

# REFUGEES AT HOME

## A LIVELIHOODS ASSESSMENT OF LEBANESE RETURNEES FROM SYRIA

November 2014



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The International Organization for Migration in collaboration with the Consultation and Research Institute (CRI).

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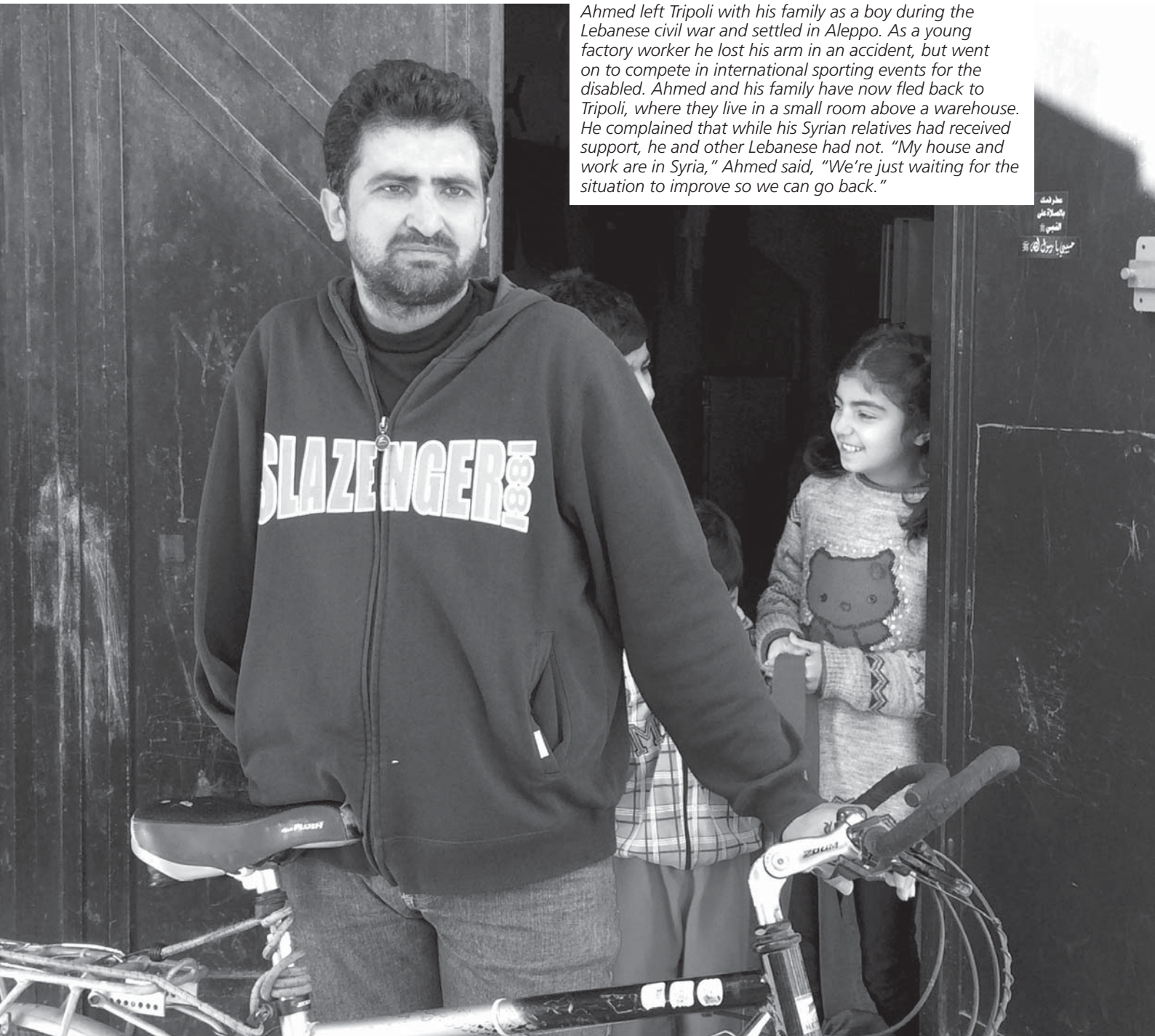
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Ahmed left Tripoli with his family as a boy during the Lebanese civil war and settled in Aleppo. As a young factory worker he lost his arm in an accident, but went on to compete in international sporting events for the disabled. Ahmed and his family have now fled back to Tripoli, where they live in a small room above a warehouse. He complained that while his Syrian relatives had received support, he and other Lebanese had not. "My house and work are in Syria," Ahmed said, "We're just waiting for the situation to improve so we can go back."

طرابلس  
والصلاة على  
النبي  
صلى الله عليه وسلم

# Table of Contents

<b>1. Introduction &amp; Key Findings .....</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>2. Methodology.....</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>3. Findings .....</b>	<b>11</b>
3.1 Household Composition & Background .....	11
3.2 Displacement Profile .....	15
3.3 Shelter .....	15
3.4 Education .....	19
3.5 Health.....	20
3.6 Household Income & Expenditure .....	22
3.7 Humanitarian Assistance .....	26
<b>4. Concluding Remarks &amp; Recommendations .....</b>	<b>29</b>
<b>APPENDIX 1. ....</b>	<b>32</b>
Questionnaire .....	32
<b>APPENDIX 2. ....</b>	<b>37</b>
Lebanese Returnee Referral Guidelines .....	37

# 1.

## Introduction & Key Findings

Over three years after it began, the Syria crisis continues to weigh extremely heavily upon Lebanon. Around a quarter of its population is now made up of refugees, whose needs remain dire even as the resources available to address them appear to be shrinking. The socio-economic impact of the crisis has affected the country as whole – particularly the deprived communities that host the majority of those displaced.<sup>1</sup> Prices have risen, labor markets are saturated and public service providers overstretched.

Lebanese families who had been living in Syria but fled as a result of the conflict are often particularly vulnerable. Most of these Lebanese returnees had been residing in Syria for decades and face challenges similar to those of refugees – finding shelter, food and the means to survive.

As Lebanese citizens, returnees enjoy legal status in the country and should have equal access to the labour market and public services. In reality, though, they are often perceived as Syrians and are unfamiliar with the services available to them. While some returnees have enjoyed support from friends or family networks in Lebanon, this is often not the case - especially so long into the crisis. Furthermore, through the beginning of the emergency response, returnees were not targeted in the same way as refugees and remain, on the whole, an under assisted group.

From July to October 2013, IOM supported the Lebanese government's High Relief Commission (HRC) in a country-wide project to register and profile Lebanese returnees from Syria. The findings were published in a report,<sup>2</sup> and have formed the basis of efforts to expand assistance to Lebanese returnees

in coordination with other partners. In May 2014, IOM decided to undertake a further survey focused on the economic situation of Lebanese returnee households to better inform long term programming that seeks to improve their livelihoods. The profiling and registration exercise had not captured detailed information on the socio-economic status of returnees and, in early 2014, this was highlighted as an important information gap by the Inter-Agency Multi-Sector Needs Assessment<sup>3</sup>. The survey also aimed to provide an update on more general, multi-sectoral information on Lebanese returnees. IOM commissioned the Consultation and Research Institute (CRI) to conduct the survey, which used a sample of 313 households and began in June 2014.

The survey confirmed that the situation of Lebanese returnees remains closely similar to that of Syrian refugees. As with Syrian refugees, they were mostly renting accommodation, whether in apartments (65%) or single-room structures, warehouses and unfinished buildings (27%), while a small number were in informal settlements. Almost four years into the crisis, many still lack basic household assets such as winter clothes and stoves. In one quarter of households, no individual had worked for the past month. Those that had worked, were mostly engaged on a temporary basis in unskilled labour, earning an average of USD 10.5 a day. Half the respondents had experienced a lack of food or money to buy food in the month before the survey, and had adopted negative coping mechanisms related to food consumption. As many as 52% of returnees said they intend, eventually, to move back to Syria rather than reintegrate in Lebanon.

<sup>1</sup> More than 60 percent of Lebanese living under the poverty line are in areas that host 80 percent of Syrian refugees.

<sup>2</sup> "The Situation and Needs of Lebanese Returnees from Syria," IOM Lebanon, December 2013, <http://www.iom.int/files/live/sites/iom/files/Country/docs/The-Situation-and-Needs-of-Lebanese-Returnees-from-Syria.pdf>

<sup>3</sup> "Inter-agency Multi-Sector Needs Assessment (MSNA) - Phase One Report: Secondary Data Review and Analysis," May 2014, <http://reliefweb.int/report/lebanon/inter-agency-multi-sector-needs-assessment-msna-phase-one-report-secondary-data>

“ In Syria, they considered us as foreigners since we are Lebanese. Here in Lebanon, they consider us foreigners since we come from Syria. They call us ‘returnees’, but in Arabic the colloquial expression is ‘Lebanese who were living in Syria’ ”

**AHMAD**, who lived all his life in a suburb of Damascus but ‘returned’ to Rawda in the Bekaa, where his family was originally from.



*IOM provides rental subsidies to some vulnerable returnee and refugee households.*

## 2. Methodology

The launch of the survey was preceded by a brief desk review of relevant materials, based upon which the CRI team designed the technical tools and sampling methodology for the study. Following a rapid assessment conducted in July 2013, HRC estimated the number of Lebanese returnees from Syria at 5,976 households (approximately 29,000 individuals). By the end of the registration and profiling project in October 2013, HRC had registered 3,206 households (17,510 individuals) - a figure representing an estimated 75% of the total returnee population.<sup>4</sup> Subsequent projections, based on the rate of arrival of returnees and available figures of Lebanese living in Syria, estimated that the number of returnees would reach 50,000 by end 2014.

In this context, the sample size for this survey was set at 300 households including 250 previously registered and 50 unregistered, to be identified by CRI.<sup>5</sup> The geographic distribution of the households targeted was determined according to the distribution of returnees in 2013. Given the relatively small size of the sample, it was decided to concentrate on the cazas of Baalbek, Hermel, West Bekaa and Zahle in the Bekaa, Shouf in Mount-Lebanon, and Akkar in North Lebanon, while a small number of households from Beirut and Bint Jbeil in South Lebanon were also included. The majority of the households in these areas were selected at random from the HRC database of returnees, while the remaining households were identified via referral from local authorities, I/NGOs working in the area or other returnees themselves.

Once identified, surveyors sought proof of these families' returnee status using standards adopted by HRC during the 2013 registration.<sup>6</sup>

The questionnaire was designed to ensure as much comparability as possible with both the 2013 profiling of Lebanese returnees and the major survey of Syrian refugees conducted by the World Food Programme (WFP), UNHCR and UNICEF in 2013 and 2014, the Vulnerability Assessment for Syrian Refugees (VASyR).<sup>7</sup> CRI designed the survey questionnaire in close collaboration with IOM, and in consultation with the Livelihoods Sector and Information Management Working Groups in Lebanon (part of the Inter-Agency Response to the Syria Crisis), among other partners.

The questionnaire comprised 73 questions, to be completed in a 45 minute face-to-face interview. Fifty-five percent (55%) of those selected to respond to the questionnaire (respondents) were heads of household (also referred to as main breadwinners) and 27% were spouses. Therefore more than 80% of the questionnaires were conducted with household decision makers (refer to Annex 1 for the full questionnaire).

CRI trained seven surveyors to conduct the fieldwork, which was completed over a period of five weeks, from 13 June to 21 July 2014. Overall, 313 households were surveyed (a total of 1,776 individuals), including 267 households previously registered with HRC/IOM and 46 unregistered households.

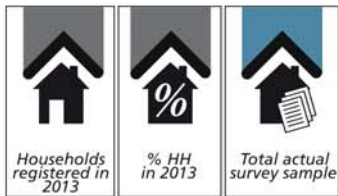
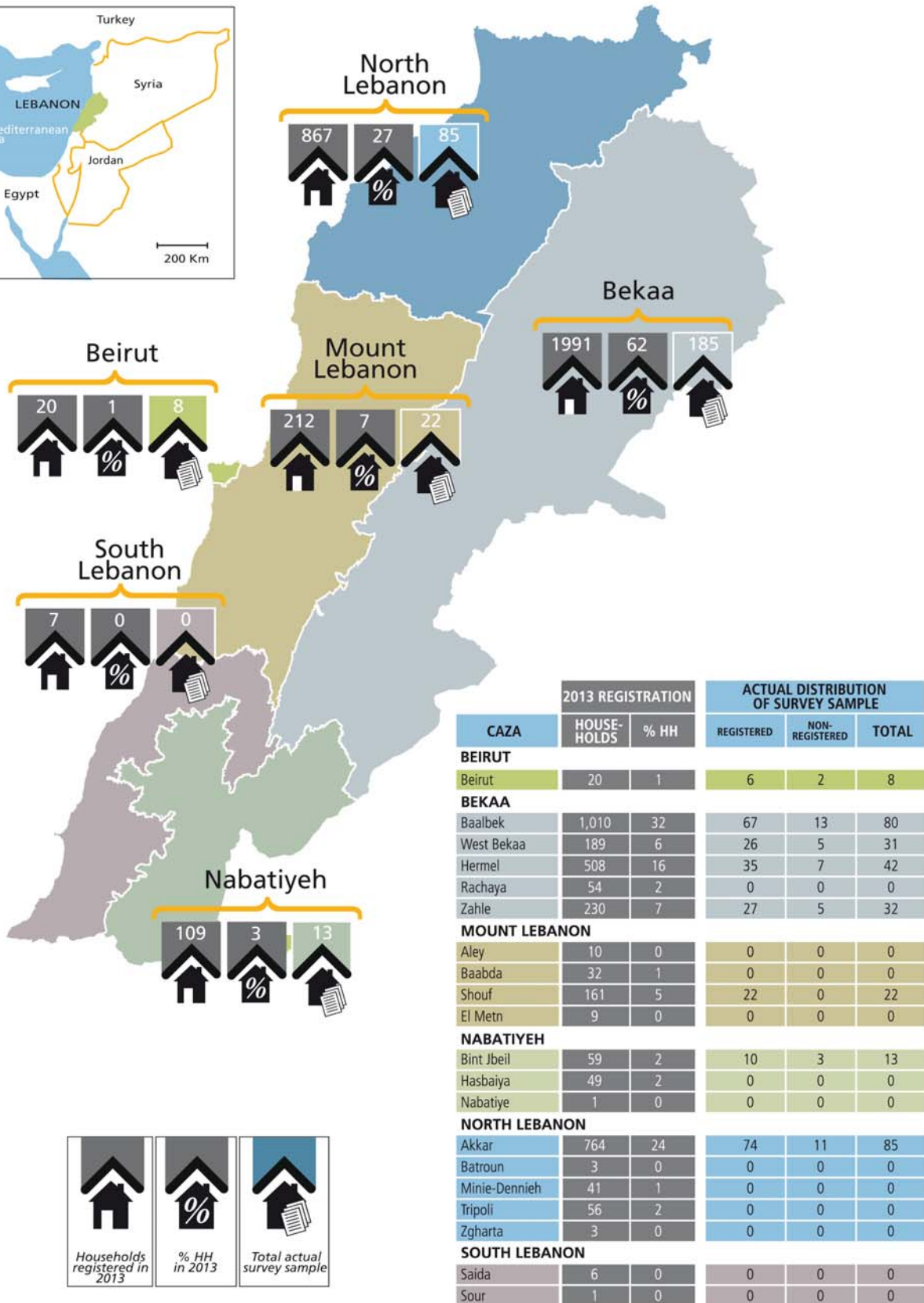
<sup>4</sup> Given certain limitations of this time-bound registration exercise, and the number of referrals since received by HRC, it is clear that not all returnees were registered at the time.

<sup>5</sup> Given the relatively small size of the proportion of unregistered returnees, comparisons between the two groups based on the findings of the survey may not be conclusive. Such comparisons were systematically generated, and showed no major difference, giving at least an indication that their conditions are not drastically different.

<sup>6</sup> The HRC required proof of Lebanese citizenship (ID papers) and residency in Syria (e.g. Residency documents or utilities bill, proof of accommodation rental or property ownership). Where individuals did not have these documents, they were asked to provide witnesses and/or a letter from local mukhtar verifying that they had lived in Syria. In any future rounds of registration, this system should be refined further, in line with that adopted by UNHCR in some cases.

<sup>7</sup> "Vulnerability Assessment of Syrian Refugees in Lebanon (VASyR) - 2013 Report," WFP/UNHCR/UNICEF, 2014





Disclaimer: The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by IOM.

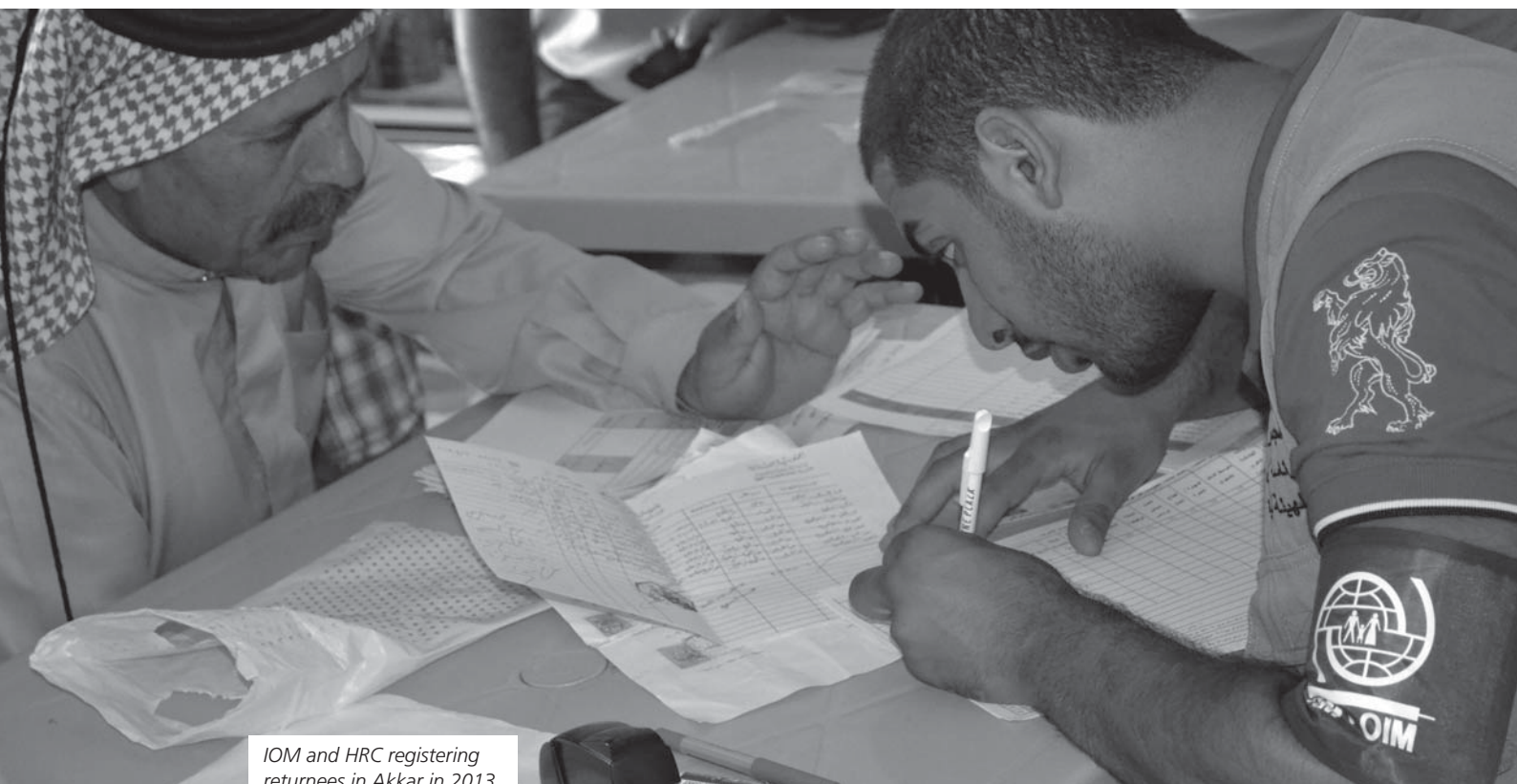
Sample distribution.

Some challenges were reported by surveyors, particularly in relation to finding registered households that had moved or changed phone numbers. On the other hand, surveyors did not report any difficulty in finding unregistered returnees. This may have been due to the fact that, in some cases, returnees who had heard about the survey, were eager to participate, anticipating some form of assistance. The survey also provided an opportunity to verify the returnee status of the surveyed households: in Hermel and Baalbek, it was discovered that a small number of households registered as returnees had in fact been residing in Lebanon since before the Syria crisis, while others lived across the border but frequently returned to Lebanon. Such cases highlight the difficulty of properly identifying returnees in those

border communities that have long moved between Syria and Lebanon on a regular basis.

To support the findings of the survey and provide background for the analysis, CRI also conducted a set of 16 interviews with key informants, including local authorities, government officials and representatives of international and local organizations working with Lebanese returnees.<sup>8</sup>

CRI used the 'Question' software for data programming and entry, which includes built-in control procedures that minimize data entry errors. Upon completion of data entry, the CRI study team, in close consultation with IOM, cleaned the data set and then generated the results and analysis that follow below.



IOM and HRC registering returnees in Akkar in 2013

<sup>8</sup> Key informants included: Mohammad Ammar and Ibrahim Arnaout (Islamic Relief), Dana Sharaf and Jean Murad (National Poverty Targeting Programme, Ministry of Social Affairs), Makram Malaeb (Ministry of Social Affairs) Mohammad Saadi (Zakat Fund), Adib Eid and Tala Khatib (High Relief Commission), Levon Abgaryan (International Committee Red Cross), Afke Bootsman (UNHCR-UNDP), Mona Ramadan and Khalil Dagber (UNHCR), Mary Kawar, Joumana Karame and Annabella Skof (ILO), Ahmad Al Mawboub (Municipality of Ali Nabri), the president of the Municipality of Halba, Hamad Hussein (Municipality of Baalbek), Babij Arbid (Ministry of Health), Iman Assi (Ministry of Education), General Pierre Salem (Ministry of Interior and Municipalities).

# 3. Findings

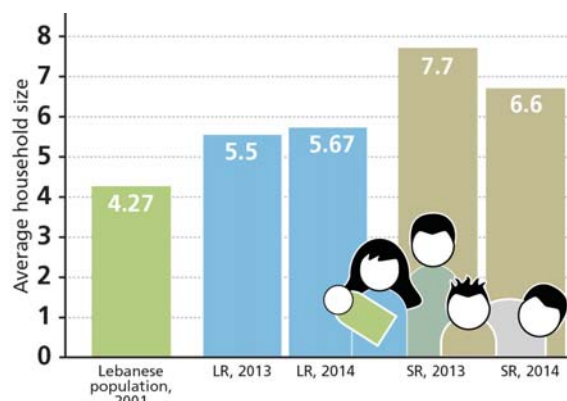
## 3.1 Household Composition & Background

Among the 313 households (HHs) surveyed, the average household size was 5.67 individuals (compared to 5.5 as recorded in the 2013 profiling).<sup>9</sup> The average household size of returnees is larger than the national average of 4.27 individuals<sup>10</sup> and smaller than that of Syrian refugees in Lebanon (estimated at 7.7 in 2013 and 6.6 in 2014).<sup>11</sup>

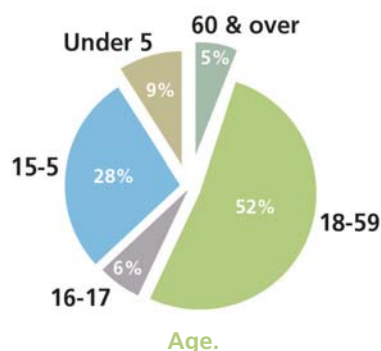
5% of the returnees were over 60 years old, 52% were of working age (18-59 years), 35% were aged 5-18 and 9% were under 5 years old. On the whole, returnees represent a younger population than the resident Lebanese, as reported in a household composition survey in 2004, though not as young as the Syrian refugee population. 12% of the surveyed households had children less than two years old (compared with 44% of the Syrian refugee households) and 35% had children under five (compared with 65% of the Syrian refugee households).<sup>12</sup> The sample is gender balanced with 49.6% males and 50.4% females - a balance that is relatively consistent throughout the age categories.

8% of the households were female-headed, compared to 16% of Syrian refugee households in 2014 and 11% in 2013. 6% of the households were single-headed – somewhat fewer than among Syrian refugees, at 12% in 2014. Three households (1%) were child-headed. 51% of respondents between the ages of 25 and 34 were unmarried.

46% of households reported having had at least one member with a health issue. Around 7% of individuals were chronically ill – compared to 9% of Syrian refugees in 2014 – and 3% had disabilities. Significantly fewer Lebanese returnee households, however, had at least one pregnant or lactating woman - 5.4% of surveyed households, compared to 34% of Syrian refugee households.<sup>13</sup>



Average household size of Lebanese Returnees (LR) and Syrian Refugees (SR).



Marital status of main breadwinner/head of household.

	%
Single	6
Married	84
Divorced/separated	2
Widowed	7
Other, specify	2

<sup>9</sup> JOM/HRC (2013).

<sup>10</sup> Central Administration of Statistics, Ministry of Social Affairs, UNDP (2006) *Living Conditions of Households 2004*, Beirut: C.A.S.

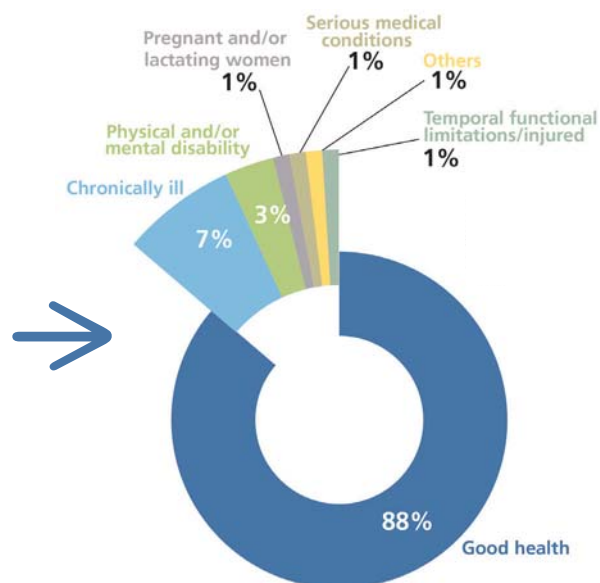
<sup>11</sup> "VASyR – 2013 Report," WFP/UNHCR/UNICEF (2014).

<sup>12</sup> WFP (2014) "VASyR 2014: II Preliminary Results", (prepared by Susana Romero Moreno), Beirut: WFP Lebanon CO, p.7

<sup>13</sup> "VASyR 2014: II Preliminary Results," WFP, August 2014

### Health Status.

	Individuals
Good health	1551
Chronically ill	119
Physical and/or mental disability	48
Pregnant and/or lactating women	17
Serious medical conditions	14
Temporal functional limitations/injured	8
Others	9
People in need of support to access to toilet facilities or external services.	5
<b>Total</b>	<b>1771</b>

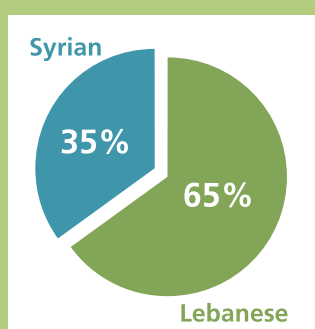


## MIXED NATIONALITY FAMILIES

During the 2013 profiling and registration, the Lebanese High Relief Commission (HRC) adopted an inclusive policy of registering households as a whole, as long as they have at least one member who is Lebanese. 65% of the heads of household surveyed for this study were Lebanese and 34% were Syrian; 35% of all individuals held Syrian nationality. In 64% of households, there was at least one individual with Syrian nationality. The number of mixed families is unsurprising, given the fact that most returnee families had been living in Syria for several decades (two thirds of them for over 20 years), while others belong to communities that have regularly migrated between Syria and Lebanon. Of course, mixed families pose an important challenge in terms of coordinating humanitarian assistance and avoiding a lack of duplication of efforts.

Of the sample surveyed here, 24% of individuals were registered with UNHCR, while 21% were registered with both HRC and UNHCR. It is worth noting that only 50% of Syrian heads of household in mixed families had registered with UNHCR.

### Nationality percentage.



### Individuals by type of registration.

Registration Type	%
Not registered nor pre-registered	10
Registered with UNHCR	24
Registered with UNRWA	1
Registered with IOM/HRC	85
Registered at the municipality of residence	18
Other	2

# 48% of active returnees were engaged as low-skilled wage earners, compared to 13% prior to their displacement.

In terms of educational background, around 40% of returnees surveyed had completed only primary education, while 6% held university degrees.

Not surprisingly, the occupational status of returnees has deteriorated significantly as a result of their displacement. There was a decline in the share of returnees who were business owners (from 4% to 0%) or self-employed (from 15% to 5%) when moving from Syria to Lebanon. Unemployment increased significantly (from 3% in Syria to 12% in Lebanon), as did the share of (often daily or seasonal) wage-earners (from 12% to 24%). It is important to note that 58% of the wage-earner category is composed of individuals working in low-skilled occupations such as garbage collectors, concierges, cleaners. The share of housewives, increased slightly from 34% to 38%.

In terms of occupation, the comparison also shows a striking decrease in “managers and professionals” (from 24% to 7%) as well as “skilled agricultural workers” (from 24% to only 3%). The distribution of the sample in terms of present occupation in Lebanon shows that the largest share of active returnees (48%) were engaged in

“low-skilled occupations” which include peddlers selling food and other items, domestic workers, concierges, laundry workers, construction workers, garbage collectors, cleaners, packaging workers, manual agricultural workers, transportation workers and loading workers.

Among those who were working, the average daily wage was USD 10.5 daily. 15% of those who were employed reported earning less than USD 5 daily. Most were earning between USD 5 and USD 14 (40% earn less than USD 15 per day and 30% earn less than USD 10), an income that is hardly sufficient to secure subsistence. Only 14% of the household sample earns over USD 15 per day. Women earn less than men, despite the fact that they have similar educational qualifications, as mentioned above. Results show that almost half of women (46%) earn between USD 5 and 9 per day, whereas the largest share of men (44%) earns between USD 10 and 14.

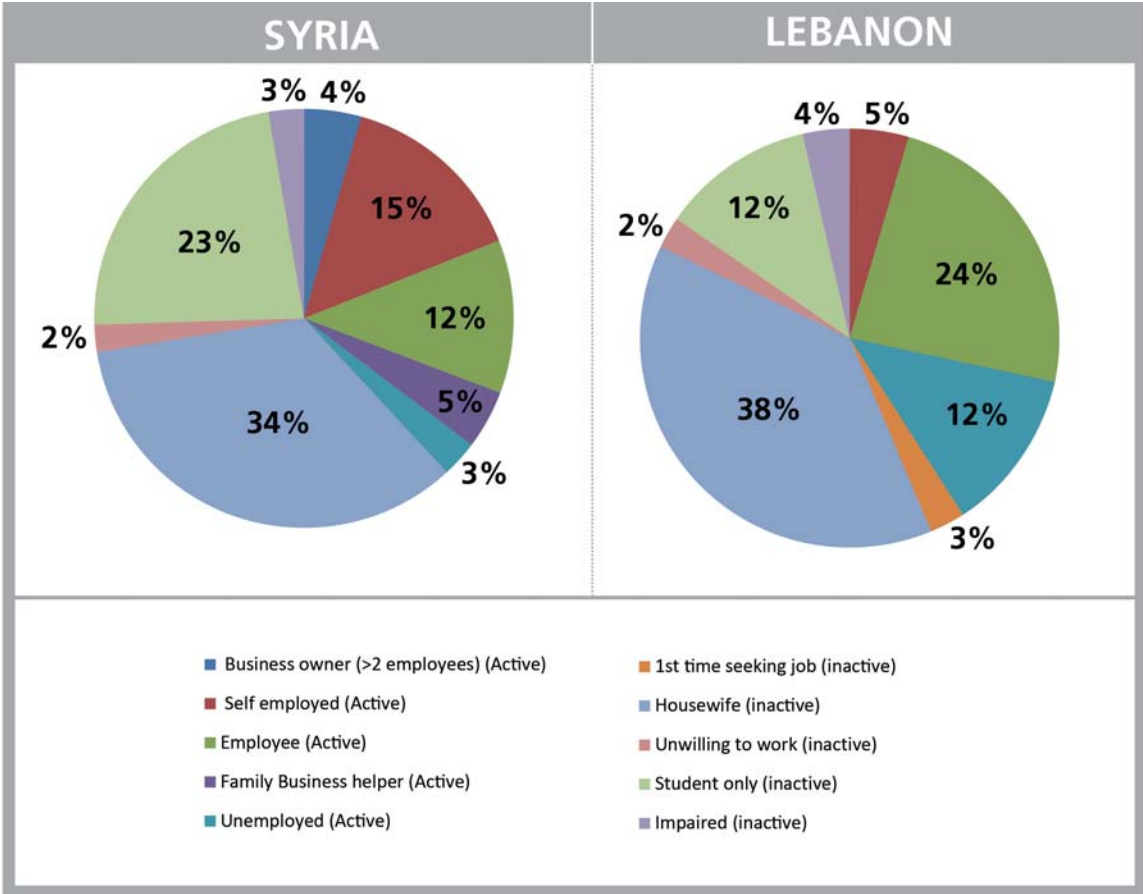
The dependency ratio of the household sample is 1.6 compared to 1.2 among Syrian refugees in Lebanon in 2014.<sup>14</sup> Dependents (those aged below the age 15 and above 64) were 668, against 1096 individuals who were of working age.

## Working returnees earn an average of USD 10.5 a day

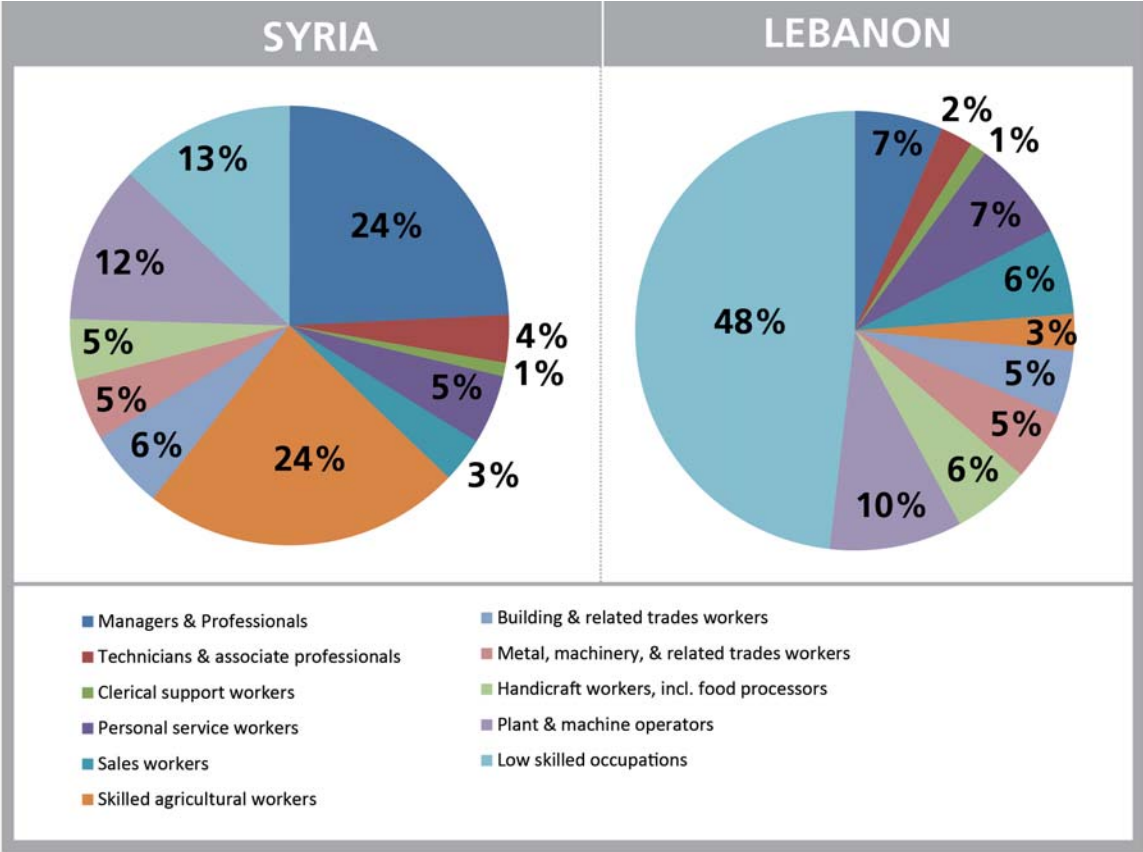
<sup>14</sup> Dependency ratio is the ratio of dependents – people younger than 15 or older than 64 – to those of working-age (15-64). Dependency ratio of Syrian refugees in Lebanon was calculated by CRI based on results of the VASyR 2014 preliminary report



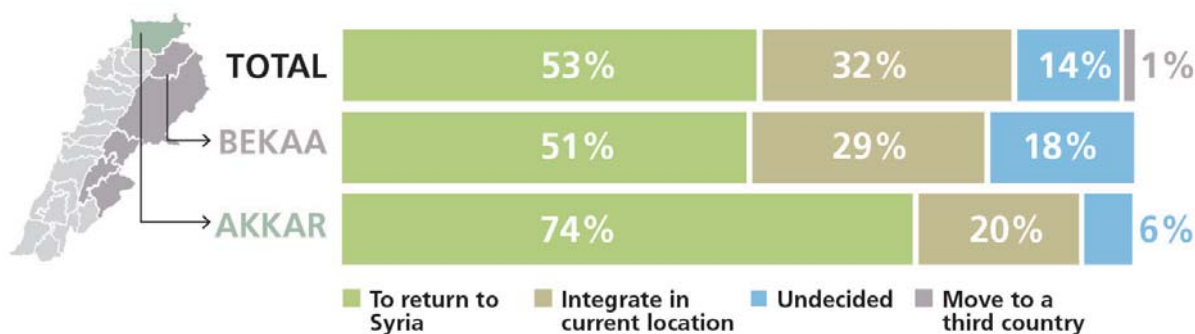
A Lebanese returnee working as a shepherd in South Lebanon.



Work Status in Syria pre-crisis and in Lebanon upon return.



Occupation in Syria pre-crisis and in Lebanon upon return.



Future intentions.

### 3.2 Displacement Profile

Most returnee families (93%) arrived in Lebanon along with all members of their respective household. Only 22 households (7%) returned to Lebanon in different waves. Among the returnees registered by HRC, most had arrived in 2011 (36%) and 2012 (40%), with a smaller proportion arriving in the first half of 2013 (18%), before the study was conducted.<sup>16</sup>

Among the 46 unregistered households surveyed by CRI, 11% had arrived in 2014 - a strong indication that returnees have continued to arrive in steady numbers.

The great majority of households (90%) reported having family members or friends in Lebanon prior to their arrival. Most households said that they had settled in the caza they were originally from in Lebanon (92%), though the 2013 profiling showed that only 44% of registered Lebanese returnees returned to their original neighbourhoods within those districts.<sup>15</sup>

53% of households expressed an intention to return to Syria whenever possible in the future, while 32% wished to integrate and settle in Lebanon. In Akkar, 74% of households planned to return to Syria compared to 51% in the Bekaa.

### 3.3 Shelter

66% of surveyed households reported living in apartments and independent houses (compared to 59% of Syrian refugees); 27% were living in single room structures, warehouses, garages or unfinished buildings (compared to 25% of Syrian refugees); and 4% reported living in tented settlements and collective shelters (as do 15% of Syrian refugees).<sup>18</sup> Two households were homeless. Before fleeing Syria, 90% of surveyed households had been living in independent houses or apartments.

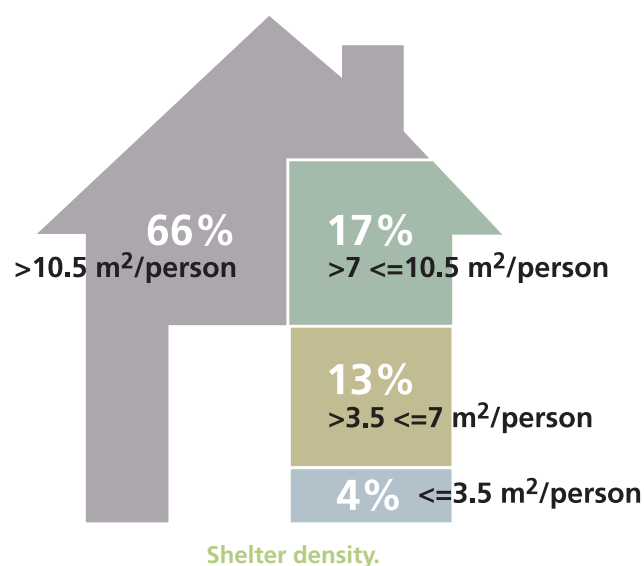
Most households (72%) reported paying some form of rent for their shelter, as do 82% of Syrian refugees. Only 7% owned their apartment or house.

The conditions of returnees' housing in Lebanon are also markedly worse than they had been in Syria. Returnees reported living in dwellings that are on average 30% smaller (in square meters) than those they left behind in Syria (the average total area dropped from 140 m<sup>2</sup> in Syria to 94 m<sup>2</sup> in Lebanon). Almost 60% of the returnees were living in dwellings with a total area of less than 100 m<sup>2</sup> and 25% in dwellings of 100-150 m<sup>2</sup>. There was a notable difference in the size of living spaces between Akkar (with an average of 138 m<sup>2</sup>) and the Bekaa (with an average of 80 m<sup>2</sup>). In terms of density, 34% of households were living in spaces offering less than 10.5 m<sup>2</sup> per person.

The average monthly rent currently paid by returnees was USD 193 - similar to that paid by Syrian refugees. The average monthly rate for unfurnished apartments was USD 190, and USD 220 per month for furnished flats. The cost of renting accommodation seems to have dropped since 2013, when the HRC profiling exercise found the average monthly rent to be USD 217. A similar drop was noted in surveys of Syrian refugees, whereby rents fell from USD 250 in 2013 to USD 200 in 2014.<sup>16</sup>

**72%** of HHs are renting accommodation

<sup>15</sup> "The Situation and Needs of Lebanese Returnees from Syria," IOM Lebanon, December 2013, p.10



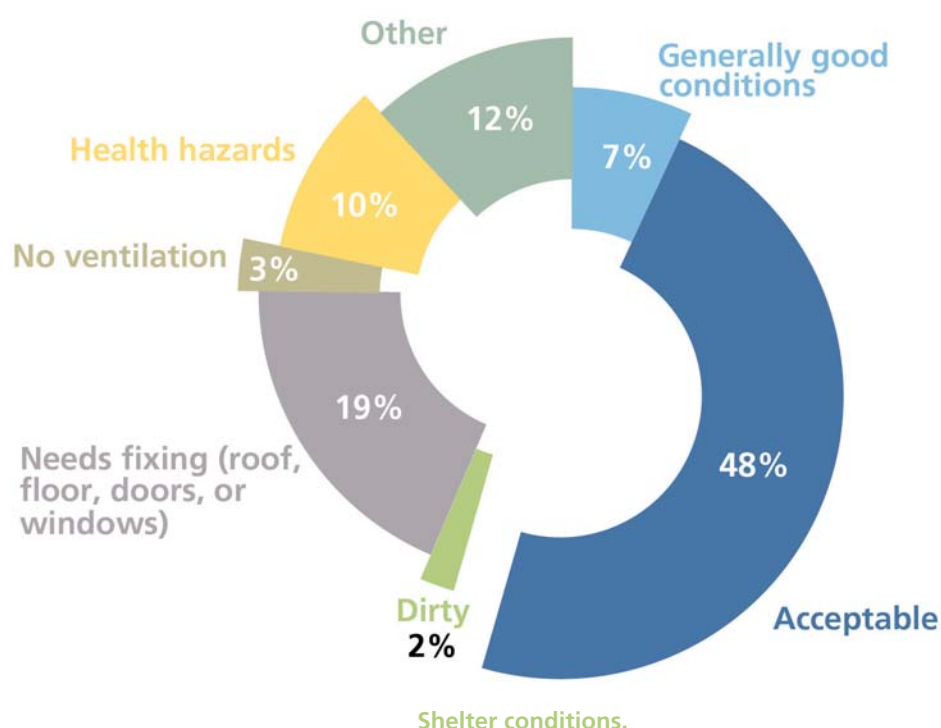
#### Type of housing in Syria pre-crisis and in Lebanon upon return.

Type of Residence	Syria %	Lebanon %	Syrian refugees - VASyR - 2014 %
Independent House/ Apartment	90	66	59
One room structure	9	15	16
Factory/Warehouse	-	2	2
Garage/Shop/Worksite	-	7	5
Unfinished building	-	5	2
Collective shelter (6 families or more - unmanaged)	-	1	1
Formal/informal settlements	-	3	14
Homeless/No shelter	-	1	0.5
Other	1	3	0.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>

#### Type of shelter occupancy in Syria pre-crisis and in Lebanon upon return.

Type of Occupancy	Syria %	Lebanon %	Syrian refugees - VASyR - 2014 %
Owned apartment/house	82	7	0.2
Unfurnished rental	6	63	67
Furnished rental	10	9	15
Provided by employer	-	1	7
Hosted (for free)	-	10	5
Assistance/Charity	1	6	5
Others	1	4	0.8
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>





Around 25% of households were sharing their residence with relatives or others, while 75% were living only with the members of their household. In households not sharing residence with other relatives or unrelated individuals, there was an average of 5.8 members persons living under the same roof. Housing units occupied by multiple related or unrelated households host an average of 11 individuals.

When asked about their household assets, 47% of households reported owning all basic assets (mattresses, blankets, winter clothes and a small gas stove), as compared with 41% of Syrian refugees.<sup>17</sup> Fewer households reported owning all basic assets in Akkar (25%) than in the Bekaa (55%). Comparing the household items owned by Lebanese returnees and Syrian refugees, the similarities in housing conditions are again apparent. Lebanese returnees and Syrian refugees both lack basic household appliances such as refrigerators, water heaters, and tables and chairs to roughly the same degree.

Overall, 48% of respondents declared the conditions of their shelter to be “acceptable”. 7% said that their accommodation was “generally in good condition”, while 19% reported a need for fixing roofs, floors, doors or windows. The conditions of accommodation appeared to be better in Akkar (54% acceptable) than in the Bekaa (41% acceptable).

#### Household assets (comparison with Syrian refugees).

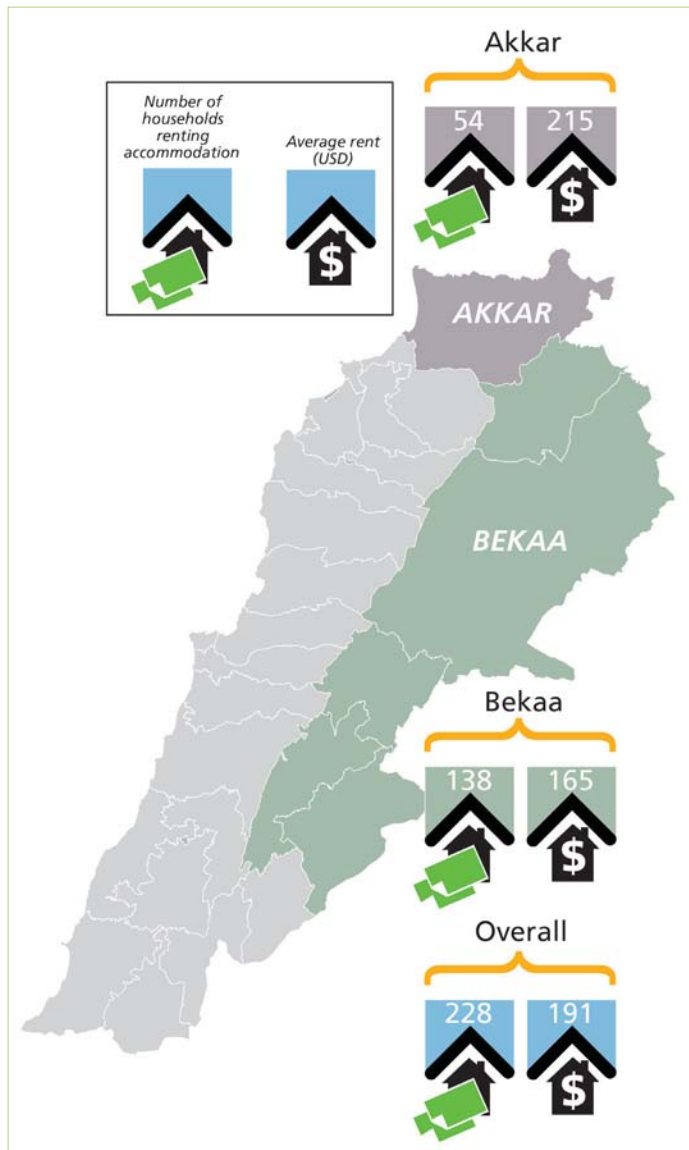
	Lebanese Returnees (%)	Syrian Refugees-VASyR 2014 (%)
Dish washer	0	0
Central heating	1	1
Air conditioning	1	3
Microwave /vacuum cleaner	3	2
Computer	4	2
DVD Player	5	2
Electric oven	6	3
Car/van/truck	10	3
Sewing machine/iron	18	5
Motorcycle	21	7
Table and chairs	29	24
Water heater	34	47
Satellite dish	43	72
Washing machine	43	45
Refrigerator	55	58

<sup>16</sup> 'VASyR 2014: II Preliminary Results,' WFP, August 2014, p.17.

<sup>17</sup> 'VASyR 2014: II Preliminary Results,' WFP, August 2014, p.21.



Do you live only with your own family or do you share your house with other members?

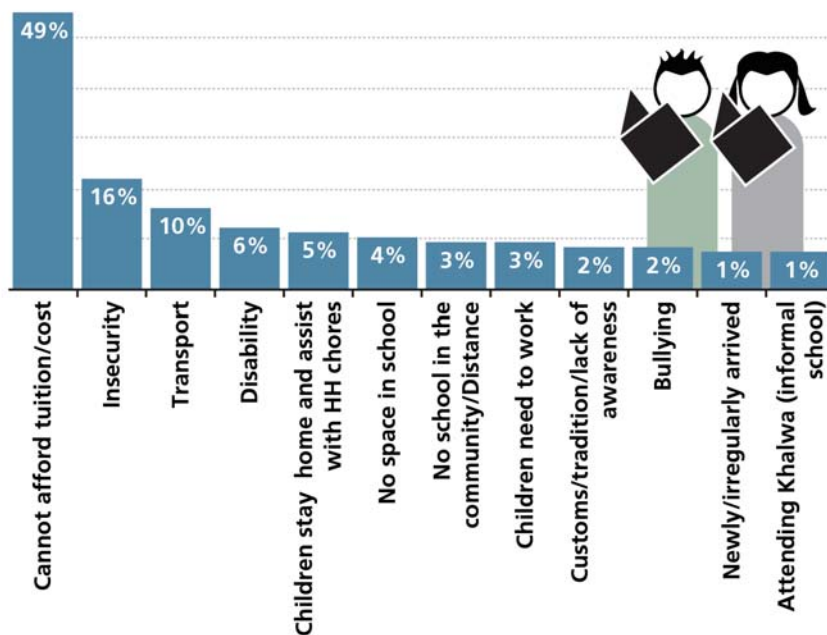


Average monthly rent per governorate.

**53%** of HHs did not own basic assets, compared to **59%** of Syrian refugees.

Average monthly rent per type of residence.

Type of residence	Average monthly rent in USD
Independent House/apartment	207
One room structure	171
Factory/Warehouse	141
Garage/Shop/Worksite	185
Unfinished building	185
Collective shelter	330
Tent in Formal/informal settlements	32



**24%**  
of children  
aged 4 -17  
were not in  
school

Reasons for non-enrollment of children.

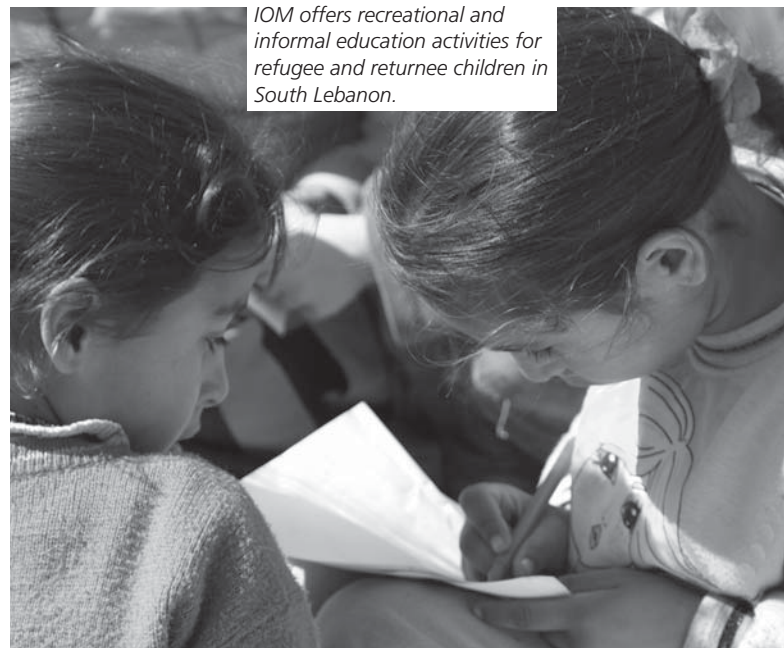
### 3.4 Education

Among those households with children between the ages of 4 and 17, 37% had at least one child not enrolled in school for the current academic year (2013-2014). In the Bekaa, 42% of households had children not in school, compared to 24% of the households in Akkar.

Overall, of the 805 children aged between 4 and 17 years old, 156 (24%) were not enrolled in school; 33% were out of school in the Bekaa and 12% in Akkar. Non-enrollment among returnees, then, was significantly lower than among Syrian refugee children, 64% of whom were out of school for the same academic year.<sup>18</sup>

Roughly half of households (49%) reported that their children were out of school as a result of financial difficulties (compared to 53% of Syrians), while 16% cited insecurity and 10% linked it to transport difficulties.

<sup>18</sup> VASyR 2014: II Preliminary Results," WFP, August 2014, p.29



IOM offers recreational and informal education activities for refugee and returnee children in South Lebanon.

“ My daughter Yasmine, 9 years old, has Lebanese nationality since her father is Lebanese. She is attending school here in Majdal Anjar where we moved in 2011 from Zabadani (Syria). But every day she comes back crying because her schoolmates mock her because of her Syrian accent ”

SAMIRA, a Syrian mother married to Mohammad, a Lebanese returnee.

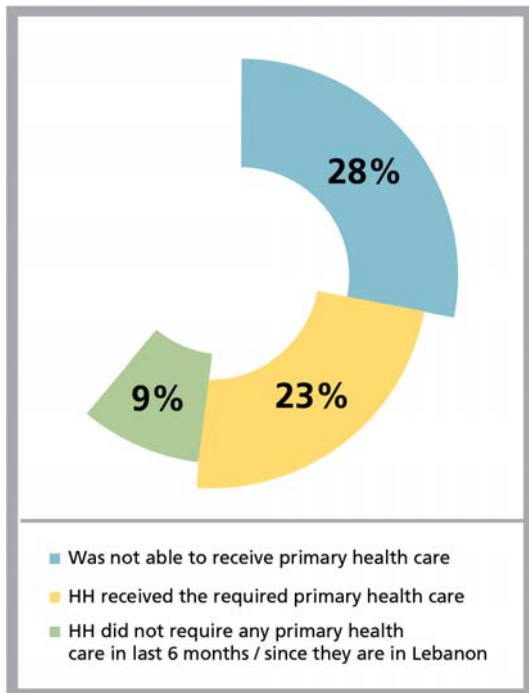
### 3.5 Health

When asked about health services, 28% and 15% of the households, respectively, reported that they had been unable to receive primary health care services and specialized health care or hospitalization in the past six months. Only 9% of households had not required any primary health care services. In Akkar, as many as 65% of households were not able to receive primary health care and 20% could not benefit from specialized health care services. Strikingly, Lebanese returnees appear to face more difficulty in terms of access to health care services than Syrian refugees. When asked the same question, 15% of Syrian refugees reported that they had been unable to receive primary health care services when needed and 11% had been unable to benefit from specialized health care.<sup>19</sup>

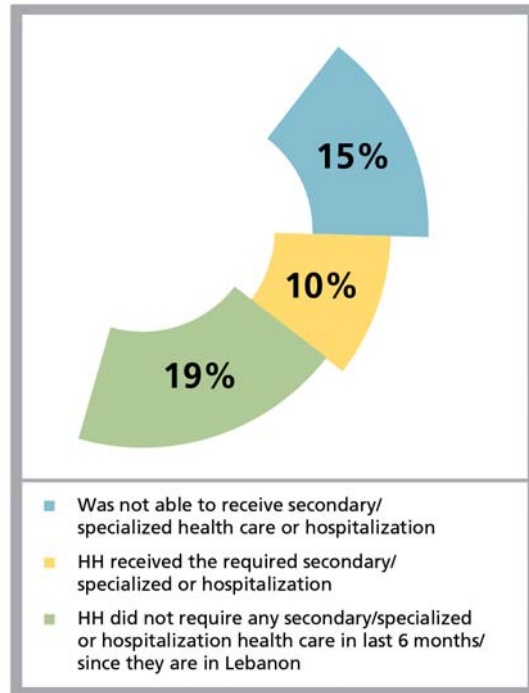
As Lebanese citizens, returnees are entitled to the health services provided by the Lebanese state such as basic primary health care services through a network

of Ministry of Public Health (MOPH) dispensaries.<sup>20</sup> In addition, salaried employees and their dependents are covered by the National Social Security Fund (NSSF), which provides a much wider range of inpatient and outpatient services as well as prescription drugs. As highlighted by several key informants, however, this does not translate into easy access to health care services for returnees, in part because the majority are not in full-time employment, but also because they are often unaware of, or unfamiliar with, the system. The fact that they are often perceived as Syrians complicates this further - a representative of one international organization said that returnees are "often denied access exactly because they are returnees, and are not easily recognized due to their [Syrian] accents, or their registration of residency." Syrian refugees, meanwhile, may benefit from a range of subsidized health care services supported by international organizations.

Out of all households who were not able to receive primary health care services or specialized health care or hospitalization, 53% reported that they were refused



Access to primary health care services in the past six months.<sup>21</sup>



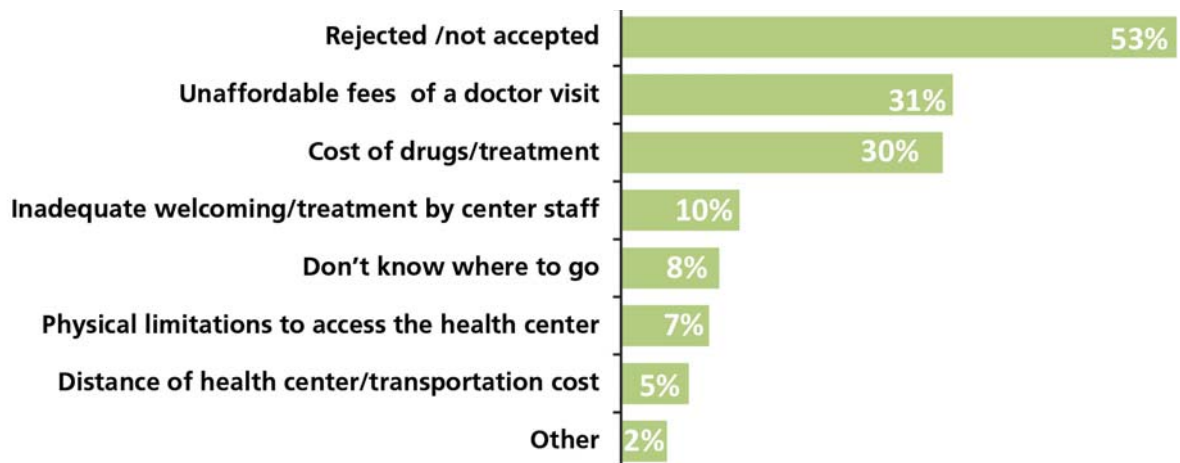
Access to secondary or specialized health care services in the past six months.<sup>22</sup>

<sup>19</sup> WFP (2014) "VASyR 2014: II Preliminary Results", (prepared by Susana Romero Moreno), Beirut: WFP Lebanon CO.

<sup>20</sup> Lebanon's health system is very complex. Around 85% percent of the health sector is operated by the private sector, which is subsidized by the government via reimbursement for services. International donors pay most of the costs associated with provision of selected health services to refugees to the Ministry of Public Health or other medical providers. International Monetary Fund, "The Impact of the Syrian conflict on Lebanon," August 2014.

<sup>21</sup> The results are based on a multiple-response question.

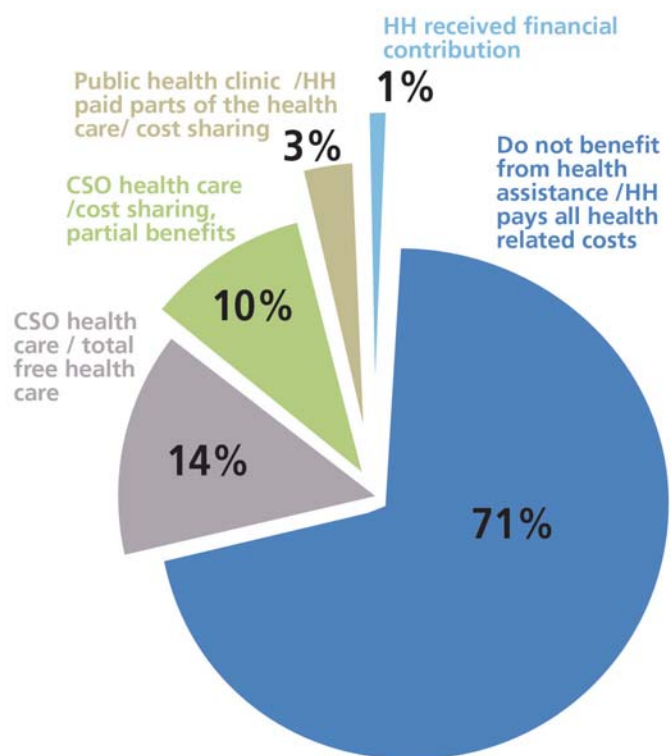
<sup>22</sup> The results are based on a multiple-response question.



Reasons cited for the lack of access to health care services.

these services. Through a comparison with the VASyR results, it appears that returnees are more frequently turned away from health care services than Syrians refugees, 19% of whom said they had been refused health care. Meanwhile, 31% of returnees could not afford the fees of a doctor visit and 30% could not afford the costs of prescribed treatments. The main reasons cited by Syrian refugees for not receiving health care were medicine costs (45%) and doctor fees (40%).<sup>23</sup>

More than 70% of surveyed returnee households said they had not benefited from any health assistance and paid for all health related services, compared to only 26% of Syrian refugees. 14% of returnees benefitted from totally free health care, while 16% of Syrian refugees had received free primary health care and 8% had received free specialized health care.<sup>24</sup>



Distribution of Households per type of health assistance received. (CSO - Civil Society Organisation)

<sup>23</sup> VASyR 2014: II Preliminary Results, WFP, August 2014.

<sup>24</sup> Ibid.

“

My husband is Syrian, registered with UNHCR, and the agency paid the costs for his kidney treatment. I am Lebanese and I have to pay all the medicines for my high blood pressure

”

LEILA, a returnee living in central Bekaa.

### 3.6 Household Income & Expenditure

Respondents were asked about the number of household members that had been working in the 30 days before the survey. In 25% of surveyed households (as compared with 30% of Syrian refugee households), no individual had worked in the month preceding the survey.

Among the remaining 75%, the average number of individuals who had worked was 1.13 - compared to 1.9 per household among Syrian refugees.<sup>25</sup>

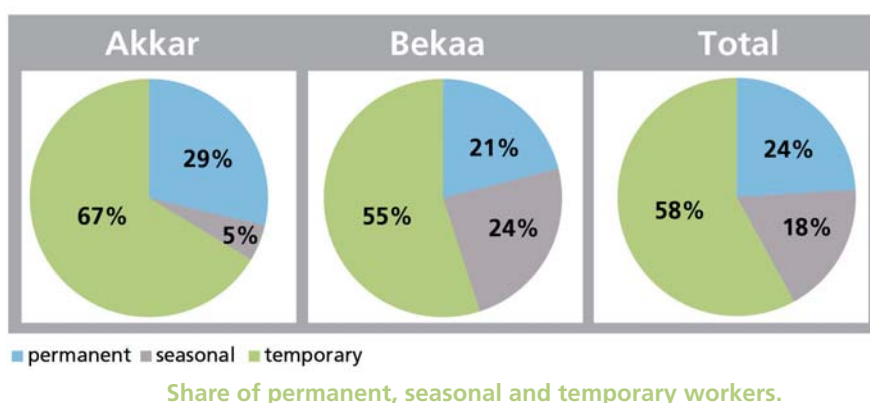
When asked about the nature of the occupation of those working in the household, the majority (58%) responded that they were working on a temporary basis, meaning that they have only a variable and unstable income. Workers employed permanently or seasonally only amounted to 24% and 18% of the total respectively.

Before fleeing Syria, the three main sources of income among surveyed households were formal commerce, sale of crops and sale of livestock and animal produce. Formal commerce was cited by 21% of respondents as a main source of income when in Syria, and by only 1% when in

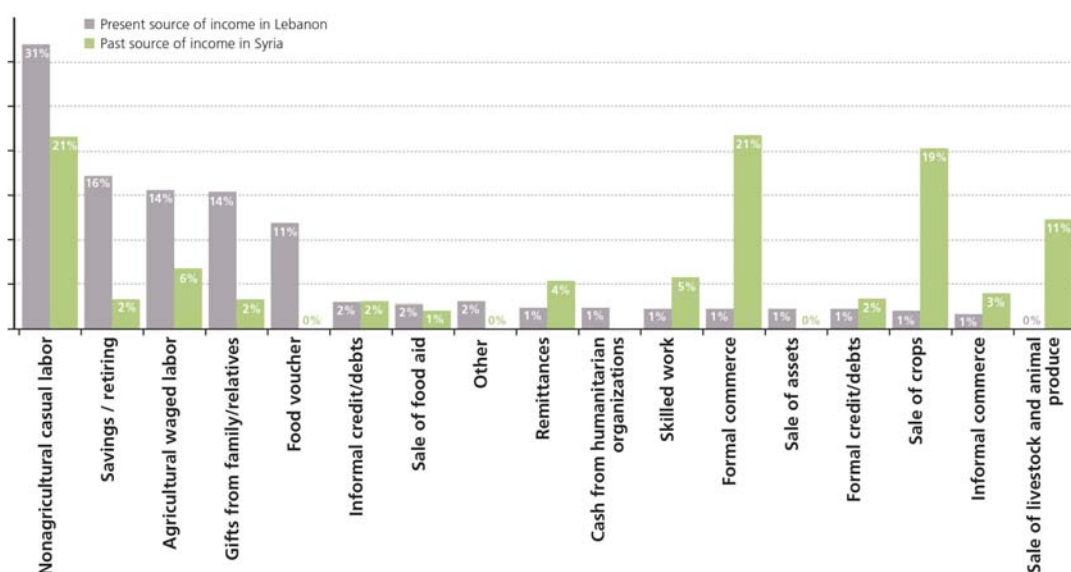
Lebanon. Similarly, the sale of crops, and livestock or animal produce was a main source of income for 19% and 11% of the households in Syria respectively, but for only 1% in Lebanon. The current main sources of income for returnee households were non-agricultural casual labor, savings and agricultural wage labor.

Asked whether they received remittances, from Syria or elsewhere abroad, only 1% of households said they had received remittances since their arrival in Lebanon, compared to 4% who received remittances when in Syria. Only a very small number owned any substantial property in Lebanon (see table), indicating that the great majority of households did not have any significant economic ties or activity in the country prior to their displacement.

According to the respondents, the average monthly income of surveyed households was USD 395, significantly lower than the reported average monthly expenditures of USD 519.



Share of permanent, seasonal and temporary workers.



Comparison of main sources of income in Lebanon (present) and Syria (past).<sup>26</sup>

<sup>25</sup> VASyR 2014: II Preliminary Results, WFP, August 2014, p.35  
<sup>26</sup> The results are based on a multiple-response question.

Property owned in Lebanon	%
Land for business or agriculture	11
Land for house	8
Vehicle	8
Livestock	1
Shop	1
Other	6

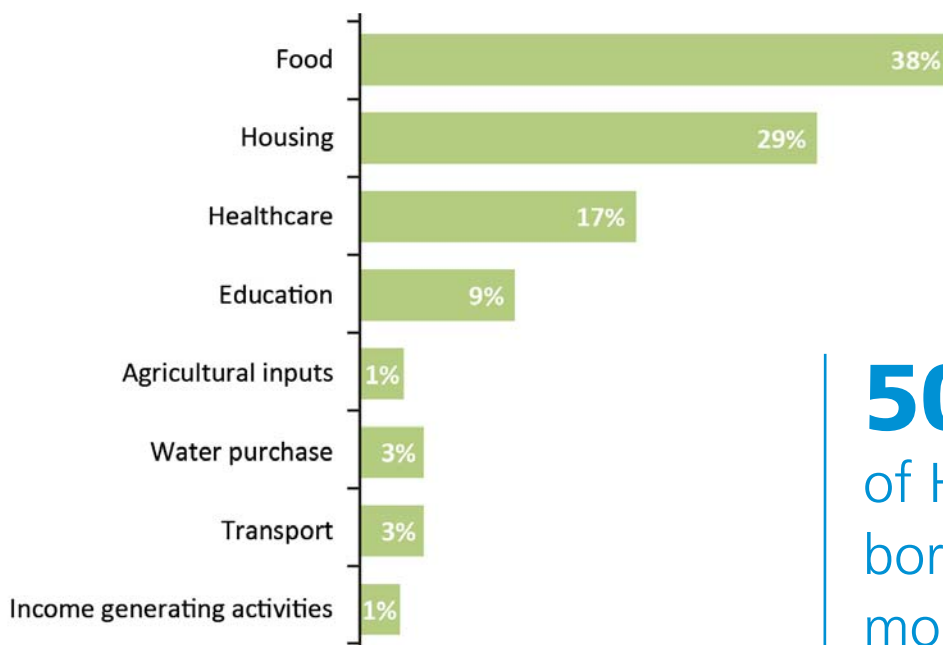


Almost half of the households' expenditure was for food items (40%), which is similar among Syrian refugees (44%). Rent took up to 22% of total expenditure, compared to 24% of Syrian refugees' expenditure, and health care 10%, which is similar to the 9% among Syrian refugees.<sup>27</sup>

The survey showed that 50% of households experienced a lack of food or did not have sufficient money to buy enough food for all household members in the preceding month, indicating that even up to three years after their displacement, food remains a major need. The main coping strategy of households to deal with food shortage was reducing consumption of the preferred food or buying less expensive food items. On average, households suffering from food shortage rely on less expensive food 3.3 days per week, and reduce their food intake or borrow food from friends or relatives for one day per week.

Almost half of the households experiencing food or money shortages during the month before the survey, resorted to spending savings as a main coping strategy (49%). 23% reduced non-food expenditure and 15% withdrew children from school in order to save tuition money for spending on food.

In addition, half of the households reported having borrowed money during the three months before the survey. In most cases (88%), money was borrowed from friends or relatives residing in Lebanon. The proportion of those borrowing money was significantly higher in the Bekaa (70%) than in Akkar (3%). The main reasons cited for borrowing money were food expenditure (38%), accommodation (29%) and health care (17%).

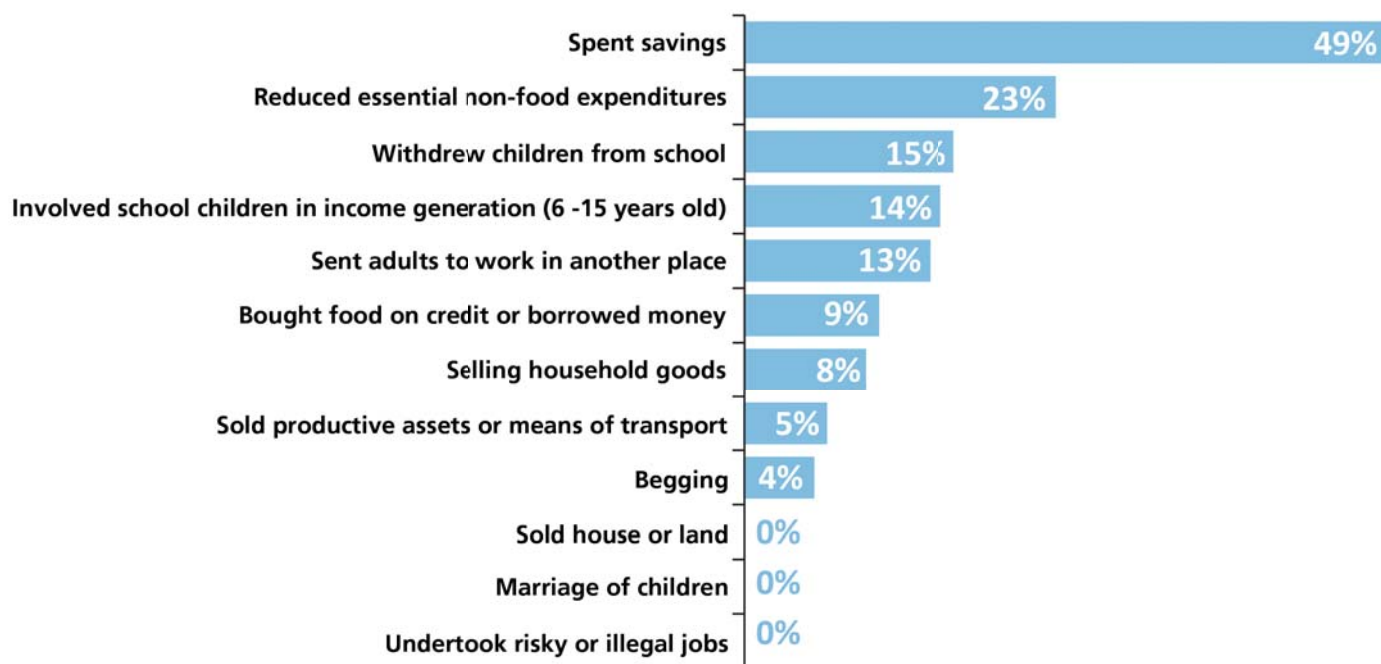


Reasons cited for borrowing.<sup>28</sup>

**50%**  
of HH's  
borrowed  
money in  
the past  
three  
months

<sup>27</sup> VASyR 2014: II Preliminary Results, WFP, August 2014, p.32.

<sup>28</sup> The results are based on a multiple-response question



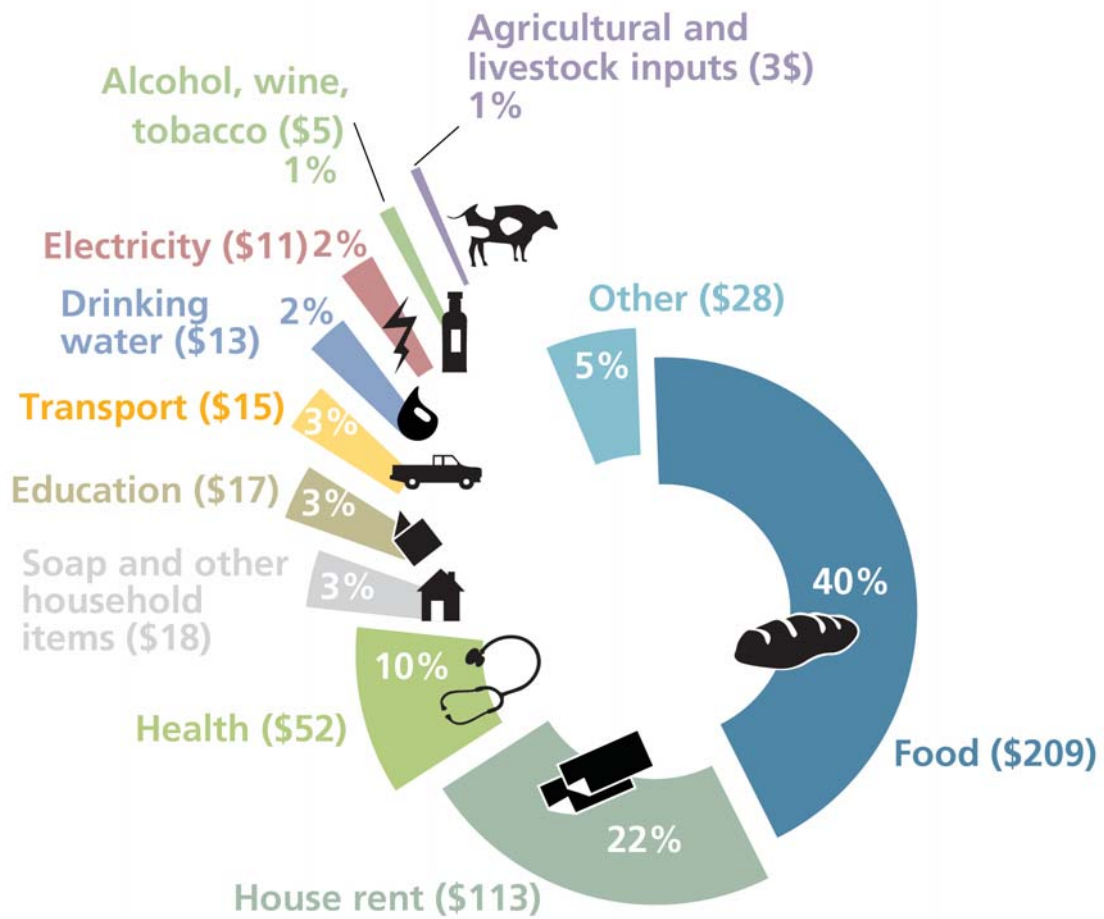
Coping strategies adopted during the past month.

**50%** of HHs experienced a lack of food or money to buy food in the past month



Food related coping strategies adopted during past week.





Average monthly expenditure as % of total (amount in USD).

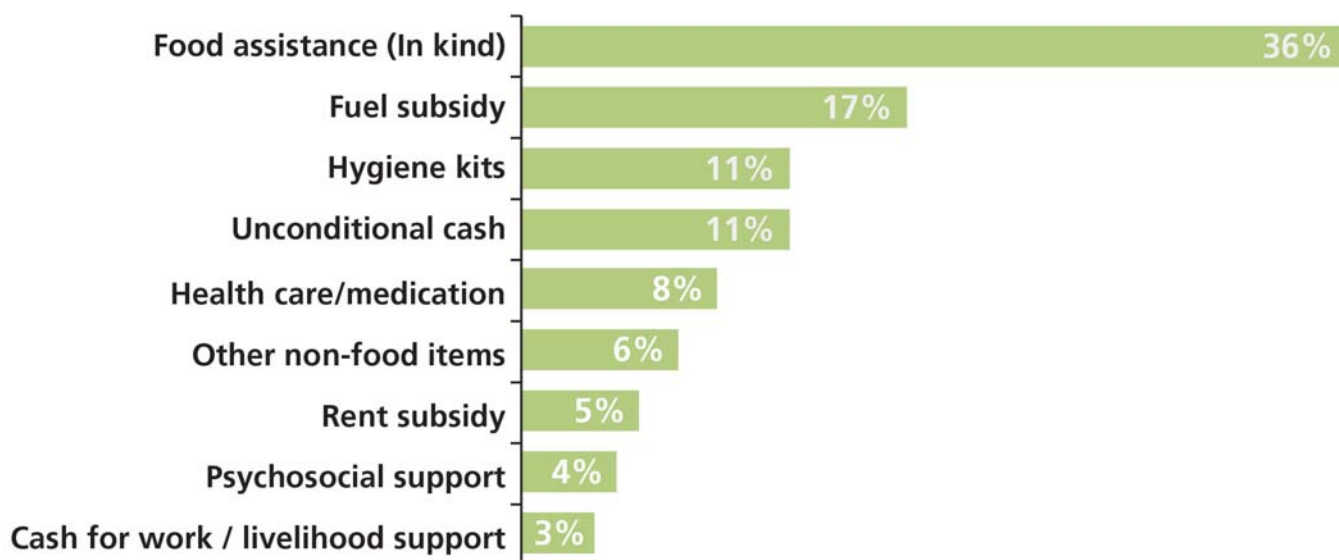
### 3.7 Humanitarian Assistance

At the outbreak of the refugee crisis, returnees were not prioritized as targets for humanitarian assistance, in part because they benefitted from Lebanese citizenship, but also due to a lack of information on their whereabouts, situation and needs. At the time of registration by HRC and IOM in 2013, 84% of returnee households said they had not received any form of assistance since arriving in the country. Following the completion of the registration exercise, IOM has used the findings to expand its ongoing emergency programmes to support returnees in a more regular and better targeted way – particularly in the sectors of shelter, NFIs, livelihoods, and primary health care. A handful of other partners have also established programmes specifically targeting returnees - most notably ICRC, Islamic Relief and the Zakat Fund (to date, mostly covering in-kind food, cash and NFI assistance).<sup>29</sup> Returnees should also be able to benefit from services provided by international organizations to other vulnerable Lebanese citizens (though they are not often targeted by such programmes). However, their situation – as demonstrated by the findings of this survey and emphasised by nearly all key informants – is much more akin to that of refugees.<sup>30</sup>

When asked about humanitarian assistance received to date, 36% of respondents to this survey highlighted food assistance, 17% fuel subsidies and 11% unconditional cash transfers.

While 36% of the total respondents reported to have benefitted from food assistance; that figure rose to 41% in Akkar and 68% in the Bekaa. As displayed in the table overleaf, more respondents appeared to have benefitted from assistance in the Bekaa than in Akkar.

Returnees are also entitled to the relief or social services provided by government entities to Lebanese citizens, including through the Ministry of Social Affairs' Social Development Centres (SDCs), which provide some health care services, psychosocial support, day-care facilities and some skill training. They may apply for enrolment in MoSA's National Poverty Targeting Program (NPTP), which provides food, health care and education assistance to the poorest Lebanese citizens, selected on the basis of a set of vulnerability criteria. Again, though, returnees are frequently not aware of these services – 67% of respondents had not heard of the NPTP,<sup>32</sup> and only 19% had benefitted from services offered by SDCs. Access to these services is further complicated as a result of insufficient funding (over 500,000 Lebanese citizens applied to the NPTP to date, and the Ministry of Social Affairs is seeking major funding for an extension of the programme). Moreover, in the case of the NPTP, returnees may face some difficulties in enrolling, as they must be registered as residents in Lebanon and have been residing there for at least six months.<sup>33</sup> Furthermore, under the current system, in the case of mixed families only



Humanitarian assistance received <sup>31</sup>

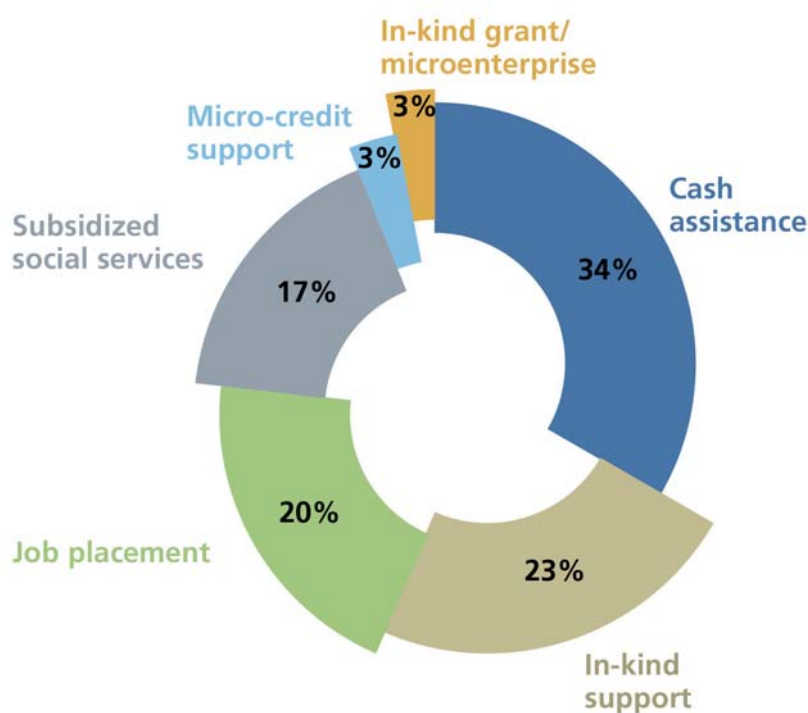
<sup>29</sup> Series of in-depth interviews with key informants.

<sup>30</sup> At Community Centres supported by UNHCR and other organizations, for instance, vulnerable Lebanese can benefit from vocational training, livelihoods support, psychosocial support and counselling. Support for vulnerable Lebanese in terms of financial subsidy, food support or health care, however, is relatively limited (Source: interview with UNHCR).

<sup>31</sup> The results are based on a multiple-response question

<sup>32</sup> 28% of respondents in Akkar and 40% in the Bekaa were aware of the programme.

<sup>33</sup> Interviews with key informants.



Preference expressed for future assistance.

the Lebanese members would be considered in the assessment of vulnerabilities. Through interviews with the Municipalities of Nahri, Baalbek and Halba – as key informants for this report – it emerged that local authorities would be willing to play a larger role in assisting Lebanese returnees, but generally lack the resources to do so.

When asked about the main needs and priorities of returnees, key informants again stressed that they reflect those of refugees. Shelter, food and health (in terms of access to medication, health care, first aid and hospitals) were cited as the major priorities. Representatives from HRC and MoSA also highlighted the need for social and psychological integration into the Lebanese community.

When asked about the most appropriate support programs for returnees, stakeholders mostly mentioned job placement – as a means through which to cover basic needs in a sustainable way – followed by cash support for the most vulnerable, and then microenterprise creation and vocational training.

Several interviewees said the emphasis should be on raising social awareness and developing livelihood opportunities, in areas such as craftsmanship, or work programs, for instance in the agricultural sector. Some stakeholders stressed that the government (and particularly the ministries of health and social affairs) and the municipalities should ultimately be empowered to respond to the returnees' needs. An important obstacle, they noted, was insufficient coordination between different government entities.

Most returnees expressed a preference for receiving cash assistance (33%), followed by in-kind support and job placement.

#### Humanitarian assistance received in Akkar and the Bekaa.

	Akkar %	Bekaa %
Food assistance (in kind)	41	68
Health care/medication	6	14
Psychosocial support	0	10
Fuel subsidy	0	39
Rent subsidy	3	9
Hygiene kits	3	22
Other non-food items	28	3
Cash-for-rent / Livelihoods support	9	4
Unconditional cash transfers	34	14

*A Lebanese returnee and her son in Qabb Elias, in the Bekaa.*



## 4.

# Concluding Remarks & Recommendations

Despite some limitations – most significantly those related to the sample size (due to budget restrictions) and the reliance on the database of registered returnees – this study provides a detailed and updated picture of the livelihood conditions and vulnerabilities of Lebanese returnees and offers indications on how best to support and assist them.

The study confirms the main findings of the HRC-IOM 2013 registration project, showing that even several years into the crisis Lebanese returnees continue to share conditions and vulnerabilities strongly similar to those of Syrian refugees. This outcome was further underlined through comparison – to the extent possible – with the findings of the VASyR 2014 survey, the main source of current information on the vulnerabilities of Syrian refugees.

Through both the household assessments and the interviews with key informants, it was also clear that returnees often do not consider themselves ‘fully’ as Lebanese citizens, and do not feel they are perceived as such by the local community and Lebanese institutions. It is worth remembering that the majority of returnees had settled and been living in Syria for decades.

Moreover, it is often the case that holding Lebanese nationality does not have a significant impact with regard to reducing vulnerabilities and improving livelihood opportunities such as access to services and to the job market. Despite enjoying the right to work and to benefit from certain public services, returnees are often denied these privileges. In part this is down to their unfamiliarity with the system and the fact that they are often perceived as Syrians, but it is also a function of the circumstances of their displacement. Opportunities for regular employment - which ensures access to health care - are scarce; children are often not enrolled in school whether due to financial constraints or fears of insecurity.

Based on the findings of survey, the study team drew the following recommendations for further assistance to this population:

- *The system for the referral and registration of returnees should be strengthened. The 2013 profiling exercise conducted by HRC and IOM remains to date the most comprehensive registration of returnees*

*but was a one-off effort. The repetition of such an assessment would ensure that a comprehensive and informed picture of Lebanese returnees is maintained, including of recently arrived returnees. It should be led by the Government (ensuring effective coordination between all relevant ministries and bodies, including HRC, MoSA, Mol and municipalities). Ahead of a second round of registration, there is a need for improved coordination between ministries, municipalities and with/among international and local organizations on the identification and referral of returnees, in line with guidelines recently issued by HRC and IOM (See Annex 2). IOM will continue to facilitate this process by providing technical support and facilitating coordination among main stakeholders.*

- *Humanitarian assistance – including food, shelter, cash assistance – should be provided to newly arrived returnees (and newly identified returnees who remain in urgent need) by humanitarian partners, under the direction of HRC and other relevant governmental entities such as the Ministry of Social Affairs, and with support from IOM and other organizations. This assistance should be targeted to the most vulnerable only, and be limited in duration for most cases.*
- *Stronger efforts should be made to inform returnees of the services available to them as Lebanese citizens, including through the Inter-Agency Q&A on Humanitarian Services and Assistance in Lebanon (INQAL) – as is underway – but also through targeted efforts led by HRC, the Ministry of Social Affairs and other agencies working with returnees.*
- *Further efforts must be made to better coordinate assistance to returnees. The sharing and management of data plays a pivotal role in harmonizing assistance to avoid duplication, improve outreach and ensure proper targeting and cost-effectiveness. Maintaining proper coordination is also critical in working with*

the cases of mixed families. Such families should not be neglected on the assumption that assistance is provided to them by either UNHCR or the Lebanese government; under some important programmes, assistance is provided only to single individuals (based on nationality) and not to the household as a whole, e.g. Under the NPTP, WFP's food voucher programme and several health care programmes.

- A key step in improving coordination could be the provision of "proof of registration" cards to returnees, in the event of extended registration. This would make returnees more easily identifiable and could facilitate their integration into certain programmes that currently prioritize Syrian refugees.

- Interventions directed towards supporting livelihoods are requested by the Lebanese returnees and welcomed by Lebanese institutions, as emerged from both the survey findings and key informant interviews. Job placements, and generally interventions directed to secure job opportunities and a stable source of income, are in demand. <sup>33</sup>

- Emergency job creation schemes – such as cash-for-work projects and labor-intensive public work programmes – have been identified as a priority within the livelihoods chapter of the upcoming Lebanon Crisis Response Plan (LCRP) for 2015-2016. Such interventions should benefit all cohorts of populations – vulnerable host communities, Syrian refugees, Palestinian refugees – including Lebanese returnees, on the basis of needs and vulnerabilities. For skilled Lebanese returnees – such as teachers, nurses, etc. –, job placement programmes could be particularly effective, as suggested by different key informants.

- Lebanese returnees should be facilitated access to credit, especially micro-finance opportunities already available. Providing returnees with in-kind and cash grants to start up and support income generating initiatives and micro-enterprises has, in IOM's experience, proven effective and has generally been well accepted by host communities. Such interventions should be based on sound market analysis and accompanied by counselling and training services.

- Access to the formal Lebanese vocational training system, as well as support to vocational training services tailored to market needs and individual skills and experiences, could sustain the employability of returnees in Lebanon and would be of use in case of their eventual return to Syria. Most Lebanese returnees completed their educational or



Khadije, a Lebanese returnee living in Nabatieh, South Lebanon, receives sewing equipment to help her establish a small tailoring business as part of IOM's livelihoods support. Originally from Nabatieh, she had been living in Syria since 1989, but fled with her children as a result of the conflict.

professional qualifications in Syria, and therefore their skills are not always recognized in Lebanon.

- It should be noted, though, that cash and food assistance, rather than livelihood projects of the kind mentioned above, were the forms assistance most frequently demanded by returnees surveyed for this study. These should remain a priority for those who are in most urgent need.

Action is needed on behalf of the donor and aid community to ensure that the most needy returnees do receive support. With the huge scale of the impact of the Syria crisis, Lebanese returnees have been partially overlooked, possibly due to the relatively small size of this population in comparison to that of Syrian refugees. The needs and constraints related to this specific population should be taken into account and addressed in a coherent and harmonized manner by relevant stakeholders within the response to the Syria crisis in Lebanon.

<sup>33</sup> The current crisis has put enormous pressure on the job market. According to the International Labor Organization (ILO), around half of the labour force is employed in the informal sector, where working conditions are generally poor, particularly for unskilled workers.

*IOM partners provide primary healthcare services to refugees, returnees and host communities in South Lebanon.*







**LIVELIHOODS ASSESSMENT OF LEBANESE RETURNEES**

**QUESTIONNAIRE NUMBER**    | | | | | |

My name is \_\_\_\_\_ and I am working with a team of researchers investigating issues related to Lebanese returnees. We are interviewing a number of households in your area and other areas of Lebanon. The objective of this study is to analyze the livelihoods conditions of Lebanese returnees from Syria. Your household was chosen randomly. We would like to stress that we are interested in your household insofar as it represents other households in your neighborhood but we also need information and opinions from your particular household. The collected information will remain confidential. It is for the purpose of this survey only.

1. Name of surveyor: \_\_\_\_\_

2. Date        | | | | | |

3. Name of respondent \_\_\_\_\_

4. Is the respondent selected from the IOM database: 1-Yes    2- NO

5. Governorate \_\_\_\_\_

6. Caza \_\_\_\_\_

7. Town or village \_\_\_\_\_

8. Residence address \_\_\_\_\_

9. Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

10. Name	11. Relation to breadwinner	12. Nationalities	13. Gender	14. Year of Birth	15. Marital Status	16. Registration	17. Educational Attainment	18. Health
Number Write in rows the name of each household member. Household members to be listed in this table are those members registered as one family  <b># 1 should be the Head of household/Main breadwinner</b>  Insert an X sign (in Number Column) in front of the household member selected as being the head of the household (main breadwinner), prior to crisis	1) IOM/MB 2) Spouse 3) Children 4) Son/daughter-in-law 5) Grandchild 6) Parents 7) Relatives 8) House helpers 9) Others	1) Lebanese 2) Syrian 3) Palestinian 4) Other	1) Male 2) Female		1) Single 2) Married 3) Divorced/separated 4) Widowed	1) Not registered nor pre-registered 2) Pending registration 3) Registered with UNHCR 4) Registered with UNRWA 5) Registered with IOM/HRC 6) Registered at the municipality of residence 7) Other	1) Read & Write/literate 2) Kindergarten 3) Primary (CAP or BP) 4) Intermediate 5) Intermediate (BT or DS) 6) Secondary 7) Secondary (SALT) 8) BA/BS 9) MA/MS 10) PHD	1) Pregnant and/or lactating women 2) Have any disability (physical and/or mental) 3) Chronically ill 4) Temporal functional limitations/injured 5) Serious medical conditions 6) Others (specify) 7) People in need of support to access to toilet facilities or external services.
	1							
	2							
	3							
	4							
	5							
	6							
	7							
	8							
	9							
	10							
Number	19. Impairment	20. Work status in Syria	21. Occupation in Syria	22. Work status in Lebanon	23. Occupation in Lebanon	24. Average daily wage in LBP		

The Consultation and Research Institute 3

1) No impairment 2) Mobility 3) Hearing - Speech 4) Visual 5) Mental	1) Active: Business owner (>2 employees) 2) Active: Self employed 3) Active: Employee 4) Active: Family Business helper 5) Active: Trainee (no wage) 6) Active: Unemployed 7) 1 <sup>st</sup> time seeking job (inactive) 8) Housewife (inactive) 9) Unwilling to work (inactive) 10) Student only (inactive) 11) Impaired (inactive) 12) Retired (inactive) 13) Under age (inactive)		1) Active: Business owner (>2 employees) 2) Active: Self employed 3) Active: Employee 4) Active: Family Business helper 5) Active: Trainee (no wage) 6) Active: Unemployed 7) 1 <sup>st</sup> time seeking job (inactive) 8) Housewife (inactive) 9) Unwilling to work (inactive) 10) Student only (inactive) 11) Impaired (inactive) 12) Retired (inactive) 13) Under age (inactive)		
1					
2					
3					
4					
5					
6					
7					
8					
9					
10					
11					

25. Please specify the number and the name of the member who was selected to fill the questionnaire: | | | | |

### SECTION 2. DISPLACEMENT PROFILE

26. Did all the members of the household come to Lebanon at the same time?

1)	Yes
2)	No

27. When did the members of the household arrive to Lebanon? [ ] (Month) [ ] (year)

28. When was the first arrival of the household members: [ ] (Month) [ ] (year)

29. When was the last arrival of the household members: [ ] (Month) [ ] (year)

30. Did you have friends or relatives in Lebanon before coming to Lebanon?

1)	Yes
2)	No

31. What is the caza of origin in Lebanon? \_\_\_\_\_

32. What is the village/town of origin in Lebanon: \_\_\_\_\_

33. Please list in order the towns/villages (In Syria and Lebanon) you have moved to and settled in (for more than 6 months) since the beginning of the conflict in Syria:

1)	
2)	
3)	
4)	
5)	
6)	
7)	

### SECTION 3 HOUSING

34. Type of residence in Syria (pre-crisis):

1)	Independent House/ Apartment
2)	One room structure
3)	Factory/Warehouse
4)	Garage /Shop/Worksite
5)	Unfinished building
6)	Collective shelter (6 families or more - unmanaged)
7)	Collective center (6 families or more - managed)
8)	Tented settlements
9)	Homeless/No shelter
10)	Others (specify)

35. Type of occupancy in Syria (pre-crisis):

1)	Owned apartment/house
2)	Unfurnished rental
3)	Furnished rental
4)	Provided by Employer
5)	Hosted (for free)

6)	Squatting (occupancy without permission from owner)
7)	Assistance/Charity
8)	Others (specify)

36. Total area in sqm in Syria (pre-crisis): : [ ] [ ] [ ] sqm

37. Type of residence in Lebanon (post-crisis)

1)	Independent House/ Apartment
2)	One room structure
3)	Factory/Warehouse
4)	Garage /Shop/Worksite
5)	Unfinished building
6)	Collective shelter (6 families or more - unmanaged)
7)	Collective center (6 families or more - managed)
8)	Tent in informal settlements
9)	Formal tented settlements
10)	Homeless/No shelter
11)	Others (specify)

38. Type of occupancy in Lebanon (post-crisis):

1)	Owned apartment/house
2)	Unfurnished rental
3)	Furnished rental
4)	Provided by Employer
5)	Hosted (for free)
6)	Squatting (occupancy without permission from owner)
7)	Assistance/Charity
8)	Others (specify)

39. If you are renting, how much do you pay per month? [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] LBP

40. Total area in sqm in Lebanon (post-crisis): : [ ] [ ] [ ] sqm

41. Household (the number of the household members as listed in Section 1 of the questionnaire) size in Lebanon: [ ] [ ] members

42. Do you live:

1)	With only your own family
2)	With other relative family/members
3)	With other unrelated family/members

43. What is the total number of members living under the same roof: [ ] [ ] members

44. Does your household currently own enough number of the following items to cover household needs? (usable condition). Indicate if the household have access to the following items (0=no 1=yes)

1)	Mattresses	
2)	Beds	
3)	Blankets	
4)	Winter clothes	
5)	Table and chairs	
6)	Sofa set	
7)	Small gas stove	
8)	Refrigerator	
9)	Water heater	

10)	Washing machine	
11)	Electric oven	
12)	Microwave / Vacuum cleaner	
13)	Dish washer/Drier machine / Separate freezer /	
14)	Central heating	
15)	Air conditioning	
16)	Sewing machine / Iron	
17)	TV	
18)	DVD Player	
19)	Computer	
20)	Satellite dish	
21)	Motorcycle	
22)	Car/van/truck	

45. What is the condition of your current accommodation?

1)	General good conditions	
2)	High humidity	
3)	Dirty	
4)	No doors	
5)	Walls/Roof of wood, iron, fabrics or plastic	
6)	No windows	
7)	Water leakage	
8)	No ventilation	
9)	Rodents	
10)	Broken stairs/debris around shelter	
11)	Health hazards (open drops, poor electrical wiring, concrete bars sticking out if the ground)	
12)	Others (specify)	

#### SECTION 4 EDUCATION

46. How many 4-17 years old children do currently live in your family? |\_|\_|

47. Out of them (4-17 years old), how many did not enroll in school for this academic year (2013-14)? |\_|\_|

48. What are the main reasons for non-enrollment of children in your family?

1)	<b>Cannot afford to pay for tuition/cost (textbook, etc)</b>	
2)	No school in the community / Distance	
3)	No space in school	
4)	Children need to stay at home and assist the family with household chores	
5)	Children need to work	
6)	Newly/irregularly arrived	
7)	Attending Khalwa (informal school)	
8)	Customs/tradition/lack of awareness	
9)	Insecurity	
10)	Bullying	
11)	Transport	
12)	Disability	
13)	Traumatized	
14)	Others (specify)	

#### SECTION 5 HEALTH

49. During the last six months, did any of your household experience any of the following cases?

1)	Was not able to receive primary health care	
2)	Was not able to receive secondary/specialized health care or hospitalization	
3)	HH received the required primary health care <b>skip following question</b>	
4)	HH received the required secondary/specialized or hospitalization <b>skip following question</b>	
5)	HH did not require any primary health care in last 6 months/ since they are in Lebanon <b>skip following question</b>	
6)	HH did not require any secondary/specialized or hospitalization health care in last 6 months/ since they are in Lebanon	
7)	Don't know	

50. If any member of your household did not receive the required health care, which were the reasons?

1)	Distance of health center/transportation cost	
2)	Physical limitations to access the health center	
3)	Inadequate welcoming/treatment by health center staff	
4)	Fees doctor visit	
5)	Cost of drugs/treatment	
6)	Rejected / not accepted	
7)	Don't know where to go	
8)	Pending appointment	
9)	Other (specify)	

51. Do you benefit from health assistance?

1)	I do not benefit from health assistance /HH pays all health related costs (consultation, drugs, etc...)	
2)	Public health clinic - HH paid parts of the health care/ cost sharing	
3)	Insurance (employment, private, other insurance)	
4)	CSO health care - total free health care	
5)	CSC health care - cost sharing, partial benefits	
6)	HH received financial contribution for consultation with Physician/ diagnostics / medicines	
7)	Don't know	
8)	Others (specify)	

#### SECTION 6 INCOME SOURCES

52. How many household members have worked in the last 30 days? |\_|\_|

53. How many of the employments of the last 30 days are permanent, seasonal or temporary

Type of work	#household members
Permanent	
Seasonal	
Temporary	

54. In the last 30 days, what was the **three** main source of income to sustain your household in Lebanon currently, and in Syria before the crisis?

Source of Income	Lebanon (Present)	Syria (Past)
1) Sale of crops		
2) Sale of livestock and animal produce		
3) Agricultural waged labor		
4) Nonagricultural casual labor (casual labor, skilled labor, salaried work, provision of services)		
5) Skilled work		
6) Formal commerce		
7) Informal commerce		
8) Sale of assets (car, bicycle, refrigerator, TV)		
9) Remittances		
10) Savings		
11) Formal credit/debts (e.g. banks)		
12) Informal credit/debts (shops, friends hosts)		
13) Gifts from family/relatives		
14) Sale of food aid (food vouchers or parcels)		
15) Sale of non-food assistance		
16) Cash from humanitarian/charitable organizations		
17) Food voucher		
18) Begging		
19) Other (specify) _____		

If you receive remittances from abroad, please specify amount and the country of origin: \_\_\_\_\_

55. What is the total monthly income (last month) of the household: |\_|\_|\_|\_| LBP

56. Do you own any of the following (in the current location)? Status coding 1=In good condition 2=Damaged 3=Destroyed 4=Don't know 5=NA

Description of Property	Status
Land for Business or Agriculture	
Land for House	
House	
Vehicle	
Basic household commodities	
Livestock	
Poultry	
shop	
Other: Specify:	

### SECTION 7. HOUSEHOLD EXPENDITURES

57. What is the estimated amount spent by the household during the last month: |\_|\_|\_|\_| LBP

58. What is the estimated amount spent by the household during the past 30 days for the following items?

Type of expenditure	LBP spent last month
1) Food expenditure	
2) Health expenditures	

3) Education expenditures	
4) House rent	
5) Drinking water	
6) Alcohol, wine, tobacco	
7) Soap and other household items	
8) Transport	
9) Electricity	
10) Agricultural and livestock inputs (animal forage, livestock, seeds, fertilizers, tools, etc)	
11) All the rest of expenditures (milling, labor, ceremonies, firewood, clothing, etc.)	

59. If you send remittances to outside Lebanon, please specify amount and country of destination: \_\_\_\_\_

60. During the last 30 days, did you experience lack of food or money to buy enough food to meet the needs of all your household members?

1) Yes	
2) No	

61. During the last 7 days, how many times (in days) did your household employ one of the following strategies to cope with a lack of food or money to buy it?

#	Coping strategies	Number of days
1) Relied on less preferred, less expensive food		
2) Borrowed food or relied on help from friends or relatives		
3) Reduced the number of meals eaten per day		
4) Spent days without eating		
5) Restrict consumption by adults in order to young-small children to eat?		
6) Send household members to eat elsewhere		
7) Reduced portion size of meals		
8) Restrict consumption of female household members.		

62. During the past 30 days, did anyone in your household have to do one of the following things because there was not enough food or money to buy it? (1 = No, because I do not need; 2 = No, because I already did it (so cannot continue to do it); 3 = No, I don't have; 4= Yes

#	Coping strategies	Code
1) Selling household goods (radio, furniture, television, jewelry etc..)		
2) Sell productive assets or means of transport (sewing machine, wheelbarrow, bicycle, car, livestock..)		
3) Reduce essential non-food expenditures such as education, health, etc..		
4) Spent savings		
5) Bought food on credit or borrowed money to purchase food.		
6) Sold house or land		
7) Withdrew children from school		
8) Have school children (6 -15 years old) involved in income generation		
9) Marriage of children under 18		
10) Begged		





## DRAFT Guidelines for Identification, Referral and Registration of Lebanese Returnees

### I. Objective:

- To identify Lebanese citizens displaced by the Syria conflict who are in need of protection or humanitarian assistance, and to ensure that that assistance is provided in a timely, effective manner.

### II. Identification and Referral:

- “Lebanese returnees”, as defined by the Government of Lebanon, are all those Lebanese citizens who had been living in Syria since 2006 or earlier and returned to Lebanon after March 2011 as a result of the conflict.
- Documents acceptable as proof of returnee status may include:
  - For Lebanese citizenship: passport, ID card, registration statement (إخراج قيد).
  - For Syrian residency: residency documents or utilities bill, proof of accommodation rental or property ownership.
- Upon identification, returnees in need of assistance should either:
  - a) be referred directly to the High Relief Commission (the government office responsible for assisting Lebanese returnees), using a “Lebanese returnee referral form” which includes basic personal details and contact information, or
  - b) approach municipal authorities or a Social Development Center (SDC), who should fill a “Lebanese returnee referral form” and submit it to HRC.
- In both situations, referral forms should be submitted to Tala al-Khatib of HRC (Email: [talkhatib@iom.int](mailto:talkhatib@iom.int), Fax: 01379116, Tel: 76 042080). Consent to having their information shared with HRC should be obtained from returnees before they are referred.
- The referring entity/local authority (municipality/SDC) should assess the urgency of the case as follows:
  - **Emergency referral:** where individuals require immediate intervention due to a life-threatening situation (e.g. immediate life-saving surgery).
  - **Urgent referral:** where individuals should be prioritized due to serious vulnerabilities (e.g. serious medical concern, threat of eviction).
  - **Normal referral:** where individuals do not require any urgent intervention and can be processed according to regular procedures.
- Upon receipt of each case, HRC will identify the most appropriate course for providing assistance where possible, whether directly, through referral to IOM (or any other humanitarian partner) or through referral to the government’s National Poverty Targeting Programme.

### III. Registration and Profiling:

- HRC, supported by IOM, plans to conduct the second round of an exercise to register and profile all vulnerable returnees in the country. This will include the 17,510 returnees already registered between July and October 2013, whose profiles will be updated.
- The purpose of the registration and profiling exercise is to provide a more detailed and accurate picture of the situation and needs of individual returnee cases (as well as of their overall situation). This information will directly inform the interventions of HRC, IOM and any other actors targeting Lebanese returnees.
- Information on how to register will be circulated prior to the start of the exercise. Those who have been referred to HRC as above will be contacted directly.

# REFUGEES AT HOME

A LIVELIHOODS ASSESSMENT  
OF LEBANESE RETURNEES  
FROM SYRIA



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