distance needed to travel to reach a health care center.

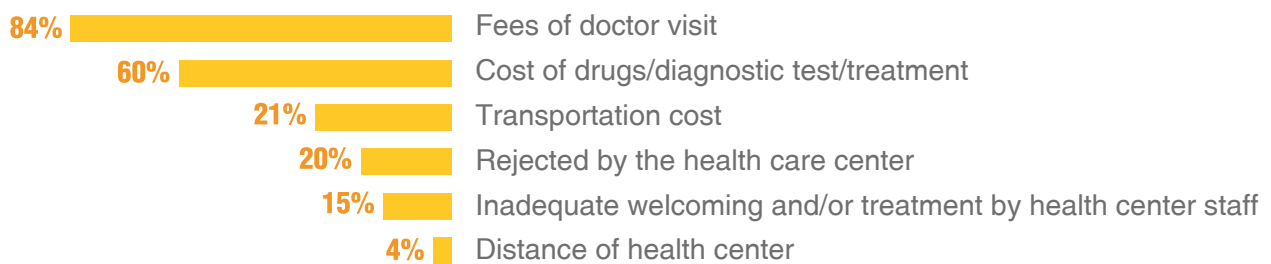
HOSPITAL CARE

Similar to demand for PHC, demand for hospital care also decreased with 15% of refugee families reporting that they needed hospital care in the previous six months (24% in 2018). Again, this decrease is most notable among Iraqi refugees (16% compared to 29% in 2018) while the rate remained stable at 12% among refugees of other nationalities.

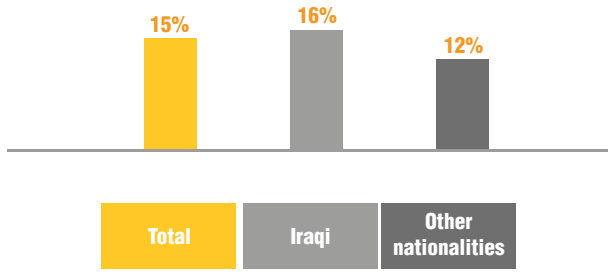
The share of families that were able to receive the needed care increased significantly from 61% in 2018 to 84% in 2019, with similar results across both nationality groups. The majority (61%) of families reported that they paid for the care in full while 21% reported that they received assistance from UNHCR to cover a portion of the cost.

As with PHC, cost was the overwhelmingly most commonly cited reason for not getting the needed hospital care. This included the cost of the actual treatment (70%) but also transportation costs (22%). In fact, 38% of families reported that they were rejected by the hospital because they were unable to secure a deposit.

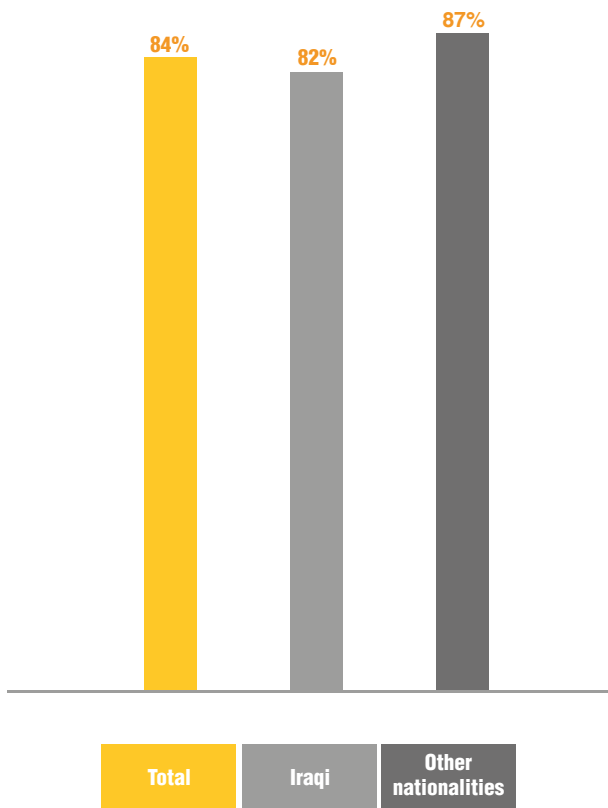
Knowledge on accessing emergency care increased since 2018, with 63% of families reporting that they are aware of where and how to access medical services in case of an emergency.



19. Reported reasons for not being able to access primary health care



20. Share of households that reported requiring hospital health care in the past six months, by nationality



21. Among families that required hospital health care, share that reported receiving the needed care, by nationality



COPING STRATEGIES

COPING STRATEGIES

Two types of coping strategies are examined in this chapter, food-related coping strategies and non-food, or livelihood, coping strategies. Food related coping strategies capture the frequency and severity of coping mechanisms households undertake when they are faced with a shortage of food. Livelihood coping strategies examine the adoption of mechanisms that households use to face a shortage of income and resources to cover their overall needs.

KEY FINDINGS

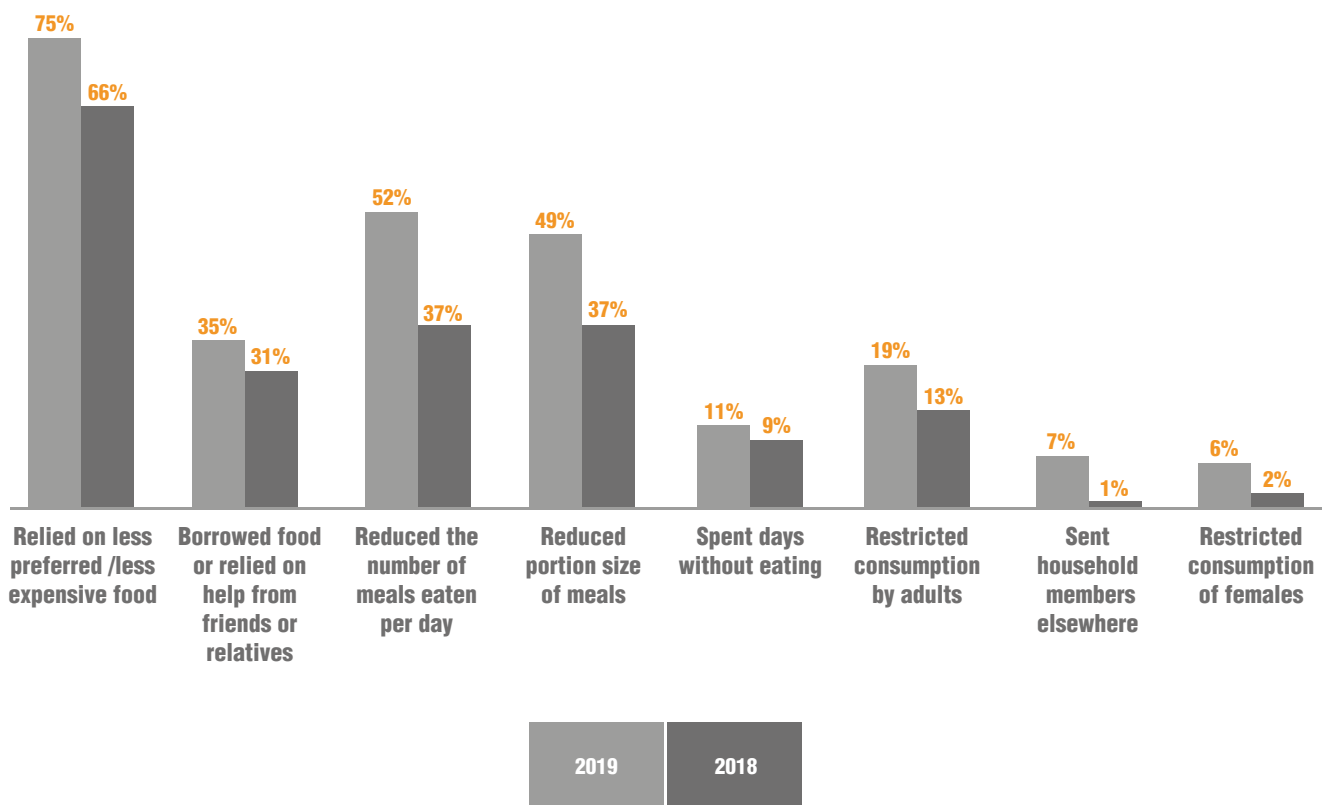
- The reduced coping strategies index, a proxy for access to food, showed that Iraqi refugees were relying less on food-related coping strategies while for refugees of other nationalities, reliance on these types of coping strategies increased.
- A larger share of other nationality households resorted to stress coping strategies (48% compared to 35% among Iraqis). On the other hand, a slightly larger share of Iraqi households resorted to crisis coping strategies.

For Iraqi refugees, the rCSI decreased since 2018 from 13 to 10 in 2019, indicating that they are relying slightly less on these food-related coping strategies. For refugees of other nationalities however there was an increase from 11 in 2018 to 13 in 2019, indicating an increase the use of food related coping mechanisms.

FOOD-RELATED COPING STRATEGIES

Overall, the prevalence of resorting to food related coping strategies remained stable or decreased. The most commonly reported food related coping strategy was relying on less expensive or less preferred food (66%). About three quarters of families reported borrowing food or relying on help and 27% reduced the number of meals eaten per day and reduced portion sizes of meals. For the more severe food-related coping strategies, 9% spent whole days without eating, 13% restricted consumption of adult household members so that children could eat and few (1%-2%) sent household members to eat elsewhere or restricted consumption of female household members.

The reduced Coping Strategies index (rCSI) takes into consideration the five most commonly used food-related coping strategies and their order of severity as a proxy indicator to measure access to food. The higher the rCSI, the more coping strategies households had to endure.



22. Food related coping strategies

LIVELIHOOD COPING STRATEGIES

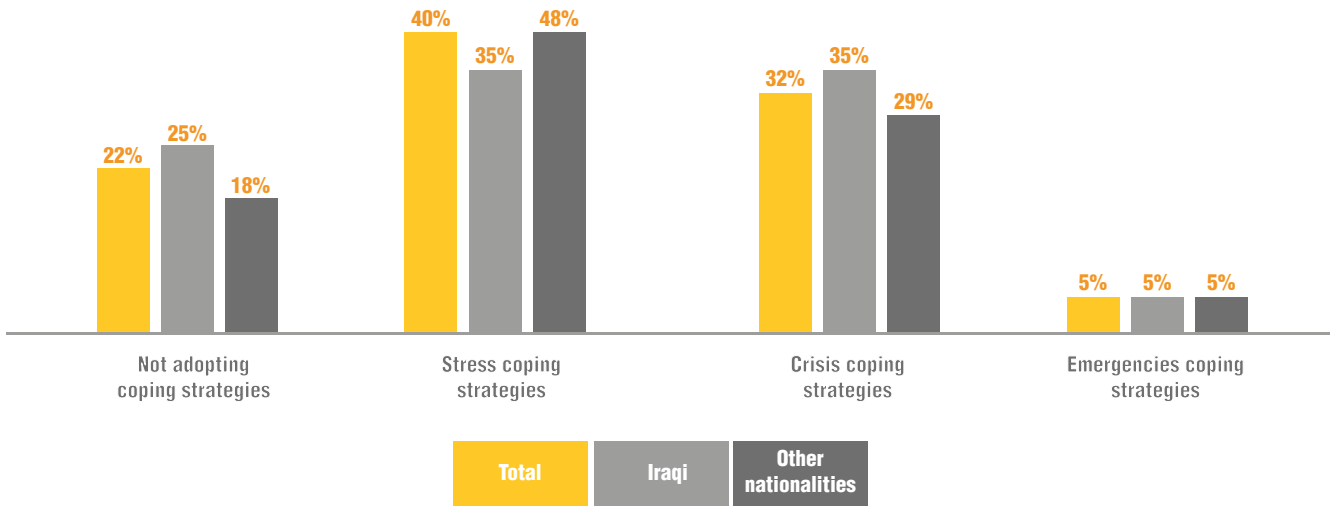
Livelihood coping strategies are categorized into three types of mechanisms and households are asked whether they had to resort to these types of coping strategies at least once over a 30-day period.

78% of refugee households reported resorting to at least one type of negative coping mechanism in the past 30 days, a decrease from the 86% in 2018. A larger share of other nationality households resorted to stress coping strategies (48% compared to 35% among Iraqis). On the other hand, a slightly larger share of Iraqi households resorted to crisis coping strategies (35% versus 29%). Rates of emergency coping strategies were equal for both at 5%.

Stress coping strategies	Spending household saving, selling household goods, buying on credit, debt
Crisis coping strategies	Withdrawing children from school, selling productive assets, marriage of children below 18 years, reducing expenditures on education and on health
Emergency coping strategies	Begging, involving school children in income generation, accepting high risk jobs and selling house or land in country of origin

23. Livelihood coping strategies classifications

The most commonly used coping strategy was incurring debt (58%), followed by buying food on credit (35%), and spending savings (32%). A large share of families reported that they had to reduce expenditure on essential needs such as education (15%), or health (27%).



24. Share of households adopting livelihood coping strategies, by classification and nationality



25. Use of negative livelihood coping strategies in the past 30 days



FOOD SECURITY

FOOD SECURITY

This chapter presents results of key indicators used to evaluate if families have access to adequate nutrient-rich foods and whether families are experiencing a shortage in food needs. This includes assessing household food consumption, households' expenditure on food and the use of coping strategies.

KEY FINDINGS

- 23% of households were found to be food secure, compared to 17% in 2018 and 3% were severely food insecure, compared to 1% in 2018.
- Refugees of other nationalities exhibit poorer food consumption and dietary diversity as compared to Iraqi refugees.
- While food consumption scores among Iraqi refugees improved slightly since 2018, a deterioration is noted among refugees of other nationalities.

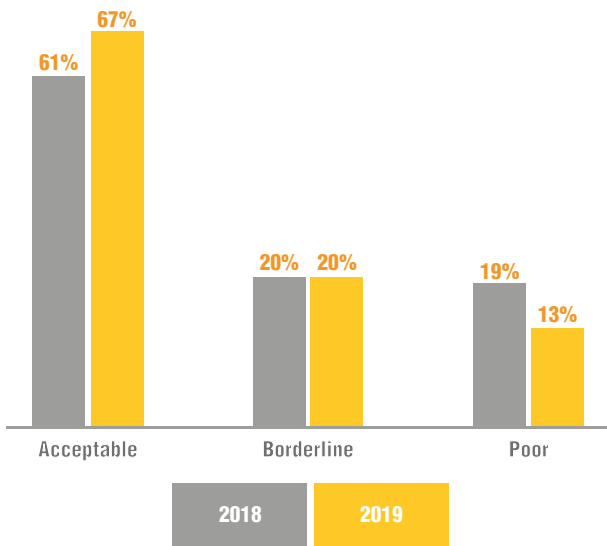
FOOD CONSUMPTION

The average number of meals consumed by adults remained stable since 2018 at 2.2 meals per day, similar for both nationality groups. For children under five years old, the average number of meals consumed per day increased to 3.2 from 2.2 in 2018.

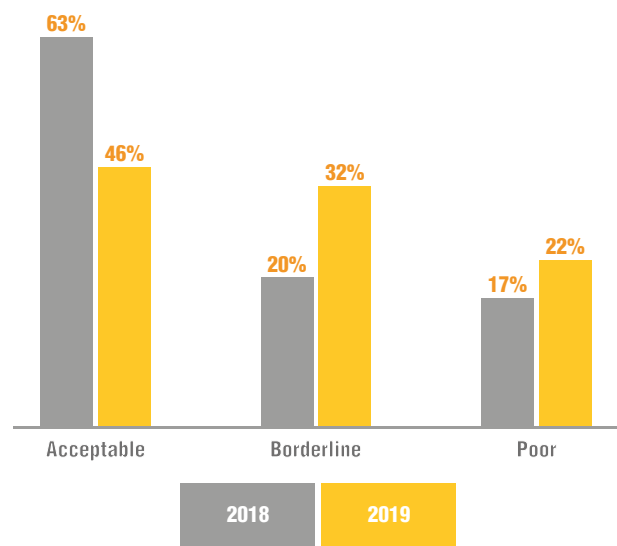
The food consumption score (FCS) is a composite indicator that is calculated based on the frequency of consumption of major food groups, considering their relative nutritional importance. A higher FCS indicates a higher probability that the household achieves nutritional adequacy. Overall, the share of families with acceptable, borderline or poor food consumption score remained stable since 2018. Looking at nationality groups however, refugee households of other nationalities exhibited a deterioration. Among this group the share of families with acceptable score decreased to 46% from 63% in 2018 and the share with poor scores increased to 22% from 17% in 2018.

	Total	Iraqi	Other nationalities
Adults	2.2	2.3	2.0
Children under 5	3.2	3.1	3.2

26. Average number of meals consumed per day



27. Food consumption score classification / Iraqis



28. Food consumption score classification / Other Nationalities

DIETARY DIVERSITY

The household diet diversity is a proxy measure which indicates the ability of a household to access food. The number of different food groups consumed is calculated on a weekly and daily basis and categorized into Household Weekly Diet Diversity (HWDD) and Household Daily Average Diet Diversity (HDADD).

Similar to the findings of the FCS, Iraqi refugees seem to be eating a more diversified diet than refugees of other nationalities. Looking at HWDD, 10% of Iraqis had low weekly diet diversity compared to 18% among other nationalities. Just over half of refugees of other nationalities (57%) had high weekly diet diversity compared to 81% of Iraqis, similar to rates in 2018. Trends in daily diet diversity also did not change substantially from last year with 40% of Iraqi household having high daily diet diversity, compared to only 19% among refugees of other nationalities.

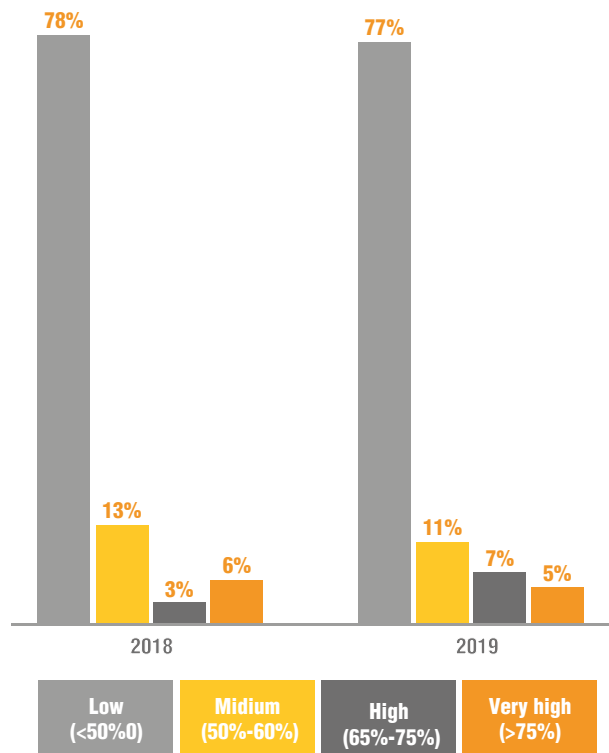
	Household Daily Average Diet Diversity			Household Weekly Diet Diversity		
	<4.5 FOOD GROUPS	4.5-6.4 FOOD GROUPS	>=6.5 FOOD GROUPS	<=6 FOOD GROUPS	7-8 FOOD GROUPS	>=9 FOOD GROUPS
Total	32%	36%	32%	13%	15%	72%
Iraqi	26%	34%	40%	10%	9%	81%
Other nationalities	42%	39%	19%	18%	25%	57%

29. HWDD and HDADD groups

FOOD EXPENDITURE SHARE

Food expenditure share is often used as a proxy for food security. This indicator examines the portion of household expenditure that is allocated to food. Households with a high food expenditure share often will not have enough resources to cover other costs such as health or education. Food expenditure share is classified as follows: >75% - Very high; 65%-75% - High; 50%-65% - Medium; <50% - Low.

Trends in food expenditure share remained stable with, on average, food making up 36% of overall household expenditures. Just above three quarters (77%) of households spent less than 50% of their total expenditure on food and 5% had a very high food expenditure share.



30. Food expenditure share classification

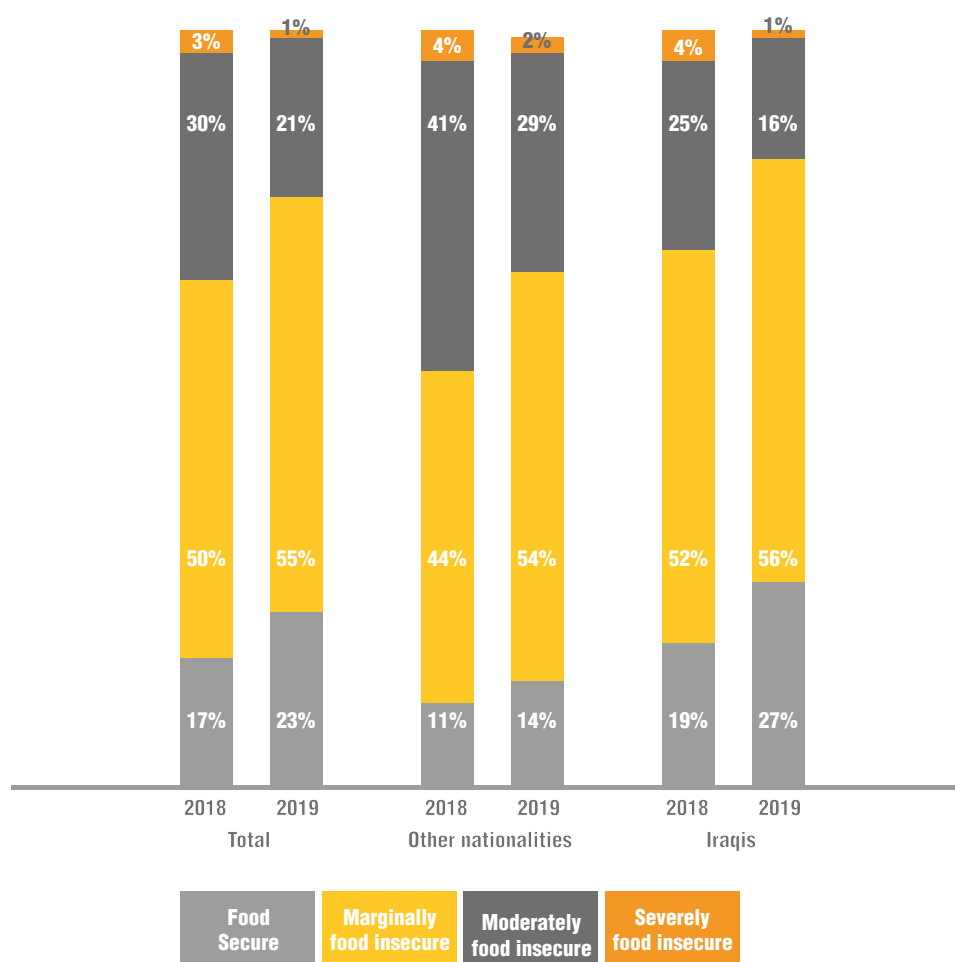
FOOD SECURITY

Food security classification is a composite indicator that classifies households into one of four categories: food secure, marginally food insecure, moderately food insecure, and severely food insecure. Food security encompasses three dimensions: food consumption, food expenditure shares, and livelihood coping strategies.

Slight improvements are noted in food security trends compared to 2018, with other nationality refugees continuing to have lower shares of food security than their Iraqi counterparts. Overall, 23% of refugees were food secure (17% in 2018), 55% were marginally food insecure, 21% were moderately food insecure and 1% were severely food insecure. The proportion of households that were food secure was almost double among Iraqis (27% versus 15% among other nationality households).

	1. FOOD SECURITY	2. MARGINALLY FOOD INSECURITY	3. MODERATE FOOD INSECURITY	4. SEVERE FOOD INSECURITY
FOOD CONSUMPTION	Acceptable	Acceptable with food-related coping	Borderline	Poor
FOOD EXPENDITURE SHARE	<50%	50-65%	65-75%	>75%
COPING STRATEGIES	Households not adopting coping	Stress coping strategies	Crisis coping strategies	Emergency coping strategies

31. Thresholds and point score for food security classification



32. Food security by nationality



SOCIO-ECONOMIC VULNERABILITY

SOCIO-ECONOMIC VULNERABILITY

This section looks at the vulnerability profile of refugee families from a socio-economic perspective. This includes examining expenditure shares as well as expenditure levels relative to poverty lines and expenditure baskets. Average household debt is also examined.

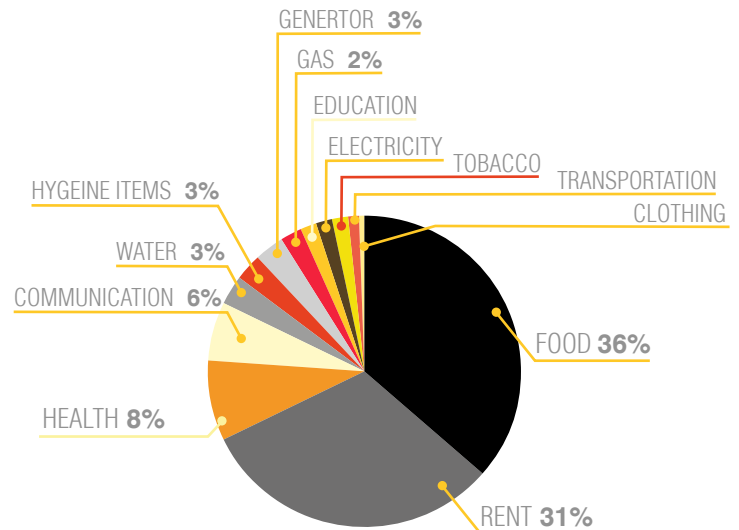
KEY FINDINGS

- Average per capita monthly expenditures decreased for both groups of refugees, averaging at US\$ 194 compared to US\$ 245 in 2018.
- The share of families living under the national poverty line and the minimum expenditure basket increased. Over half of surveyed families are poor.
- Average debt among Iraqis increased to about US\$ 1,100 in 2019 while the average debt for households of other nationalities decreased to US\$ 439.

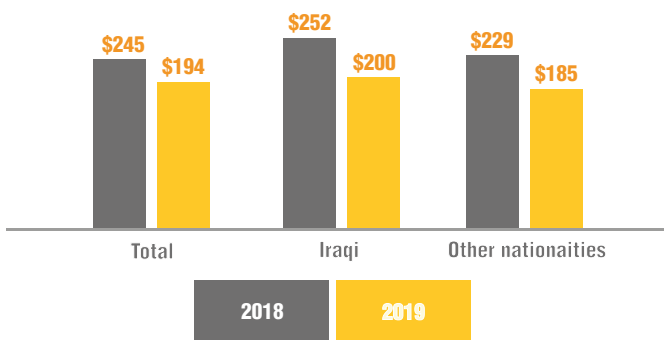
Expenditure shares for the top three expenditures (food, rent and health) remained similar to last year with the majority (36%) of expenditures going towards food. Rent costs made up 31% of expenditures and health costs made up 8%.

EXPENDITURES

Average per capita monthly expenditure decreased quite significantly in 2019 reaching US\$ 194 compared to US\$ 245 in 2018. This decrease was prominent among both groups of refugees with Iraqi households having a per capita monthly expenditure of US\$ 200 (US\$ 252 in 2018) and US\$ 185 for other nationalities (US\$ 229 in 2018).



35. Percentage of household monthly expenditure by item

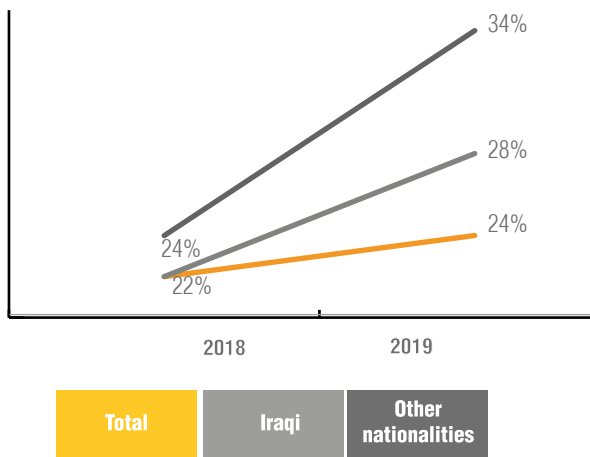


34. Per capita monthly expenditure by nationality

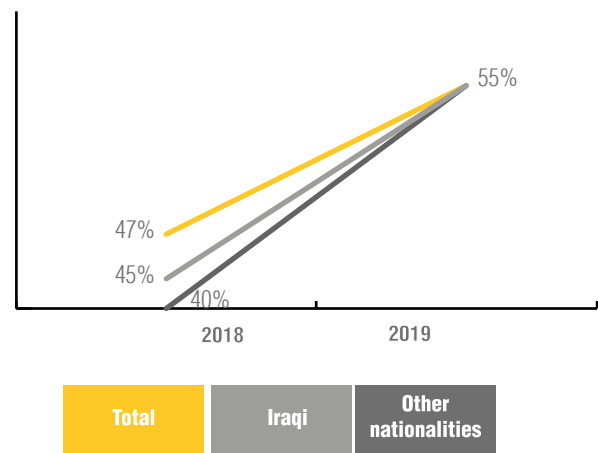
Households were classified by expenditure levels according to two different thresholds: the national poverty line (US\$ 3.84 per person per day) and the Minimum expenditure basket (MEB) (US\$ 176 per household per month). The proportion of households living under the national poverty line increased from 22% in 2018 to 28% in 2019. This increase was more pronounced among other nationality households where 34% of families were living under the poverty line in 2019, compared to 24% in 2018. For Iraqi families the increase was slightly less drastic (24% in 2019, 22% in 2018).

The MEB developed for Iraqi and other nationality households was adapted from the MEB developed for Syrian refugees in Lebanon. Data has shown the Iraqi and other nationality households pay significantly more on rent costs as compared to their Syrian counterparts. As such, the rent component of the Syrian MEB was adjusted, leading to the developed US\$ 176 per household per month threshold compared to US\$ 114 for Syrian refugees. Families living under US\$ 176 per household per month are considered to be living in poverty.

Like the estimates linked to the national poverty line, a larger share of families in 2019 were living under the MEB as compared to 2018 (55% compared to 45%). The share was similar among both groups (55% Iraqis under the MEB and 56% of other nationality households).



36. Share of households living under the National Poverty Line (US\$ 3.84/capita/day)



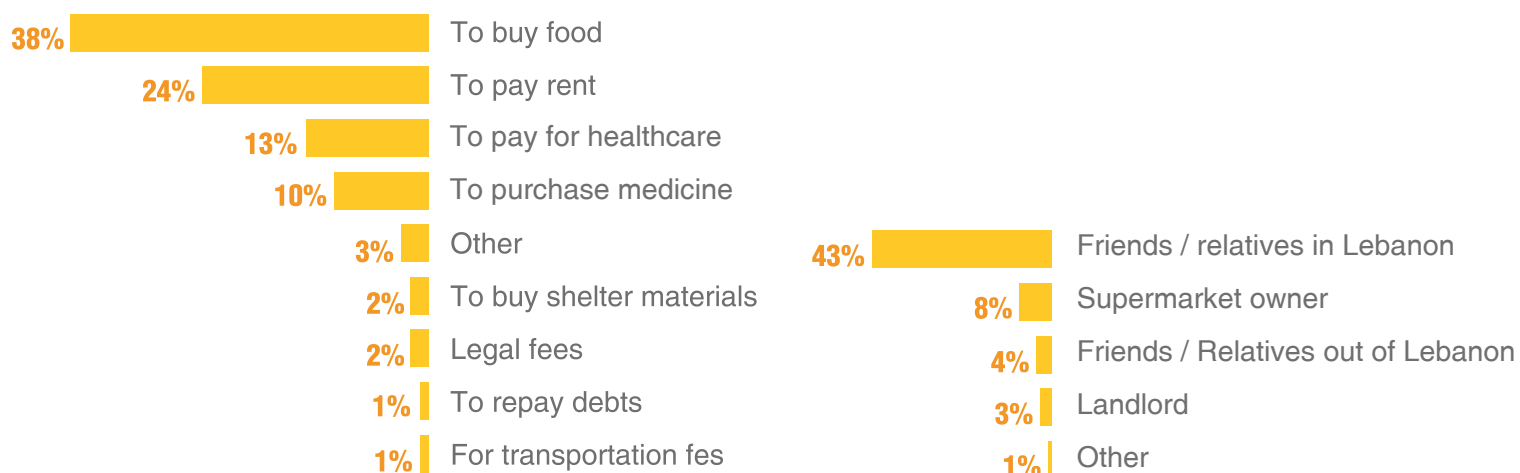
37. Share of households living under the Minimum Expenditure Basket (US\$ 176/household/month)

DEBT AND BORROWING MONEY

Half of surveyed households reported borrowing money and/or buying goods on credit in the 90 days preceding the interview (53% in 2018). The rate was higher among other nationality households (57%) compared to Iraqis (45%). Overall, the average level of debt among families increased for Iraqi families but decreased for refugees of other nationalities. Average household debt for Iraqi families increased to US\$ 1,114 from US\$ 1,019 in 2018. For other nationalities, average household debt decreased to US\$ 439 from US\$ 583 in 2018.

Debt per household and per capita by nationality								
	PER HOUSEHOLD (AMONG ALL HOUSEHOLDS)		PER HOUSEHOLD (ONLY AMONG HOUSEHOLDS WITH DEBT)		PER CAPITA (AMONG ALL HOUSEHOLDS)		PER HOUSEHOLD (ONLY AMONG HOUSEHOLDS WITH DEBT)	
	2018	2019	2018	2019	2018	2019	2018	2019
Total	\$886	\$858	\$1,506	\$1,491	\$324	\$306	\$568	\$532
Iraqi	\$1,019	\$1,114	\$1,944	\$2,222	\$334	\$311	\$605	\$620
Other nationalities	\$583	\$439	\$794	\$630	\$373	\$299	\$508	\$429

38. Debt per household and per capita by nationality



39. Reasons for borrowing money

40. Sources of borrowed money and debt



LIVELIHOODS

LIVELIHOODS

Through this chapter, access to livelihoods and income are examined at both the household and the individual level. Employment status of individuals over the week preceding the interview and main income sources of households are presented. The indicators in this chapter refer to the working age population (i.e. individuals between the ages of 15 and 59 years old).

KEY FINDINGS

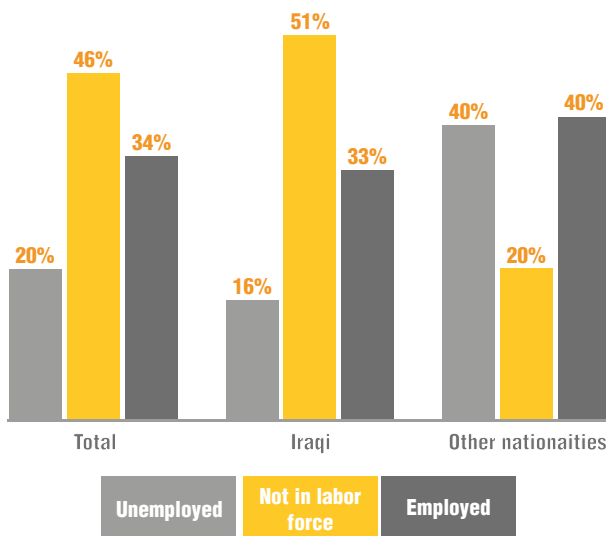
- The share of the population in the labor force decreased to 54% in 2019 from 68% in 2018. This was significantly lower for Iraqis as compared to other nationalities.
- Primary sources of household income remained similar to 2018 with most families relying on work in the service sector (40%), as a concierge (14%), or relying on debt (10%).

For individuals that were not working, the main cited reasons included being in school (for younger children), not finding work in the area where they live and being elderly. Looking at these by nationality, some differences emerge. Iraqi individuals were much more likely to cite being elderly as a reason why they were not working while for other nationality refugees not finding work in the area of residence was the main issue.

Reported average number of hours worked per week was much higher among Iraqis (52 hours) as compared to other nationality refugees (36 hours). Iraqis were also much more likely to report that their work was regular (79% compared to 54% among other nationalities). Few refugees reported working more than one job: 7% of Iraqi and 10% of refugees of other nationalities. Average individual weekly income from work for Iraqi's was higher than that of refugees of other nationalities, US\$ 110 and US\$ 71 respectively.

EMPLOYMENT STATUS

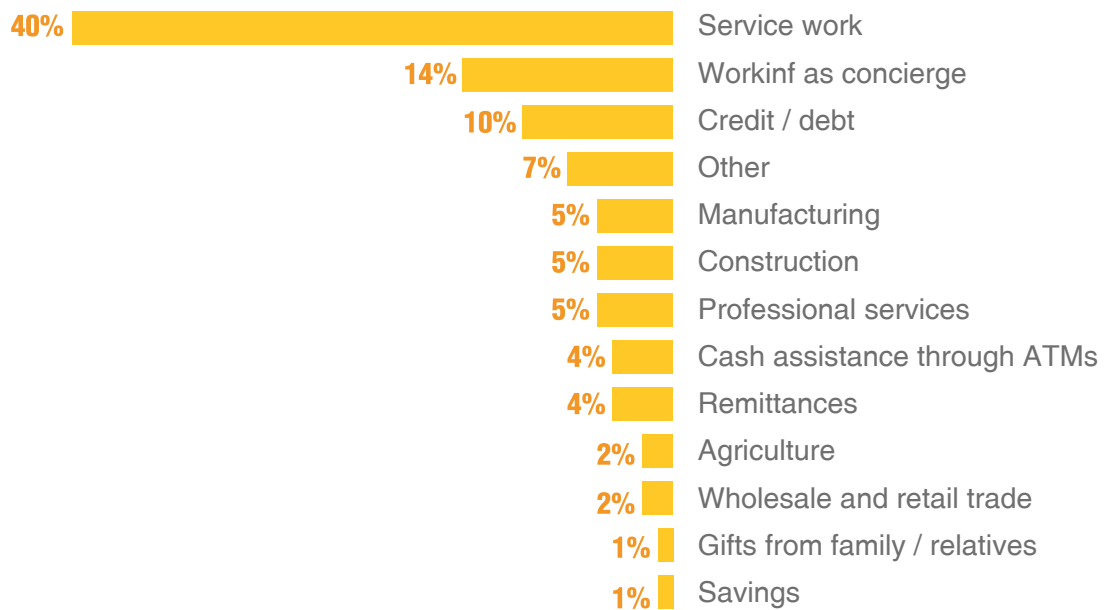
The labor force represents working age individuals (15 to 59 years old) who are either working or not working but seeking to work. The share of the population in the labor force decreased to 54% in 2019 from 68% in 2018. This was significantly lower for Iraqis as compared to other nationalities.



41. Population employment status

SOURCES OF INCOME

The top two main reported sources of income remained similar to 2018. The majority of households reported that their main source of income was through income generated from working in the service sector, including hotels, restaurants, transportation and other personal services. Fourteen percent of households reported that they primarily relied on income through work as a concierge. The share of families who relied on debt as a primary income source remained similar to 2018 at 10%.



42. Main income sources



**ASSISTANCE AND
HOUSEHOLD ASSETS**

ASSISTANCE AND HOUSEHOLD ASSETS

Refugees in Lebanon receive the majority of assistance targeted at covering basic needs through cash transfers. Using an ATM card, refugees can redeem cash assistance through ATMs across the country and prioritize their needs and expenditures. This section covers the provision of cash-based assistance as well as examines refugees' access and use of basic household items

KEY FINDINGS

- Half of households surveyed reported that they were currently in possession of an ATM card and were receiving cash assistance. This was higher among Iraqi families (58%) compared to families of other nationalities (32%)
- The share of households that had access to all basic assets decreased since 2018 to 51% (from 60%). For medium and extended assets, rates remained stable since 2018.

In addition to the above-mentioned programs, other cash assistance programs exist in Lebanon targeting smaller groups of families. These primarily include protection and emergency cash programs, among others.

Half of households surveyed reported that they were currently in possession of an ATM card and were receiving cash assistance. This was higher among Iraqi families (58%) compared to families of other nationalities (32%). These figures are higher than the reported figures in 2018, due to the provision of cash for food assistance which was previously not being distributed to Iraqi and other nationality refugees. Very few refugees reported receiving other types of assistance such as technical or vocational training (1%), hygiene specific training (<1%), or in-kind food assistance (3%).

ASSISTANCE PROVISION

Two main types of cash assistance were distributed to refugees in 2019.

1. **Multi-purpose cash assistance from UNHCR.** Recipients of multipurpose cash assistance receive a US\$ 175 monthly cash transfer redeemable at any ATM across the country. Nationally, some 1,317 families were assisted with multi-purpose cash.
2. **Cash for food assistance from WFP.** A total of 2,722 families received cash for food in addition to multipurpose cash through a cash transfer of US\$ 27/person/month.
3. **Cash for winter needs.** In the 2018/2019 winter season, UNHCR provided winter cash assistance to 2,247 families to support them meet the additional needs brought about by the winter.

HOUSEHOLD ASSETS

Household assets are classified into three categories: basic assets, medium assets, and extended assets as per the table below.

Basic Assets

Mattress, blankets, winter clothes, gas stove

Medium Assets

Water heaters, beds, tables, chairs, refrigerators, washing machines

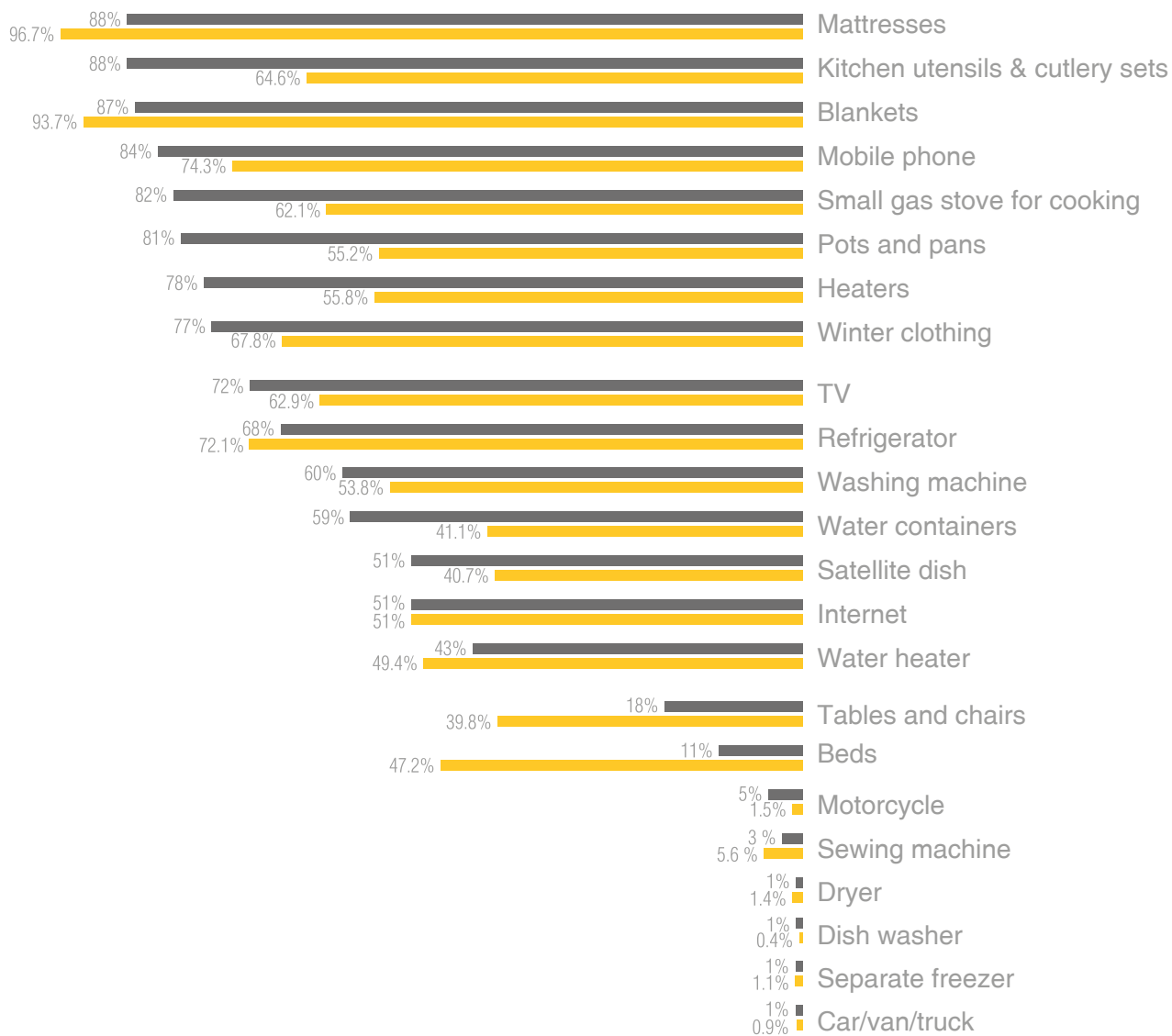
Extended Assets

Electric oven, microwave, air conditioning, sewing machine, computer, mobile phones, internet, motorcycle/car

The share of households that had access to all basic assets decreased since 2018 to 51% (from 60%). For medium and extended assets, rates remained stable since 2018 with 24% of households having access to all medium assets and none having access to all extended assets.

Level of Ownership

- **High Ownership:** Asset owned by more than 75% of households
- **Medium Ownership:** Asset owned by 45-74% of households
- **Low Ownership:** Asset owned by 10-44% of households
- **Very Low Ownership:** Asset owned by less than 10% of households



43. Level of Ownership