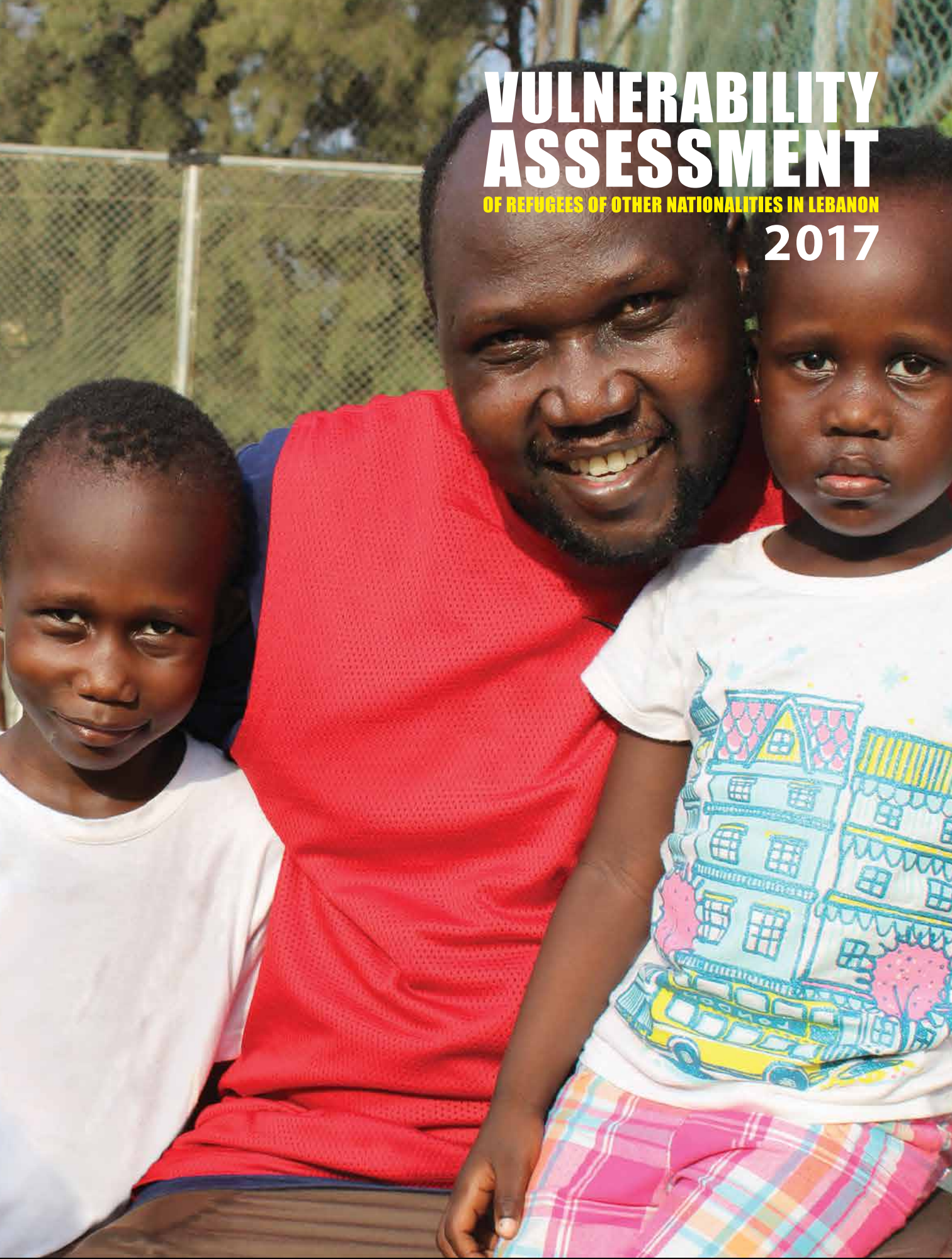


VULNERABILITY ASSESSMENT

OF REFUGEES OF OTHER NATIONALITIES IN LEBANON

2017



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Special thanks go to the families who welcomed the survey team to answer questions and provide valuable information for this assessment.



ACRONYMS

ADCS	Asset Depletion Coping Strategies
ALP	Accelerated Learning Programme
FCS	Food Consumption Score
HPQ	Household Profiling Questionnaire
IYCF	Infant and Young Child Feeding
MEB	Minimum Expenditure Basket
MEHE	Ministry for Education and Higher Education
MMR	Measles Mumps Rubella
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
ODK	Open Data Kit
RAIS	Refugee Assistance Information System
SMEB	Survival Minimum Expenditure Basket
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
VARON	Vulnerability Assessment of Refugees of Other Nationalities
VASyR	Vulnerability Assessment of Syrian Refugees
WASH	Water, Sanitation and Hygiene
WFP	World Food Programme
WHO	World Health Organization

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

UNHCR is pleased to present the Vulnerability Assessment of Refugees of Other Nationalities (VARON 2017), a report on the refugees and asylum seekers from countries other than Syria living in Lebanon. The influx of well over a million refugees from Syria since 2012 has partly overshadowed the plight of other refugee communities, many of whom have been living in Lebanon since before the Syrian crisis. This report aims to shed light on their situation, from their access to healthcare and education, to their economic vulnerability and food insecurity.

At the end of 2016, there were 21,761 registered refugees and asylum seekers from countries other than Syria in Lebanon.* Iraqis make up the largest share of this caseload (86%), arriving mostly in 2014 and 2015. The remaining refugees and asylum seekers are primarily from Sudan (9%), but also—in order by share—from Ethiopia, Egypt, Eritrea and elsewhere; this report will refer to the latter group as ‘refugees of Other Nationalities’. New asylum seekers continue to approach UNHCR seeking international protection; indeed, 1,084 refugees and asylum seekers from countries other than Syria registered with UNHCR in Lebanon during the first half of 2017, 657 of whom were Iraqi.

The VARON 2017 is intended to be a key tool for shaping planning decisions and programme design in response to the specific needs and priorities of this refugee group.

** This report will refer to both refugees and asylum seekers as ‘refugees’ for concision.*

Methodology

Between 1 November 2016 and 11 April 2017, survey teams attempted to visit all households of refugees and asylum seekers from countries other than Syria in Lebanon as part of an annual assessment using the Household Profiling Questionnaire. Enumerators were able to reach 4,876 refugee and asylum seeker households (3,504 Iraqi and 1,372 of Other Nationalities). The questionnaire conducted during these visits contained most of the same questions as the VARON 2016 questionnaire. Though the two surveys are largely comparable, some variables were missing. To account for these missing variables, a follow-up phone survey was conducted with 355 sample cases on questions relating to health, safety and security, and employment.

Key Findings

The demographics of refugee and asylum seeker households living in Lebanon vary widely. Iraqis tend to live in family units of three to four people, while most households of refugees of Other Nationalities are single men and women. Men were slightly more prevalent than women in both groups.

While levels of vulnerability among refugee and asylum seeker households remained high, results showed that households of refugees of Other Nationalities were even more vulnerable on many indicators. Female-headed households, which make up around 15% of the total, fared worse than their male counterparts on nearly every indicator of vulnerability. They lived in worse shelter conditions, were more food insecure and more economically vulnerable.

Less than one in six surveyed individuals over 15 years old reported having legal residency (13%). The share of households in which no member had a residency permit grew steeply from 30% last year to 80% this year, indicating that either those holding residency last year did not renew it or newly arrived refugees and asylum seekers had not yet secured residency. Results indicate that this is largely due to renewal costs. Not having legal residency puts refugees at risk of arrest and detention, and therefore limits their freedom of movement in the country.

An alarming 87% of the surveyed refugee population experienced some degree of food insecurity. While most households are eating an adequate quantity and variety of food, the coping strategies they are adopting in order to do so are concerning. Most households reported reducing expenditure on essential non-food expenses like healthcare and education in order to cope with a lack of money to buy food. WFP does not provide cash for food assistance to refugees from countries other than Syria and UNHCR stopped providing food assistance to this group in March 2017 due to lack of funds. The level of food insecurity has not significantly deteriorated since 2016, when 85% of the surveyed population experienced some degree of food insecurity.

Levels of debt remained high, with over half of households borrowing money in the past 30 days. Expenditure per capita was US\$ 227 per month, most of which was spent on rent (38%) and food (30%). Expenditure exceeded income by US\$ 85 per capita on average. One third of households reported no income from labour at all, instead relying on debt or remittances.

Shelter conditions remained inadequate for many. Refugees of Other Nationalities were particularly at risk, with over a quarter living in shelters that were overcrowded, dangerous or in urgent need of repair (27%, compared to 12% for Iraqi households). Lack of formal rental agreements continues to put tenants at increased risk of exploitation or eviction. Of those

renting their accommodation, only 20% had a formal agreement with their landlord, with most having informal agreements and 12% reported no agreement at all. Single women and female-headed households were at highest risk of having no rental agreement (27% and 23% respectively).

One in four households reported not having sufficient access to drinking water. One in four households also reported not having access to a bathroom for washing. For both indicators, refugees of Other Nationalities were worse off than their Iraqi counterparts, and female-headed households worse off than their male counterparts.

School attendance has improved but remains suboptimal. Among the surveyed children of primary school age (6 to 14 years), around a quarter were not attending school (23%), and two-thirds of secondary school age children (15 to 17 years) were not in school (67%). This appears to have improved since 2016, when the VARON found 36% of primary and 73% of secondary school age children were out of school. Nearly half the respondents cited the costs associated with education as the reason for non-attendance – likely transport and materials, since public education is covered for all refugees by the Ministry of Education and Higher Education (MEHE). Children of Other Nationalities had better attendance rates than Iraqi children at each stage of education.

Results show a clear correlation between bad shelter conditions and poor health. For instance, the percentage of individuals reporting temporary illnesses was double among those living in conditions recorded as inadequate or 'overcrowded' (less than 4.5m² per person). Drawing conclusions about cause and effect is difficult. Socio-economic vulnerability also correlates with poor shelter conditions, and therefore families may lack money to spend on either health or shelter. Households with members suffering from diseases and illnesses devote a higher percentage of their expenditure to health costs than those without health issues (10% and 5% respectively).

The cost of treatment continues to prevent those needing healthcare from accessing it. While 63% of households required either primary or secondary healthcare in the previous six months, two out of every five households were unable to access the care they needed, largely due to cost.

Refugee–host community relations were mixed and continue to be more difficult for refugees of Other Nationalities. Twenty per cent of households of refugees of Other Nationalities and 9% of Iraqi households reported facing verbal harassment. Those interacting daily or regularly with the host community generally enjoyed better relations: 98% of this group reported positive or very positive interactions, compared to 11% of those who interacted rarely or never.

Recommendations

1. Reinstate food assistance programming to avoid further deterioration in food insecurity and reliance on negative coping mechanisms such as reducing essential expenditure on health and education. WFP cash for food is only provided to Syrian refugees and the UNHCR food assistance programme was terminated in 2017 due to lack of funds.

2. Continue to advocate for a reduction in the financial cost for refugees to renew their residency, in line with the waiver of fees for Syrian refugees. Results indicate that the renewal fee has contributed to a substantial increase in refugees without legal residency. This has a knock-on effect on refugees' access to employment and therefore their self-reliance.

3. Ramp up awareness-raising efforts on the importance of birth registration. The level of birth registration appears to be particularly low for refugees of Other Nationalities. The impact of births not being registered is substantial.

4. Rehabilitate dangerous shelters to minimum standards. Tackling shelter conditions would not only allow refugees to live in security and dignity, but results indicate improved shelters may also improve health outcomes.

5. Improve access to health care by raising refugees' awareness about available subsidized services by providing translated leaflets in different languages to reach all beneficiaries.

6. Continue outreach and awareness raising about the availability of formal public education, which is free of charge for refugees of any nationality. Include children of refugees and asylum seekers from countries other than Syria in the ALP cycles and different non-formal education programs, such as foreign language support, to reduce the associated barriers of access to formal education.

METHODOLOGY

Population

The assessment drew on data gathered as part of annual assessment visits to refugee and asylum seeker households registered with UNHCR Lebanon who originate from countries other than Syria. Enumerators attempted to reach the entire registered caseload and were able to contact around two-thirds of cases (4,876 households). Enumerators reached 65% of the Iraqi population (3,504 cases) and 67% of the population of Other Nationalities (1,372 cases). This approach meant it was not necessary to apply weights as the results can be considered representative of the entire population. This report will present results for the two nationality groups separately, as well as combined.

The survey used during these visits contains most of the same questions as the VARON 2016 questionnaire. Though the two surveys are largely comparable, some variables were missing. To account for these missing variables, a follow-up phone survey was conducted with 355 sample cases on questions relating to health, safety and security, residency and employment.

The analysis of the data was carried out by the UNHCR Inter-Agency Information Management Unit and the Mount Lebanon UNHCR Field Office.

Data collection

Data was collected between 1 November 2016 and 11 April 2017 by five UNHCR partners: Caritas, Makhzoumi Foundation, PU-AMI, SHIELD and World Vision.

Answers to the questions were entered on mobile phones and tablets using Open Data Kit (ODK) software and uploaded automatically onto UNHCR's Refugee Assistance Information System (RAIS) platform.

Teams made appointments with interviewees the day before the visit in order to ensure respondents were at home and to reduce bias stemming from "preparation" by the household prior to the visit. Since the questionnaires were conducted in person, enumerators were able to verify responses about shelter conditions through direct observation.

Questionnaire

The Household Profiling Questionnaire (HPQ) has been used since December 2014 to assess vulnerabilities in refugee households of all nationalities in Lebanon. The questionnaire is designed to take approximately 45 minutes and covers indicators in multiple sectors. It includes key information on household demographics, registration, protection, shelter, WASH, assets, education,

livelihoods, expenditures, food consumption, coping strategies, debt and assistance. Questions are directed at household and individual levels. The HPQ is available for download [here](#) or on the IM Dropbox, which can be accessed via <http://data.unhcr.org/lebanon/>. Questions used for the follow-up phone survey can be found at the same link.

Data analysis

Data analysis included the following:

- Data cleaning;
- Calculation of composite indicators such as the dependency ratio, food consumption score and coping strategies classification, among others;
- Descriptive statistics of direct and composite indicators to provide a general characterization of the refugee population.

When analysing individual level results, this report will consider all household members to have the same nationality as the head of household. UNHCR registration data shows that all household members are the same nationality as the household head in 91% of Iraqi and 93% of households of refugees of Other Nationalities.

The report draws comparisons with VARON 2016 results wherever possible. Where the two results are not comparable due to differences in the questionnaire, this has been noted.

The VARON 2017 also includes some comparisons with the 2017 Vulnerability Assessment of Syrian Refugees in Lebanon (VASyR), shown in blue boxes at the bottom of each page. Since 89% of refugees and asylum seekers from countries other than Syria live in Beirut and Mount Lebanon, comparisons will generally be made with VASyR data for the same two governorates to account for the considerable impact of geography on many variables.

DEMOGRAPHICS

The assessment surveyed 4,876 refugee and asylum seeker households in Lebanon. Of these, 72% were Iraqi (3,504 households) and 28% were households of refugees of Other Nationalities: i.e. Sudanese, Ethiopian, Egyptian, and others (1,372 households). At the individual level, the breakdown by nationality reveals a higher percentage of Iraqis, due to the much larger average family size, as shown in Figure 1.

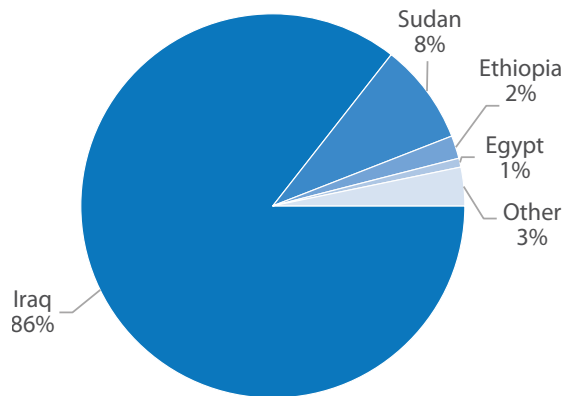


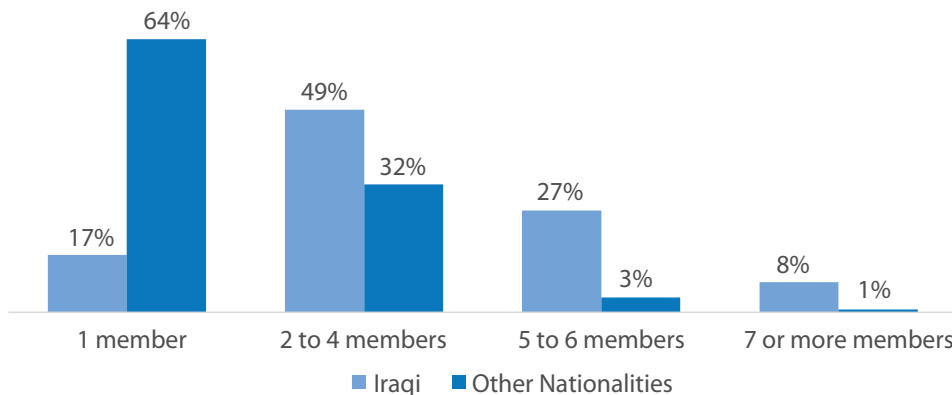
Figure 1: Nationality of registered refugees and asylum seekers from countries other than Syria in Lebanon (UNHCR registration data Dec 2016)

Household Size and Composition

Overall, household sizes of the surveyed population averaged 3.2 members. An average Iraqi family consisted of 3.8 members, though nearly half of Iraqi households (46%) consisted of three members or less.

Households of refugees of Other Nationalities were considerably smaller at 1.7 members on average. Indeed, 64% of these households consisted of only one member, compared to only 17% of Iraqi households. Only 8% of Iraqi households and 1% of households of refugees of Other Nationalities were 'large' (consisting of seven or more members).

Figure 2: Share of households by household size (number of members per household)



- Households were grouped based on the nationality of the head of household, regardless of the nationalities of individual members.
- VARON 2016: Overall: 3.5 members; Iraqi households: 4.1 members; Other Nationality households: 2.3 members.
- VARON 2016: Single member households: Iraqi households: 15%; Other Nationality households: 53%.

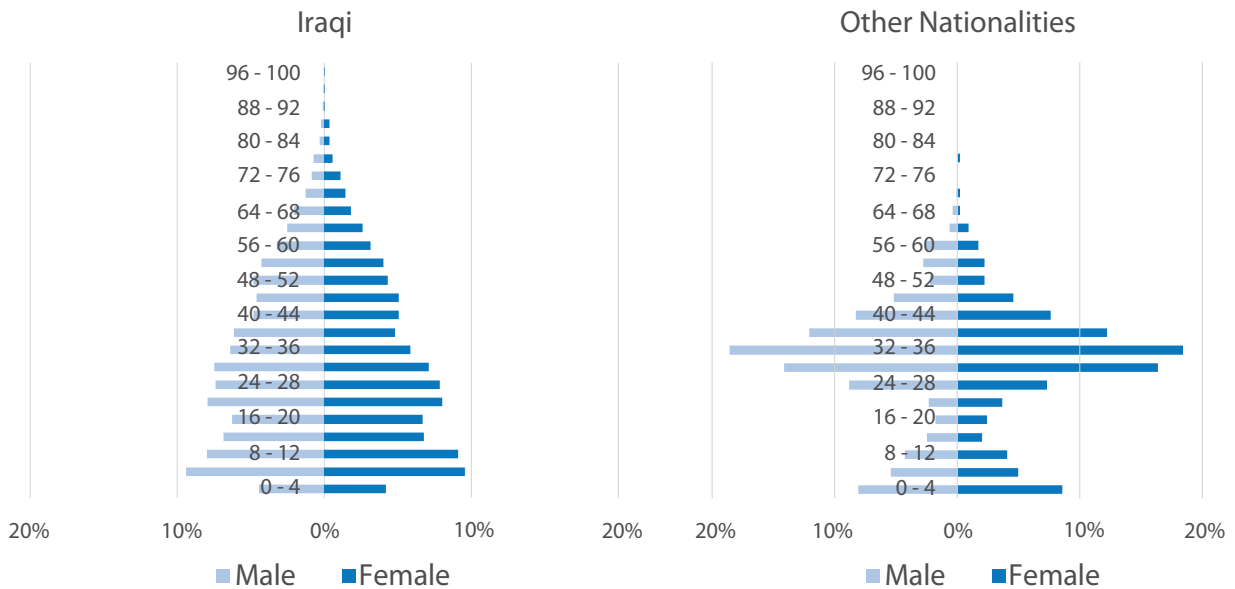
Comparison of VASyR and VARON 2017 (Beirut and Mount Lebanon only)

Syrian refugee households in Beirut and Mount Lebanon - averaging **4.7** members - tend to be larger than Iraqi (3.7) or Other Nationality households (1.7).

The Syrian refugee population has an even gender ratio of virtually **1:1**, while the Iraqi and Other Nationality refugee population has proportionally more men.

The age distribution of the surveyed population revealed a marked difference between Iraqi refugees and asylum seekers and those of Other Nationalities. The distribution of the Other Nationalities group revealed a higher concentration of individuals in the 25 to 45 age group and a lower percentage of children and seniors. This suggests these refugees and asylum seekers tend to travel to seek asylum without their families, which may be due to the difficulty of the journey or their profile.

Figure 3: Age distribution by gender and nationality



In both groups, there are more males than females. The data showed the gender ratio to be 0.84, compared to 0.88 last year, meaning there were proportionally slightly fewer women this year. For Iraqi households, the gender ratio registered at 0.83 females per male. Households of refugees of Other Nationalities had 0.87 females per male.

Children

The share of family members below 15 years of age in Iraqi households was much higher than in households of refugees of Other Nationalities, at 27% compared to 19%. Overall, this meant 26% of the surveyed population were under 15 years old, down from 28% in 2016. Nine per cent were under the age of 6,⁴ and 16% were aged between 6 and 14.⁵ Among households of refugees of Other Nationalities, the percentage of 0 to 4 year olds was considerably higher than other child age categories.

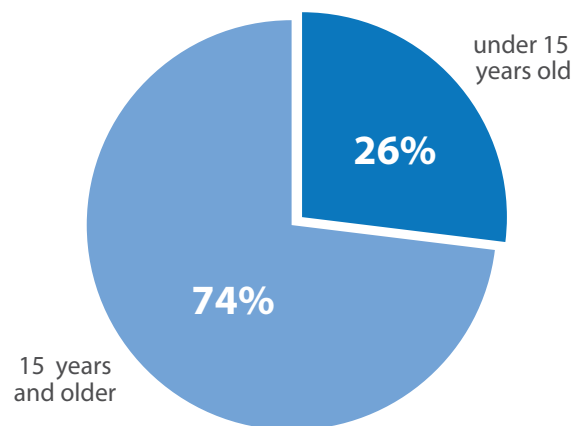


Figure 4: Population, children to adults

4. VARON 2016: 11%.

5. 2017: 17%.

Comparison of VASyR and VARON 2017 (Beirut and Mount Lebanon only)

The Syrian refugee population in Beirut and Mount Lebanon is younger than the non-Syrian population, with 49% under the age of 15, compared to only 27% for Iraqi and 19% for Other Nationality households. The average age of Syrian refugees is 20 years old, compared to 29 for non-Syrians.

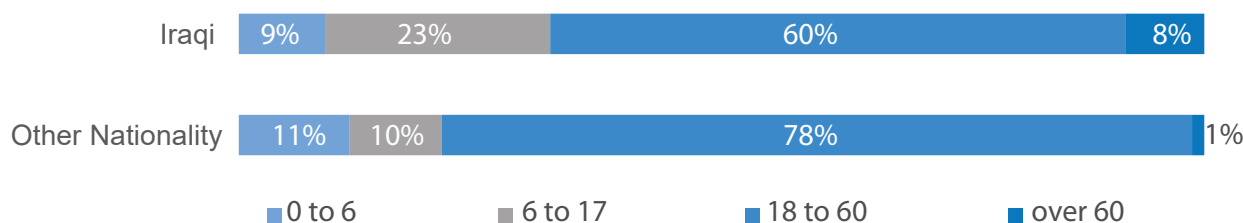


Figure 5: Household composition by age and nationality group

No families reported taking care of unrelated children. Nine families reported taking care of children below age 15 who, while related, were not the offspring of the head of household. UNHCR registration data records 13 separated children.⁶

The survey only reached one unaccompanied child⁷ of 17 years old, though it is conceivable that unaccompanied children are more difficult to contact by phone to arrange a household visit. UNHCR registration data has records of four unaccompanied children in Lebanon, all Iraqi.

Heads of household

Iraqi heads of households were generally older, with an average age of 44 compared to 36 for households of refugees of Other Nationalities. This was in line with the 2016 VARON report.

Overall, 13% of households (with more than one member) were female-headed, compared to 14% in 2016. The share of households headed by women was 12% for Iraqi households⁸ and 17% of households of refugees of Other Nationalities. Among this latter group, female-headed Ethiopian households were the most prevalent; in fact, they were even more numerous than male-headed Ethiopian households by 40 to 15.

The follow-up phone survey asked female heads of households about whether they had a husband and, if so, whether he was present in the household, lived elsewhere or had travelled abroad. Over a third of the 46 female heads of households said they were not married. **In another 15 cases, the husband was present in the household, but the female was considered the household head.** Six cases were divorced/separated and four were widowed. Three had a husband who had travelled back to their country of origin. Due to the small sample size of the follow-up phone survey (355 cases), of which only 46 were female heads of household, these results should not be considered an accurate representation of all female-headed households.⁹

6. 'Person below the age of 18 who is separated from both parents and his/her legal or customary primary caregiver, but not necessarily from other relatives. This may, therefore, include boys and girls accompanied by other adult family members.' – Inter-Agency Guiding Principles on Unaccompanied and Separated Children, January 2004, p. 13, <http://www.unhcr.org/refworld/docid/4113abc14.html>.

7. 'Person below the age of 18 who has been separated from both parents and other relatives and is not being cared for by an adult who, by law or custom, is responsible for doing so.' – Inter-Agency Guiding Principles on Unaccompanied and Separated Children, January 2004, p. 13, <http://www.unhcr.org/refworld/docid/4113abc14.html>.

8. UNHCR registration data from June 2017 recorded 18% female-headed Iraqi households. The reason for the discrepancy is not clear. This might reveal a bias in survey data.

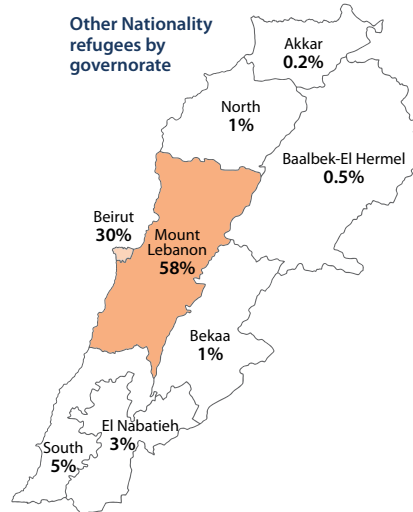
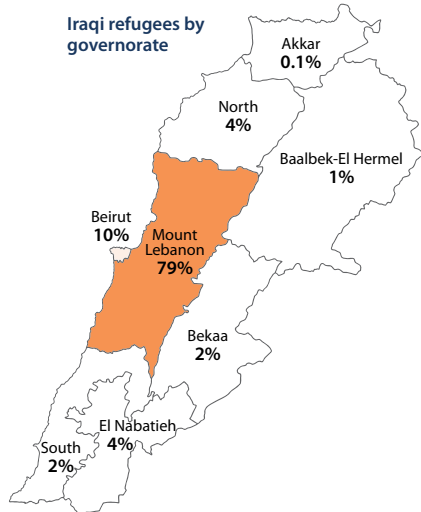
9. The confidence interval is around 13% at this sample size.

Comparison of VASyR and VARON 2017 (Beirut and Mount Lebanon only)

13% of Syrian refugee households in Beirut and Mount Lebanon are female-headed, the same as among Iraqi households, but lower than Other Nationality households (18% of which are female-headed).

Geographical distribution

The vast majority of surveyed refugees and asylum seekers (89%) resided in Beirut and Mount Lebanon,¹⁰ while the remainder were scattered across other governorates.



from a disability or debilitating condition that prevents them from working). Of these, 75 were single-member households: 50 disabled people and 25 elderly people (over 65 years of age).

Age Dependency

The age dependency ratio (DR) aims to reflect the potential of a household to generate enough income to support all household members. 'Dependent' members are those who either are considered too young (under 18) or too old (over 65) to work, or who suffer from a disability or debilitating condition that prevents them from working.

$$\text{Dependency Ratio} = \frac{(\text{number of dependents})}{(\text{number of non-dependents})}$$

The results revealed an average dependency ratio of 0.59, meaning that for every one non-dependent (i.e. working age, non-disabled individual) there are on average 0.59 dependents in the household. The ratio was 0.65 among Iraqi households, down from 0.8 last year. For households of refugees of Other Nationalities, the dependency ratio was much lower at 0.29,¹¹ in line with 2016 data. The lower ratio is partly a reflection of the greater proportion of single-member households in the Other Nationalities group. Households were classified into four categories based on their dependency ratio.

There were 117 households consisting entirely of 'dependents' (i.e. those under 18, over 65 or suffering

Table 1: Categorization of age dependency ratios

Category	Definition	Total	Iraqi	Other
Category I	1 dependent or fewer per non-dependent member (DR≤1)	84% ¹²	80%	95%
Category II	1 to 1.5 dependents per non-dependent members (1<DR≤1.5)	7% ¹³	9%	1%
Category III	1.5 to 2 dependents per non-dependent member (1.5<DR≤2)	6% ¹⁴	7%	3%
Category IV	More than 2 dependents per non-dependent member (DR>2)	4% ¹⁵	4%	1%

10. This is similar to UNHCR registration data from June 2017, which shows 86% of households living in Beirut and Mount Lebanon.

11. VARON 2016: Iraqi households: 0.8; Other Nationality households: 0.3.

12. VARON 2016: 80%.

13. VARON 2016: 8%.

14. VARON 2016: 6%.

15. VARON 2016: 6%.

UNHCR registration data June 2017

Syrian refugees are more evenly distributed across Lebanon, with 25% in Mount Lebanon, 23% in Bekaa, 15% in North, 12% in Baalbek-Hermel, 10% in Akkar, 7% in South, 4% in El Nabatieh and 2% in Beirut. Meanwhile, 89% of non-Syrian refugees live in Beirut and Mount Lebanon.

REFUGEE PROFILE AND REGISTRATION STATUS

UNHCR Registration

UNHCR registration data shows that 58% of Iraqi households arrived in 2014 and 2015, while 34% of households of refugees of Other Nationalities had arrived to the country prior to 2010. The **rate of arrival of Iraqi refugees and asylum seekers in 2017 dropped to nearly a third of the 2016 rate**, with only 657 individuals registering between January and June, compared to 1,865 during the same period in 2016. The number of refugees and asylum seekers of Other Nationalities registering from January to June 2017 remained relatively stable, at 427 compared to 481 in 2016.

In order to be included in the survey, households had to have a point of contact registered¹⁶ with UNHCR. However, this did not always mean all household members were registered: in 8% of cases, at least one member was not registered. Further investigation found that 36% of the individuals under these case numbers were seeking asylum and a further 12% were Lebanese or Palestinian spouses.¹⁷

The vast majority of households (94%) held one UNHCR registration number.¹⁸

Legal Residence

Only **9% of Iraqi refugees and 28% of refugees of Other Nationalities over 15 years old held legal residency permits** issued by the General Directorate of General Security, according to interviewees.

At the household level, just 13% of surveyed households reported that all members over 15 years old held legal residency permits.¹⁹

However, **in 80% of households none of the members held a residency permit**, a share that fluctuated between 87% among Iraqi households²⁰ and 67%

among households of refugees of Other Nationalities. Last year, 30% of households had no members with a residency permit,²¹ indicating that either those holding residency last year did not renew it or newly arrived refugees and asylum seekers did not secure residency.

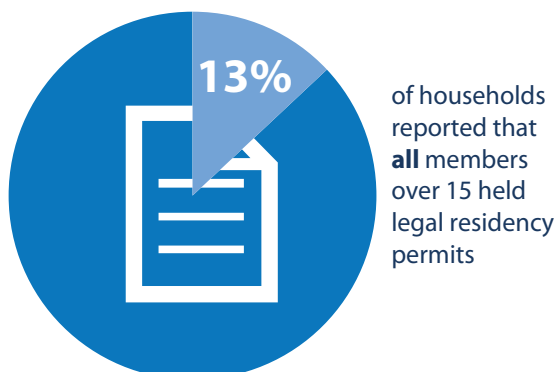


Figure 6: Households reporting all members over 15 hold legal residency

Among those who did not have residency permits, **lack of financial means** was the most common reason cited, with 82% of households of refugees of Other Nationalities and 62% of Iraqi households citing this issue.²² While it depends on the category of stay, legal residency costs an average of US\$ 200 for those over 15 years old and needs to be renewed yearly. A further 10% of Iraqis said household members had other personal reasons for not getting residency; only 1% of households of refugees of Other Nationalities chose this reason.



22. VARON 2016: 80%. Results are not directly comparable since 2016 survey had 13 options, rather than the four options in 2017's survey.

16. The figure was slightly higher among Other Nationality households (11%) than Iraqi households (7%). VARON 2016: 9% overall.

17. According to UNHCR registration data, November 2017.

18. VARON 2016: 86%.

19. VARON 2016: 58%.

20. VARON 2016: 25%.

21. VARON 2016.

Comparison of VASyR and VARON 2017 (Beirut and Mount Lebanon only)

48% of Syrian refugee households in Beirut and Mount Lebanon reported that none of the household members over 15 held a residency permit, compared to 81% of non-Syrian households in Beirut & Mount Lebanon.

PROTECTION

Birth Registration

In order to be officially recognized, all births must be registered with the appropriate authorities in the country of birth and, eventually, of nationality. A birth certificate is an official document that establishes the existence of the child under the law, and failing to register the birth may have long-lasting consequences on the life of the child. The birth registration process, up to the *Noufous* level,²³ must be completed within a year of birth, otherwise it can only occur through a costly judicial procedure. Without birth registration, refugees risk becoming stateless.

Analysis showed the percentage of children under six years of age born in Lebanon was 28% in Iraqi households and 90% in households of refugees of Other Nationalities, reflecting the earlier arrival dates of the latter group.²⁴ **Overall, 68% of parents reported that they registered the birth of their children in Lebanon**, though the questionnaire did not specify the level of registration.²⁵ **Iraqi parents were much more likely to register their child's birth**, with 82% reporting having done so, compared to 48% for refugees of Other Nationalities.

The reported rate of birth registration for children under six born outside Lebanon was much higher; 93% of births were registered in the country of birth, according to interviewees.²⁶

Eviction

A total of 58 households, or 1%, had received an eviction notice during their stay in Lebanon. The percentage was double among female-headed households. The question about evictions posed in the questionnaire was vague – “*Has the household received an eviction notice or any other threat of removal?*” – making it hard to draw firm conclusions; however, these are more likely to be threats of eviction by landlords due to failure to pay rent than formal eviction notices.

23. The Civil Registry for individuals in Lebanon.

24. VARON 2016: 36%

25. The VARON 2016 reports states that only 38% of births (or 36 out of 95 children) were registered to the *Noufous* level. Due to the small sample size of children under six born outside Lebanon in the 2016 survey, the confidence interval on these results is around 10%. The confidence interval on year's result was much lower, as the survey attempted to reach all of the non-Syrian population.

26. VARON 2016: 70%, though as above, the margin of error is high on this result due to the smaller sample size of children under six born outside Lebanon.

SHELTER

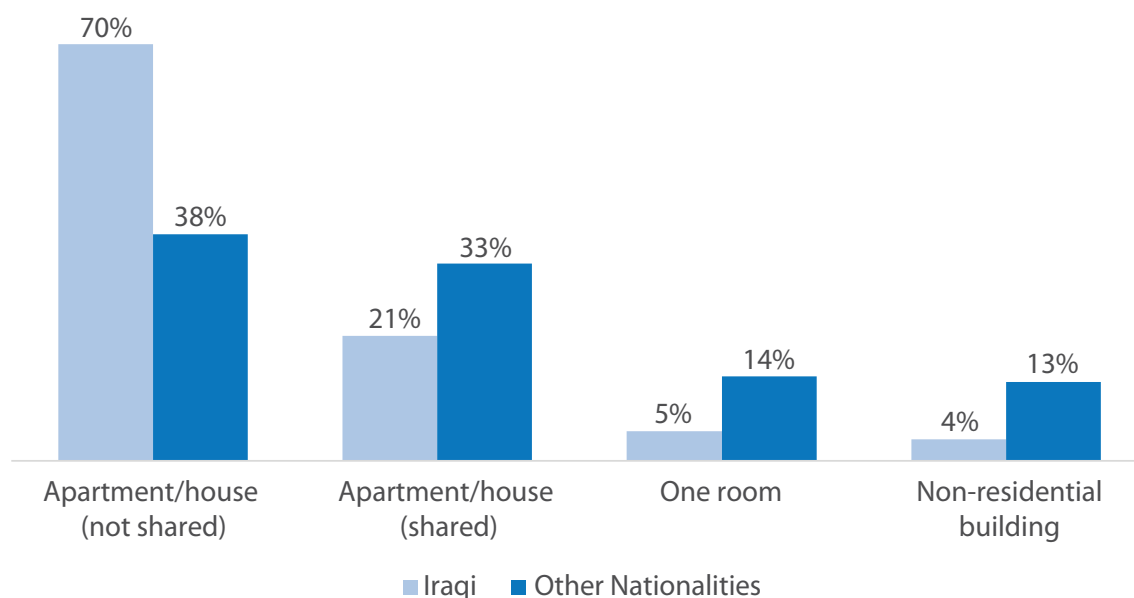
Most of the surveyed population lived in an apartment/house (85%). Households of refugees of Other Nationalities were twice as likely to share their apartment/house with other households than Iraqis (see Figure 7 below), though 71% of those sharing were single-member households. However, when comparing households with more than one member, Iraqi households were actually more likely to live in shared apartments (15% versus 9%). Households of refugees of Other Nationalities were also nearly three times more likely to reside in one room shelters than Iraqis, though again 70% of these were single-member households.

Twenty-one surveyed households reported being homeless (0.4%), 16 of which were households of refugees of Other Nationalities.²⁷

21 surveyed households were homeless



Figure 7: Share of households by type of shelter and nationality (four most common shelter types)



²⁷ In 17 of these cases, the enumerator also noted in the comment section that they were homeless. In some cases, the enumerator added extra information, for instance that the homeless household or individual slept at a school or at different houses where they are working. Most of these cases were single men or women, but four were households with two to six members.

Comparison of VASyR and VARON 2017 (Beirut and Mount Lebanon only)

Refugees of all nationalities in Beirut and Mount Lebanon live in similar shelter types, though one room shelters are a notable exception: in Beirut, Syrian refugee households were twice as likely to live in one room shelters (21%) than refugees and asylum seekers from countries other than Syria (11%).

Shelter Conditions

Overall, **16% of households resided in inadequate shelters** that were below the minimum humanitarian standards.²⁸ **Households of refugees of Other Nationalities tended to live in worse shelter conditions**, with one in four (27%) living below minimum humanitarian standards, compared to 12% for Iraqi households. Inadequate shelter refers to housing that suffers from one or more of the following:

- Dangerous conditions (the windows, doors or roof are unsealed or damaged);
- In need of urgent repair (the shelter has a damaged structure, plumbing or electricity);
- Overcrowded conditions (less than 4.5m²/person);
- Lack of a toilet (i.e. using a bucket or open air defecation).

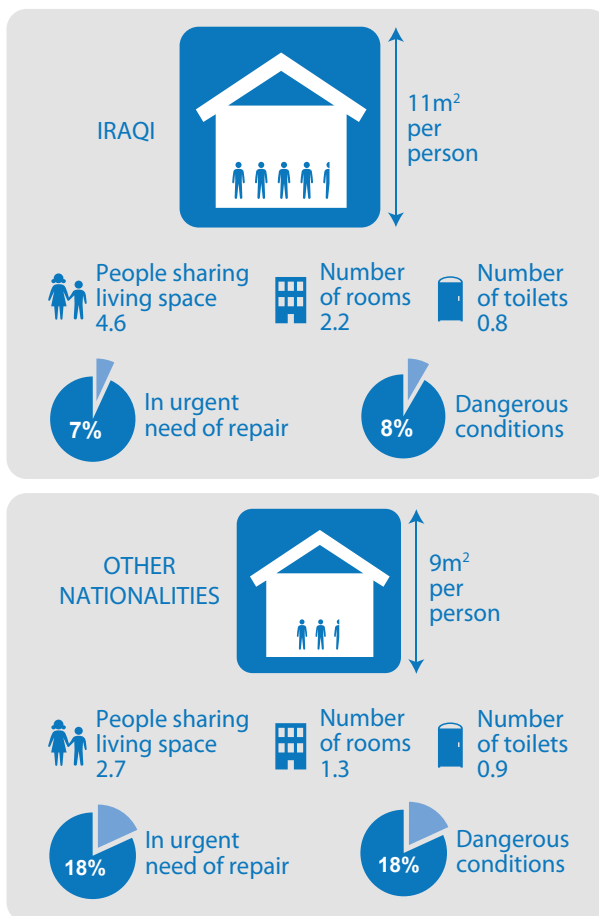


Figure 8: Comparison of shelter conditions by nationality

28. VARON 2016: 18%; Iraqi households: 15%; Other Nationality households: 23%. Results are not directly comparable as questions were phrased slightly differently; the 2017 survey included the extra options 'in an area/settlement with physical dangers and/or crowded/inappropriate living conditions' and 'in an area/settlement that is isolated and/or far from essential basic services'.

Households of refugees of Other Nationalities tended to live in smaller, more cramped shelters but with fewer people per room compared to Iraqi households. Thirty-nine per cent of households of refugees of Other Nationalities were living in less than 4.5m² per person – the minimum humanitarian standards – compared to 25% for Iraqi households. While overall, **29% of households were overcrowded** according to humanitarian standards, the average density was 10.8 square meters per person.²⁹

Moreover, **10% lived in dangerous conditions and 11% of households were living in shelters in need of urgent repair**, with significant differences between the nationality groups (see graphic).³⁰ Structural issues and roof damage were the most common complaints. Households of refugees of Other Nationalities were also worse off in this respect (see Figure 8).

Only 2% of households lacked a toilet,³¹ forcing occupants to resort to buckets or open air defecation (4% of households of refugees of Other Nationalities, and 1% of Iraqi households). Toilets and washrooms are discussed in further detail in the chapter on water, sanitation and hygiene.

Female-headed households tended to live in more cramped and inadequate conditions than male-headed households.³²

Results show a correlation between substandard shelter conditions and poor health. The percentage of individuals reporting chronic diseases increased from 19% in adequate shelters to 30% in shelters with dangerous conditions and urgently needed repairs. Those reporting temporary illnesses increased from 7% in adequate shelters to 15% in shelters with dangerous conditions and urgently needed repairs. Overcrowding also appeared to have an impact on propensity to temporary illnesses, with 13% of those living in less than 4.5m² per person suffering from temporary illness compared to 6% of those in more spacious shelters. Drawing conclusions about cause and effect is difficult. Socio-economic vulnerability also correlates with poor shelter conditions, and therefore households may lack money to spend on either health or shelter. Households with members suffering from diseases and illnesses devote a higher percentage of their expenditure to health costs than those without health issues (US\$ 30 and US\$ 15 respectively).

29. VARON 2016: 18.2m² per person.

30. VARON 2016 are not comparable. Dangerous conditions/in urgent need of repair: 9%.

31. VARON 2016: 1%.

32. For example, 16% of female-headed Iraqi households and 39% of female-headed Other Nationality households were living below minimum humanitarian shelter standards compared to 11% and 19% for male-headed households. 12% of female-headed Iraqi and 27% of female-headed Other Nationality households lived in less than 4.5m² per person, compared to 8% and 16% for male-headed households respectively.

Rent

For those paying rent, the average rental cost was US\$ 345, a slight decrease from US\$ 358 in 2016. Rent per capita was slightly higher for refugees of Other Nationalities, at US\$ 139 per capita compared to US\$ 120 for Iraqi households.

Occupancy

Results indicated that **80% of the households were renting their accommodation**.³³ A further 9% of households lived in shelter provided rent-free by their employers and 5% paid through a combination of rent and work. Single-member households were only slightly more likely to work to either partly or fully pay for their accommodation (14%). The number of single female households being hosted free of charge was much higher than the average; 13% of single women were hosted, compared to only 7% of single men.

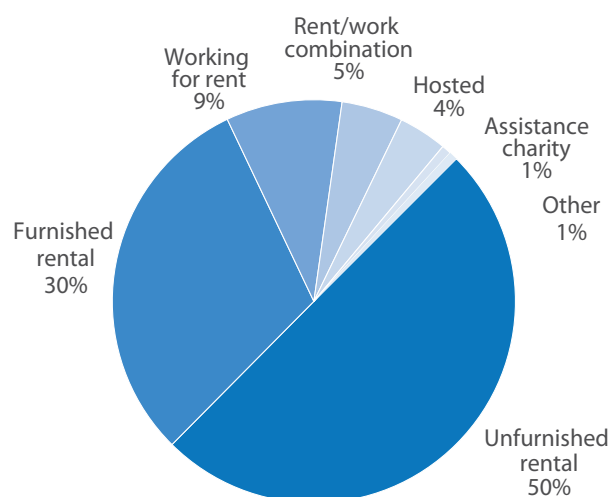


Figure 9: Occupancy types

Only 20% of those renting their accommodation had a formal agreement with their landlord. Most households renting their accommodation had informal rental agreements (68%) and 12% had no agreement at all.

Lacking a formal rental agreement puts refugees at increased vulnerability to eviction or exploitation. Households who worked for their landlord to either partly or fully pay for their accommodation were much more likely to have no agreement (24%).

33. VARON 2016: 82%.

Female-headed households were much more likely to have no rental agreement (23%) than male-headed households (11%). Single-member households were also more likely to have no rental agreement, with 27% of single females and 20% of single males reporting as such.



Comparison of VASyR and VARON 2017 (Beirut and Mount Lebanon only)

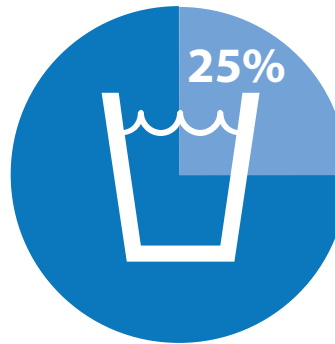
82% of Syrian refugees living in Beirut and Mount Lebanon were renting their accommodation, similar to non-Syrians (80%). 19% of Syrian refugees living in Beirut and Mount Lebanon had no rental agreement, also similar to non-Syrians (17%). Like Iraqi and Other Nationality female-headed households, Syrian female-headed households are also more likely to have no rental agreement.

WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE

Water Access

One in four households reported not having sufficient access to drinking water. Female-headed households tended to have worse access to water, with only 62% reporting having enough water for drinking and domestic use, compared to 79% of male-headed households. Households residing in shelters other than apartments/houses (i.e. non-residential buildings, one room shelters, collective shelters, etc.) were also less likely to have sufficient access to water (65%).

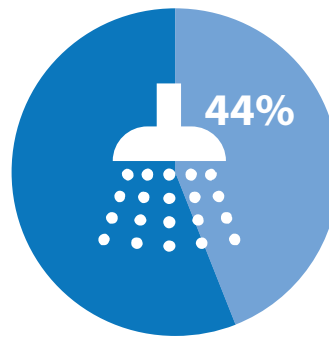
The most common source of household water was tap water (75%), which was usually available for less than two hours per day. The 2017 questionnaire did not capture access to drinking water, but the 2016 VARON report found that the most common source of drinking water was bottled mineral water (67%), followed distantly by tap water (28%).



Of households reported having insufficient access to drinking water

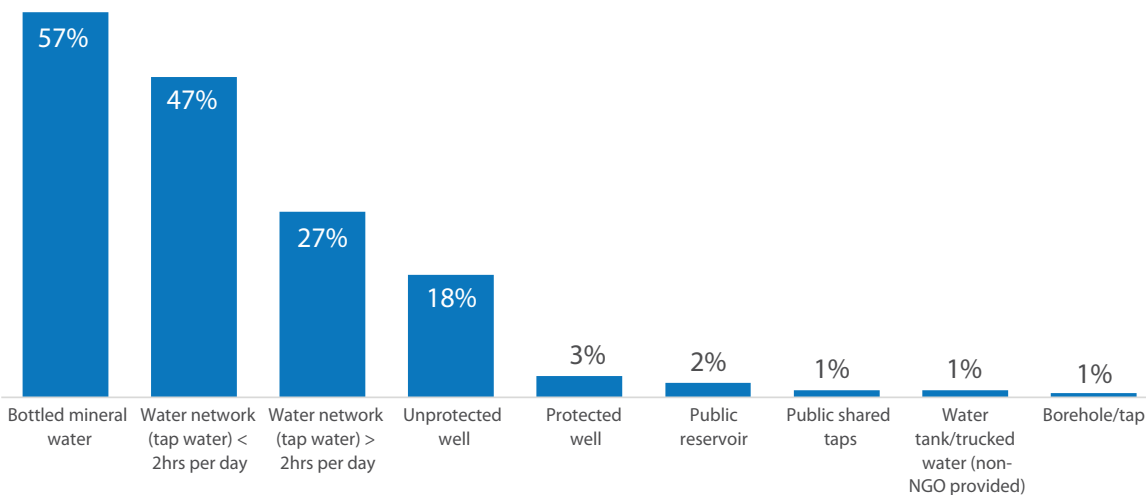
Bathrooms and Toilet Facilities

Around one in four households (26%) reported having no access to bathrooms at all,³⁴ a share that was 19% among Iraqi households and increased to 44% among households of refugees of Other Nationalities.³⁵



of Other Nationality households reported having no access to a bathroom

Figure 10: Share of households by main source of household water (multiple choice question)



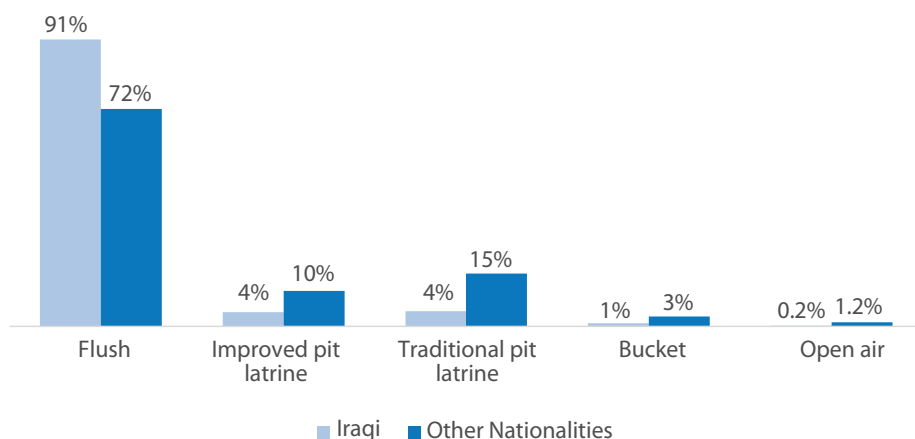
34. VARON 2016: 19%.

35. For the purposes of this report, bathroom refers to a room with a water source for washing (shower/bathtub), while toilet refers to the receptacle for urination and defecation.

As for toilet facilities, 85% had flush latrines and 6% used improved pit latrines.³⁶ Only 1% of households shared a toilet with 15 people or more.³⁷

Overall, 89 households (2%) reported lacking access to proper toilet facilities and resorting to open defecation or buckets.³⁸

Figure 11: Comparison of access to toilet facilities by nationality group

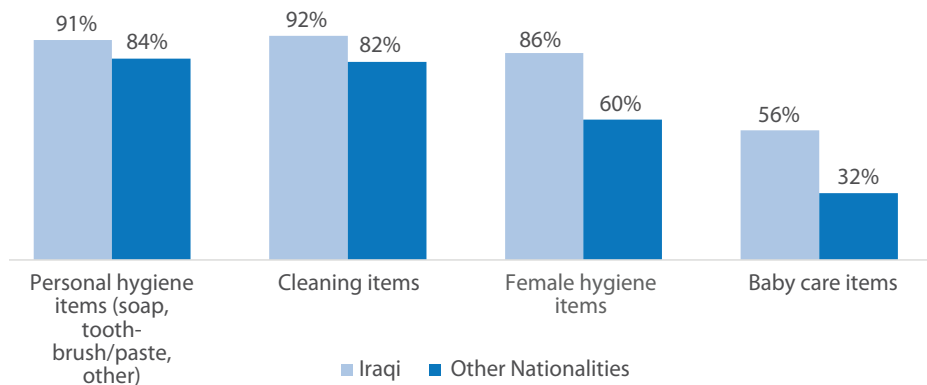


Hygiene

A large majority of households (90%) had access to cleaning items³⁹ and 89% had access to personal hygiene items.⁴⁰

For households with females, 80% had access to female hygiene.⁴² For households with babies, 49% had access to baby care items.⁴² Households of refugees of Other Nationalities and female-headed households systematically reported less access to the various types of hygiene items.⁴³

Figure 12: Comparison of access to hygiene items by nationality group



Solid Waste

Virtually all households (99.8%)⁴⁴ reported disposing of garbage in dumpsters.

36. VARON 2016: Flush latrines: 85%; improved pit latrines: 12%.

37. VARON 2016: 1%.

38. VARON 2016: 0.7%.

39. VARON 2016: 81%.

40. VARON 2016: 83%.

41. VARON 2016: 80%.

42. VARON 2016: 60%.

43. Access to cleaning items: 93% of male-headed and 87% of female-headed households; access to personal hygiene items: 91% of male-headed and 87% of female-headed households

44. VARON 2016: 94%

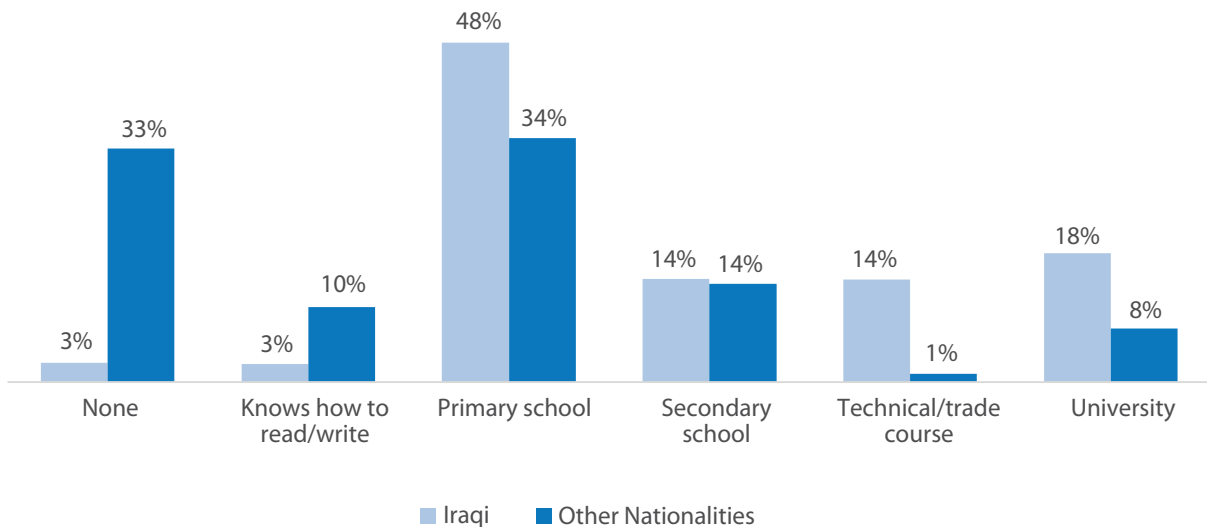
EDUCATION

Heads of household

Heads of households most commonly reported primary school as the highest level of education reached (44%).⁴⁵ A third of household heads of Other Nationalities had received no education at all (33%), a share that was much lower among Iraqi household heads (3%).⁴⁶

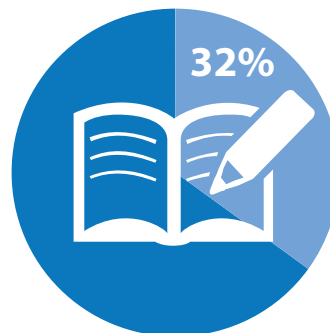
The relationship between gender and education level differed by nationality group. Male household heads of Other Nationalities were twice as likely as their female counterparts to have received no education at all (37% versus 17%), whereas Iraqi male household heads were less than half as likely to have no education as female heads of households (2% versus 6%).

Figure 13: Distribution of heads of households by level of education and nationality



School age children and youth

Approximately 21% of the interviewed population fell within the 6-17 age category (i.e. school age).⁴⁷ While all of these children should be attending schools, **only 67% of 6-17 year olds from Iraqi households and 80% from households of refugees of Other Nationalities were currently attending school**, leaving an overall 32% of children out of school.⁴⁸



Of 6-17 year old children were not attending school

45. VARON 2016: 38%

46. VARON 2016: Iraqis: 3%; Other Nationalities: 20%.

47. The proportion of school age children was significantly higher among Iraqi households (23%) than Other Nationality households (10%). VARON 2016: Iraqis: 23%; Other Nationalities: 15%.

48. VARON 2016: 45%. Results are not directly comparable. In 2016, the question asked whether the child attended formal/public school or preschool during the current school year. In 2017, the question simply asked "Is this person currently enrolled in school".

As in last year's VARON, attendance rates were systematically higher among youth of Other Nationalities with 82% of those between 6 to 14 years old attending school, compared to 76% for Iraqi youth.⁴⁹ In the 15 to 17 age category, 38% of youth of Other Nationalities attended school, compared to 32% Iraqi youth. Some children in the 15 to 17 years group were still in primary school due to lost school years. Similar attendance rates were reported for girls and boys.

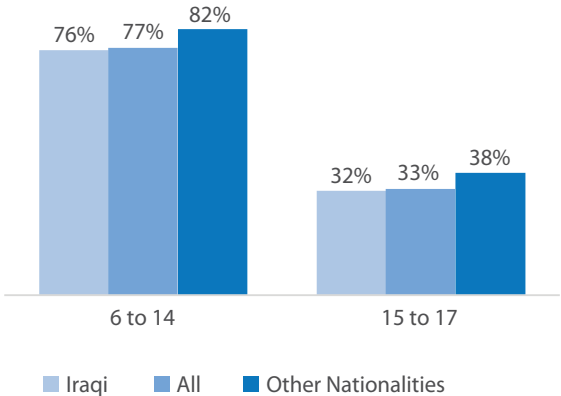


Figure 14: Attendance rates by age and nationality groups

Attendance at 6 years (the beginning of the primary cycle) was 67%, peaked at 8 years of age (84%), and decreased sharply at 15 years of age after the end of intermediate schooling (see Figure 15). The attendance rate for secondary school did not exceed 30%.

Preschool attendance was low with an average attendance rate of just 24% for 3 to 5 year olds.

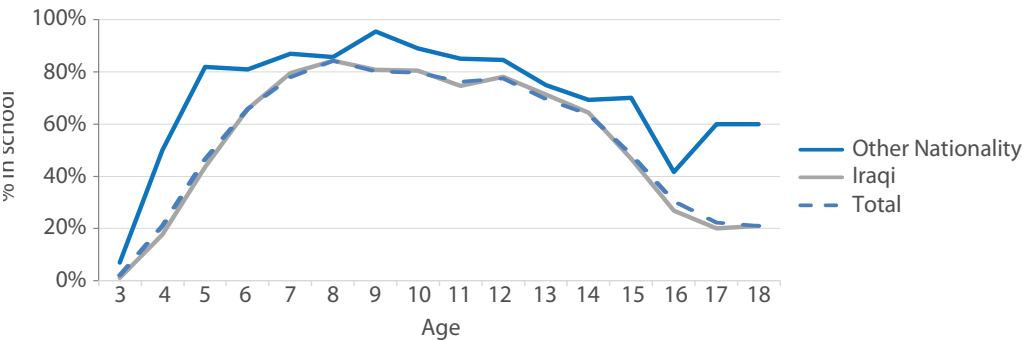


Figure 15: School attendance rate by age

There were a variety of reasons named for the failure to attend school, with the most cited being the cost of education (45%).⁵⁰ As public education—including teaching fees and parent contributions to school—was (and continues to be) covered for all refugees by the Ministry of Education and Higher Education (MEHE), the costs mentioned by respondents were likely associated costs (i.e. uniforms and transportation), or tuition fees for parents seeking private education.

Other reasons for not attending school included differences in the curriculum (15%) or that the child was attending an informal education programme (13%). **Eight per cent of 6 to 17 year olds did not go to school because they had work commitments**, according to respondents; this rose to 15% for children aged 15 to 17. Boys aged 15 to 17 tended to cite work commitments slightly more than girls (17% versus 13%). A total of 66 respondents said the school had not allowed registration/enrolment.

Five per cent of 6 to 14 year olds (51 individuals) cited “not of age for school” as the reason they did not attend school.

49. According to 2016 statistics provided by the Ministry of Education and Higher Education, only 16% of primary school age children are attending school. The discrepancy between these figures can be attributed to the utilization by Iraqi and Other Nationality households of a non-formal education structure. Families interviewed for the VARON considered these non-formal structures when reporting on the enrolment and attendance of their children.

50. VARON 2016: 44%

HEALTH

Specific Needs

For the purpose of this report, the term ‘specific needs’ refers to people within any of the following categories: (i) disability,⁵¹ (ii) chronic illness,⁵² (iii) temporary illness or injury, and (iv) serious medical condition.⁵³

More than half (53%) of all households reported having at least one member with specific needs. Iraqi households were much more likely to have at least one member with a specific need due to larger household size: 60% of Iraqi households reported at least one member with specific needs, compared to 36% of households of refugees of Other Nationalities.

However **at the individual level, there were no differences between nationality groups in terms of likelihood to suffer from specific needs.** The largest share of households (41%) reported having one or more members with chronic illnesses,⁵⁴ while around 19% of households included a member with a temporary illness.⁵⁵ These figures were in line with 2016 data.

Men and women were equally likely to suffer from all types of specific needs.

Table 2: Distribution of members with specific needs by gender and nationality group

	Disability	Chronic Illness	Temporary Illness	Serious Medical Condition
<i>Iraqi Female</i>	3%	20%	8%	1%
<i>Iraqi Male</i>	3%	19%	8%	1%
<i>Other Nationalities Female</i>	3%	21%	6%	1%
<i>Other Nationalities Male</i>	4%	20%	8%	1%

51. ‘Physical, mental, intellectual or sensory impairments from birth, or resulting from illness, infection, injury, trauma or old age. These may hinder full and effective participation in society on an equal basis with others.’ – UNHCR Guidance on the Use of Standardized Specific Needs Codes.

52. ‘Person who has a medical condition which requires long-term treatment and medication under the supervision of a physician. Such conditions include diabetes, respiratory illness, cancer, tuberculosis, HIV/AIDS and heart disease.’ – UNHCR Guidance on the Use of Standardized Specific Needs Codes.

54. ‘Serious medical condition that requires assistance, in terms of treatment or provision of nutritional and non-food items, in the country of asylum.’ – UNHCR Guidance on the Use of Standardized Specific Needs Codes.

55. At least one member with chronic illness: Iraqi households: 48%; Other Nationality households: 27%.

56. At least one member with temporary illness: Iraqi households: 23%; Other Nationality households: 10%.

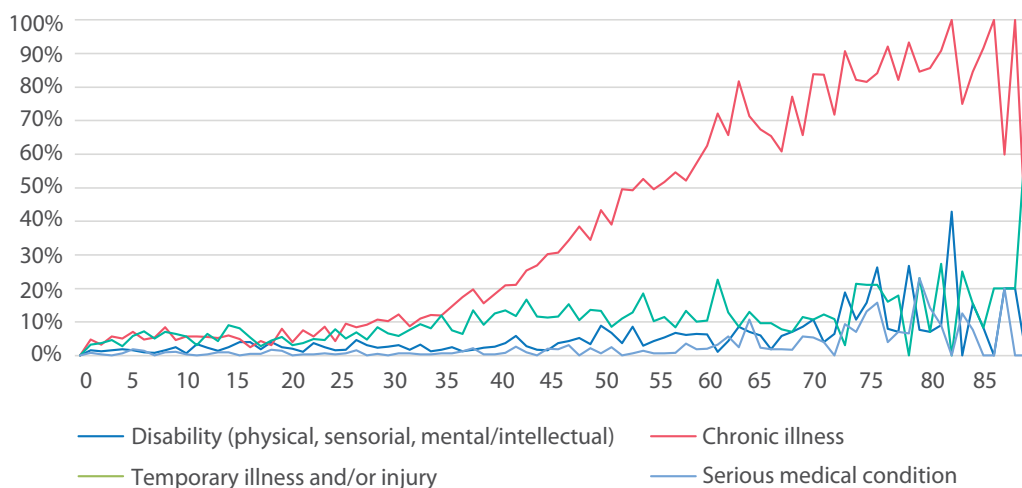


Figure 16: Percentage of individuals self-reporting specific needs by age⁵⁶

Primary Healthcare

Fifty-seven per cent of households required primary healthcare (clinics, mobile medical units) in the last 6 months.⁵⁷ Three-quarters of these instances were for chronic disorders and over half were for acute diseases, with some households requiring both (see Figure 17).

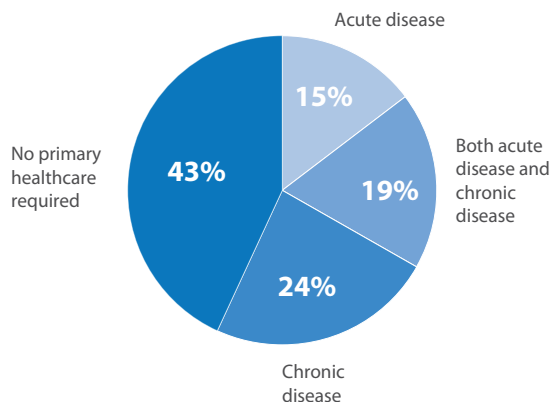


Figure 17: At least one household member requiring primary healthcare

Of those who required primary healthcare, 38% did not receive the needed assistance.⁵⁸ The cost of treatment was the main barrier to receiving treatment (82%). While some households said their primary

healthcare was subsidized or free (12%),⁵⁹ the majority said they paid for it in full (86%),⁶⁰ with little difference between Iraqi and Other Nationality households.⁶¹

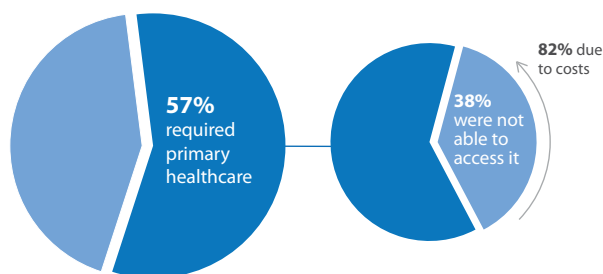


Figure 18: Access to required primary healthcare

Secondary Healthcare

Twenty-nine per cent of the surveyed households had at least one member that required secondary health services (specialized or hospitalization care) in the previous six months.⁶²

56. Ages 1-89 only.

57. VARON 2016: 30%. The increase in percentage may relate to the fact the 2017 questionnaire asked the question in two ways, which may have prompted more responses: 1) Did you require primary healthcare for an acute disease? 2) Did you require primary healthcare for a chronic disease?

58. VARON 2016: 34%.

59. VARON 2016: 42% of respondents benefitted from subsidized secondary healthcare, excluding those who had never required it.

60. VARON 2016: 29%.

61. Percentages excluding those who had never needed secondary healthcare while in Lebanon.

62. VARON 2016: 14%.

Comparison of VASyR and VARON 2017 (Beirut and Mount Lebanon only)

Among Syrian refugees in Beirut and Mount Lebanon, the percentage with a disability, temporary illness or serious medical condition were very similar to non-Syrians. However, the number of Syrians suffering from chronic illness was **14%**, lower than non-Syrians at **20%**.

Of those who required secondary healthcare, 44% could not obtain it.⁶³ Again, this was primarily due to the cost of treatment (88%). More than half of households (59%) paid for their secondary healthcare in full themselves, while 37% benefitted from subsidies from UNHCR or other organizations that partly or fully covered the cost of healthcare.⁶⁴ As in 2016, there was little difference between Iraqi and Other Nationality households in terms of assistance received for secondary healthcare.

Around a quarter of surveyed households had children under five years old. **The vast majority of these children had a vaccination card (91%) and 93% had received vaccinations**, according to respondents.⁶⁵ For the 7% of children who had not received vaccinations, most respondents cited cost of treatment as the reason (88%). No significant differences were found between the nationality groups.

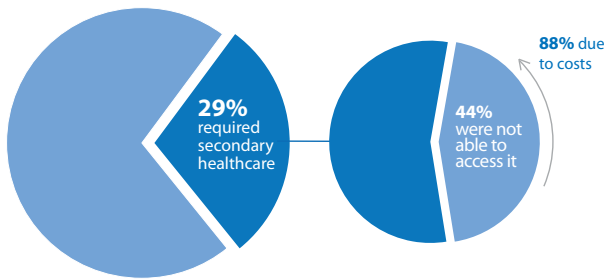


Figure 19: Access to required secondary healthcare

Mental Healthcare

Three per cent of households had at least one member that required mental healthcare support – or just 11 individuals in the follow-up phone survey. Four of those individuals accessed the care they needed; seven did not due to costs.

Child Immunization

Children under five living in Lebanon should receive the Pentavalent and MMR vaccines. The Pentavalent vaccine contains five vaccines in one injection: diphtheria, tetanus, whooping cough, hepatitis B, and haemophilus influenza type B. The three doses (Penta 1, 2, and 3) are required in infancy for protective efficacy. The MMR vaccine protects against measles, mumps and rubella.

63. VARON 2016: 33%.

64. Percentages excluding those who had never needed secondary healthcare while in Lebanon. VARON 2016: 28% of respondents benefitted from subsidized secondary healthcare, excluding those who had never required it.

65. The VARON 2016 found that 82% of children under five had received the required Pentavalent vaccine and 70% had received the MMR vaccine. Results are not directly comparable with this year's results, as the 2017 questionnaire did not specify these vaccinations.

Comparison of VASyR and VARON 2017 (Beirut and Mount Lebanon only)

Non-Syrian refugees in Beirut and Mount Lebanon appear to have slightly worse access to healthcare than Syrians. **25%** of Syrian refugees that required primary healthcare were unable to access it, compared to **36%** of non-Syrians. **41%** of Syrian households that required secondary healthcare were unable to access it, compared to **47%** of non-Syrians.

SAFETY AND SECURITY

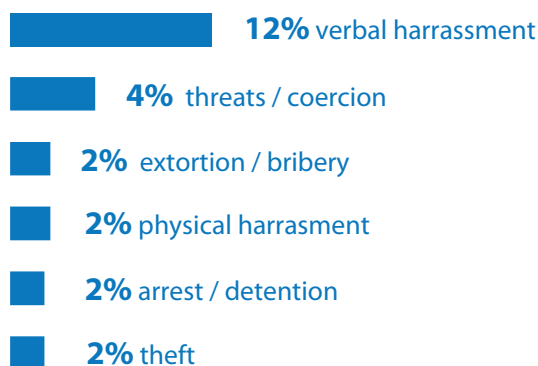
The percentage of **households experiencing issues relating to their safety and security in the last three months was 15%**.

Reported issues included verbal harassment, threats/coercion, physical harassment, extortion/bribery, theft/robbery and arrest/detention (see Figure 20). **Twenty per cent of households of refugees of Other Nationalities reported facing verbal harassment**, compared to 9% of Iraqi households. The landlord or host of the household was the cause of the issue in most cases, followed by the authorities and local organizations or charities.

15% reported experiencing safety/security incidents in the last 3 months



TYPE OF INCIDENT (multiple choice)



CAUSE OF INCIDENT (multiple choice)



Figure 20: Types and causes of safety/security incidents

Respondents were asked to rate the quality of their interactions with the host communities in their areas of residence on a scale of very negative to very positive. **Sixty per cent of respondents cited positive or very positive relations**,⁶⁶ while 37% rated relations with the host community as neutral.⁶⁷ Overall, only 3% of respondents described relations as negative or very negative. As in VARON 2016, the share of respondents that reported poor relations was higher among households of refugees of Other Nationalities (8%) than

Frequency of interaction between interviewed refugees and the host community was varied: when asked how frequently they interacted, 22% said daily, 15% regularly, 29% sometimes, 28% rarely and 6% never. **Those interacting daily or regularly with the host community generally enjoyed better relations:** 98% of this group reported positive or very positive interactions, compared to 11% of those who interacted rarely or never.

When asked about the issues driving community tensions, 91% said this question was not applicable to their community. Of the 9% that did consider there to be community tensions, most cited cultural or religious differences as the cause.

66. VARON 2016: 66% cited positive relations.

67. VARON 2016: 27%.

FOOD SECURITY

Food Consumption Score (FCS)

The Food Consumption Score (FCS) is a composite indicator score based on diet diversity, frequency of consumption, and nutrient value of the food groups consumed over a recall period of seven days. According to this score, households are classified into three groups: poor, borderline and acceptable food consumption.

Overall the majority of interviewed households reflected an acceptable FCS. Results were the same as in 2016. Approximately 81% of the surveyed population had an acceptable score, 14% are considered borderline, and 5% were found to have a poor food consumption score.⁶⁸ (A detailed explanation on FCS calculation and classification can be found in Annex 2).

Households of refugees of Other Nationalities scored significantly lower than Iraqi households. Only 72% had an 'acceptable' FCS, compared to 85% of Iraqis. Female-headed households also tended to have worse scores.⁶⁹

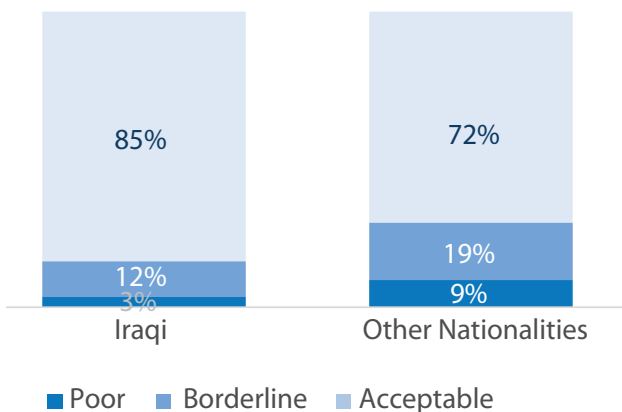


Figure 21: Food Consumption Score by nationality group

Food consumption patterns

The food groups consumed most frequently were bread, sugar and fats, all of which are characterized by their low nutritional value.

Consumption of meat/fish and fruit ranked lowest among the food groups, with nearly a third of households (31%) not consuming any in the week prior to the survey.

Around half of the surveyed households consumed dairy and eggs less than three times a week. Consumption patterns were systematically worse in households of refugees of Other Nationalities.

68. VARON 2016: Acceptable: 81%; Borderline: 13%; Poor: 6%.

69. Percentage of households with 'acceptable' FCS: 82% for Iraqi and 67% for Other Nationality female-headed households.

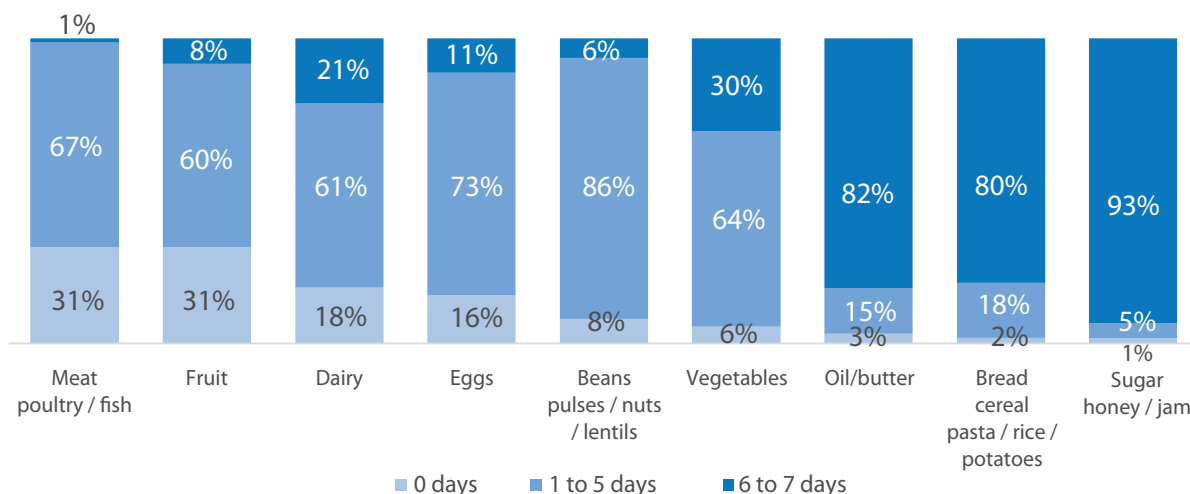


Figure 22: Proportion of households by consumption frequency by main food groups

Coping Strategies

Food related coping strategies

Three out of four households (78%)⁷⁰ reported having experienced a lack of food (and/or money to buy it) in the month prior to the survey. To cope with this lack of food, all of the 4,876 surveyed households reported adopting at least two food-related coping mechanisms.

The most common food-related coping strategies employed at least once in the week prior to the survey were:

1. Relying on less preferred or less expensive food (97% of households)⁷¹
2. Reducing the number of meals per day (49% of households)⁷²
3. Reducing portion size of meals (43% of households)⁷³
4. Borrowing food or relying on help from friends and relatives (32% of households)⁷⁴
5. Restricting adults' food consumption so that children may eat (15% of households)⁷⁵

Respondents from **200** households said they spent at least 1 day in the last 7 not eating



One in four households (24%) reduced the number of meals they ate every single day of the last seven days. One in five (19%) reduced portion sizes and 87% relied on less expensive/less preferred food every day. Households of refugees of Other Nationalities were nearly two times more likely to borrow food from friends or relatives than Iraqi households.

Two-hundred households said they spent at least one in the last seven days without eating.

70. VARON 2016: 77%.

71. VARON 2016: 97%.

72. VARON 2016: 58%.

73. VARON 2016: 55%.

74. VARON 2016: 32%.

75. VARON 2016: 19%.

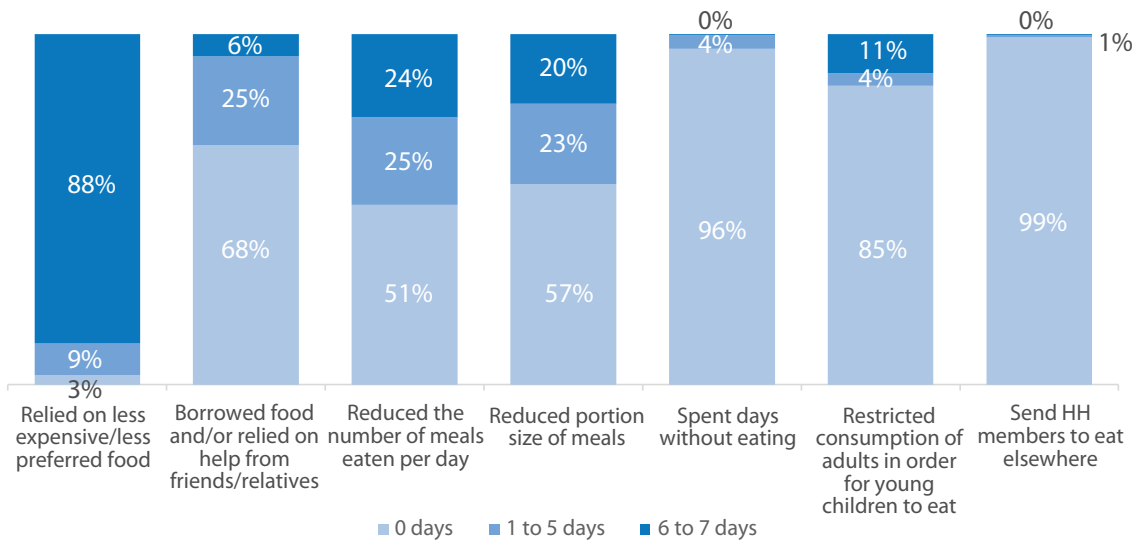


Figure 23: Households adopting food-related coping strategies in the last seven days

Asset depletion coping strategies

Non-food consumption related coping strategies are known as ‘asset depletion coping strategies.’ Responses are used to understand the stress and insecurity faced by households and indicate their capacity regarding future productivity. These strategies undermine a household’s ability to access food because they erode their fragile resources, affecting their food security.

The questionnaire asked respondents whether they had used certain coping strategies in the last 30 days. Some resources are finite and therefore once used up, cannot be used again, so the questionnaire gave respondents the option to indicate if they had already used the coping strategy in the past and therefore could not continue doing so.

Overall, **85% of surveyed households had used at least one coping strategy** at some point.

The most common strategies employed at least once were reducing expenditures on food (77% of households), reducing essential non-food expenditures such as education or health (66%), spending some or all of household savings (49%) and buying food on credit or borrowing money to purchase food (42%).

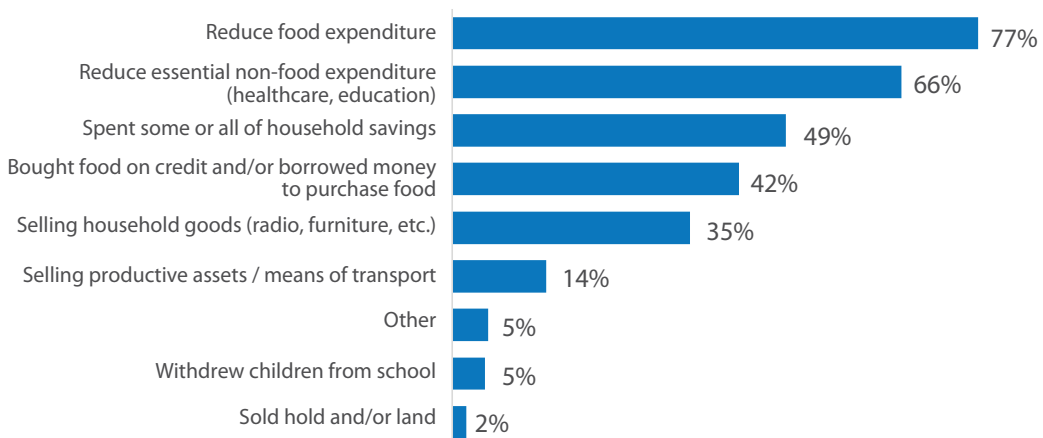


Figure 24: Households adopting asset depletion coping strategies (in last 30 days or previously)

Use of asset depletion coping strategies was generally very similar between Iraqi and Other Nationality households, though households of refugees of Other Nationalities were more likely to borrow money or use credit to buy food (55% versus 37%).

Use of asset depletion coping strategies can have an inverse relationship with other measures of vulnerability. Male-headed households were more likely than female-headed households to have employed coping strategies either in the last 30 days or in the past.⁷⁶ This may partly reflect the fact that the questionnaire did not account for respondents not having the asset in the first place to be in a position to sell it, for example, and therefore a negative response about usage of coping strategies could in fact reflect greater vulnerability.

The asset depletion coping strategies can be classified according to their severity in three categories – stress, crisis and emergency. Figure 25 indicates the strategies included under each category.

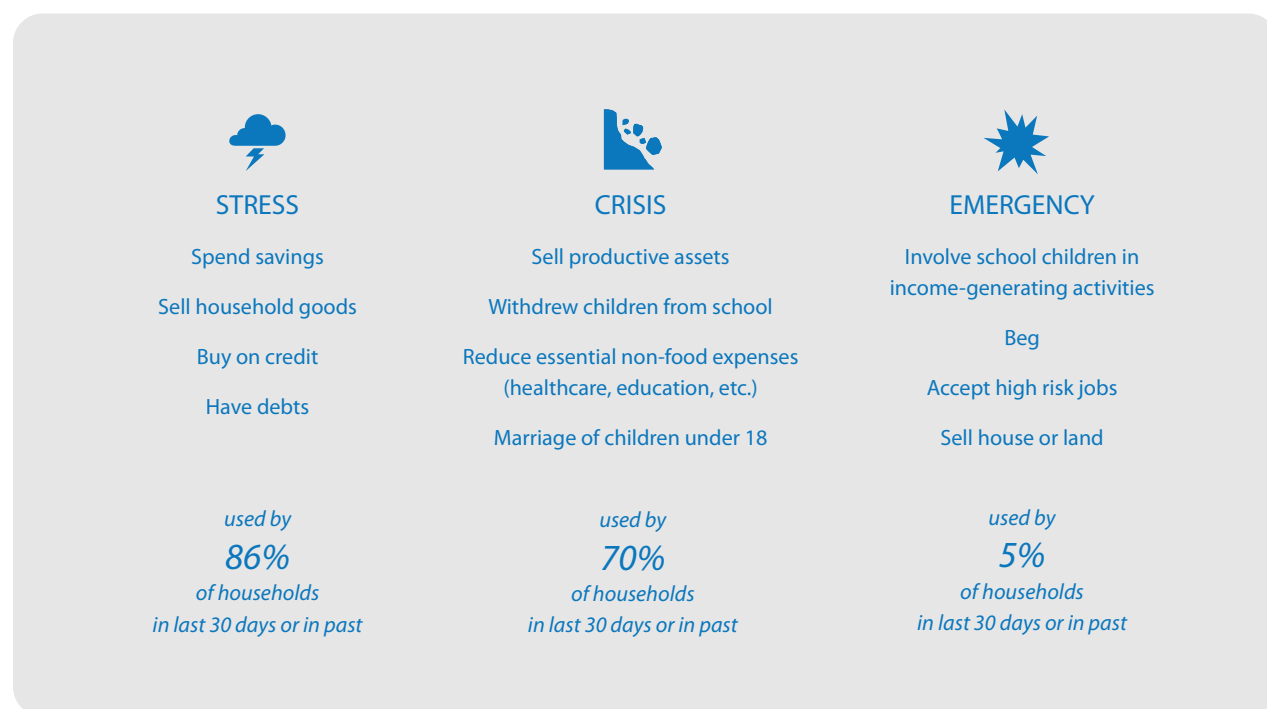


Figure 25: Asset depletion categories

Concerningly, **71% of households had used either Crisis or Emergency coping strategies** either in the past 30 days or before.

⁷⁶ In the past 30 days, 86% of male-headed households and 79% of female-headed households had employed at least one asset depletion coping strategies. 47% of male-headed households and 34% of female-headed households had already employed at least one asset depletion coping strategies in the past.

Food Expenditures Share

An additional proxy indicator of food security is the share of household expenditure used for food. Households with a high share of food expenditure often do not have enough resources to cover other important costs such as health and education. The food expenditure share is classified into four categories:

- very high > 75%
- high 65-75%,
- medium 50-65% and
- low <50%

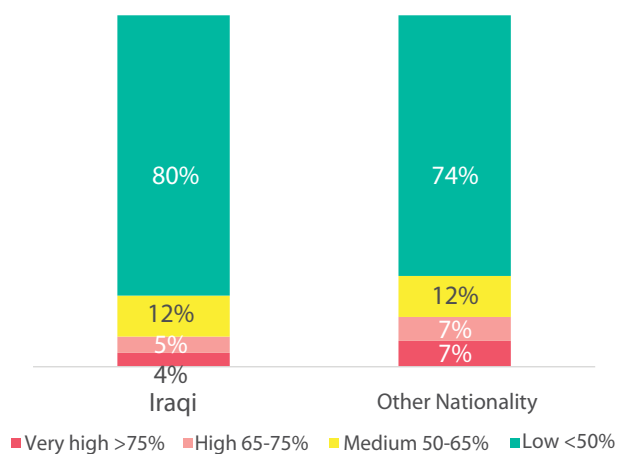


Figure 26: Food expenditures share

On average, food made up 30% of household expenditures.⁷⁸ More than three-quarters (78%) of the households surveyed spent less than 50% of their expenditures on food, indicating a low food expenditure and hence an ability to utilize resources to cover other needs within the households. Only 5% of households spent more than 75% of their expenditure on food⁷⁹ and hence were unlikely to have resources to spend on other needs.

Per capita food expenditure was US\$ 63 per month⁸⁰ with significant differences between Iraqi households (US\$ 59) and households of refugees of Other Nationalities (US\$ 73).⁸¹ This may be partly explained by the larger size of Iraqi households, which may allow some 'economies of scale' when preparing food, as well as the higher proportion of children.

77. VARON 2016: 34%.

78. VARON 2016: 4.3%.

79. Food expenditure includes purchased and non-purchased food. VARON 2016: US\$ 46.

80. VARON 2016: Iraqi households: US\$ 32; Other Nationality households: US\$ 74.

Food Security

The classification of households according to their food security is based on a composite assessment of food consumption, food expenditure and coping strategies. The formula provides a score that reflects two key dimensions of food security: the current status of the households (particularly, in the short term), for which the food consumption score is the key indicator, and the forward looking perspective/access to long-term food security, which is measured through food expenditure and the coping strategies.

The three factors considered (Food Consumption Score, Food Expenditure Share and Coping Strategies) are converted in a 4-point scale (see Table 3) and the score is the result of an average of points assigned to each factor. Relying on less preferred/expensive food is excluded from the Food Consumption Score calculation. See Annex 3 for further explanation of the food security classification.

Based on the methodology described above, households were classified into four food security categories: food secure, mildly food insecure, moderately food insecure, and severely food insecure. The food security classification of each category is described in Table 4.

Table 3: Thresholds and point scale for food security classification

	Food Security	Mild Food Insecurity	Moderate Food Insecurity	Severe Food Insecurity
Food consumption	Acceptable	Acceptable with food related coping strategies	Borderline	Poor
Food expenditure share	<50%	50-65%	65-75%	>75%
Coping strategies	Households not adopting coping strategies	Stress coping strategies	Crisis coping strategies	Emergencies coping strategies

Table 4: Food security categories description

Food Security Group	Household Group Condition*
Food Security	Able to meet essential food and non-food needs without engaging in atypical coping strategies
Mild Food Insecurity	Has minimally adequate food consumption without engaging in irreversible coping strategies; unable to afford some essential non-food expenditures
Moderate Food Insecurity	Has significant food consumption gaps or marginally able to meet minimum food needs only with irreversible coping strategies
Severe Food Insecurity	Has extreme food consumption gaps or has extreme loss of livelihood assets that will lead to food consumption gaps or worse

Information obtained on food consumption, food expenditure, and coping strategies indicates that only 13% of households can be classified as food secure. As shown in Table 5, the remaining 87% reported some degree of food insecurity: 0.4% rated as severely food insecure, 15% as moderately food insecure, and 71% as mildly food insecure. The prevalence of food insecurity is mainly driven by the high percentage of households

adopting crisis coping strategies to cope with lack of food or money to buy it.

Households of refugees of Other Nationalities tended to have worse Food Expenditure and Food Consumption Scores than Iraqi households, but use of Coping Strategies were similar between the two groups.

Table 5: Prevalence of food security and proxy indicators (2017)

	Acceptable	Mild	Moderate	Severe
Food Security	13%	71%	15%	0.4%
Food consumption	43%	38%	14%	5%
Food expenditure share	78%	12%	5%	5%
Coping strategies	9%	20%	66%	5%



Figure 27: Food Security Classification by nationality group

Gender Dimensions of Vulnerability

Female-headed households fared worse than their male counterparts on many indicators of vulnerability, though male-headed households had greater recourse to crisis and emergency coping strategies.

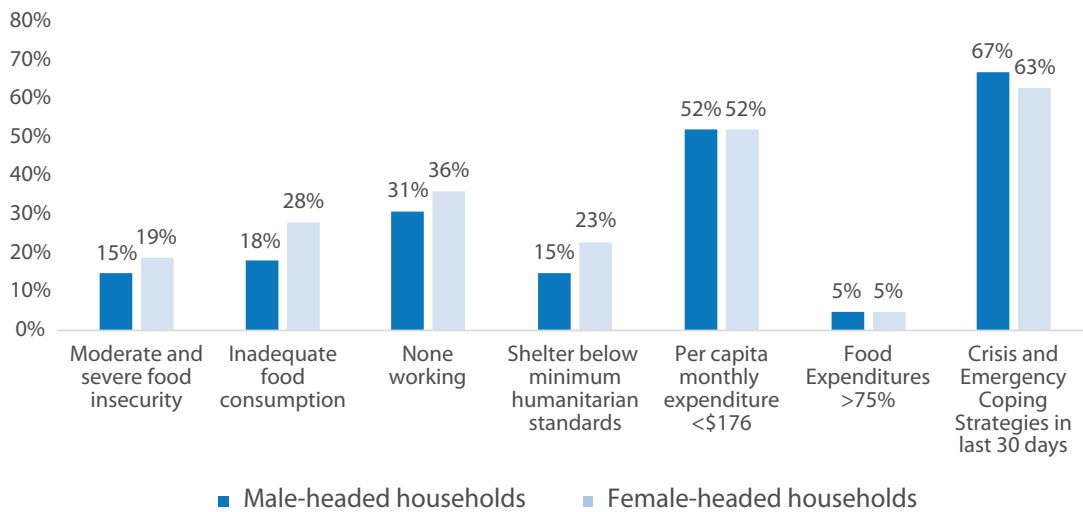


Figure 28: Comparative vulnerability of female/male-headed households

ECONOMIC VULNERABILITY

Expenditures

The monthly expenditure of surveyed households averaged US\$ 227 per capita or US\$ 607 per family. Per capita expenditure for Iraqi households at US\$ 220 was lower than for households of refugees of Other Nationalities (US\$ 248). As described in the Food Expenditures Share chapter, the lower per capita expenditure of Iraqi households can be partly explained by their larger average family size, which may allow some ‘economies of scale’ when preparing food or renting accommodation, as well as the higher proportion of children. At the household level, the expenditure of Iraqi households was much higher due to the larger average family size, as (see Figure 29).

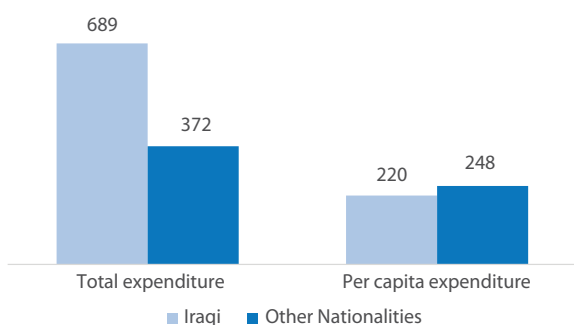


Figure 29: Average total expenditure and per capita expenditure by nationality group (US\$)

On average, the two highest expenditure groups were rent (38%)⁸¹ and food (30%).⁸² While in Iraqi households, the highest share of monthly expenditures went toward rent (39%), in households of refugees of Other Nationalities the highest spending share was allocated to food (35%). Healthcare was as a distant third for both groups, followed by communications.

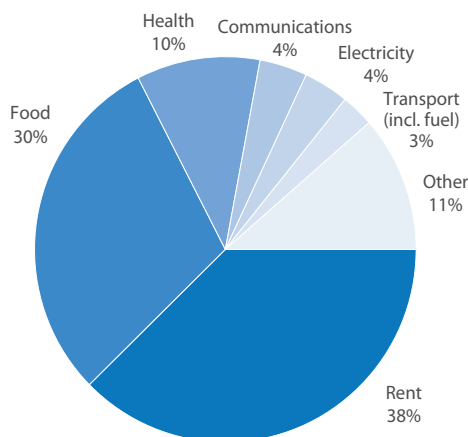


Figure 30: Percentage of household expenditures by item

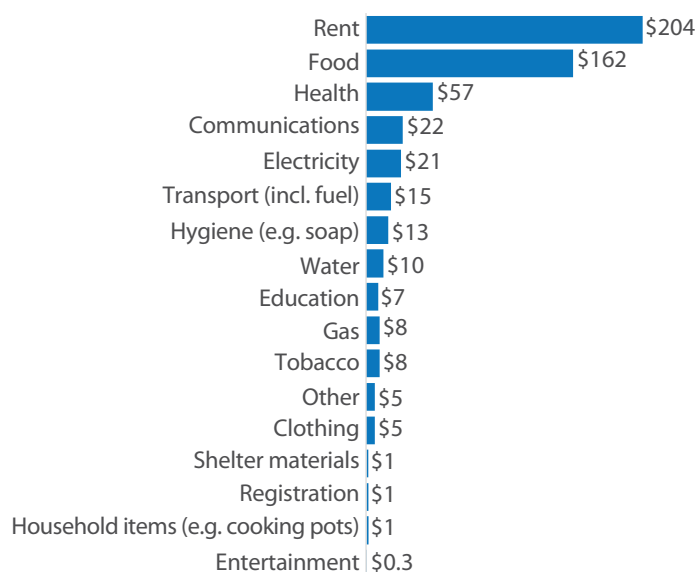


Figure 31: Average monthly expenditure per household by item (USD)⁸³

Average expenditure on rent was skewed by those paying no rent at all (households that are hosted for free or working in exchange of rent). For those paying rent, the average rental cost was US\$ 345, as noted in the Shelter chapter.

81. VARON 2016: 35%.

82. VARON 2016: 34%.

83. The figures in this chart do not add up to the total household expenditure of US\$ 607 due to the fact total expenditures of value zero were excluded from this calculation. When calculating expenditure by individual item, zeros were included.

Income–expenditure gap

Household expenditure per capita exceeded income per capita by US\$ 85 on average.⁸⁴ This gap was higher in Iraqi households at US\$ 100 compared to US\$ 47 for households.⁸⁵ Households were assigned to one of five categories based on the size of this gap in Figure 32 below.

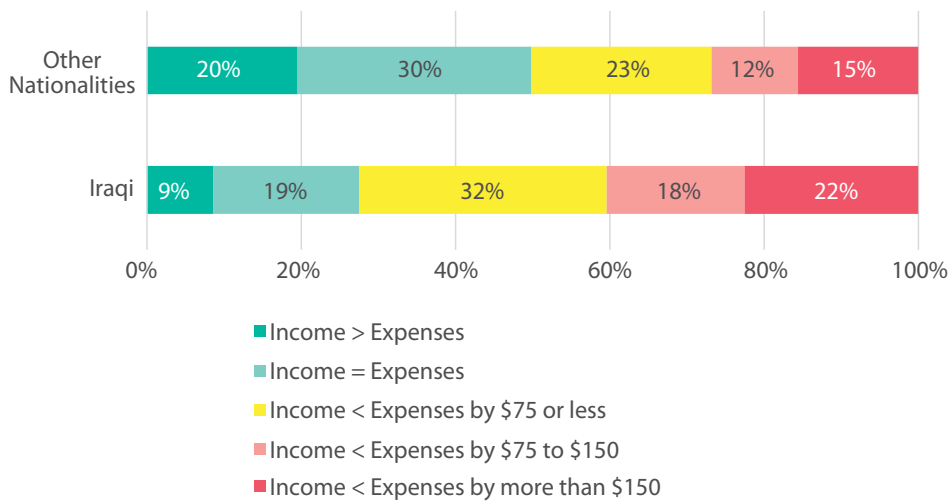


Figure 32: Gap between per capita income and expenditures by nationality group

Half of households of refugees of Other Nationalities were earning an income that exceeded or equalled their expenses per capita, compared to only 28% of Iraqi households.⁸⁶ Only 16% of households of refugees of Other Nationalities had a gap exceeding US\$ 150 between their income and expenditures, compared to 23% of Iraqi households. This was likely due to the difference in household composition with a higher dependency rate in Iraqi households. It is also possible that households of refugees of Other Nationalities, who appear to be more likely to travel to Lebanon without their families, send remittances back to their country of origin. This ‘expense’ is not captured in the questionnaire.

Debt

More than a half of surveyed households (59%) reported borrowing money or receiving credit in the last 30 days.⁸⁷ This share was higher among households of refugees of Other Nationalities (76%) than among Iraqi households (53%).⁸⁸

The average total amount of debt per capita for all surveyed households was US\$ 289.⁸⁹ Debt per capita was considerably lower among Iraqi households (US\$ 275 per capita compared to US\$ 324 per capita among households of refugees of Other Nationalities).⁹⁰

84. VARON 2016: US\$ 174.

85. VARON 2016: Iraqi households: US\$ 231; Other Nationality households: US\$ 51

86. VARON 2016: Iraqi households: 13%; Other Nationality households: 27%.

87. The 2016 VARON analysed the gap between income and expenditure at the household level. Due to the smaller size of Other Nationality households, their financial condition appeared considerably better households: 24%; Other Nationality households: 3%.

88. The VARON 2016 survey asked whether household members had borrowed money and/or received credit in the last 90 days; 54% responded positively. This is not comparable with VARON 2017 which asks about the last 30 days.

89. VARON 2016: Iraqi households: 49%; Other Nationality households: 61%.

90. VARON 2016: US\$ 682.

Livelihoods and Income

Overall, 42% of 'working age' individuals had worked in the 30 days prior to the survey for an average of 22 days, with little difference between genders.⁹¹ Refugees of Other Nationalities were much more likely to have worked in the last 30 days: 48% reported to have done so, compared to 24% of Iraqi refugees.

A third of households (34%) had no workers at all and therefore no income from labour, with a slightly higher figure for Iraqi households⁹² and female-headed households.⁹³

Ages of workers

Ninety-six per cent of those who reported working were 'working age' (18 to 59), leaving 3% of those working under 18 years old and 1% over 60.

One in six 15 to 17 years old – virtually all of them Iraqi – had worked in the last 30 days, for an average of 23 days. Fourteen children aged 6 to 14 years old – all Iraqi – reported working; these 14 children worked for an average of 20 days in the last 30.

Days worked per month was similar for men and women, boys and girls.

Searching for work

Refugees of Other Nationalities were also more likely to be searching for work: 52% had searched for work in the last 30 days, compared to 25% of Iraqis. Since Iraqi households are larger and tend to have more children, it may not be surprising to find one parent staying at home running the household while the other works or searches for work.

Pay for work

Pay averaged between US\$ 15-16 per day for those aged 18 to 59 – both men and women, Iraqis and Other Nationalities. The average rate dropped to US\$ 13 per day for over 60s, US\$ 11 for 15 to 17 year olds and US\$ 6 for 6 to 14 year olds.

Income

Total reported income was US\$ 335 per month for Iraqi households and US\$ 278 for Other Nationality households – noting the impact of larger Iraqi household sizes. Per capita, Iraqi households earned US\$ 101 compared to US\$ 158 for households of refugees of Other Nationalities.

Work/labour was the main source of income for both Iraqi households (48%) and households of refugees of Other Nationalities (52%). Households of refugees of Other Nationalities were more likely to rely to debt as their main source of income (35%) compared to Iraqi households (23%). However, Iraqi households were much more reliant on remittances, with 10% reporting this as their main source of income, compared to less than 1% of households of refugees of Other Nationalities.

Female-headed households were twice as likely to rely on humanitarian assistance and remittances as their main source of income as male-headed households.⁹⁴

91. 43% of men and 41% of women reported working in the 30 days prior to the survey.

92. 35% of Iraqi and 31% of Other Nationality households.

93. 36% of female-headed and 31% of male-headed households.

94. Remittances as main form of income: 16% of female-headed households, 8% of male-headed households. Humanitarian assistance as main form of income: 16% of female-headed households, 7% of male-headed households.

ASSISTANCE AND HOUSEHOLD ASSETS

Financial Assistance

Eligible refugees may receive financial assistance in the form of Multi-Purpose Cash or Winter Cash. Cash assistance is provided to the most socio-economic vulnerable refugee households (determined through a desk formula), who are free to use this cash as needed.

Overall, 24% of households reported receiving some kind of cash assistance in the three months prior to the survey – 28% of Iraqi households and 14% of households of refugees of Other Nationalities. Data on UNHCR’s Refugee Assistance Information System (RAIS) shows that during 2017, 38% of households had received some kind of cash assistance, with 27% receiving Multi-Purpose Cash and 36% receiving Winter Cash.

Female-headed households were more likely to receive any kind of assistance. For Iraqis, 31% of female-headed and 27% of male-headed reported receiving any kind of financial assistance. For Other Nationalities, 17% of female-headed and 13% of male-headed households reported receiving any kind of financial assistance.

In 2016, only 9% of households reported receiving Multi-Purpose Cash and 5% reported receiving Winter Cash. The increase since last year reflects the expansion of the Multi-Purpose Cash programme for non-Syrians starting March 2017 from 800 to 1,500 households.

Assets

Results indicate an increasing trend of ‘basic’ and ‘medium’ asset ownership. Household assets were classified into three categories: basic, medium, and extended.

Table 6: Asset classification

Basic	Mattress, blanket, winter clothes, gas stove
Medium	Water heater, bed, table, sofa, fridge, washing machine
Extended	Oven, microwave, dish washer/freezer, water container, heater, dryer

The results showed that households owned an average of 3.3 out of 4 ‘basic’ assets, up from 3.2 in 2016 and 3.0 in 2015. Ownership of ‘medium’ assets also appeared to increase to 4.1 out of 6 – up from 3 in 2015 and 3.6 in 2016. Households on average owned 2.0 out of 6 ‘extended’ assets. Ownership of ‘extended’ assets was not directly comparable with 2016 data as the VARON 2017 questionnaire included different assets.⁹⁵

Asset ownership among Iraqi households was systematically higher than among households of refugees of Other Nationalities.

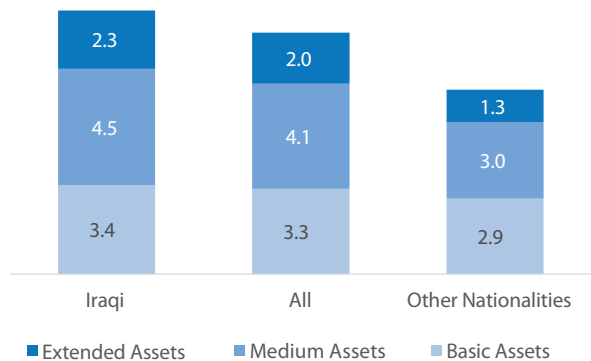


Figure 33: Average number of basic, medium and extended assets by nationality group

Over half of the households owned all four basic assets.⁹⁶ The share rose to 66% for Iraqi households, compared to 46% for households of refugees of Other Nationalities.

Analysis of ownership rate of specific assets, regardless of their category classification, sheds greater light both on the priorities as determined by the households themselves and on the realities imposed by financial means. Assets were classified into four categories based on the share of households that own these particular assets.

95. Extended assets in 2015/16 were: Electric oven, microwave, dishwasher, central heating, air conditioning, sewing machine, DVD player, computer, motorcycle, car. Households owned on averaged 1.2 extended assets in 2015 and 1.3 in 2016.

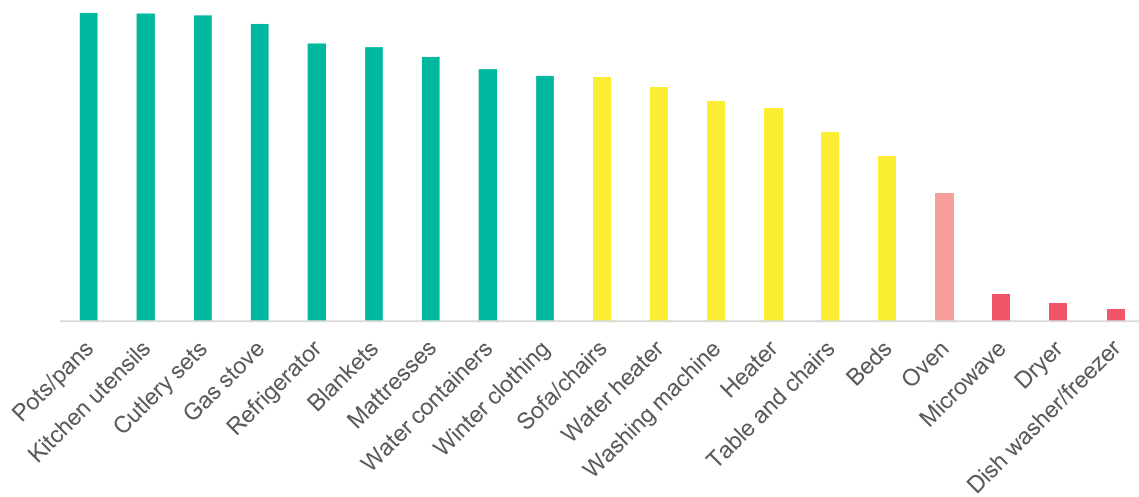
96. VARON 2016: 47%.

Table 7: Ownership rate classification

High Ownership Rate	Owned by more than 75% of the households
Medium Ownership Rate	Owned by 50% to 75% of the households
Low Ownership Rate	Owned by 15% to 50% of the households
Very Low Ownership Rate	Owned by less than 15% of the households

The results showed high ownership of all four basic assets. Ownership of winter clothing increased from 61% of households in 2016 to 75% of households in 2017.

Figure 34: Share of households by asset owned



ANNEXES

Annex 1: Food Consumption Score

The food consumption score (FCS) is based on dietary diversity (number of food groups consumed by households during the seven days prior to the survey), food frequency (number of days on which each food group is consumed during the seven days prior to the survey) and the relative nutritional importance of each food group. A weight was attributed to each food group according to its nutrient density. The food consumption score is calculated by multiplying the frequency of consumption of each food group (maximum of seven if a food group was consumed every day) by each food group weight and then averaging these scores.

Table 9: Food groups weighting

Food groups	Weight	Justification
Main staples	2	Energy dense/usually eaten in large quantities, protein content lower and poorer quality (PER less) than legumes, micro-nutrients (bounded 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
Fruits	1	Low energy, low protein, no fat, micro-nutrients
Meat, fish or eggs	4	Highest quality protein, easily absorbable micro-nutrients (no phytates), energy dense, fat. Even when consumed in small quantities, improvement to the quality of diet are large
Milk	4	Highest quality protein, micro-nutrients, vitamin A, energy. However, milk could be consumed only in very small amount and should then 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 micro-nutrients. 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

The FCS can have a maximum value of 112, implying that each food was consumed every day for the last seven days. Households are then classified on the basis of their FCS and standard thresholds into three categories: poor, borderline and acceptable. The cut off points have been set at 28 and 42 as recommended by the WFP Emergency Food Security Assessment Handbook. This is to allow for the fact that oil and sugar are consumed extremely frequently among all households surveyed and the cut off points have been heightened to avoid distorting the FCSs of those surveyed.

Annex 2: Food Security Classification

The Food Security Classification is based on the combination of three main indicators: the food consumption score, the livelihood coping strategies and the expenditures share.

- The Food Consumption Score (FCS) measures current food consumption. Households are grouped based on the variety and frequency of foods consumed as indicated in the FCS Annex.
- The FCS is grouped into three categories: acceptable, borderline and poor. The 'acceptable' group is then divided between those who adopted coping strategies (and said they reduced food expenditure during the last 30 days). Another group is created for the classification of food security combining those who have acceptable food consumption and they applied any food related coping strategies.
- Share of food expenditures measures the economic vulnerability. Households are categorized based on the share of total expenditures directed to food. Households which allocate more of their expenditures on food are more likely to be food insecure.
- The livelihood coping strategies measures sustainability of livelihoods. Households are categorized based on severity of asset depletion coping strategies employed. Households who did not apply any coping strategies fall under the category of food security.

Food security classification include four categories: food secure, mildly food insecure, moderately food insecure and severely food insecure.

Table 9: Thresholds and point scale for food security classification

	Food Security	Mild Food Insecurity	Moderate Food Insecurity	Severe Food Insecurity
<i>Food consumption</i>	<i>Acceptable</i>	<i>Acceptable with food related coping strategies</i>	<i>Borderline</i>	<i>Poor</i>
<i>Food expenditure share</i>	<i><50%</i>	<i>50-65%</i>	<i>65-75%</i>	<i>>75%</i>
<i>Coping strategies</i>	<i>Households not adopting coping strategies</i>	<i>Stress coping strategies</i>	<i>Crisis coping strategies</i>	<i>Emergencies coping strategies</i>

Table 10 below describes the combination of the components for the Food Security classification.

Table 10: Food security categories description

Food Security Group	Household Group Condition*
Food Security	Able to meet essential food and non-food needs without engaging in atypical coping strategies
Mild Food Insecurity	Has minimally adequate food consumption without engaging in irreversible coping strategies; unable to afford some essential non-food expenditures
Moderate Food Insecurity	Has significant food consumption gaps or marginally able to meet minimum food needs only with irreversible coping strategies
Severe Food Insecurity	Has extreme food consumption gaps or has extreme loss of livelihood assets that will lead to food consumption gaps or worse.

The steps to compute food security categories are the following:

- Convert the three food security indicators into 4-point scale indexes:
 - Coping strategy index
 - Food expenditure share index
 - Food consumption score index that was classified into four groups as follows:

FCS Groups	Score
Acceptable	1
Acceptable with food-related coping strategies	2
Borderline	3
Poor	4

- Calculate the coping capacity indicator by computing a rounded mean for the coping strategies index and the food expenditures share index;
- Calculate the 'Food Security Classification' by computing a rounded mean of the household's FCS score index and the Coping Capacities indicator. This variable will have a value from 1 to 4 and represents the household's overall food security outcome.

Please find below the link for more information about food security classification:

http://documents.wfp.org/stellent/groups/public/documents/manual_guide_proced/wfp203208.pdf

