

# VULNERABILITY ASSESSMENT OF REFUGEES OF OTHER NATIONALITIES IN LEBANON

---

## 2018



# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Lebanon hosts the largest concentration of refugees per capita in the world, the majority of them from Syria--yet these are not the only refugees. Lebanon is also home to a significant refugee population from Iraq, as well as a smaller number from other countries. At the end of 2018, there were 18,200 refugees of Iraqi and nationalities other than Syrian in Lebanon. Their situation is often overshadowed, and this report aims to shed light on the reality of these refugees, from their economic vulnerability and food insecurity, to their access to healthcare and education. **UNHCR is pleased to present the Vulnerability Assessment of Refugees of Other Nationalities in Lebanon (VARON 2018).**

The VARON 2018 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. Iraqis make up the largest share (72%) of the registered refugees, arriving mostly in 2014 and 2015. The remaining refugees are primarily from Sudan (15%), but also from Ethiopia (5%), Egypt (2%), and elsewhere; this report refers to this second group as 'Other Nationality' refugees. The number of refugees of Iraqi and other nationalities has declined (from 20,505 at the end of 2017 to 18,200 at the end of 2018), but new asylum-seekers continue to approach UNHCR seeking international protection. Indeed, 2,359 non-Syrian refugees registered with UNHCR in Lebanon during 2018.

## METHODOLOGY

Between 24 April and 2 May 2018, survey teams visited 479 Iraqi and other nationality households in Lebanon. Data was collected through face-to-face interviews at refugee homes by trained enumerators employed by UNHCR partners. The survey tool used is the same as that developed and used for the Vulnerability Assessment of Syrian Refugees (VASyR), with some minor adjustments where needed.

The survey consisted of 486 questions that collected information at both the individual and household levels. The questionnaire included key indicators on demographics, legal documentation, safety and security, shelter, WASH, health, food security, livelihoods, expenditures, food consumption, debt and coping strategies. The data collected was weighted for nationality prior to analysis. As mentioned, Iraqi refugees make up around three quarters of this population and as such, weighting was necessary to ensure that this distribution was adequately represented in the data and subsequent results. Weights were calculated at the nationality level: one for Iraqis and one for other nationalities.

## KEY FINDINGS

There continued to be marked differences in demographics between Iraqi households and other nationality refugees living in Lebanon. Iraqis tended to live in family units of three to four people, while other nationality households typically had one to two members. While one third of Iraqi refugees were children, refugees of other nationalities tended to have a higher concentration of individuals between 18 and 59 years, and a lower percentage of children and elderly. Iraqi households were also more likely to have arrived together, and for those who did not, the delay in reunification was shorter than for refugees of other nationalities. The number of households with at least one member with a specific need has risen, to 68% in 2018. Men were slightly more prevalent than women in both groups, and three in five adults were married. Protection of refugees has legal ramifications as well as physical, and civil documentation such as residency and birth registration (or the lack thereof) can have significant consequences. **Two in three refugees aged 15 and older did**

**not have legal residency.** Three in five households did not have any member with legal residency. Not having legal residency puts refugees at risk of arrest and detention, and therefore limits their freedom of movement in the country. In addition, while 73% of children under the age of five were born in Lebanon, just half had their births registered with the Foreigners Registry. The level of birth registration appears to be particularly low for other nationality families.

**Refugee–host community relations were mixed and continued to be more difficult for refugees of other nationalities.** One third of refugees reported tensions with the host community, attributing it most often to competition for jobs, resources and services, in that order. For Iraqis, that share was 31%, while for refugees of other nationalities, the share jumped to 44%. When asked to describe how they felt about the situation and future of their households, however, Iraqi refugees were more likely to indicate that they frequently felt negative or hopeless (46% of Iraqi households compared to 35% of other nationalities).

**One in four refugees were residing in inadequate shelters,** an increase from 16% in 2017. Nearly one in four refugees lived in overcrowded conditions. On the other hand, only 2% of refugees were residing in shelters that were in dangerous conditions. Lack of formal rental agreements continued to put refugee tenants at increased risk of exploitation or eviction, and just 15% of those surveyed possessed a written contract. The vast majority (94%) of surveyed refugees were living in residential buildings, and the average monthly rent was US\$ 337. There was a major difference between the average rent of Iraqi households (US\$ 391) and households of refugees of other nationalities (US\$ 205).

**The majority of refugees had access to basic and improved drinking water sources,** although only 68% of surveyed refugees were able to access a drinking water source on their premises. More than two-thirds of surveyed households reported paying for drinking water. **Virtually all refugees also had access to improved sanitation facilities,** although when broken out by nationality group, 96% of Iraqi

refugees had access to flush toilets, compared to 77% of refugees of other nationalities.

**School attendance remained suboptimal.** As of 31 May 2018, there were an estimated 4,536 Iraqi and other nationality refugees between the ages of 5 and 17 years old residing in Lebanon. Pre-school attendance for children ages 3 to 5 remained low at 32%, although slightly improved compared to 24% last year. The attendance rate for refugee children between the ages of 6 and 11 (primary school) was 62%, and for refugee children between 12 and 14 years of age enrolled in lower secondary, the rate was only 28%. For upper secondary school, 29% of children between the ages of 15 and 17 were enrolled, but just 7% were attending. Cost was the most commonly cited barrier to attending school among children age 3 to 17 including the cost of transportation to school (25%) and of educational materials (18%). Almost half of refugees aged 15 to 24 were not employed, not in education, and not attending any training. This figure was significantly higher among female youth (68%) than among males (29%).

**The cost of treatment—from doctors' visits to tests and medication—continued to prevent some of those needing health care from accessing it.** Based on the six months prior to the survey, 51% of surveyed refugee households reported needing primary health care and 24% reported requiring hospital care. One in five of those needing primary health care and two in five of those needing hospital care were unable to access it, primarily due to cost. In addition, almost half of households were unaware of how to access medical services in case of emergency.

To compensate for a lack of money to buy food, **at least three quarters of households relied on food-related coping strategies, and one in seven households relied on a livelihood coping mechanism.** Furthermore, while reliance on livelihood-related coping strategies such as reducing expenditures on food, education and health or spending household savings declined from the previous year, **reliance on credit and borrowing grew, which may indicate that other strategies have been exhausted.**

**Thirty-eight percent of the surveyed refugee population had poor to borderline food consumption.** One in six households had a poor food consumption score, indicating a lesser variety and frequency of foods consumed, and therefore a greater probability that a household is not achieving nutritional adequacy. The difference between refugees of Iraqi and other nationalities was stark, with nearly half of refugees of other nationalities having unacceptable levels of food consumption. In particular, adult refugees of other nationalities ate just 1.8 meals per day while Iraqis consumed 2.24 meals. Iraqis consumed vital nutrients such as protein and iron more frequently than refugees of other nationalities, as well as consumed a greater variety of food groups. Refugee households of other nationalities also had less dietary diversity than Iraqi households.

Economic vulnerability and insufficient food consumption combine to result in food insecurity. **One third of the surveyed refugee population was moderately to severely food insecure, and an additional 50% were found to be marginally food insecure.** Refugees of other nationalities experienced food insecurity in greater proportions, with 45% moderately to severely food insecure, and less than 12% food secure. Per capita food expenditure increased slightly from 2017, and the share of households spending more than 75% of their expenditure on food increased continued its upward creep (to 1%). However, more than three-quarters of surveyed households spent less than 50% of their expenditures on food, indicating the ability to utilize resources to cover other needs within the households. Fewer households reported having experienced a lack of food (and/or money to buy it) in the month prior to the survey (62% in 2018 versus 78% in 2017).

**Refugees remained economically vulnerable, with one in five surveyed households living below the poverty line.** Over half of surveyed households borrowed money or made purchases on credit during the three months prior to the survey, showing that refugee households continue to lack enough resources to cover their essential needs. Average per capita monthly expenditure was US\$ 245, with food and rent making up approximately one

third of expenditures a piece. Iraqi households had greater per capita expenditures than households of other nationalities.

Overall, **34% of working age individuals had worked in the 30 days prior to the survey for an average of 20.4 days per month and 44 hours per week.** At the household level, 65% had at least one member who had worked in the previous 30 days. Refugees of other nationalities were more likely than Iraqis to have worked in the last 30 days, but when comparing employed refugees, Iraqis worked more days per month and more hours per week than refugees of other nationalities.

While work was the main source of income for the majority of households, one in ten refugees reported debt as their primary source of income. Building concierge and the non-professional service sector were the most commonly reported forms of employment. Expenditure per capita exceeded income per capita by US\$ 121 on average, indicating that **household income was not sufficient to cover needs.**

**Cash assistance continued to provide a safety net for the poorest refugees.** In the surveyed refugee households, **21% reported that they had received multi-purpose cash assistance.** A larger proportion of Iraqi households reported receiving this type of assistance, at 29%, compared to 14% of households of other nationalities. Reporting on the receipt of non-cash assistance was much less common, with only about 1% reporting having received vocational training, or hygiene awareness sessions.

Overall, analysis revealed that while refugees in non-poor households were faring better than their counterparts under the poverty line, it was typically only minimally. **Refugees from countries other than Iraq were systematically worse off, and at times significantly so, for virtually all indicators.**

## RECOMMENDATIONS

**1 Ensure food assistance programming**, in order to avoid deterioration in food insecurity and reliance on negative coping mechanisms. In May 2019, refugees from Iraqi and other countries were included in WFP food assistance programmes.

**2 Continue to advocate for facilitation of residency renewal procedures including a reduction in the financial cost**, 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. In turn, lack of residency constrains access to livelihoods, which prevents people from affording the residency renewal fee, as well as from gathering required supporting documentation. Moreover, refugees and asylum-seekers of Iraqi and other nationalities are requested to present a passport for residency renewal; national IDs are not accepted as they are for Syrians.

**3 Ramp up awareness raising efforts on the importance of birth registration. In addition, advocacy must take place to encourage facilitation of procedures in line with those which are in place for the Syrians, such as the one-year-deadline for registration.** Lack of birth registration may put children at risk of statelessness and impacts their ability to access basic and lifesaving services including education and healthcare. Follow up with refugee families of other nationalities with children under six to better understand the barriers to birth registration. This could occur during planned focus group sessions, or through phone surveys. Conduct a media campaign targeting Iraqi and other nationality refugees on the importance and process of birth registration.

**4 Rehabilitate dangerous shelters to minimum standards.** Tackling shelter conditions would not only allow refugees to live in security

and dignity, but may improve health outcomes, results indicate.

Target Iraqi and other nationality refugees with shelter rehabilitation programs. This is planned for 2019 with the rehabilitation of 50 shelters in one area based on identified needs.

**5 Improve access to health care by raising refugees' awareness** about available UNHCR subsidies through outreach activities targeting refugees from Iraqi and other nationalities, and by providing translated leaflets in various languages to reach all beneficiaries.

**6 Continue to raise awareness about the availability of formal public education**, which is free of charge for refugees of any nationality. Advocate with the Ministry of Education and Higher Education to ensure additional schools are available in areas where refugee children of Iraqi and other nationalities are concentrated to increase access. Include refugee children of Iraqi and other nationalities in the Accelerated Learning Programme cycles and non-formal education programs, such as basic literacy and numeracy and foreign language support, to reduce the associated barriers of access to formal education and prevent drop out.

# INTRODUCTION

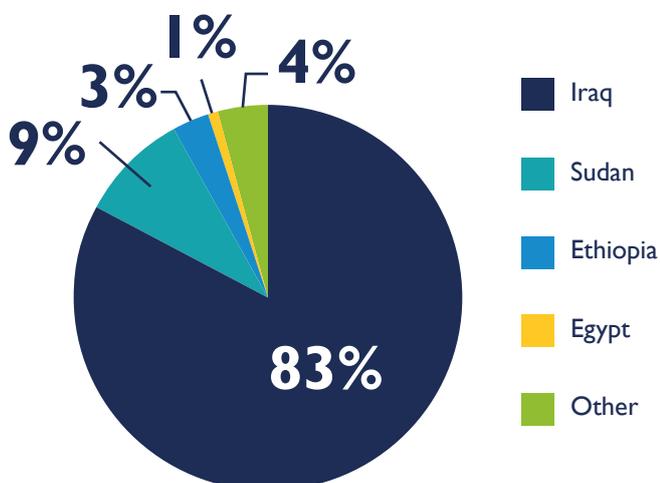
## BACKGROUND

While Lebanon has seen an influx of some one million Syrian refugees since 2012, refugees and asylum-seekers of other nationalities continue to face severe vulnerabilities. With the overwhelming number of Syrian refugees currently in Lebanon, the vulnerabilities and needs of this population group, many of whom have been in Lebanon prior to the Syrian crisis, have been somewhat overshadowed.

By the end of April 2018 there were just above 7,500 refugee families from countries other than Syria in Lebanon. This group is primarily comprised of Iraqis (72%) who have mostly arrived in 2014 and 2015. The second largest group are the Sudanese, who make up 15% of the population. Other countries of origin include Ethiopia, Egypt, Eritrea, and others.

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

REFUGEES AND ASYLUM-SEEKERS OF NATIONALITIES OTHER THAN SYRIAN BY COUNTRY OF ORIGIN (figure 1)



## PURPOSE

The Vulnerability Assessment of Refugees of Other Nationalities (VARON) is a key tool for advocacy and program design. The key objectives of the VARON include:

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

# METHODOLOGY

## SAMPLING

The assessment surveyed a total of 479 refugee households of Iraqi and other nationalities registered with UNHCR Lebanon. This amounted to a total of 1,290 individuals. As of February 2018, there were 6,100 households (representing 16,430 individuals) in the UNHCR registration database. This was the sampling pool from which the targeted sample was selected.

Iraqi refugees and refugees of nationalities other than Iraqi were considered as two separate groups and the sampling was carried out independently for each group. Assuming a 30% non-response rate a total of 350 households were selected per population group for the survey. A higher than expected non-response rate (almost 40%) led to the total reached sample of 227 Iraqi households and 252 households of other nationalities.

As the distribution of this refugee population in Lebanon is mainly concentrated in 2 of the 26 districts (Beirut and Mount Lebanon), geographical representation was not applied to the sample. For each of the two population groups, simple random sampling was used to select the households. In this way, the sample was expected to be in line with the national distribution of refugees in the country.

## DATA COLLECTION

Data was collected through face-to-face interviews at refugee homes by trained enumerators employed by UNHCR partners<sup>1</sup>. Data was entered on electronic tablets at the point of collection using Open Data Kit software. The data was then sent to UNHCR's Refugee Assistance Information System (RAIS) Platform<sup>2</sup>. Enumerators were trained on the data collection tool, contextual background, methodology and ethical considerations. Following the trainings, enumerators also participated in a two-day field test prior to beginning the field work. Data collection took place between 24 April and 2 May 2018.

The survey tool used is the same as that developed and used for the Vulnerability Assessment of Syrian Refugees (VASyR), with some minor edits where needed. The questionnaire consisted of

486 questions that collect information at both the individual and household levels. The questionnaire included key indicators on demographics, legal documentation, safety and security, shelter, WASH, health, food security, livelihoods, expenditures, food consumption, debt and coping strategies.

The questionnaire is a household survey typically administered with the head of households or another adult household member that is able to accurately provide information on behalf of the other household members. The interview took around one hour per household to complete.

## DATA ANALYSIS

The data collected was weighted for nationality prior to data analysis. As mentioned, Iraqi refugees make up around three quarters of this population and as such weighting was necessary to ensure that this distribution was adequately represented in the data and subsequent results. Two weights were calculated: one for Iraqis and one for other nationalities.

The weights were calculated using the following formula:

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

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

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

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

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

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

## LIMITATIONS

Response bias is always a limiting factor in self-reported data. As such, enumerators were comprehensively trained on informed consent to reassure the main aspects of confidentiality, impartiality, risks and benefits.

The higher than expected non-response rate also serves as a limiting factor in this assessment in two ways. First, the interpretation of overall characteristics must be approached with caution as the large non-response bias may have had an influence on the characteristics of the households and individuals that participated, compared to those that were not surveyed. Second, the smaller sample size did not allow for specific analysis in terms of different age groups, gender and shelter types. Instead the sample was treated as one group and disaggregation by nationality (Iraqi versus other nationalities) is provided when enough observations were available.

Finally, the methodology used in the 2017 vulnerability assessment differed substantially from 2018. In 2017 the VARON was done using data that had been collected on the entire population for targeting purposes. As such, the survey tool used was different and questions on key indicators were asked differently. Moreover, data collection in 2017 was conducted throughout the winter. For these reasons, comparison with results from 2017 was not always possible and must be considered bearing in mind these limiting factors.

# DEMOGRAPHICS

Assessing the demographics of refugees of Iraqi and other nationalities allows the humanitarian community to better understand the general composition of this population group overall and within families. This is done by examining patterns in age and gender distributions, household size and composition, dependency and prevalence of specific needs.

## KEY FINDINGS

- The age distribution of the surveyed population revealed a marked difference between the two refugee groups, with a higher concentration of children and elderly among Iraqi refugees.
- There was a slightly higher proportion of males in the surveyed population at 53% in comparison to females at 47%.
- Average household size was found to be 3.1 with Iraqi households having a larger family size than households of other nationalities (3.7 compared to 1.9).
- Overall, 17% of households were headed by females with a much lower proportion among Iraqi households (14%) compared to other nationalities (24%).
- Over two thirds (68%) of surveyed households had at least one member with a specific need.

refugee households compared to households of other nationalities (27% compared to 11%). Refugees of other nationalities tended to have a higher share of children below four years of age at 13%, compared to 5% for the Iraqi refugee population. Of the surveyed population, 53% were male and 47% female with a similar overall gender distribution among both nationality groups.

### COMPARE TO SYRIAN REFUGEES

**54%** of the population is below 18 years of age

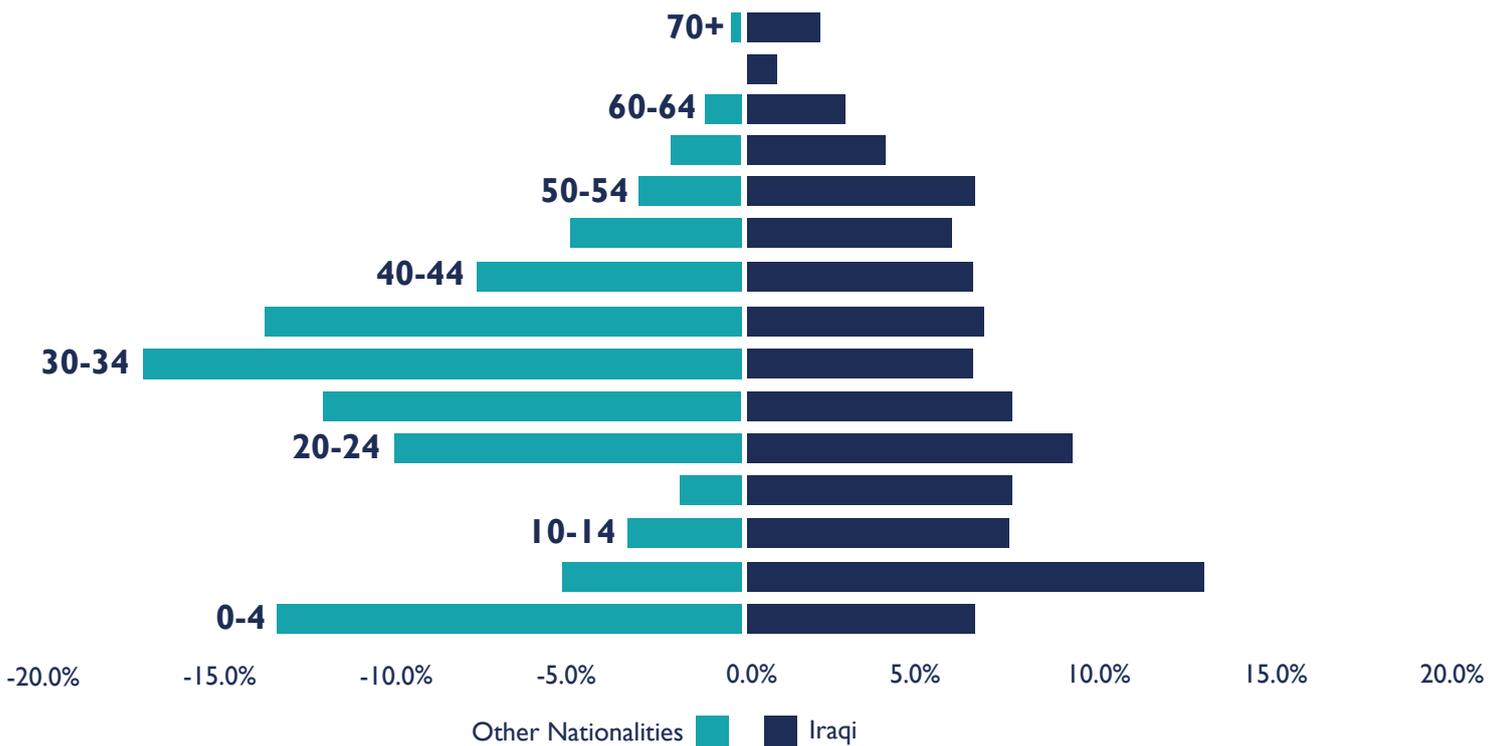
**3%** of the population is over 60 years of age

## PROFILE OF REFUGEE POPULATION

### AGE AND GENDER

Approximately 33% of the Iraqi refugee population was below 18 years of age, while those between the ages of 18 and 59 comprised 61% of the population. Older individuals (above the age of 60) comprised 7% of this population. On the other hand, refugees of other nationalities tended to have a higher concentration of individuals between 18 and 59 years, and a lower percentage of children and elderly. Results revealed that 24% were below 18 years of age, 75% were between the ages of 18 and 59, while only 2% were above the age of 60. There was a larger proportion of children between the ages of 5 and 17 in Iraqi

AGE DISTRIBUTION BY NATIONALITY (figure 2)



## MARITAL STATUS

Sixty-one percent of interviewed adults in both refugee groups were married, and 39% were single. A minority of interviewed individuals were separated (1%), divorced (1%), or widowed (2%). Marital status documentation is discussed in the Protection chapter.

## ARRIVAL TO LEBANON

Ninety-one percent of interviewed Iraqi households reported that all members had arrived in Lebanon at the same time, compared to 75% of refugee households of other nationalities. For those who did not arrive together, the maximum time between the arrival of the first family members and the remaining family members was found to be an average of 24 months for Iraqi refugees, but much longer for those of other nationalities, at around 51 months.

## PROFILE OF REFUGEE HOUSEHOLDS

### HOUSEHOLD SIZE AND COMPOSITION

Overall, household size for this population group was significantly smaller than their Syrian counterparts. The population had a reported average household size of 3.1 members. The average Iraqi family consisted of 3.7 members, compared to 1.9 members for households of other nationalities. Iraqi refugee households were on average composed of 2.3 adults between the ages of 18 and 65, 0.9 children between the ages of 6 and 17, and 0.3 children aged five or less. On the other hand, refugee households of other nationalities were composed, on average, of 1.4 adults between the ages of 18 and 65. Children were much less common in these households, with an average of only 0.3 children between the ages of 6 and 17, and 0.3 children aged five or less.

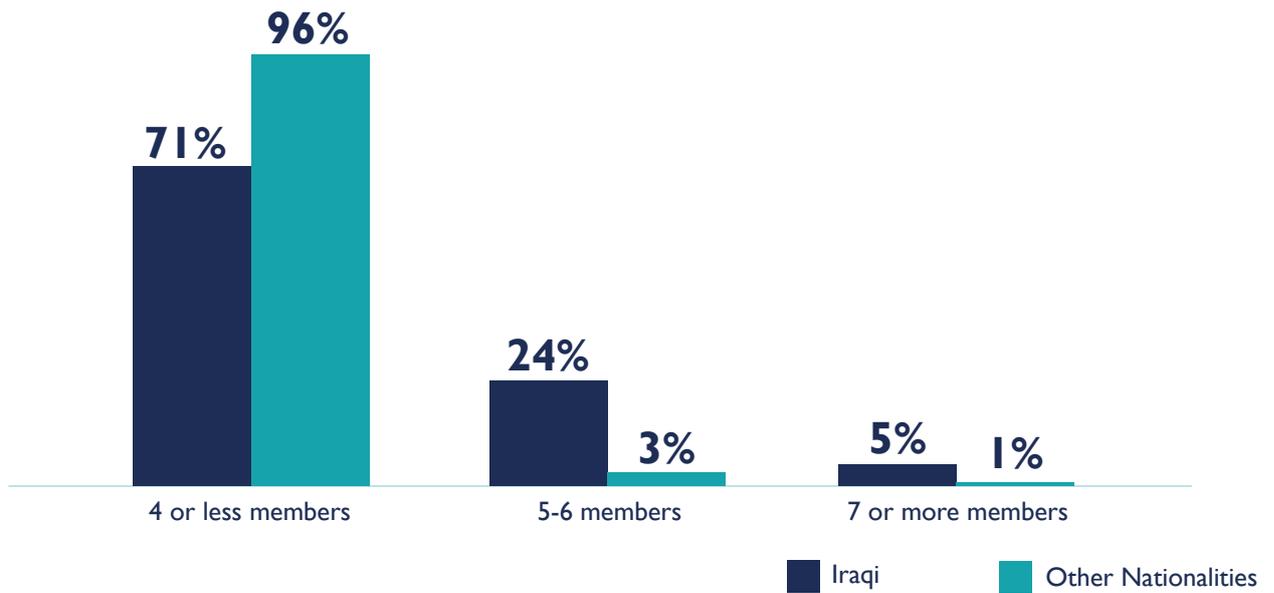


### COMPARE TO SYRIAN REFUGEES

Average size of household:

**4.9 MEMBERS**

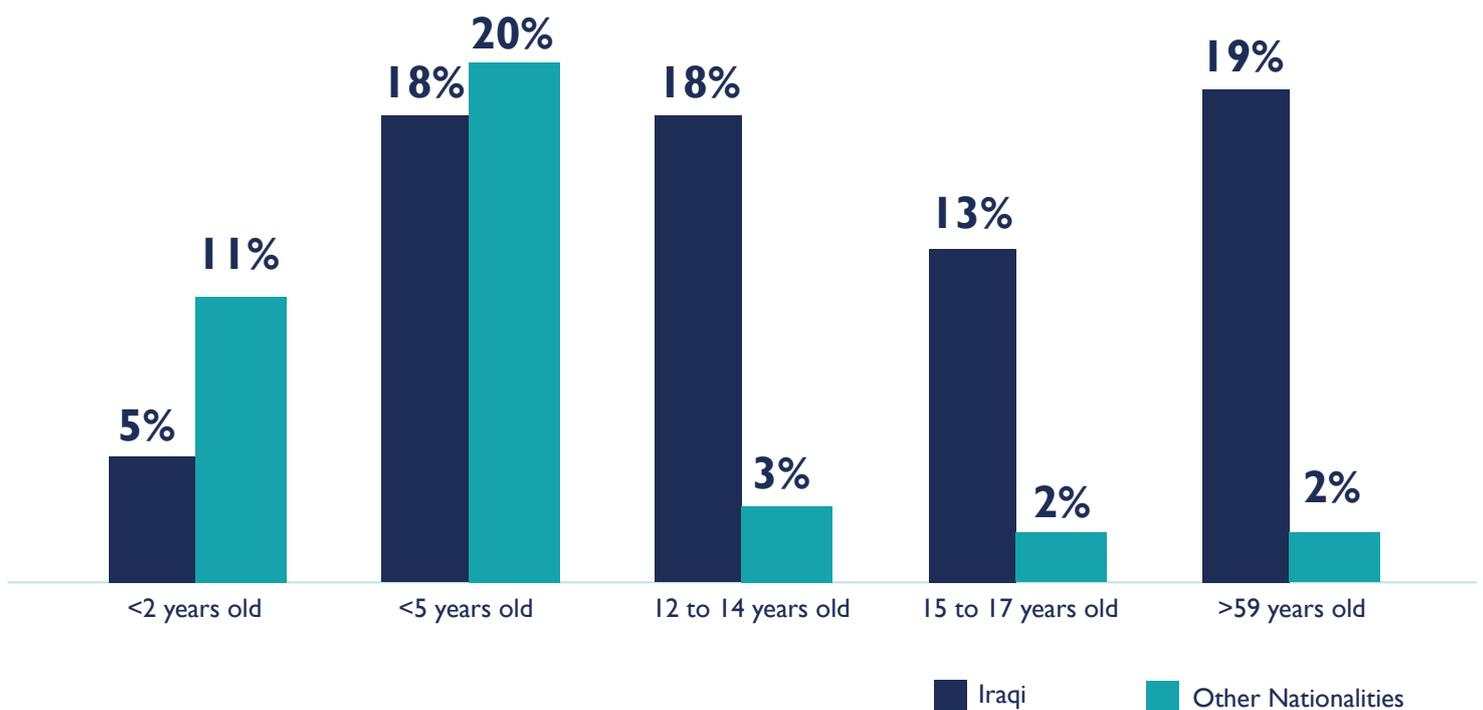
**SHARE OF HOUSEHOLDS BY HOUSEHOLD SIZE (figure 3)**



Looking at households with children or older members, 5% of Iraqi refugee households had children under the age of two, 18% had children age zero to five, 18% had children aged 12 to 14 years, 13% had children between the ages of 15 and 17, and 19% of households had a member

above the age of 59 years old. A much smaller share of refugee households of other nationalities had children between the ages of 12 and 18, or members 60 years or older, as illustrated in Figure 6. None of the surveyed refugee households were taking care of non-immediate related children.

**SHARE OF HOUSEHOLDS WHO HAVE AT LEAST ONE MEMBER IN THE AGE CATEGORY (figure 4)**



## PROFILE OF HEAD OF HOUSEHOLD

The share of female-headed households has continued to increase, with 17% in 2018 compared to 14% in 2017 and 9% in 2016. The share of female-headed households was lower among Iraqi refugee households at 14%, compared to 24% for refugee households of other nationalities.

The average age of the head of household among Iraqi refugees was 43, compared to 37 for households of other nationalities. Results were similar to 2017 when the average age of the household head was 44 years among Iraqis and 36 years of age for other nationalities. A very small proportion of surveyed households (0.7%) were headed by children (18 years old or less), while the share of households headed by elders (above the age of 59) was 9% for Iraqi households and 3% for refugee households of other nationalities.

## NUMBER OF DEPENDENTS IN A HOUSEHOLD

The average dependency ratio, the number of household members who are dependent compared to the number of household members who are not, was 0.53 for Iraqi refugee households, down from 0.65 last year. For households of other nationalities, the dependency ratio was much lower at 0.32, which is a slight increase compared to 0.29 last year. For both groups, these ratios indicate that the number of non-dependents exceeded the number of dependents. This was particularly apparent among refugee households of other nationalities, with 94% of households having no dependents at all, compared to approximately one third (32%) of Iraqi refugee households. Less than 2% of interviewed households in both refugee groups consisted entirely of dependents.

### COMPARE TO SYRIAN REFUGEES



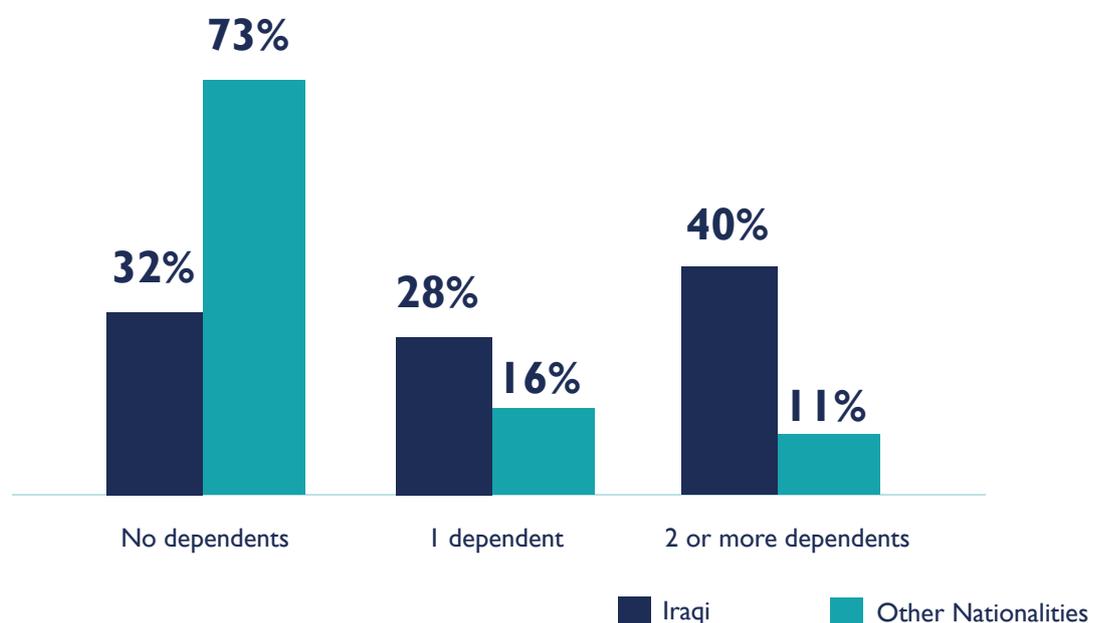
**18%** of households are headed by females

Average dependency ratio was **1.02** indicating nearly equal numbers of dependents to non-dependents

Dependents are household members aged 14 and younger, and members above the age of 59 years old.

The dependency ratio is the number of household members who are dependent compared to the number of household members who are not dependents.

NUMBER OF DEPENDENTS AMONG REFUGEE HOUSEHOLDS (figure 5)



When comparing results by gender of the head of household, results showed that the percentages of male-headed and female-headed households with dependents was similar, at 49%.

## SPECIFIC NEEDS WITHIN A HOUSEHOLD

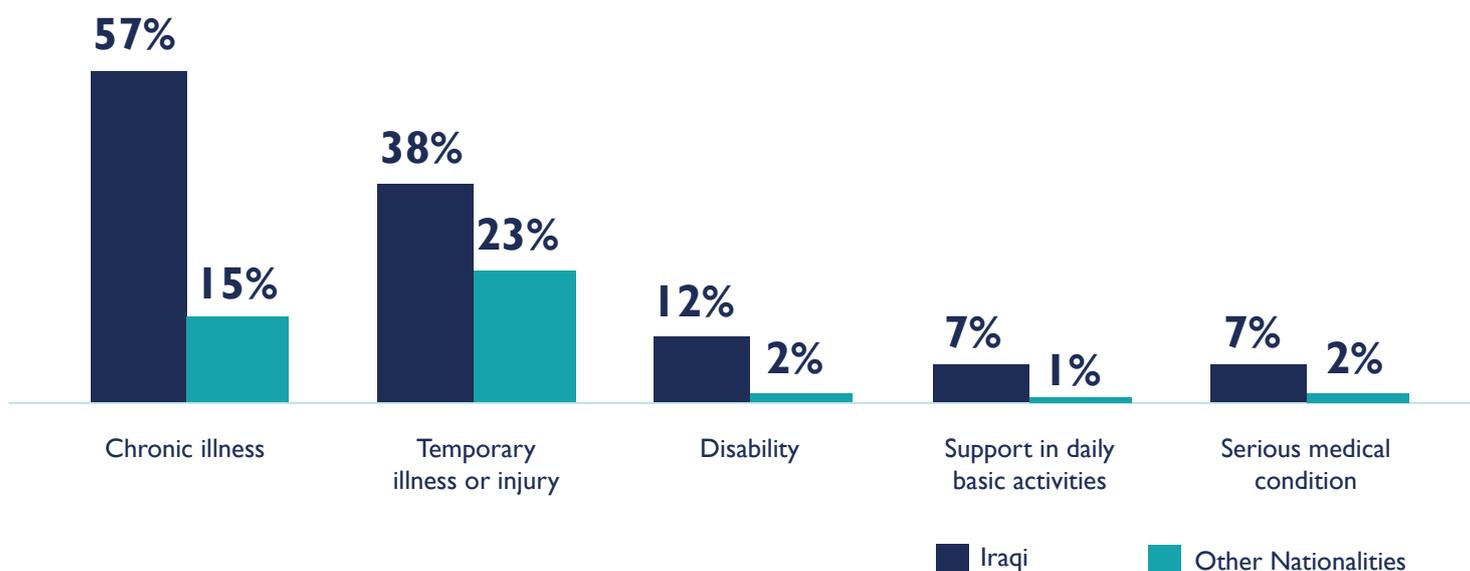
The term “specific needs”<sup>1</sup> refers to household members belonging to any of the following categories: having physical or mental disability, chronic illness, temporary illness or injury, serious medical condition, and/or needing support in basic daily activities. Those who need support in basic daily activities are defined as individuals aged two or more with a specific need, or aged 60 and above who need assistance when using the toilet. The number of households with at least one member with a specific need has risen, with results

indicating that 68% of interviewed households in 2018 had at least one member with a specific need, compared to 53% in 2017. This is similar to the Syrian refugee population, where 63% of households have at least one member with a specific need. The increase was apparent for both refugee groups, with 77% of Iraqi households and 49% of refugees of other nationalities currently having at least one member with specific needs compared to 60% and 36% in 2017. Chronic illness is a large concern among Iraqi refugee households, with 57% reporting having at least one member with a chronic illness or injury.

### COMPARE TO SYRIAN REFUGEES

**64%** of households had at least one member with a specific need

**HOUSEHOLDS WITH AT LEAST ONE MEMBER REPORTING A SPECIFIC NEED (figure 6)**



<sup>1</sup> Specific needs were reported by the interviewee.

# PROTECTION

## KEY FINDINGS

This chapter analyses the protection space for refugees of Iraqi and other nationalities in Lebanon, which has been substantially impacted by a number of measures put in place since 2015. The chapter also reports on perceptions of safety, security and community relations, and is followed by a spotlight on protection issues specific to children.

- Two in three refugees aged 15 and older did not have legal residency. Three in five households did not have any member with legal residency.
- Of the surveyed population, 73% of children under the age of five were born in Lebanon, but slightly more than half (51%) had their births registered with the Foreigners Registry.
- Most refugee households (77% of Iraqi and 81% of other nationality households) indicated they had either a neutral or a positive relationship with the host community.
- Two thirds of refugee households reported receiving information about services for refugees through text messages. One quarter reported receiving information by hotlines, which were particularly common among households of other nationalities. One in five respondents indicated that they had not been receiving information.

## LEGAL RESIDENCY

Results indicated a large proportion of refugees lacked legal residency, at both the individual and household level. At the individual level, only 36% of respondents aged 15 and above reported having legal residency. At the household level, 38% had all adult members with legal residency. Forty-one percent of surveyed households had at least one member with legal residency. While the share of households where none of the members had legal residency was 59%, this was a marked improvement from 80% last year.

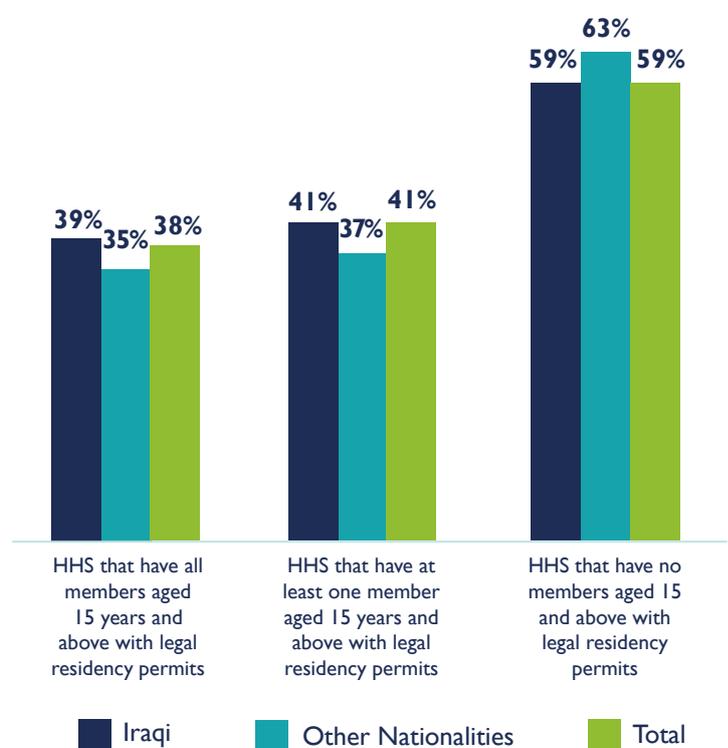
There were no marked differences when comparing legal residency status among female headed households as compared to their male counterparts.

### COMPARE TO SYRIAN REFUGEES

**73%** of Syrian refugees in Lebanon aged 15 and older reported not having legal residency.

**62%** of households did not have any member with legal residency.

### LEGAL RESIDENCY STATUS OF REFUGEE HOUSEHOLDS (figure 7)

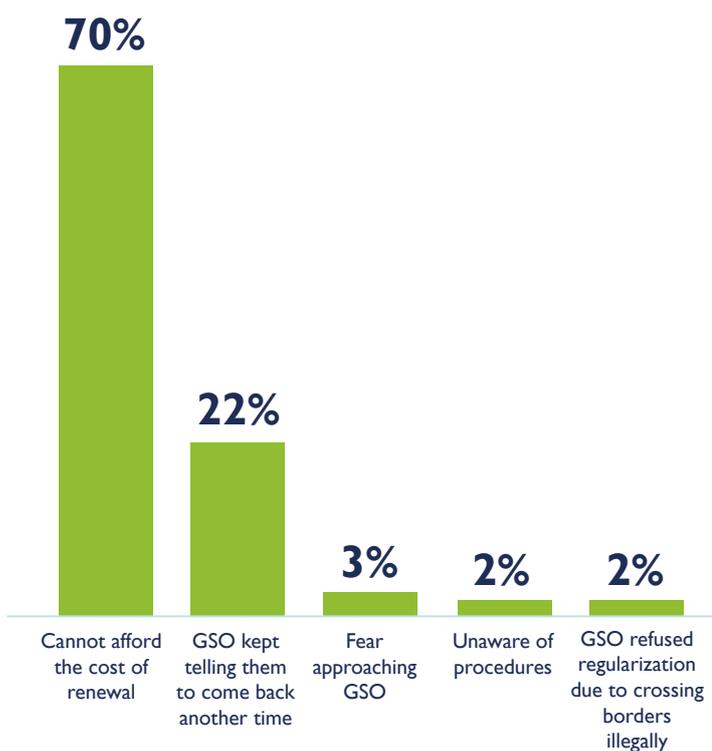


Unlike Syrians, refugees of Iraqi and other nationalities do not benefit from free of charge residency based on registration with UNHCR. Upon arrival to Lebanon, they must obtain a residency permit which involves costly annual fees, and complex requirements, including having a Lebanese sponsor. The 64% of Iraqi and other nationality refugees who lack a legal residency permit in Lebanon are vulnerable to exploitation from their employers. Furthermore, those who lack residency are subject to restrictions on movement, have limited access to essential services in governmental institutions, and are

unable to complete civil registration procedures. In addition, refugees of Iraqi and other nationalities are requested to present a passport for residency renewal; national IDs are not accepted as they are for Syrians. Refugees without passports may be unable to approach their home country embassy for assistance, in cases where the state is the feared actor. In other cases, the home country may not even have an embassy in Lebanon.

The majority of interviewed refugees (70%) cited the inability to afford the cost of renewal as their main reason for lacking legal residency. Another cited reason was the limitation of General Security Office (GSO) capacity, with 23% of Iraqi refugees reporting that the GSO repeatedly told them to come back another time.

#### REASONS BEHIND LACK OF LEGAL RESIDENCY (figure 8)



## BIRTH REGISTRATION

In order to register the birth of a baby born in Lebanon, refugees must complete the following four steps:

1. Obtain a notification of birth from the hospital or midwife
2. Obtain a birth certificate from the *Mukhtar*
3. Register the birth with the competent local civil registry office (the *Noufous*)
4. Register the birth with the Foreigners Registry.

A valid legal residency for both parents is a requirement in order to complete this step in the case of refugees other than Syrians.



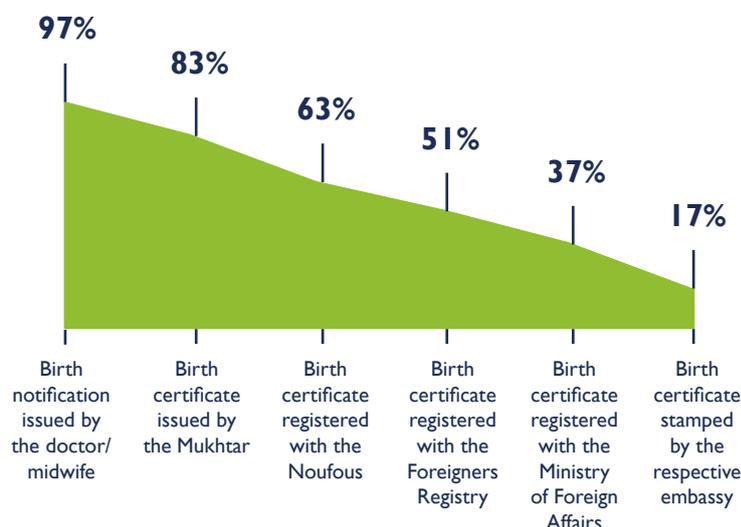
### COMPARE TO SYRIAN REFUGEES

For Syrian refugees born in Lebanon, only one in five had their birth registered with the Foreigners' Registry.

In addition to the above four steps, refugees are requested to certify the birth certificate with the Lebanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs and to notify their embassy of the birth in order to transfer birth records to the civil registry in their countries of origin.

Of the surveyed population, 73% of children under the age of 5 were born in Lebanon, and almost all of these (97%) had a birth notification from a midwife or doctor. The registration figure drops to 83% of the population for those who had the birth certificate issued by the *Mukhtar* and to 63% for births registered with the *Noufous*. Just 51% had their births registered with the Foreigners Registry. Three percent of births lacked any documentation.

LEVEL OF BIRTH REGISTRATION (figure 9)



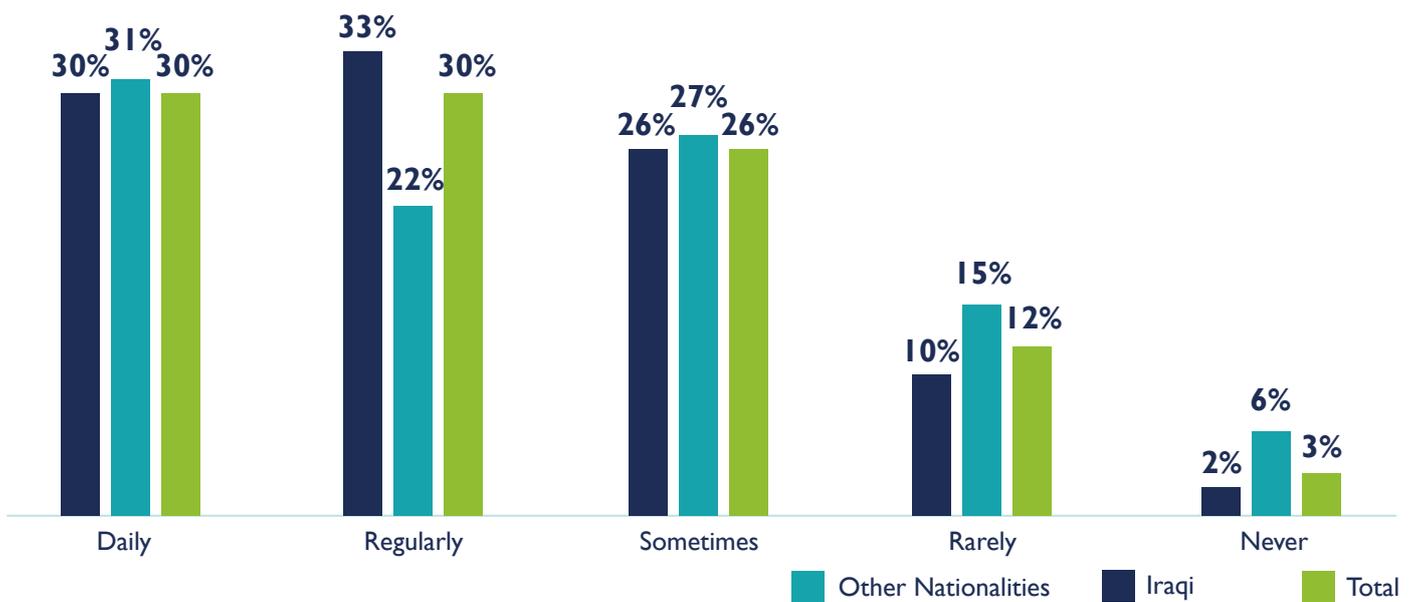
## COMMUNITY RELATIONS

Four percent of interviewed households reported having experienced a security incident during the previous three months.

Eighty-six percent of surveyed households indicated that they interacted with host communities daily, regularly or sometimes, a slight decrease from 89% in 2017. Twelve percent

indicated that they rarely interacted with host communities, a similar result to 2017, at 11%. Iraqi households were more likely to have had regular interactions with host communities, at 33%, than refugee households of other nationalities, at 22%. Refugee households of other nationalities were less likely to have interacted with host communities, with 15% reporting rare interactions, compared to 10% of Iraqi households.

**FREQUENCY OF INTERACTIONS BETWEEN REFUGEES AND HOST COMMUNITIES (figure 10)**

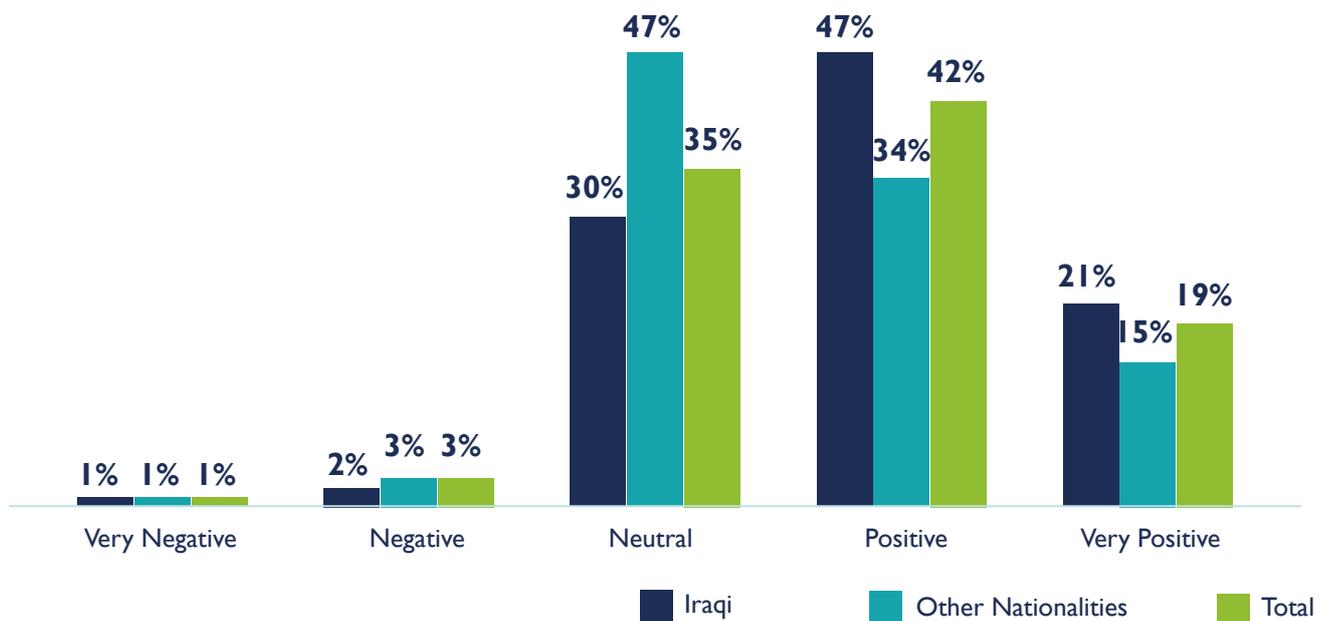


When asked to rate their interactions with the host community, 96% of refugee households described their relationship between very positive and neutral. Almost half of Iraqi households (47%) indicated that their relationship with their host community was positive, followed by 30% who indicated a neutral relationship. This was similar to the findings among refugee households of other nationalities of which 47% indicated a neutral relationship with the host community, followed by 34% who indicated a positive relationship.

### COMPARE TO SYRIAN REFUGEES

**94%** of households reported that their relationship with the host community was very positive, positive or neutral.

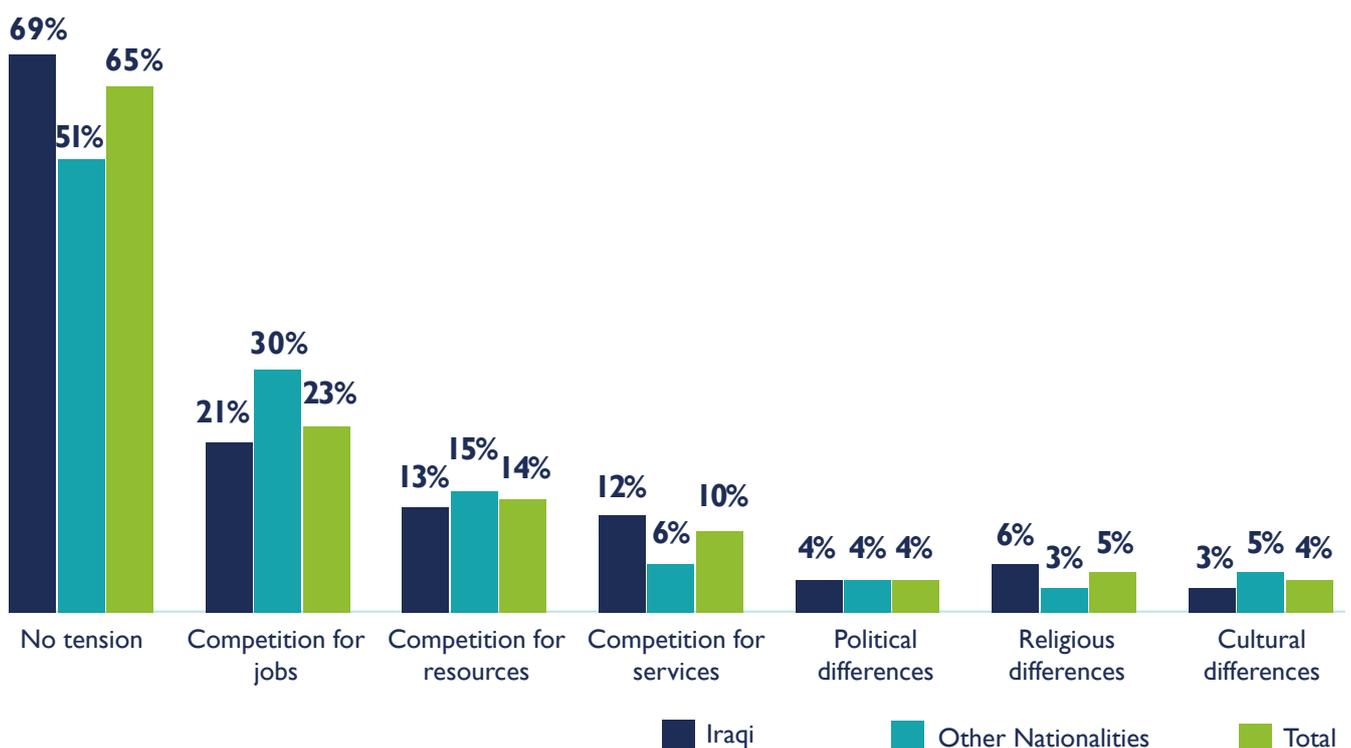
**TYPE OF INTERACTIONS BETWEEN THE REFUGEE COMMUNITY AND THE HOST COMMUNITY (figure 11)**



When asked about the level of tension between refugees and the host community, two-thirds (65%) stated that there were no tensions between the two communities. Results differed by nationality, with 69% of Iraqi refugees reporting that there was

no tension compared to 56% of refugees of other nationalities. Those who experienced tension cited the following reasons most often: competition for jobs (23%), competition for resources (14%) and competition for services (10%).

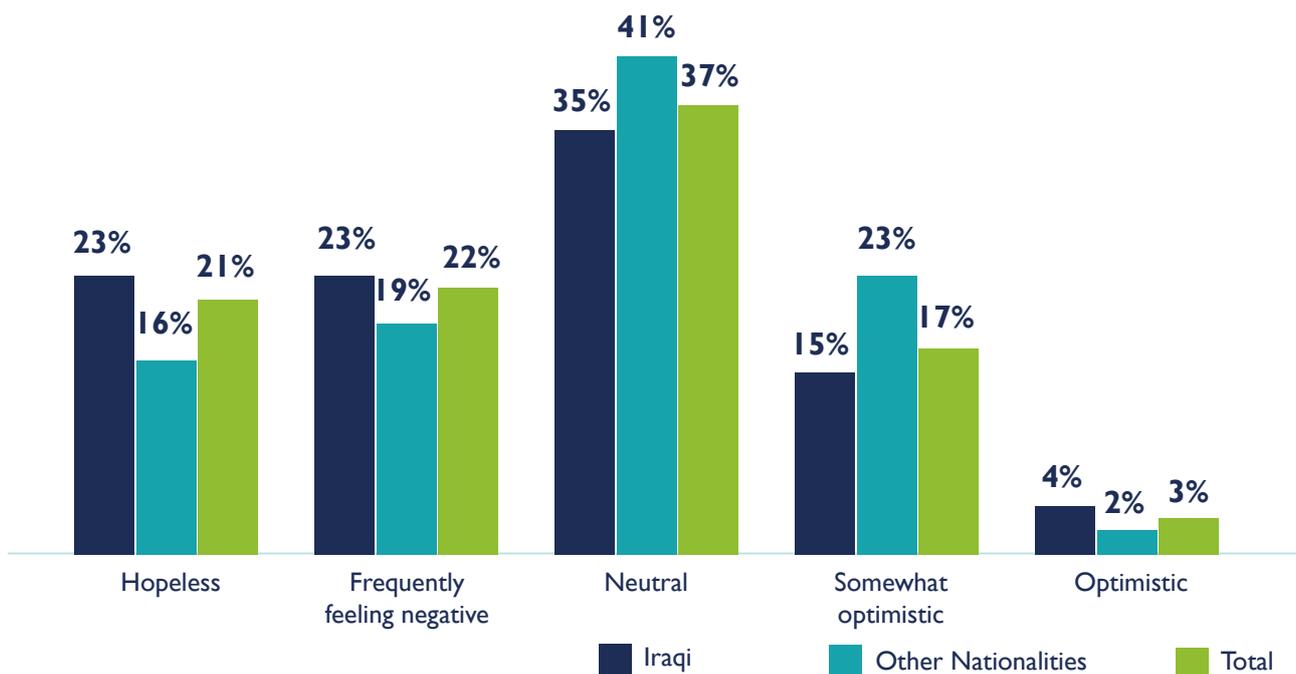
**PERCEIVED FACTORS DRIVING COMMUNITY TENSIONS BY NATIONALITY (figure 12)**



More than half (57%) of surveyed households believed that nothing could be done to improve community relations. Iraqi households were more likely to believe so at 62%, compared to 48% of households of other nationalities. On the other hand, one-fourth of households (27%) cited assistance from humanitarian organizations as a factor that would improve such relationships, with 23% of Iraqi households citing that reason, compared to 38% of households of other nationalities. Other factors that refugees cited as factors that could potentially improve relations included service provision by the municipality (9%), pre-existing relationships between the two communities (9%), and the role of local authorities (6%). Only 4% of refugee households in both nationality cohorts reported having curfews imposed on

them where they reside. Curfews were mostly issued by municipalities (87%) and to a lesser extent by other non-state actors (10%). Most refugees under curfew indicated that they were allowed exceptions by the municipal police and that these exceptions were mainly for health/medical reasons (55%). When asked to describe how they felt about the situation and future of their households, 43% indicated that they frequently felt negative or hopeless, while 37% indicated that they felt neither positive nor negative about their situation. Iraqi refugees, as shown in the chart below, tended to feel more hopeless or negative about their situations and the future of their households than refugees of other nationalities (46% and 35% respectively).

**REFUGEES' PERCEPTION OF THEIR CURRENT WELL-BEING BY NATIONALITY (figure 13)**



## COMMUNICATION AND TECHNOLOGY

Most refugee households (65%) reported receiving information about services for refugees through text messages (SMS), followed, to a lesser extent, by hotlines (25%) which were particularly common among households of other nationalities. However, 19% of respondents indicated that they had not been receiving information.

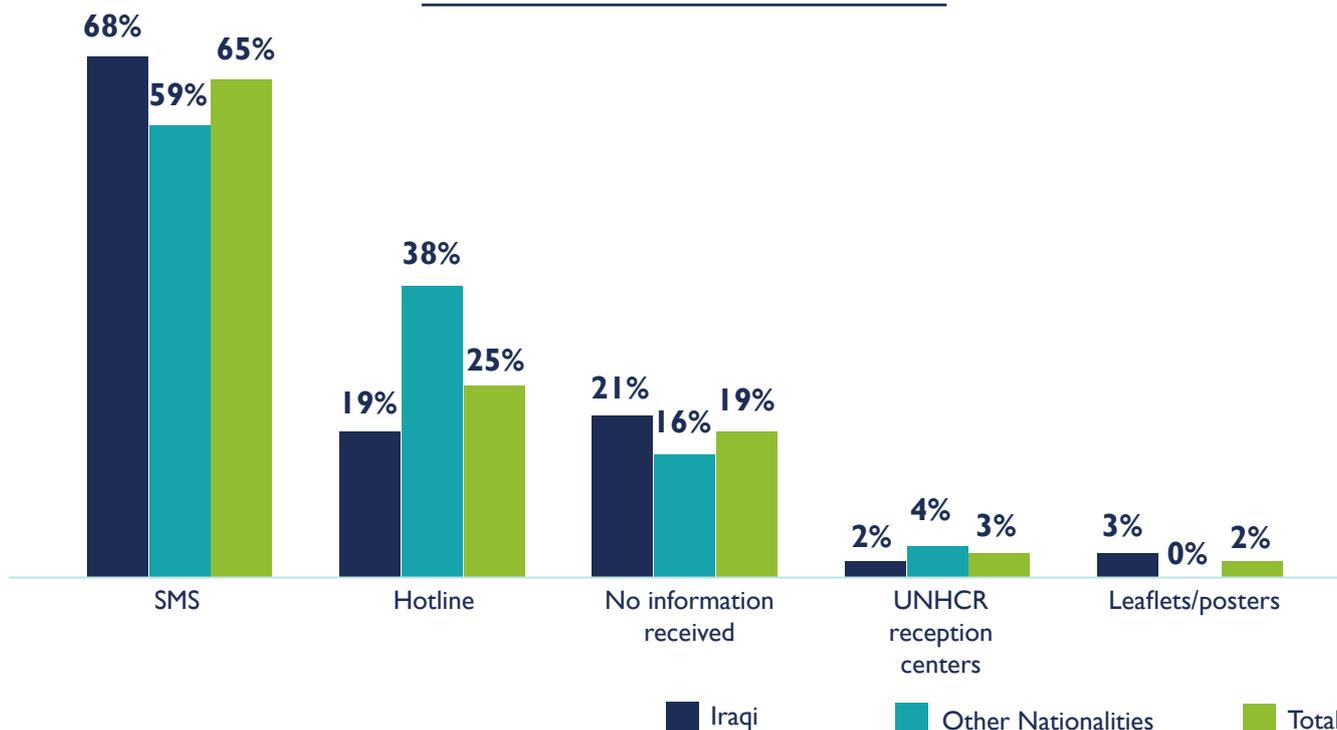


### COMPARE TO SYRIAN REFUGEES

**81%** reported receiving information about services for refugees through text messages, while

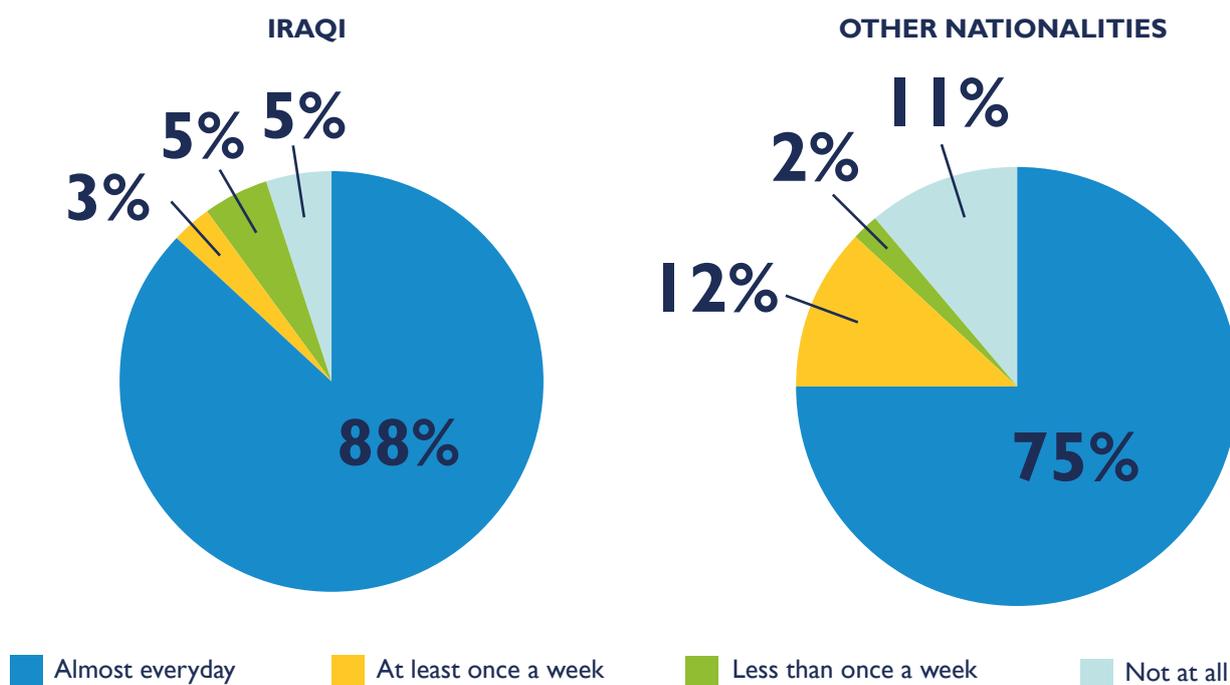
**15%** reported receiving information by humanitarian hotlines 

**SOURCES OF INFORMATION (figure 14)**



Almost all refugee households (93%) were active on social media. The most utilized digital platforms were WhatsApp (91%) and Facebook (46%), followed, to a lesser extent, by Instagram (3%). The vast majority (84%) of surveyed households indicated that they use the internet almost every day.

**FREQUENCY OF INTERNET USE BY NATIONALITY (figure 15)**



# SHELTER

Shelter is a vital survival mechanism in times of displacement, as well as a key to restoring personal security, self-sufficiency and dignity. This chapter describes the status of accommodations in terms of the share of refugees in different shelter types, the cost and the conditions, as well as trends in these figures.

## KEY FINDINGS

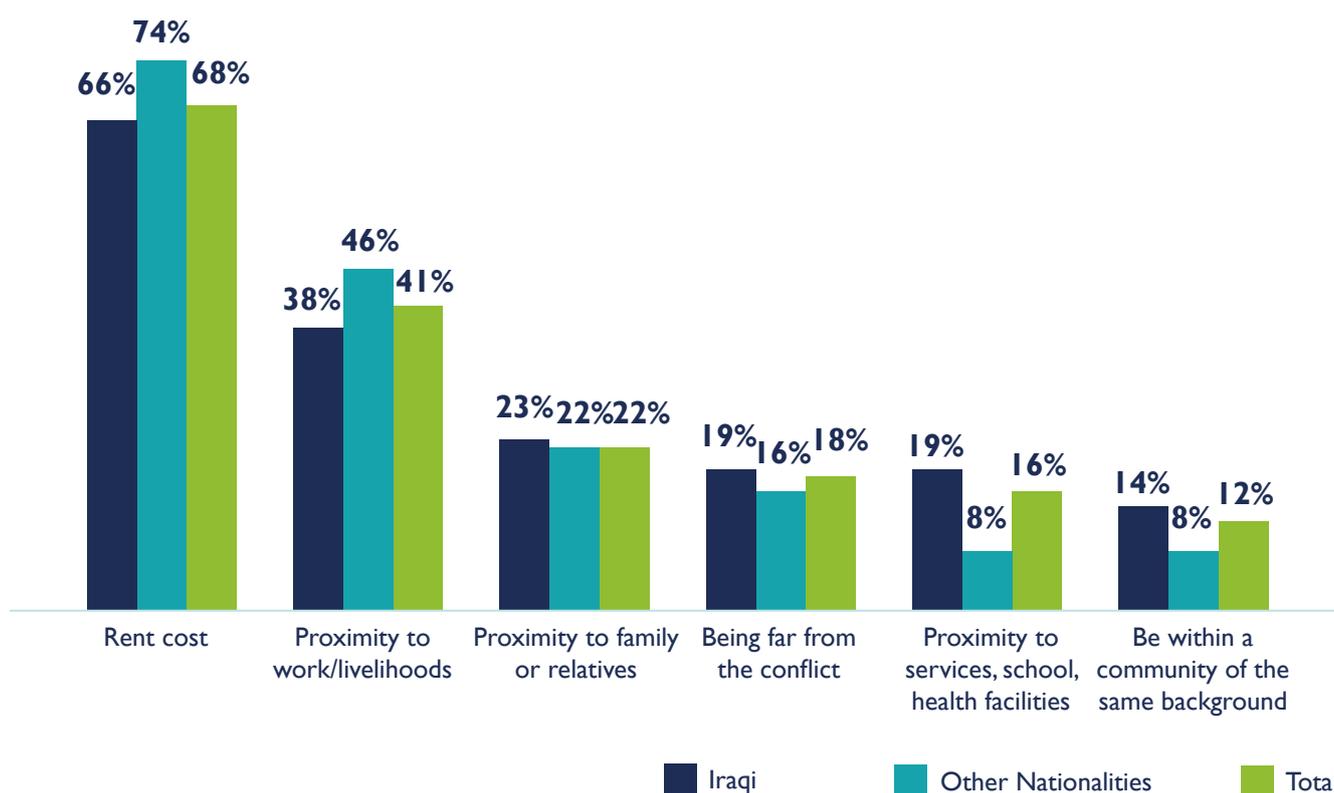
- Rent cost was the main factor in selecting a place of residence among the majority of surveyed households. The average monthly rent was US\$ 337, with a major difference between Iraqi households (paying an average of US\$ 391) and households of refugees of other nationalities (paying an average of US\$ 205).
- The vast majority (94%) of surveyed refugees were living in residential buildings, although one in ten refugees of other nationalities were living in non-residential shelters.
- One in four refugees were residing in shelters that were below shelter minimum standards, an increase from 16% in 2017. On the other hand, only 2% of refugees were residing in shelters in dangerous conditions.

## SHELTERS OCCUPIED BY REFUGEES

### SHELTER SELECTION PROCESS

Rent cost was the main factor in selecting a place of residence among the majority of surveyed households, at 68%. Iraqi households were slightly less likely than households of other nationalities to cite this reason, at 66% and 74% respectively. Another prominent factor in residence selection was proximity to work/livelihoods, cited by 41% of surveyed households. Iraqi households were slightly less likely to cite this reason, at 38% compared to 46% of households of other nationalities. Male-headed households were more likely than their female counterparts to choose shelters that are in close proximity to work/livelihoods, at 42% and 32% respectively.

MAIN FACTORS FOR SHELTER SELECTION BY NATIONALITY (figure 16)



## TYPE OF SHELTER

The VARON results showed that the vast majority (94%) of surveyed households were living in residential buildings, which were mostly comprised of apartments and houses. This was an increase from 85% in 2017. A minority (12%) of refugee households of other nationalities live in non-residential shelters, similar to 2017 (13%). Such shelters included agricultural rooms,

engine rooms, pump rooms, active construction sites, garages and farms. Only 1% of surveyed households resided in non-permanent structures which were mainly comprised of informal tented settlements and prefabricated units. A smaller proportion of Iraqi households were living in non-residential shelters as compared to households of other nationalities.

### SHELTER CLASSIFICATIONS CHANGED FROM VASYR 2017 TO VASYR 2018 AS FOLLOWS:

Shelter type/Year	2017	2018
<b>Residential</b>	1-Apartment/House 2-Single room	1-Apartment/House 2-Concierge room in residential building
<b>Non-Residential</b>	1-Warehouse/Garage/Shop 2-Under construction worksite 3-Unfinished building 4-Farm 5-Factory/Workshop 6-Collective Centre/Shelter 7-Prefab unit	1-Factory 2-Workshop 3-Farm 4-Active construction site 5-Shop 6-Agricultural/Engine/Pump room 7-Warehouse 8-Hotel room 9-School
<b>Informal Settlements / Non-Permanent Structures</b>	Tents	1-Tent 2-Prefab unit

### COMPARE TO SYRIAN REFUGEES



**66%** live in residential shelters

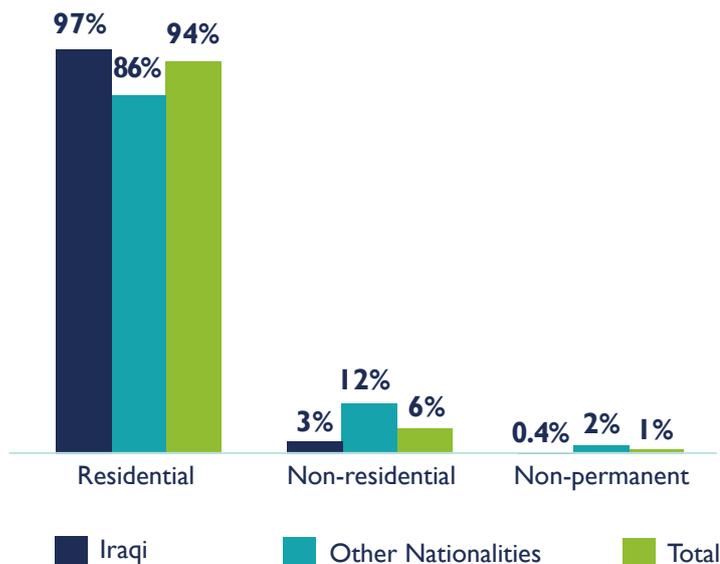


**15%** live in non-residential shelters



**19%** live in non-permanent structures

**TYPE OF SHELTERS OCCUPIED BY REFUGEES BY NATIONALITY (figure 17)**



For 99% of both nationality groups, rental contracts were issued for a single month at a time, and included electricity, water supply or other services (e.g. waste removal, building maintenance). Half of surveyed households indicated that they had both electricity and water included in their rent payment, followed by 37% who did not have any services included in their rental agreement.

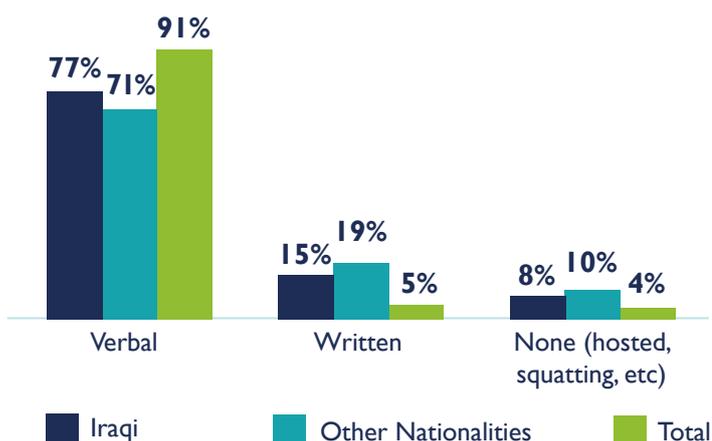
**COST**

Average monthly rent cost was fairly stable at US\$ 337 (US \$ 345 in 2017). Iraqi households were paying, on average, more in monthly rent than households of other nationalities (US\$ 391 compared to US\$ 205). Almost three-quarters (72%) of Iraqi refugee households were paying more than US\$ 250 for their rent every month, while most households from other nationalities were paying between US\$ 88 and US\$ 200. This may be linked to larger household size among Iraqi refugees who then rent larger shelters. Also, as mentioned above, a larger proportion of households of other nationalities are living in non-residential shelters, where rent is known to be cheaper than residential areas.

**RENT CONTRACT**

The vast majority (77%) of refugee households had a verbal rental agreement with their landlords, which was an increase from 68% in 2017. On the other hand, the share of refugee households that had a written rental agreement decreased from 20% in 2017 to 15% in 2018. Iraqi households were less likely to have verbal rental agreements, at 71%, compared to 91% of households of other nationalities. Written agreements were more common among Iraqi households at 19%, compared to only 5% of households of other nationalities. As for informal agreements, 10% of Iraqi households opted for such agreements, compared to 4% of households of other nationalities.

**TYPES OF RENTAL AGREEMENTS (figure 18)**

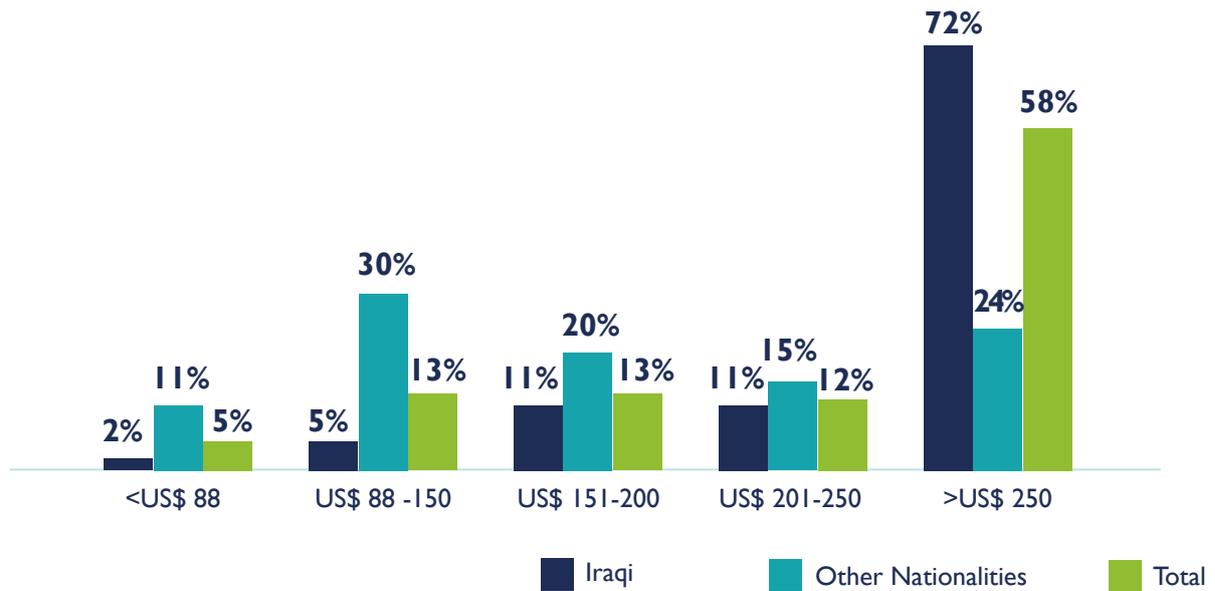


**COMPARE TO SYRIAN REFUGEES**

The average rent cost is just **\$182/month**, but Syrians are much more likely to be residing in non-permanent structures than Iraqis or refugees of other nationalities.



**MONTHLY RENT CATEGORIES BY NATIONALITY (figure 19)**



## OCCUPANCY TYPE

The majority of households (74%) were renting and paying the rent in direct payments, compared to 80% in 2017. On the other hand, 19% were renting in exchange for work. These figures were similar across the two population groups. A minority (6%) of surveyed households were hosted for free. Female-headed households were more likely to be hosted for free than their male counterparts, at 9% and 6% respectively, compared to 13% and 7% in 2017.

One-fourth (25%) of refugees were residing in shelters that were below shelter standards, an increase from 16% in 2017. A slightly larger proportion of shelters for other nationalities were sub-standard compared to Iraqis (27% compared to 24%). On the other hand, only 2% of refugees were residing in shelters in dangerous conditions.

## SHELTER CONDITIONS

### INFRASTRUCTURE

### COMPARE TO SYRIAN REFUGEES

**36%** reside in sub-standard shelters  
**6%** reside in shelters in dangerous conditions.

#### SHELTERS BELOW SHELTER STANDARDS

Shelters that urgently need repairs have one or more of the following conditions:

- Windows/doors not sealed against natural elements
- Leaking roof
- Leakage/mold in the walls
- Damaged walls
- Water plumbing not functional
- Latrine/toilet not useable (damaged, full, no hand-washing facilities, etc.)
- Bathing/washing facilities not useable (damaged, no privacy, etc.)
- Electricity installation/connection are not correctly installed

Shelters in dangerous conditions are shelters in danger of collapse or have damaged roofs and columns.

#### DETAILED CONDITIONS FOR SUBSTANDARD SHELTERS (figure 20)



## CONDITIONS IN SURROUNDING SETTINGS

Conditions surrounding refugee shelters appeared to be satisfactory, with only 6% of households reporting overcrowding in the surrounding area as a concern. Households of other nationalities were more likely to live in overcrowded areas (14%, compared to 3% of Iraqi households). Other, less commonly reported problems were areas with generally low standard-of-living conditions (4%), and areas that were isolated and/or far from essential basic services (4%).

Only 1% of households reported safety and physical security threats in areas surrounding their shelters. All three respondents cited shelters with non-functional street lighting and fallen debris as problematic. Other cited threats included rubbish piles, collapsed buildings, shelters with proximity to manmade hazards, and shelters in areas that lack private space.

Similarly, only 1% of households reported poor sanitary conditions. Such complaints mainly included open sewage/wastewater trenches or pits, solid waste littering the area or open defecation.

## DENSITY AND OVERCROWDING

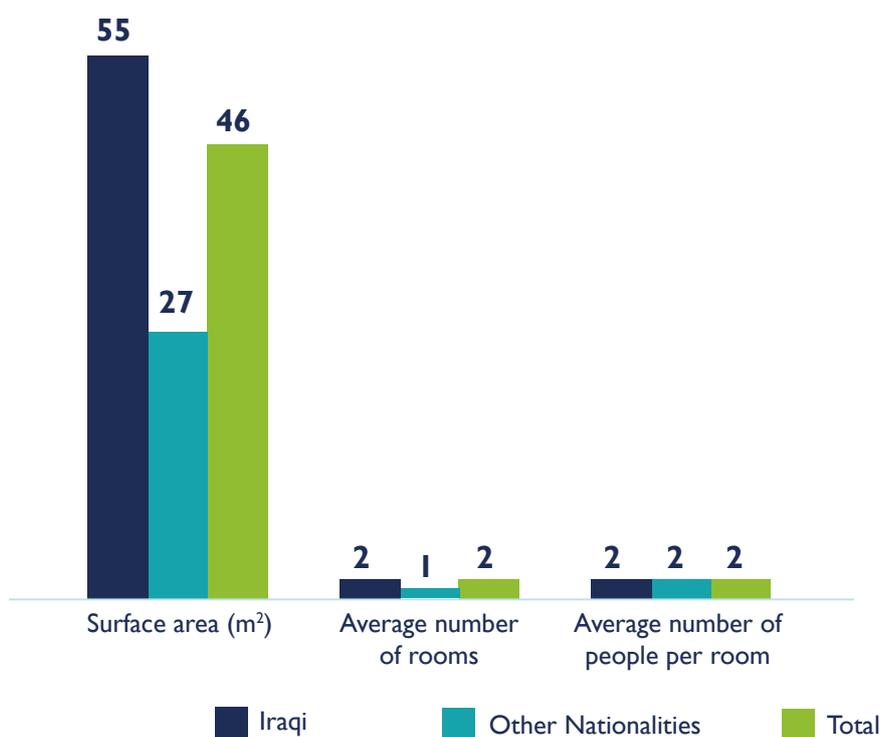
About a quarter of refugee families (23%) lived in overcrowded shelters, defined as having less than 4.5 square meters per person. Refugee households of other nationalities were more likely to live in such overcrowded shelters, at 30%, compared to 19% of Iraqi households. With a smaller family size, it is likely that families of other nationalities tend to share their living space with other households. The average surface area of Iraqi refugee homes was 55 square meters, comprised of two rooms, and with four people sharing the living space. On the other hand, refugee homes of other nationalities were smaller, with an average surface area of 27 square meters, and were comprised of one room shared by two people.

### COMPARE TO SYRIAN REFUGEES

**34%** report residing in overcrowded shelters

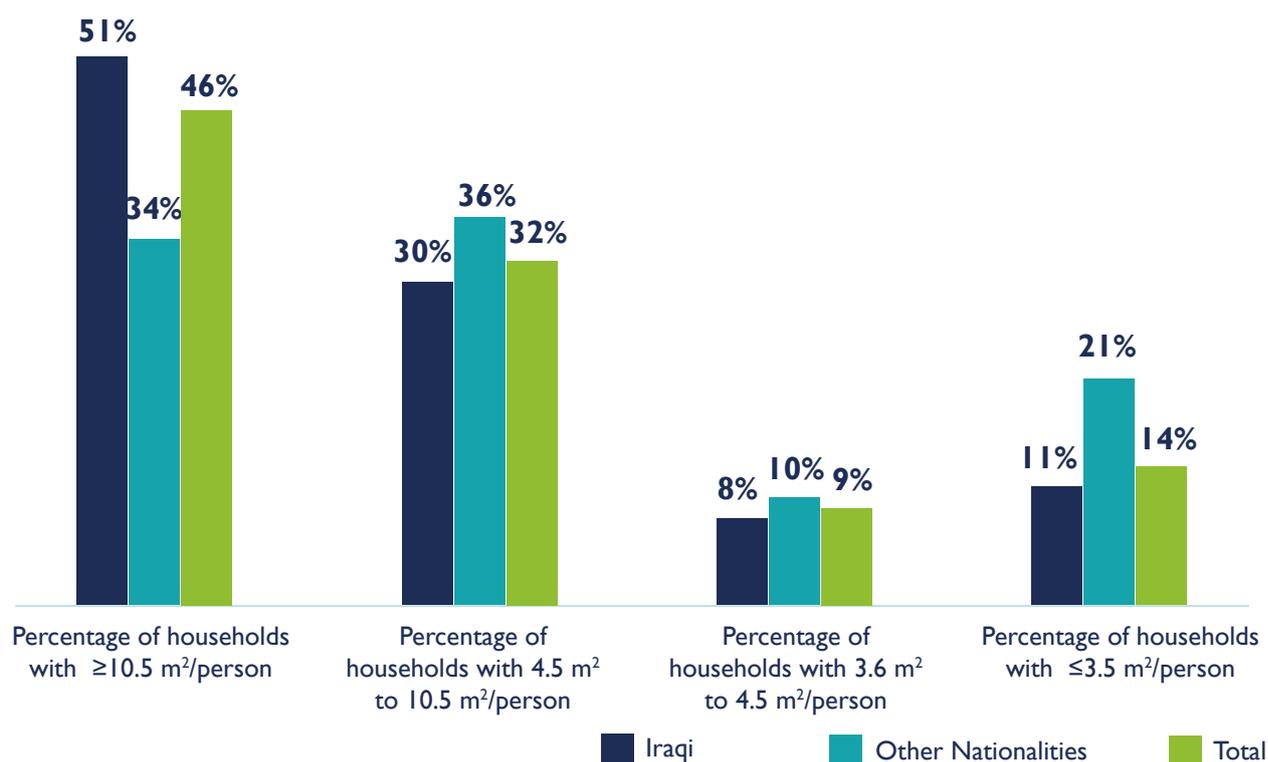
Average living space is **9m<sup>2</sup>** per person

HOUSEHOLD DENSITY BY NATIONALITY (figure 21)



The average living space was 15 square meters per person for Iraqi households, compared to 11 square meters per person for households of other nationalities.

## LIVING SPACE PER HOUSEHOLD BY NATIONALITY (figure 22)



## MOBILITY

Almost three-quarters (74%) of surveyed households had been living in the same shelter for more than one year. The vast majority of Iraqi refugee households (82%) had been doing so, compared to only 57% of refugee households of other nationalities.

Eleven percent of surveyed households had been living the same shelters for six to 12 months, and 15% had been living there for less than six months. Mobility was more common among refugee households of other nationalities, with 18% indicating that they were living in the same shelter for six to 12 months, compared to 8% of Iraqi households. Similarly, one fourth (25%) indicated that they had been in their shelter for less than six months, compared to 10% of Iraqi households.

### IN THE PREVIOUS SIX MONTHS

Ten percent of surveyed households indicated that they had moved accommodation in the previous six months. Iraqi refugee households were less likely to have done so, at 6%, compared to 19% of refugee households of other nationalities. In particular, those living in non-residential settlements were more likely to have moved accommodation than those living in residential

apartments, at 28% and 9% respectively.

The main reason for moving was rent being too expensive, cited by one third (15 out of 47) of households that had moved accommodation. Another prominent reason was eviction by the owner, cited by more than one fourth (13 out of 47) of respondents, including 10 of the 28 households of other nationalities.

### IN THE FOLLOWING SIX MONTHS

Thirteen percent of refugee households were planning to move in the following six months, with 12% of Iraqi households indicating so, compared to 14% of households of other nationalities. The main reasons for the decision to move were eviction by owner, cited by more than one third (23 out of 61) of households, followed by 10 out of 61 households that indicated that they will no longer be hosted for free. Other less common reasons were rent being too high, the end of their rental agreement, and eviction by authorities. Iraqi refugees mainly cited eviction by owner (12 out of 41), and the end of their rental agreement (6 out of 41). On the other hand, more than half (11 out of 20) refugee households of other

nationalities cited eviction by owner as their main reason for moving.

More than two-thirds of the households planning to move in the following six months indicated that their future accommodation would be apartments and houses, followed by less than one fourth of households indicating they planned to live in a concierge room in a residential building.

## **EVICTIONS AND INCIDENTS**

Six percent of surveyed households indicated that they had been evicted during their stay in Lebanon. Almost one-third of those who were evicted in the previous six months were currently living in apartments/houses and paying rent.

Only 3% of surveyed households indicated that they had any incidents with their landlord in the previous six months.

# WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE (WASH)

This chapter analyses the situation for the refugee households of Iraqi and other nationalities in Lebanon in terms of water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH). In urban areas, WASH interventions aim to provide refugees with safe access to water of sufficient quality and quantity, and good quality sanitation, as well as to improve hygiene practices. This results in improved health and reduced morbidity and mortality among both refugees and host populations.

## KEY FINDINGS

- There were high rates of access to basic and improved drinking water sources for households in both refugee groups (84%-95%).
- While access to improved sanitation facilities was high overall, 32% of other nationality households were sharing their toilet facilities with other households.

### IMPROVED DRINKING WATER SOURCES:

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

### UNIMPROVED DRINKING WATER SOURCES:

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

### BASIC DRINKING WATER SOURCES:

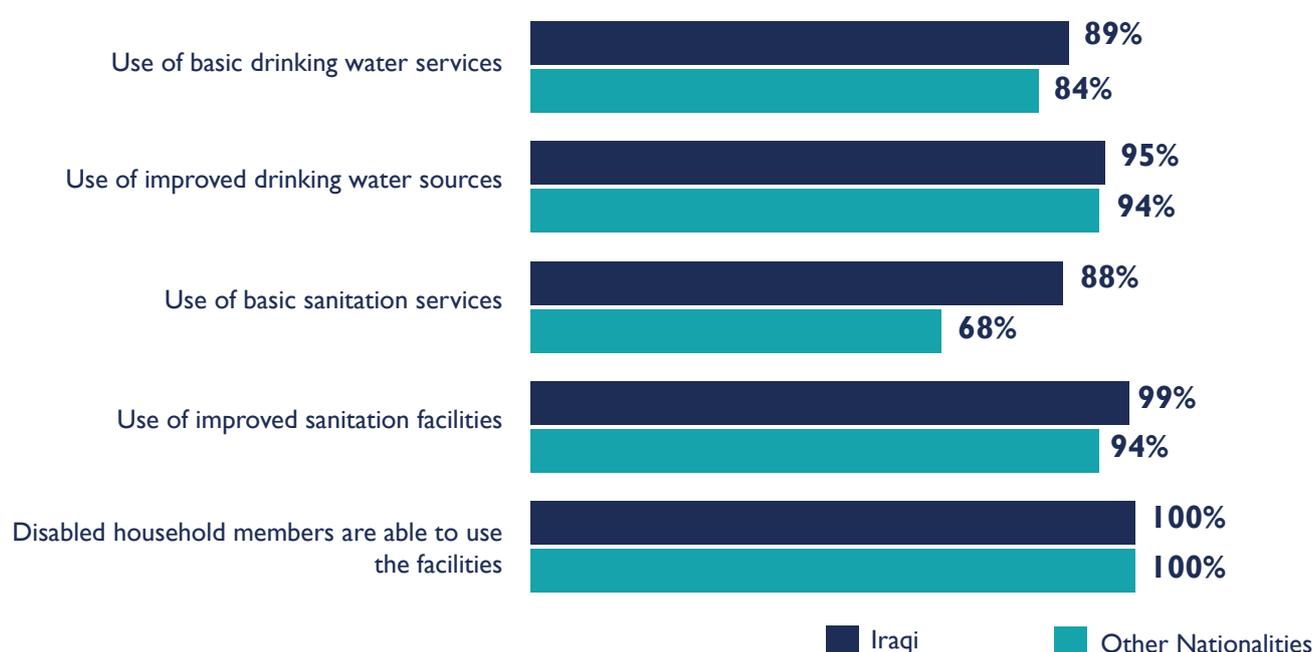
- Improved drinking water source + Water source on premise or
- Water source within 30 minutes round trip collection time

### ACCESSIBLE DRINKING WATER SOURCES:

- Improved drinking water source + Water source on premise or
- Water source within 30 minutes round trip collection time

## BASIC WATER AND SANITATION SERVICES

WATER AND SANITATION INDICATORS (figure 23)

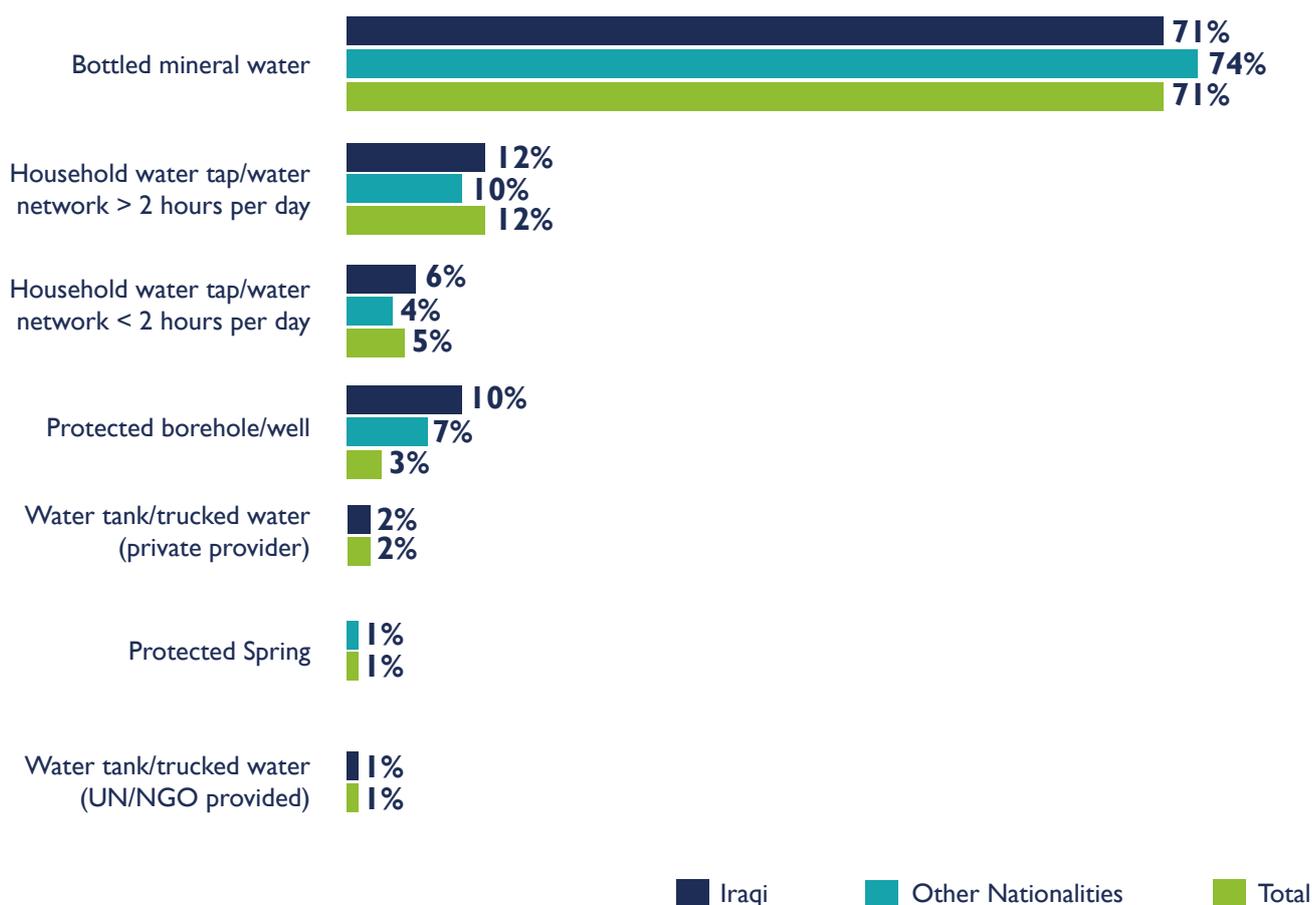


## SOURCES OF DRINKING WATER

Bottled mineral water remained the main source of drinking water among 71% of refugees, compared to 57% in 2017. Iraqi refugees were slightly less likely to rely on bottled mineral water than those of other nationalities, at 71% and 74% respectively. On the other hand, 15% of refugees relied on water from the tap water

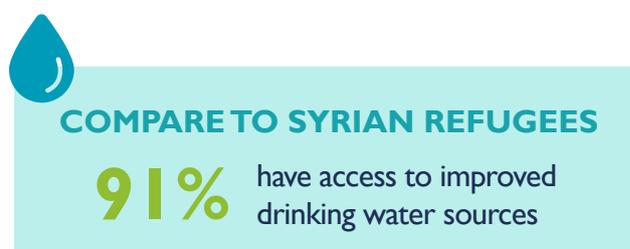
network. A minority (5%) of refugees of other nationalities were relying on water tanks and trucked water, with less than 1% of Iraqi refugees doing so. As for public water stands and taps, results were similar to 2017, with only 3% of all surveyed households in each refugee group indicating their reliance on such unimproved water sources.

HOUSEHOLD USE OF IMPROVED DRINKING WATER SOURCES (figure 24)



## ACCESS TO DRINKING WATER SOURCES

Only 68% of surveyed refugees were able to access a drinking water source on their premises<sup>1</sup>, compared to 75% in 2017. Iraqi refugees had better access to such water sources at 72%, compared to only half of refugees of other nationalities (52%). On the other hand, improved drinking water sources were more accessible at 88%, with 89% of Iraqi refugees indicating such access, compared to 84% of refugees of other nationalities.



<sup>1</sup> Accessibility measures the ability of a household to obtain drinking water on the premises.

## SANITATION FACILITIES

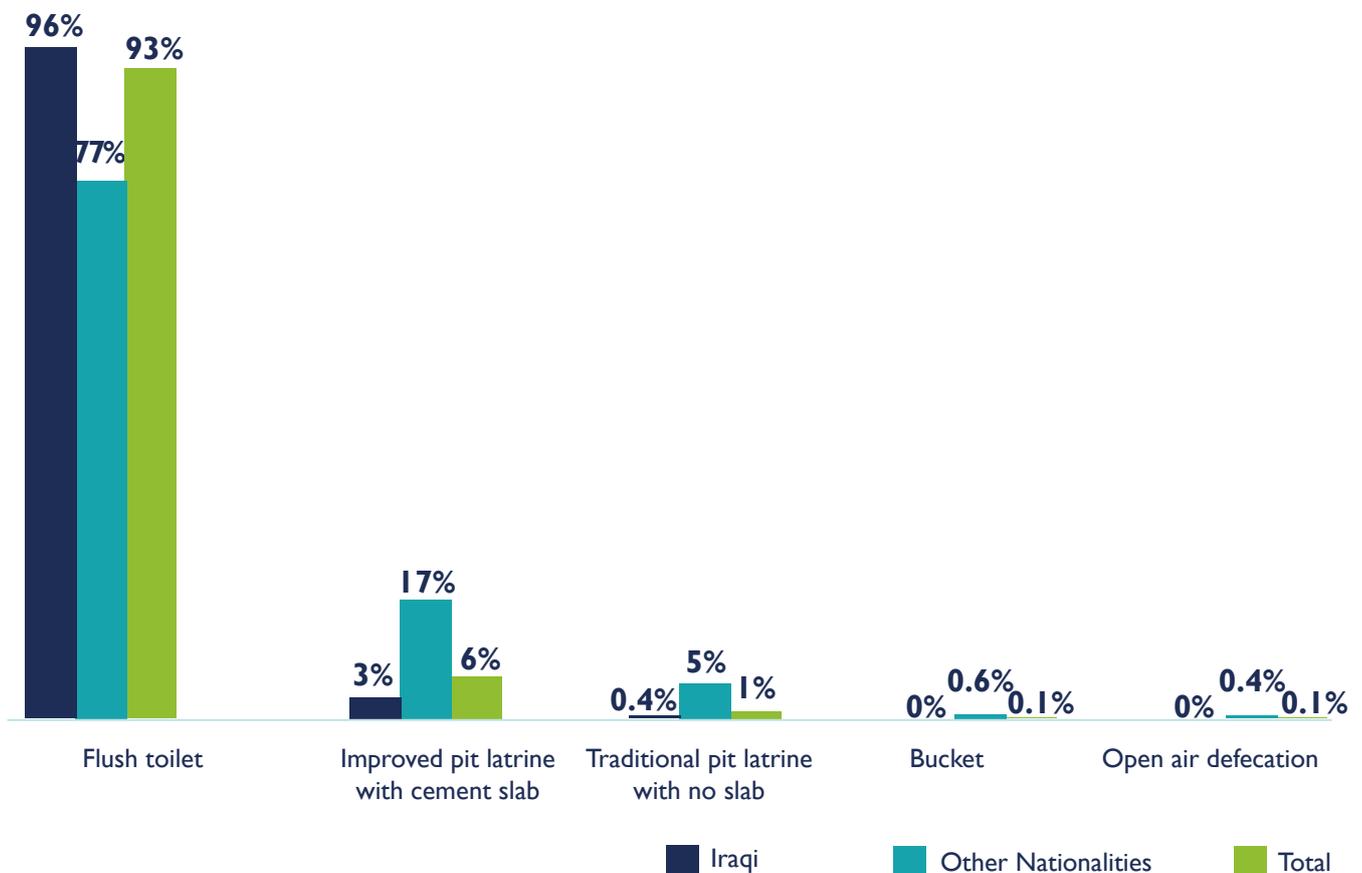
The vast majority (99%) of refugees had access to improved sanitation facilities<sup>2</sup>. Virtually all Iraqi refugees had access to such facilities, compared to 94% of refugees of other nationalities. Flush toilets were the main types of facilities used by both refugee groups, with 96% of Iraqi refugees relying on flush toilets compared to 77% of refugees of other nationalities, for 93% overall. This was a slight improvement compared to 91% of Iraqi refugees who relied on flush toilets last year, and 72% of refugees of other nationalities. As for improved pit latrines with cement slabs, 6% of refugees in both groups indicated they relied on such facilities. Refugees of other nationalities were more likely to rely on improved latrines with cement slabs at 17%, compared to only 3% of Iraqi refugees.

One percent of refugees reported a lack of access to proper toilet facilities. These were mostly comprised of refugees of other nationalities (6%) who resorted to traditional latrines without slabs (5%), buckets (0.6%) and open-air defecation (0.4%). These were significant drops compared to the 15% of who used traditional latrines last year, 3% who used buckets, and 1.2% who defecate in the open air. One possible explanation for this change could be due to the fact that there was an increase in the share of households living in residential shelters, from 85% in 2017 to 94% in 2018.

### COMPARE TO SYRIAN REFUGEES

**87%** have access to improved sanitation facilities

ACCESS TO TOILET FACILITIES BY NATIONALITY GROUP (figure 25)



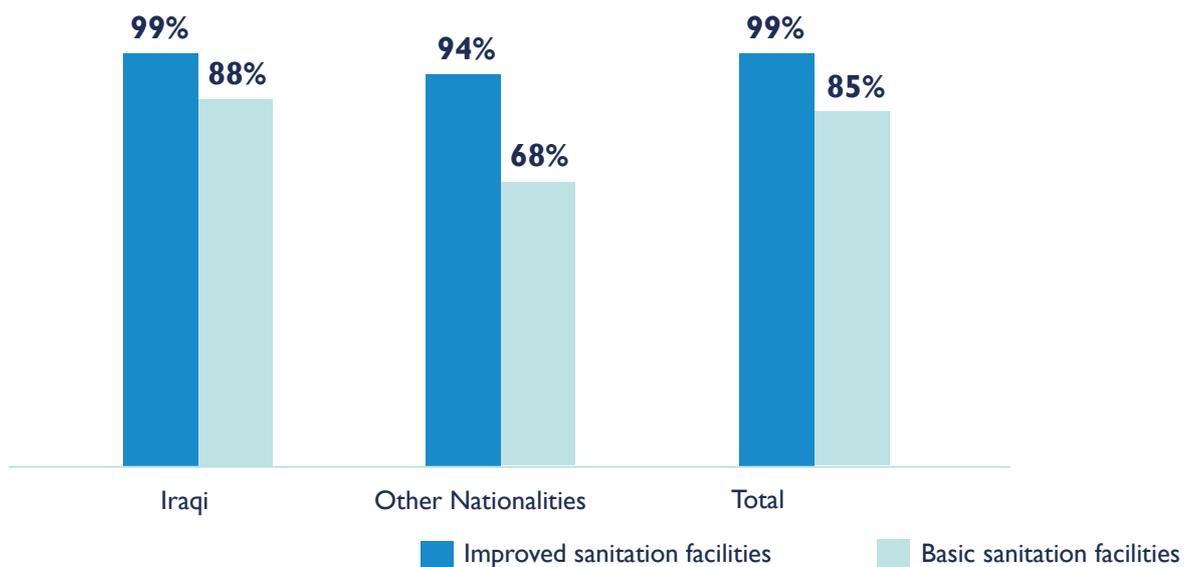
<sup>2</sup> Improved sanitation facilities include flush toilets and improved pit latrines with cement slabs.

## ACCESS TO SANITATION

A basic sanitation service is defined as use of an improved sanitation facility which is not shared with other households. Eighty-five percent of refugees in both nationality groups were using basic sanitation facilities, with 88% of Iraqi refugees doing so, compared to 68% of refugees of other nationalities. All disabled members in the

surveyed households indicated that they were able to access the sanitation facilities available to them. Although access to improved sanitation facilities was high overall, 32% of refugee households of other nationalities were sharing toilet facilities with other households.

**ACCESS TO IMPROVED AND BASIC SANITATION FACILITIES BY NATIONALITY (figure 26)**

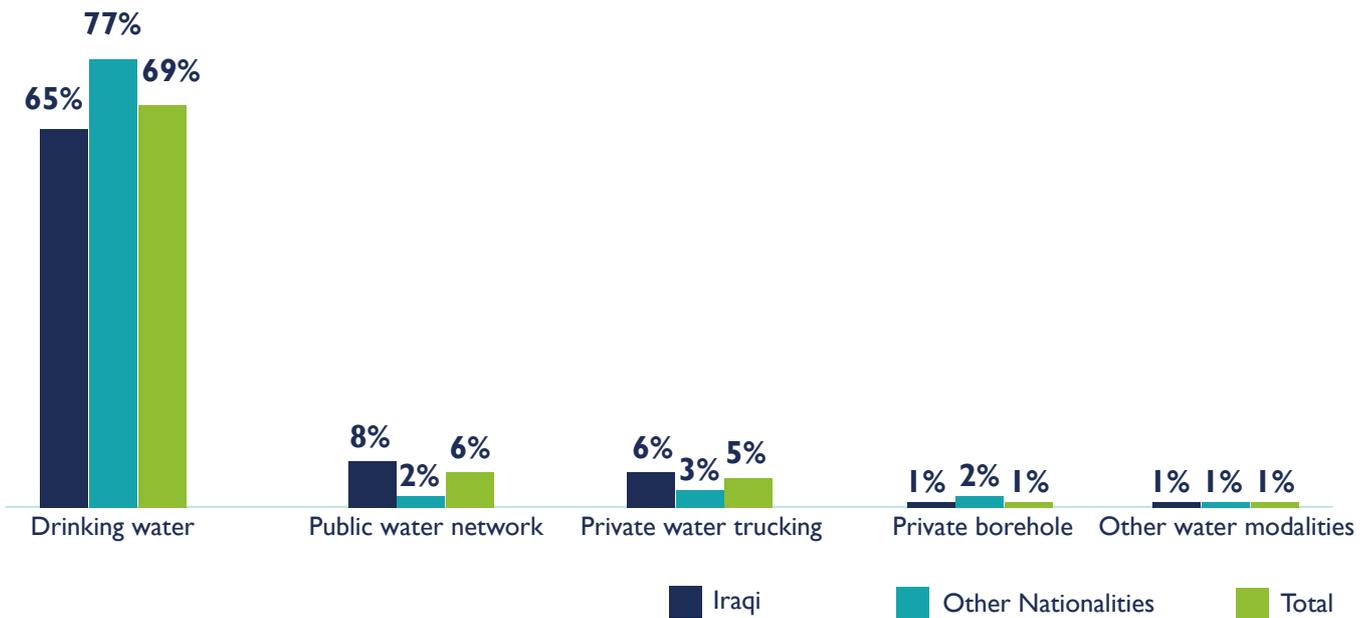


## MONTHLY EXPENDITURES ON WATER

More than two-thirds (69%) of surveyed households reported paying for drinking water. Six percent paid for water from a public network, 5% paid for trucked water, and 1% paid for a private borehole. A small minority of refugee

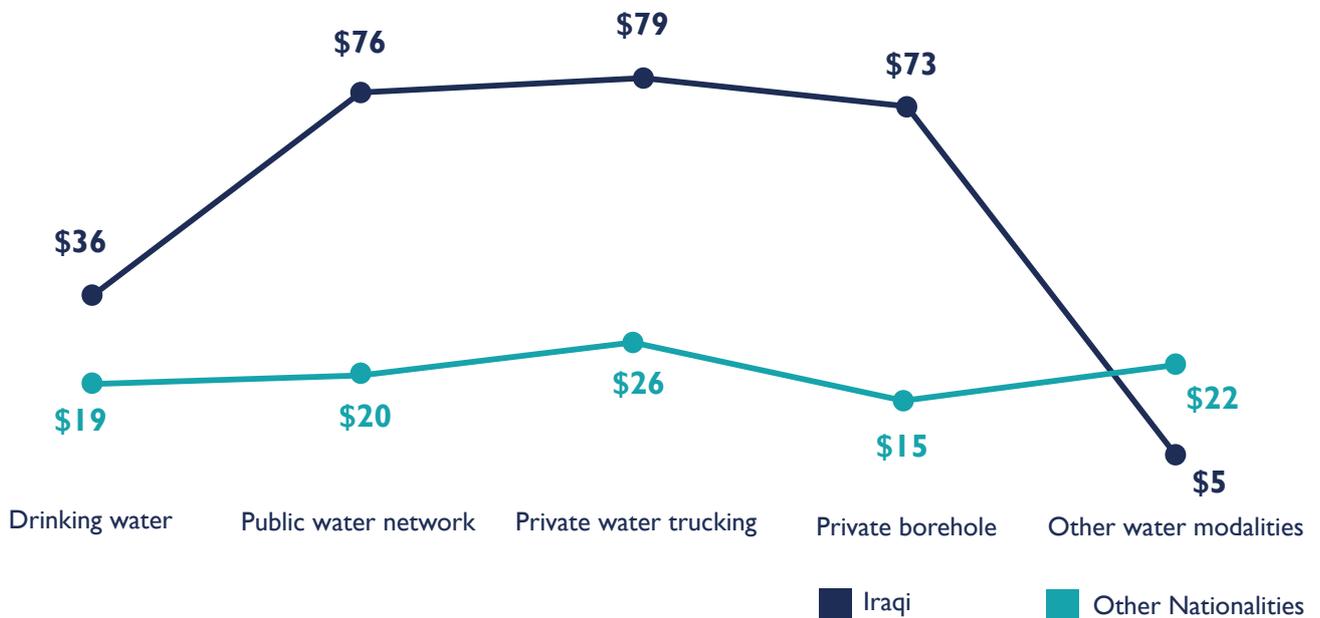
households (1%) also reported paying for other water modalities. Paying for drinking water was more common among refugee households of other nationalities, at 77%, compared to 65% for Iraqi households.

**REFUGEE HOUSEHOLDS THAT PAID FOR WATER BY NATIONALITY GROUP (figure 27)**



Water expenditures differed considerably between the two refugee groups, with Iraqi households reporting greater amounts paid for their water. This reflects the fact that Iraqi refugees tend to have larger families and therefore greater water consumption.

**WATER MONTHLY EXPENDITURES IN USD (figure 28)**



# EDUCATION

Education is a basic human right, which protects, empowers and enlightens refugees. The Ministry of Education and Higher Education (MEHE) has received international donor support (provided through UNHCR, UNICEF, UNESCO and bilateral donors) to ensure that every child between the ages of 3 and 18 has access to formal education. This chapter describes attendance in educational programs by age and gender.

## KEY FINDINGS

- Almost half (47%) of young refugees in both nationality groups aged 15 to 24 were not employed, not enrolled in school, and not attending any training.

Similar to 2017, 21% of the 2018 surveyed population was of school age, between 6 and 17 years old. The VARON 2018 results show that smaller proportions of children in both refugee groups were attending school. At the primary level (age 6 to 11), two-thirds (62%) of refugee children were attending classes. Despite enrolling in secondary school, the majority children were not attending classes, with one fourth (28%) attending lower secondary school and only 7% of children between the ages of 15 and 17 attending upper secondary school.

- The most common reason for not attending school among children 3 to 17 years of age was cost: of transportation to school (25%) and of educational materials (18%).

### COMPARE TO SYRIAN REFUGEES

**68%** of Syrian refugees age 6-14 are enrolled in school



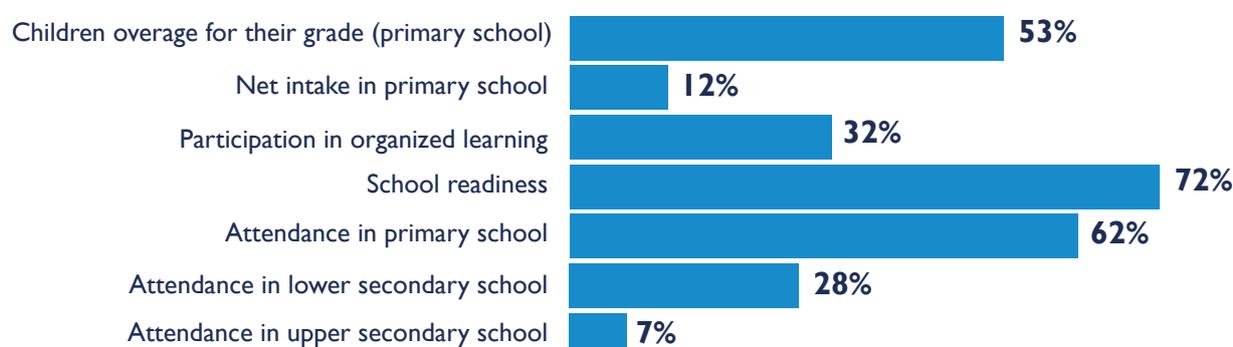
Children overage for their grade: the share of students grades 1-6 attending primary school that are two or more years older than the intended age.  
Net Intake in primary education: the share of children of school-entry age who enter the first grade of primary school.

Participation in organized learning: the share of children 3 to 5 years of age who are attending an early childhood education program such as KG1, KG2, and Nursery.

School Readiness: the share of children in the first grade of primary school who attended pre-school during the previous school year.

*\*As defined by UNICEF for the Vulnerability Assessment of Syrian Refugees in Lebanon 2018.*

### EDUCATION INDICATORS (figure 29)



## EDUCATION INDICATORS



### PRE-PRIMARY SCHOOL

Thirty-nine percent of surveyed refugee children aged 3 to 5 were enrolled in formal pre-primary schools<sup>1</sup>. Preschool attendance was still low at 32%, although slightly improved compared to 24% last year.

In terms of school readiness, or the share of children in the first grade of primary school who attended pre-school the previous year, 72% of surveyed children had done so.

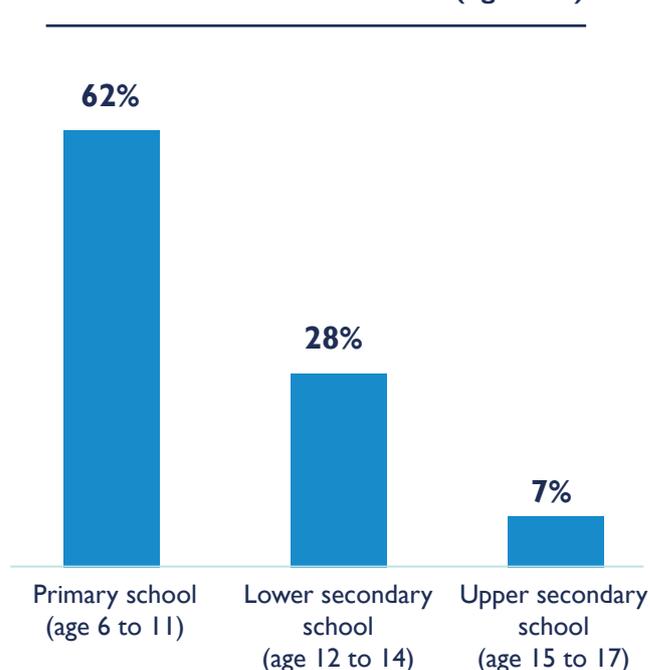
### PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOL

Seventy-six percent of surveyed refugee children between the ages of 6 and 14 were enrolled in a formal primary school. The net intake rate in primary education, or the percentage of children 6 years of age who entered the first grade of primary school, was 12% for all children. These figures were similar to enrolment and intake rates for Syrian refugees, which were 68% and 15% respectively in 2018.

In terms of attendance, 62% of surveyed refugee children between the ages of 6 and 11 attended primary school. Attendance rates for refugee children aged 12 to 14 years enrolled in lower secondary were only 28%. For upper secondary school, 29% of surveyed children between the ages of 15 and 17 were enrolled.

More than half of surveyed refugee children were two or more years older than the standard age for their grade<sup>2</sup>.

ATTENDANCE RATES BY AGE AND NATIONALITY GROUPS (figure 30)



### REASONS FOR NOT ATTENDING SCHOOL

Among children aged 3 to 17, common reasons for not attending school were the inability to afford the cost of transportation to school and the inability to afford the cost of educational materials, cited by 25% and 18% of respondents respectively. Such educational costs were cited by approximately two thirds of children between the ages of 15 and 17.

Another common reason for not attending school was that the child was attending informal education programs instead, cited for 18% of

<sup>1</sup> Enrolment rates are not comparable with VARON 2017 due to differences in the questionnaire.

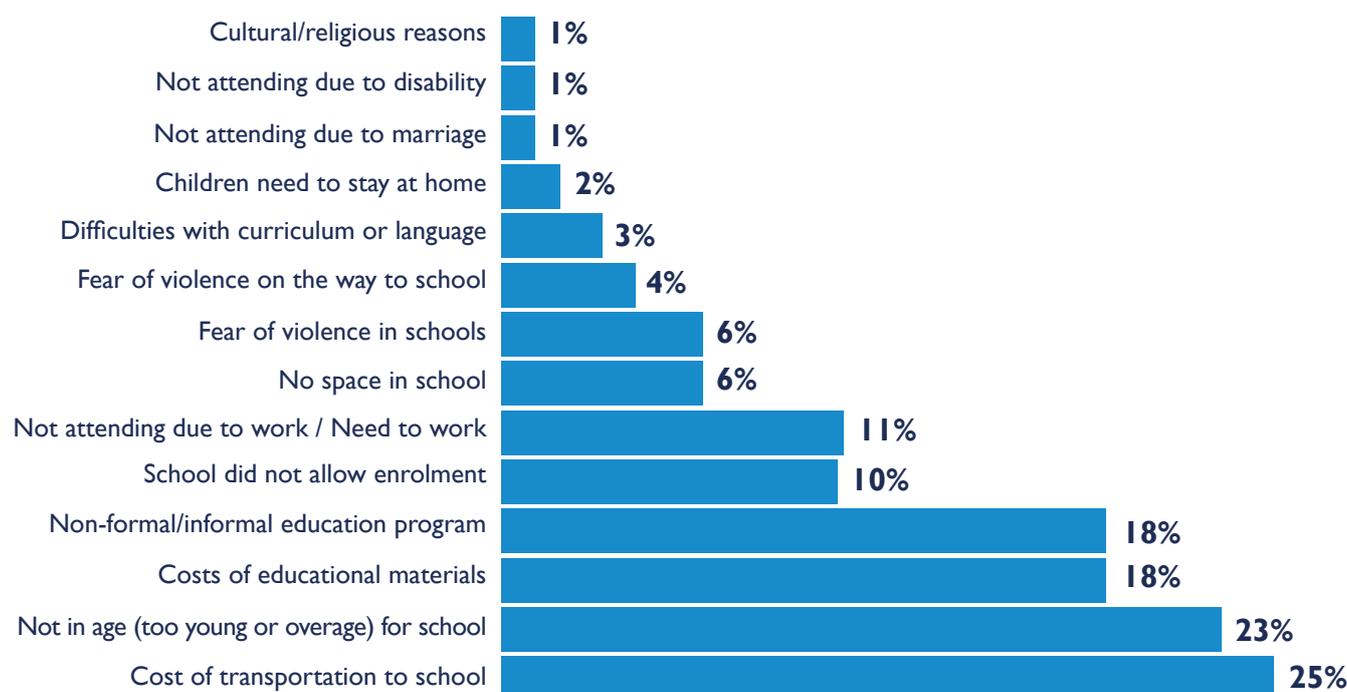
<sup>2</sup> Costs of transportation and educational materials were also the main cited reason in VARON 2017, although both reasons were combined into "cost of education". This year's combined percentage is 43%, similar to 45% last year, and 44% in 2016.

children, particularly those between the ages of 6 and 14.

The need to work was also a common reason for not attending school, cited for 10% of children, particularly among those between the ages of 15 and 17. As for age-related reasons,

23% of refugee children were reported as not attending school due to not being of appropriate age for school. This reason was cited for two thirds of children between the ages of 3 and 5-preschool is not part of compulsory education in Lebanon.

### MAIN REASONS FOR NOT ATTENDING SCHOOL (figure 31)



## SCHOOLING OF YOUTH AGED 15 TO 24

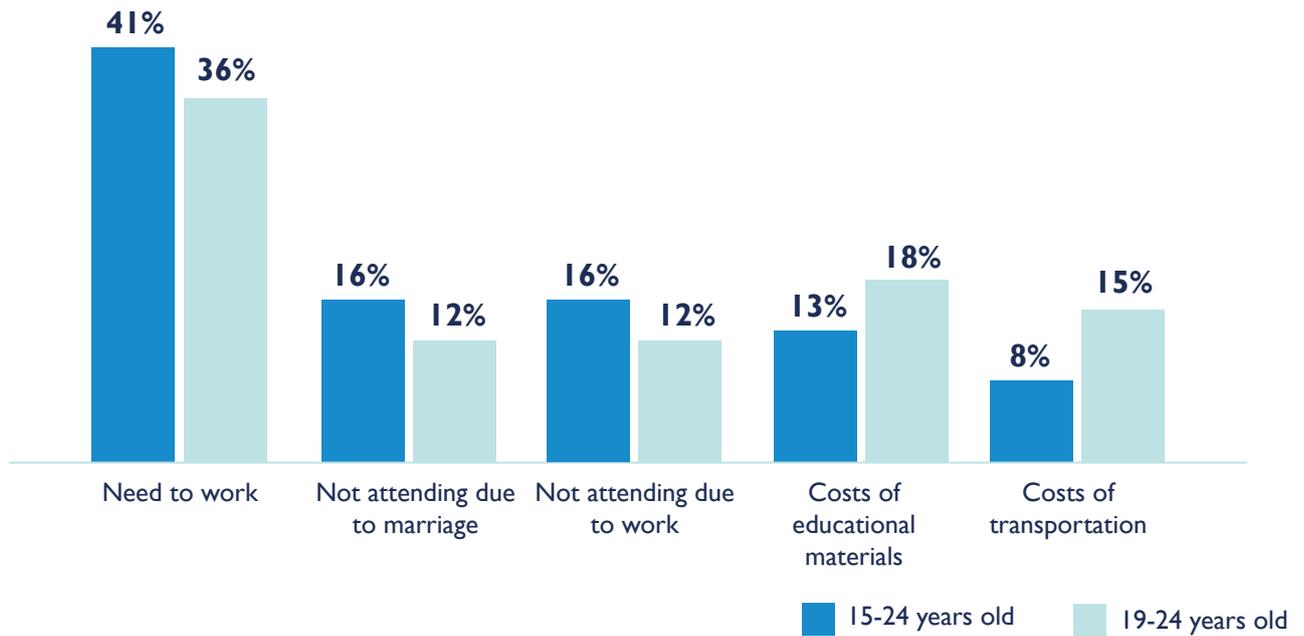
Only 13% of surveyed refugee youth 15 to 24 years of age were enrolled in formal education for the 2017-2018 school year, similar to 2017<sup>3</sup>. The rate of enrollment in formal education for youth aged 15 to 18 was 23%, while the rate of enrollment of youth aged 19 to 24 was much lower at 8%. Males reported a slightly higher enrollment rate than

females: 15% versus 11%.

The most common reason for not attending school among refugee youth was the need to work, with almost half of youth stating this reason (49%). Cost was also a barrier, with 18% citing inability to pay for education and 12% citing inability to pay for transportation as reasons for not attending school. Twelve percent of youth were not attending school because they were married.

<sup>3</sup> Results in this section are based on a sample of 201 youth aged 15 to 24. The sample mostly included Iraqi youth (184 in total) and only 17 refugee youth of other nationalities.

### REASONS FOR DROPOUT BY AGE GROUP (figure 32)



## NOT IN EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT, OR TRAINING (NEET)

The NEET rate is an indicator of exclusion of youth, from both the labor market and education. Almost half (47%) of young refugees in both nationality groups aged 15 to 24 were not employed, not in education, and not attending any training. Following the same pattern as Syrian refugees, the NEET rate was significantly higher among female youth at 68% compared to males at 29%.

### COMPARE TO SYRIAN REFUGEES

**61%** of Syrian refugees age 15-24 are not in education, employment or training

The NEET rate is higher for female Syrian refugee youth (**41%**) than for males (**79%**)

# HEALTH

UNHCR strives to ensure that all refugees are able to access life-saving and essential healthcare. Refugees in Lebanon access health services through hospitals, primary health care centres, and mobile health services. This chapter looks at access and barriers to both primary health care and hospital care.

## KEY FINDINGS

- Fifty-one percent of surveyed refugee households needed primary health care (PHC) in the previous six months, and 78% of those households reported being able to receive it.
- Cost was the biggest barrier to accessing primary health care. Thirty-eight percent of those who used PHC services reported paying in full.
- Twenty-four percent of surveyed households reported requiring hospital care in the previous six months. Sixty-one percent of those that required hospital care were able to receive it.
- Nearly half of surveyed households reported to be unaware of how to access medical services in case of emergency.

Primary health care refers to care that does not require hospital admission and includes childhood vaccination, reproductive health care, care for non-communicable diseases and treatment of common illnesses.

## PRIMARY HEALTH CARE

### AVAILABLE ASSISTANCE

Thirty-eight percent of surveyed refugee households reported that they have to pay in full for their primary health care related costs, while 28% benefit from assistance or subsidization. Only 5% of surveyed households reported benefiting from totally free primary health care.

Some differences were noted by nationality, with 44% of surveyed Iraqi refugee households having to pay in full for their primary health care related costs, while 29% benefited from some type of assistance/subsidization. Only 4% were benefiting from totally free primary health care.

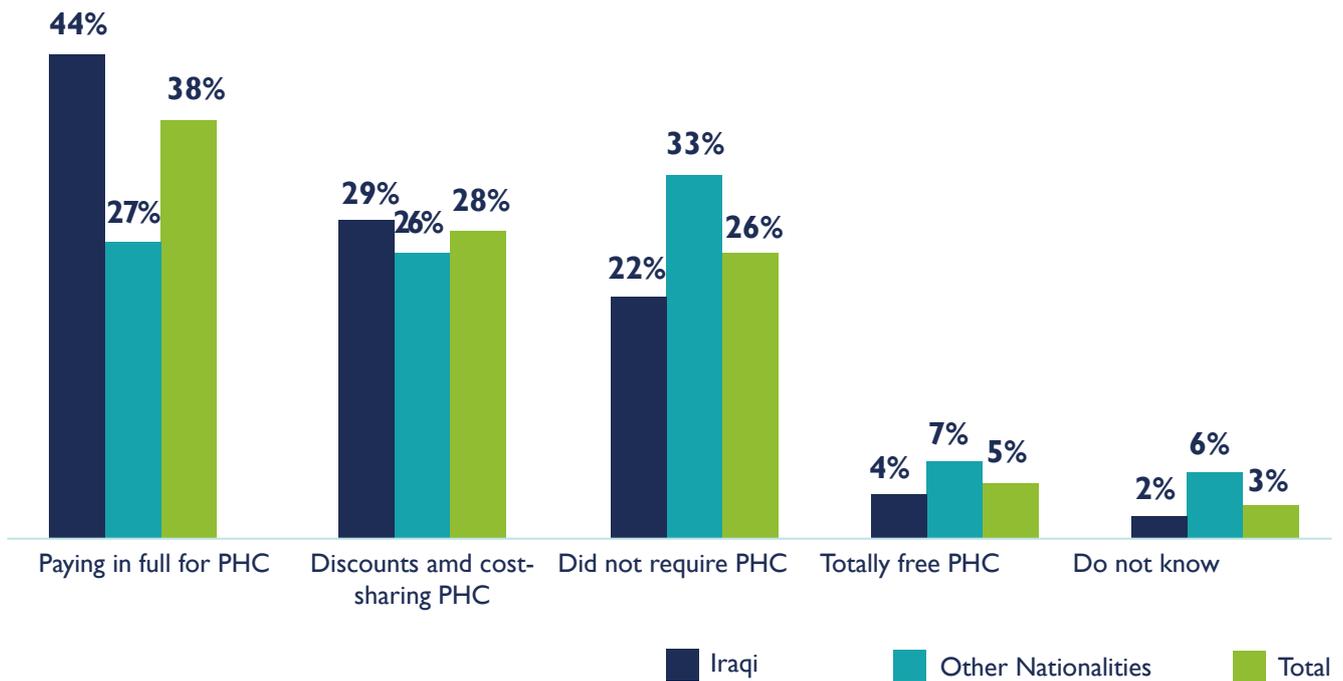
On the other hand, 27% of refugee households of other nationalities were paying in full for their primary health care related costs. Approximately one fourth (26%) benefited from some type of assistance/subsidization. Only 7% were receiving totally free primary health care.

### COMPARE TO SYRIAN REFUGEES

**20%** of households report paying in full for PHC services 

**49%** report benefiting from assistance/discounted services

**TYPES OF PRIMARY HEALTH CASE ASSISTANCE (figure 33)**

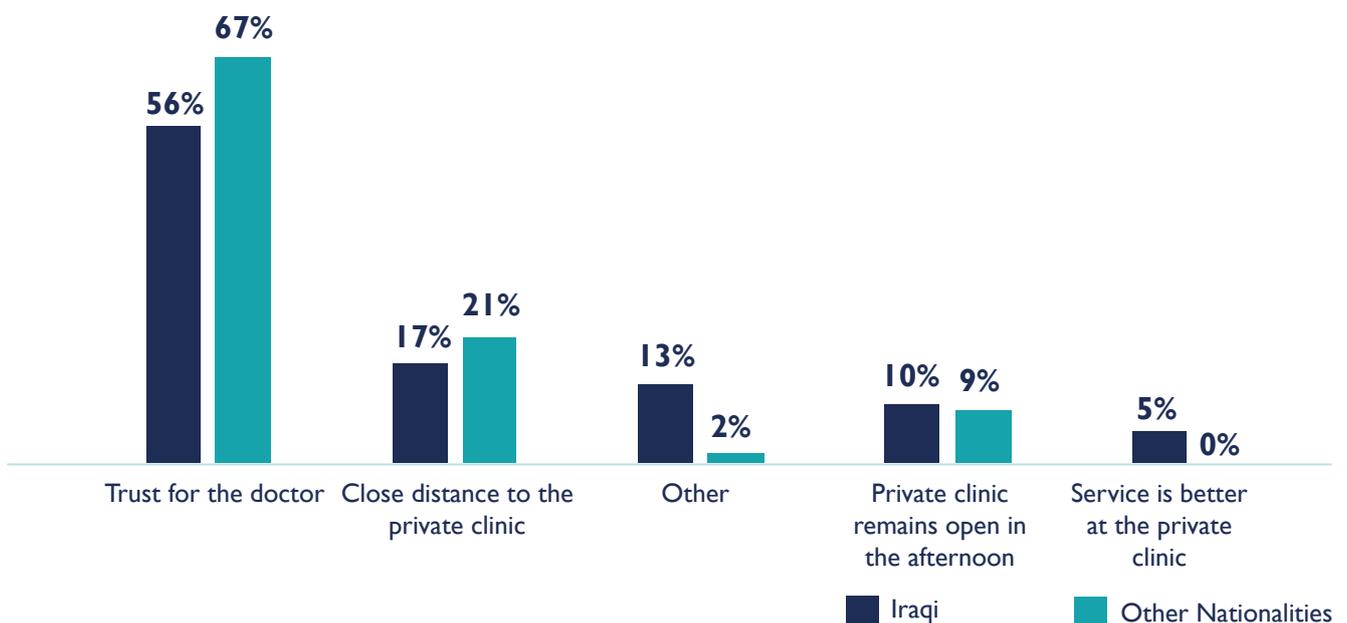


### CONSULTING PRIVATE DOCTORS/CLINICS

Less than one fourth of surveyed households (23%) had visited a doctor in a private clinic, with just over one fourth of surveyed Iraqi households (26%) having done so, compared to 17% of households of other nationalities.

The main reason for consulting doctors in private clinics was trust in the doctor/physician, as cited by more than half of surveyed households (56%) that made such visits. Other, less common reasons included the closer proximity to private clinics and the fact that private clinics remain open in afternoons, cited by 17% and 10% respectively.

**REASONS FOR VISITING A DOCTOR IN A PRIVATE CLINIC (FIGURE 34)**



## SEEKING PRIMARY HEALTH CARE SERVICES IN THE PAST SIX MONTHS

Fifty-one percent of surveyed refugee households reported needing primary health care (PHC) in the previous six months, compared to 57% in 2017. A larger proportion of Iraqi refugee households reported requiring PHC in the past six months compared to other nationalities (51% and 33% respectively). The majority (78%) of those that required primary health care in the previous six months were able to receive it, which is a notable increase from 62% in 2017. There was no significant difference between the two groups.

Of those who were able to access primary health care services in the previous six months, 58% relied on primary health care outlets, which was

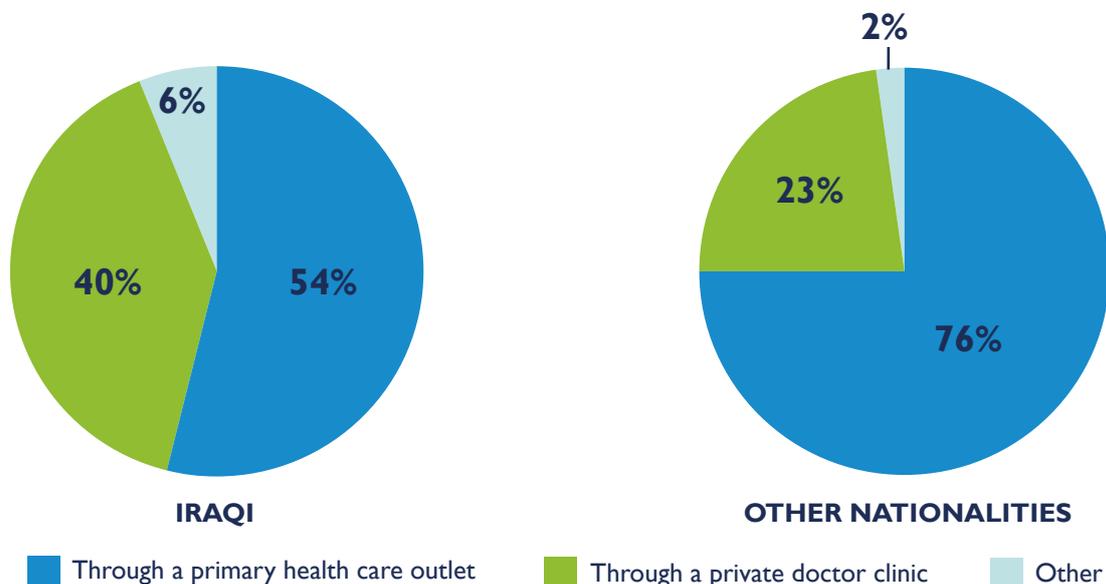
a considerable drop from 86% last year (2017). Thirty-seven percent relied on a private doctor’s clinic. Looking at these indicators by nationality, Iraqi refugee households followed a similar trend, with 54% accessing primary health care outlets, followed by 40% accessing a private doctor’s clinic, and 6% relying on other methods of access. On the other hand, more than three quarters of refugee households of other nationalities relied on primary health care outlets, and less than one fourth accessed PHC services through a private doctor’s clinic.

### COMPARE TO SYRIAN REFUGEES

**54%** needed PHC services in the previous six months

**87%** report receiving the required care

ACCESS TO PRIMARY HEALTH CARE IN THE PAST SIX MONTHS (figure 35)



The main reported barrier to accessing to PHC was the inability to pay for a doctor’s visit, cited by almost three quarters (73%) of households in both nationality groups. This was followed by the inability to afford the cost of drugs, tests and treatment, at 43%.

# HOSPITAL CARE

## AVAILABLE ASSISTANCE

Only 14% of surveyed households reported benefiting from assistance to cover the costs of hospital care this year, compared to 37% in 2017. Households of other nationalities were more likely to receive assistance from UNHCR at 12%, compared to 7% of Iraqi households. On the other hand, Iraqi households were more likely to rely on other organizations for such assistance at 7%, compared to only 3% of refugee households of other nationalities.

Thirty percent of surveyed households had to

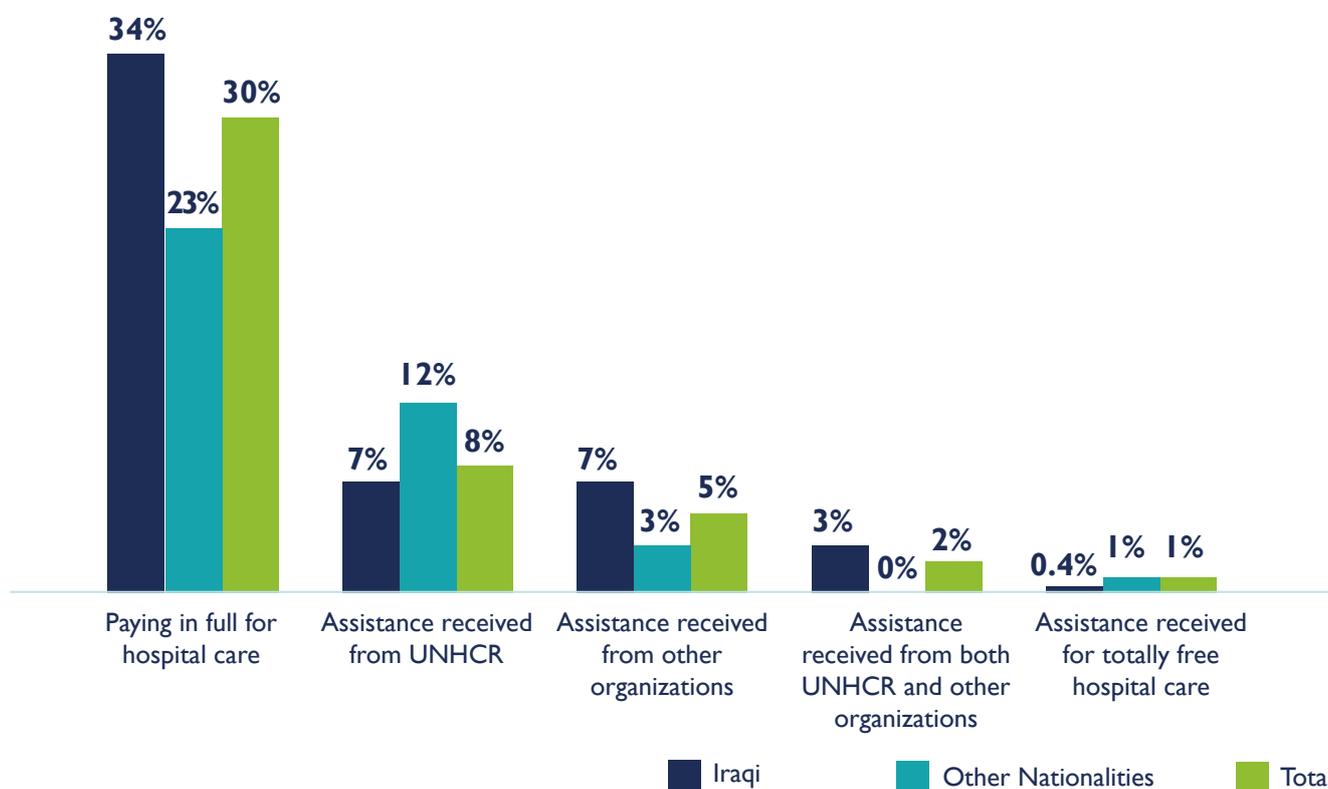
pay in full for hospital care, a marked reduction from 59% in 2017. Breaking it out by nationality, Iraqi households were more likely to pay in full for hospital care at 34%, compared to 23% of households of other nationalities. On the other hand, less than 1% of surveyed refugee households were benefiting from totally free hospital care assistance.



### COMPARE TO SYRIAN REFUGEES

**27%** received some assistance for hospital care

TYPES OF HOSPITAL ASSISTANCE RECEIVED (figure 36)



## HOSPITAL CARE IN THE PAST SIX MONTHS

Twenty-four percent of surveyed households reported requiring hospital care in the past six months, compared to 29% in 2017. Nearly double the share of Iraqi refugee households reported requiring hospitalization compared to other nationalities (29% compared to 15%).

Sixty-one percent of surveyed households that required hospital care were able to receive it in 2018, which was an improvement from 56% in 2017. This proportion was lower among Iraqi households, with 59% reporting that they were able to receive the needed care, compared to approximately three quarters of refugee households of other nationalities.

The main barrier to accessing hospital care was cost of the treatment (75%), similar to 88% in 2017. Other less commonly-reported barriers included not knowing where to go, high transportation costs, and the inability to afford hospital deposit fees.

### COMPARE TO SYRIAN REFUGEES

**23%** required hospital care in the previous six months

## KNOWLEDGE OF EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

Fifty-six percent of surveyed households reported that they were aware how to access medical services in case of emergency. This was higher among Iraqi refugee households (61%), than in households of other nationalities (44%).

# COPING STRATEGIES

This section looks at the range of strategies households adopt to cope with a lack of food and/or the means to buy it. Two sets of coping capacities are analysed: **Food Coping Strategies**, which capture the frequency of adoption and severity of food-related coping behaviours, and **Livelihood Coping Strategies**, which describe the adoption of coping mechanisms affecting households' capacity to procure food and/or earn a sustainable income in the medium to long term.

## KEY FINDINGS

- Three out of five households reported having experienced a lack of food (and/or money to buy it) in the month prior to the survey, indicating food insecurity.
- At least three quarters of households relied on food-related coping strategies.
- One in seven households relied on an asset-depletion coping mechanism.

children had enough to eat, or to send household members to eat elsewhere.

1 in 10



households said they went at least 1 day in the last 7 without eating

## FOOD-RELATED COPING STRATEGIES

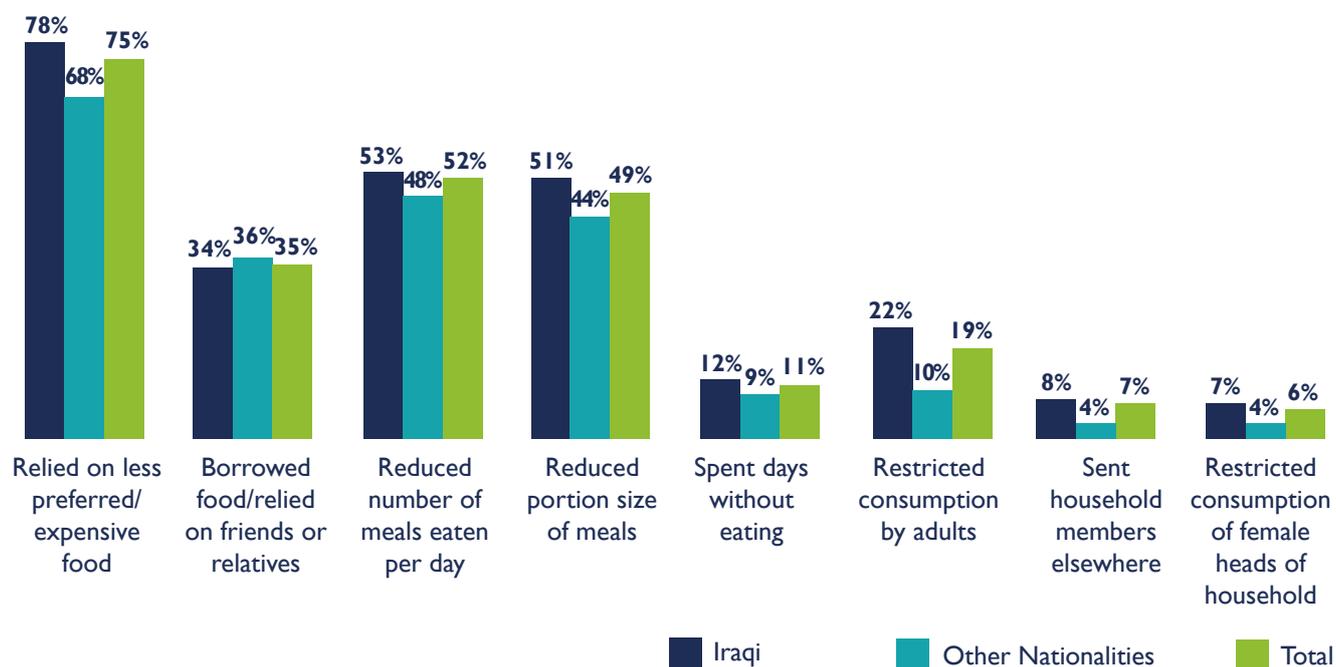
Three out of five households (62%)<sup>1</sup> reported having experienced a lack of food (and/or money to buy it) in the month prior to the survey. To cope with this lack of food, households reported adopting food-related coping mechanisms. The most commonly employed food-related coping strategies in the week prior to the survey were:

1. Relying on less preferred or less expensive food (75.2% of households)
2. Reducing the number of meals per day (51.5% of households)
3. Reducing portion size of meals (49.0% of households)
4. Borrowing food or relying on help from friends and relatives (34.6% of households)
5. Restricting adults' food consumption so that children may eat (18.5% of households)
6. One in ten households (11%) went at least one day in the previous seven without eating.

Households of refugees of other nationalities relied on food-related coping strategies more frequently than their Iraqi counterparts. In particular, households of other nationalities were more than twice as likely than Iraqis to restrict consumption by adults to ensure that

<sup>1</sup>VARON 2017: 78%.

### FOOD-RELATED COPING STRATEGIES (figure 37)



The Coping Strategy Index (CSI) is commonly used as a proxy indicator for access to food. The assessment here is based on the “reduced” CSI (rCSI), which uses the five most common behavioural changes in response to food shortages

and indicates the severity of the strategies that households applied to manage shortfalls in food consumption. A higher rCSI implies that the household adopted more strategies to cope with lack of food or access to food in the past week.

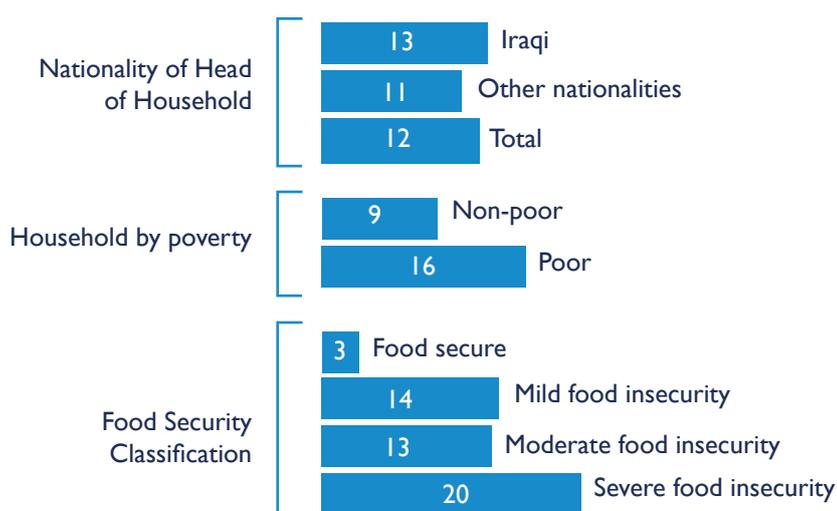
The reduced Coping Strategy Index (rCSI) consists of a series of five questions about how households cope with a shortfall in food for consumption, and results in a simple numeric score.

1. Eating less-preferred or less-expensive foods;
2. Borrowing food or relying on help from friends and relatives;
3. Limiting portion sizes at meal times;
4. Limiting adult intake so that children can eat; and
5. Reducing the number of meals per day.

For guidance reference please check: *WFP/CARE/Feinstein International Center/TANGO/USAID, January 2008. The Coping Strategies Index – Field Methods Manual, second edition, p.14*

As would be expected, poor and food insecure households have higher rCSI scores; that is, they are resorting to more severe strategies to compensate for shortfalls in food consumption.

## REDUCED COPING STRATEGY INDEX BY NATIONALITY, POVERTY LEVEL AND FOOD SECURITY CLASSIFICATION (figure 38)



## LIVELIHOOD COPING STRATEGIES

Coping strategies can be food-related, as described earlier, or livelihood-related, also known as ‘asset depletion coping strategies.’ These strategies undermine a household’s ability to access food because they erode fragile resources, affecting a household’s food security.

Surveyed households were asked whether they had used certain coping strategies in the previous 30 days. Some resources are finite and therefore once used up, cannot be used again. 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. Responses were used to understand the stress and insecurity faced by households and indicate their capacity regarding future productivity.

As in 2017, 86% of surveyed households reported having used at least one coping strategy at some point. The most common strategies employed at least once continued to be reducing expenditures on food (69.2% of households)<sup>3</sup>, reducing essential non-food expenditures such as education or health (43.9%)<sup>4</sup>, spending some or all of household savings (33.7%)<sup>5</sup> and buying food on credit or borrowing money to purchase food (48.4%)<sup>6</sup>. While reliance on many of the strategies

declined from the previous year, reliance on credit and borrowing grew, which may indicate that other strategies have been exhausted.

The livelihood coping strategies can be classified in three categories according to their severity: stress, crisis and emergency. The figure below indicates the strategies included under each category.

### ASSET DEPLETION CATEGORIES

STRESS 	CRISIS 	EMERGENCY 
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Spend savings</li> <li>- Sell household goods</li> <li>- Buy on credit</li> <li>- Have debts</li> </ul> <p>used by <b>86%</b> of households in last 30 days or in past</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Sell productive assets</li> <li>- Withdrew children from school</li> <li>- Reduce essential non-food expenses (healthcare, education, etc.)</li> <li>- Marriage of children under 18</li> </ul> <p>used by <b>70%</b> of households in last 30 days or in past</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Involve school children in income-generating activities</li> <li>- Beg</li> <li>- Accept high risk jobs</li> <li>- Sell house or land</li> </ul> <p>used by <b>5%</b> of households in last 30 days or in past</p>

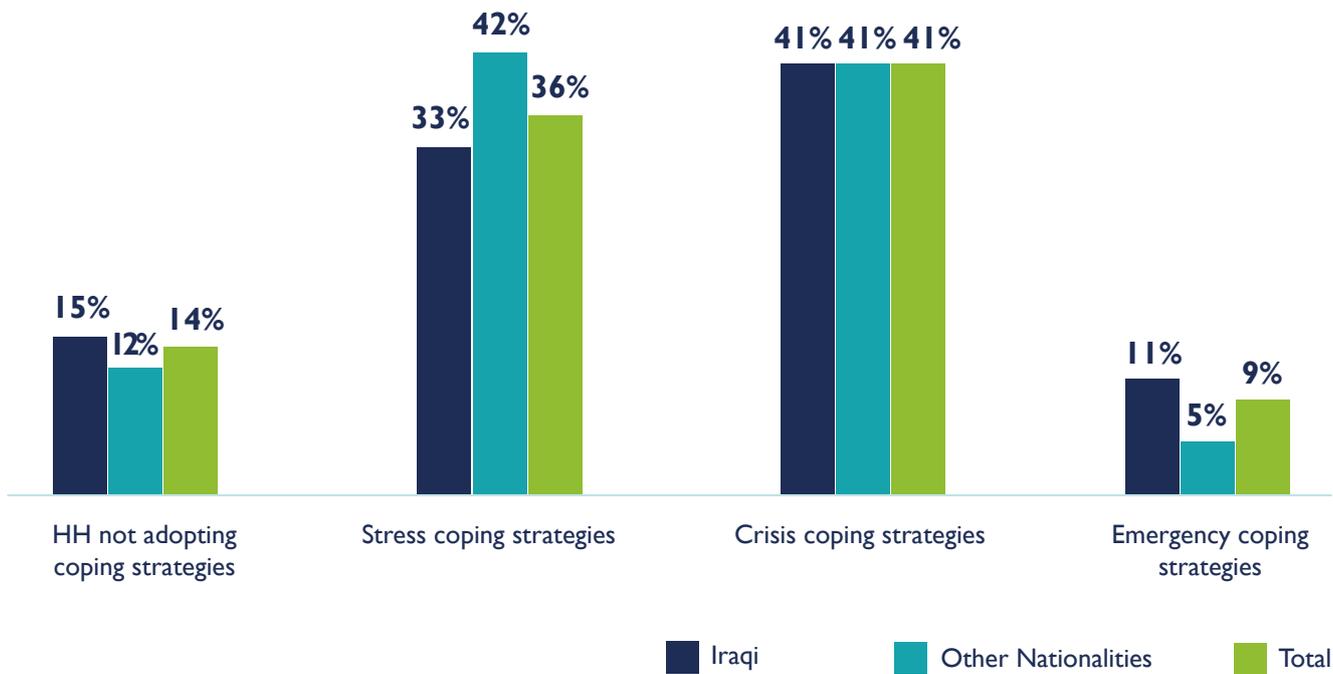
<sup>1</sup> VARON 2017: 77%  
<sup>2</sup> VARON 2017: 66%  
<sup>3</sup> VARON 2017: 49%  
<sup>4</sup> VARON 2017: 42%

Concerningly, half of the surveyed households had used either crisis or emergency coping strategies either in the past 30 days or before.

likely to have applied these coping strategies than households of other nationalities, and in particular were twice as likely to have applied emergency coping strategies.

Evaluating the use of livelihood coping strategies by nationality, Iraqi households were more

**HOUSEHOLDS ADOPTING ASSET DEPLETION COPING STRATEGIES BY NATIONALITY**  
(figure 39)



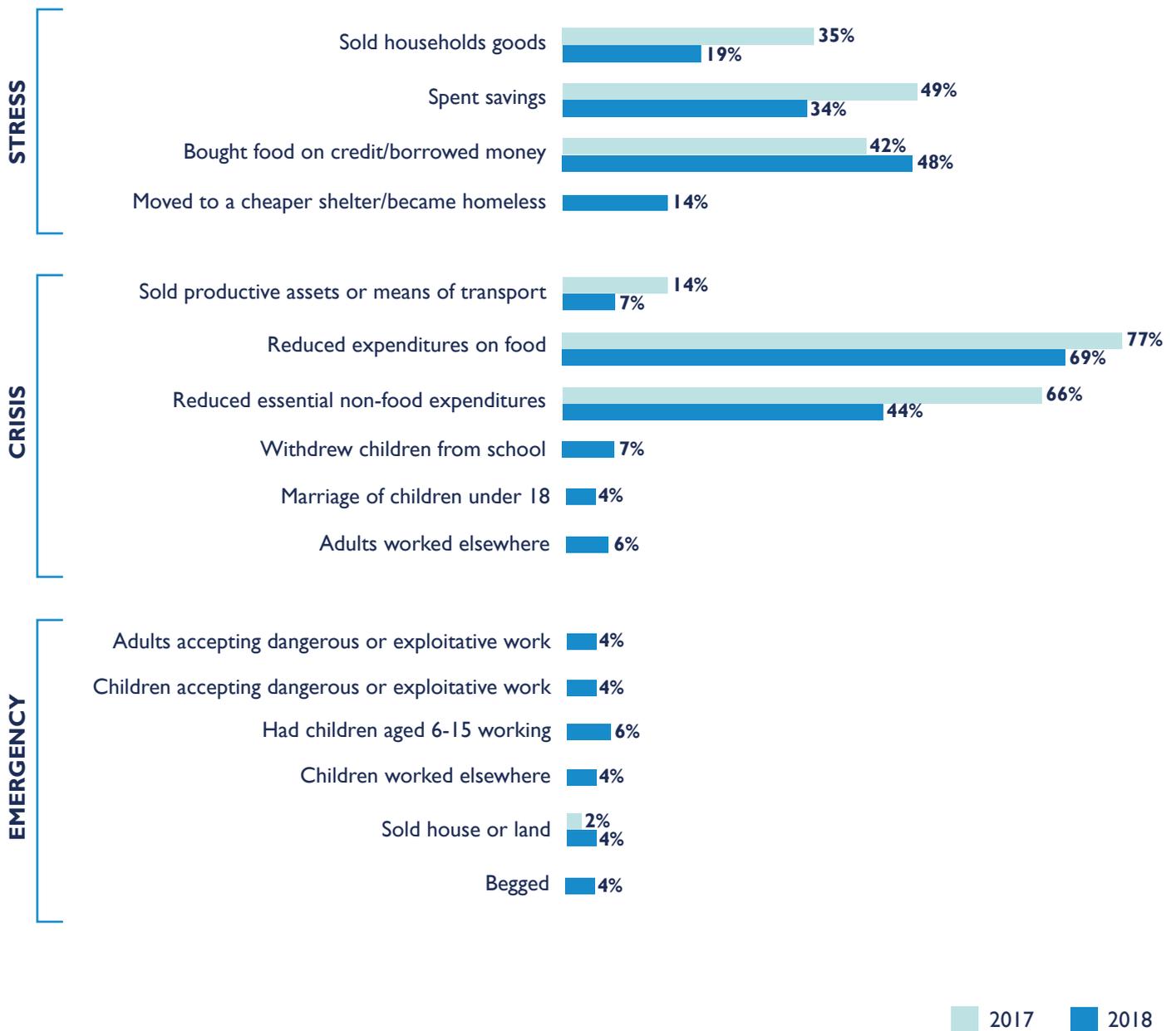
**COMPARE TO SYRIAN REFUGEES**

**90%** report relying on one or more food-related coping strategies

**97%** report relying on some type of livelihood coping strategy

Drilling down further, Figure 40 reveals that the frequency with which different coping strategies were applied.

**USE OF LIVELIHOOD-RELATED COPING STRATEGIES IN THE LAST THIRTY DAYS (figure 40)**



# FOOD SECURITY

Ensuring that people have access to adequate nutrient-rich food is essential for protecting the health and well-being of those who have been forced to flee. Malnutrition can lead to communicable diseases, delayed childhood development and weakened immune systems. Shortages of food also makes people more vulnerable to sexual abuse and exploitation. To assess this, household food consumption, expenditures on food and use of coping strategies to access food are all evaluated.

## KEY FINDINGS

- The average number of meals consumed per day was significantly lower for other nationality households, and particularly so for children under the age of five.
- One in six households had a poor food consumption score, indicating a lesser variety and frequency of foods consumed, and therefore a greater probability that a household is not achieving nutritional adequacy.
- The share of households allocating a high or very high share of expenditures to food climbed to 8.9%, indicating greater vulnerability.
- Fewer households reported having experienced a lack of food (and/or money to buy it) in the month prior to the survey (62% in 2018 versus 78% in 2017).
- While reliance on asset depletion strategies declined from the previous year, reliance on credit and borrowing grew, which may indicate that other strategies have been exhausted.
- As would be expected, analysis revealed that refugees in non-poor households are faring better than their counterparts under the poverty line, but typically only minimally.
- Refugees from countries other than Iraq were systematically worse off, and at times significantly so, for virtually all indicators.

## FOOD CONSUMPTION

Food consumption is the cornerstone of food security analysis. Quantity of food is measured by the number of meals consumed, while quality and diversity are captured through the Food Consumption Score (FCS) and Household Dietary Diversity Scale (HDDS)

## NUMBER OF MEALS CONSUMED

On average, adults consumed 2.1 meals per day, while children under five consumed 2.0 meals per day in 2018. Iraqis consumed more meals per day than refugees of other nationalities, a difference that was particularly noticeable for children under 5 and (2.23 meals compared to 1.3 meals per day).

### MEALS PER DAY (BY NATIONALITY)

	IRAQIS	OTHER NATIONALITIES	TOTAL
ADULTS	2.24	1.8	2.1
CHILDREN UNDER 5	2.24	1.3	2.0

### COMPARE TO SYRIAN REFUGEES

In 2018, adults consumed **2.2** meals per day   
and children consumed **3.0** meals per day. 

When broken out by poverty level poor adults consumed slightly fewer meals per day (2.08 versus 2.13), as might be expected, but poor children under five consumed more meals per day (2.24) than their non-poor counterparts, who consumed just 1.73 meals per day.

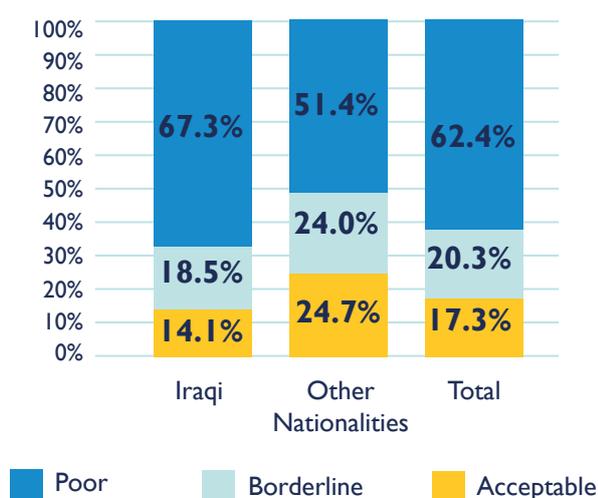
## FOOD CONSUMPTION SCORE

Food Consumption Score<sup>1</sup> (FCS) is a composite indicator based on dietary diversity, food frequency, and relative nutritional importance of the various food groups. It is calculated based on what respondents report having consumed over a recall period of seven days. The higher the FCS, the higher the variety and frequency of foods consumed, which in turn indicates a greater probability that a household achieves nutritional adequacy. According to this score, households are classified in one of three categories: poor, borderline and acceptable food consumption<sup>2</sup>. In 2018, the share of households with acceptable food consumption was 62%. A significantly larger share of Iraqis had acceptable consumption (67% versus 51% of refugees of other nationalities). One in seven (14%) Iraqi refugees had poor food consumption, compared to one in four (25%) refugees of other nationalities.

### COMPARE TO SYRIAN REFUGEES

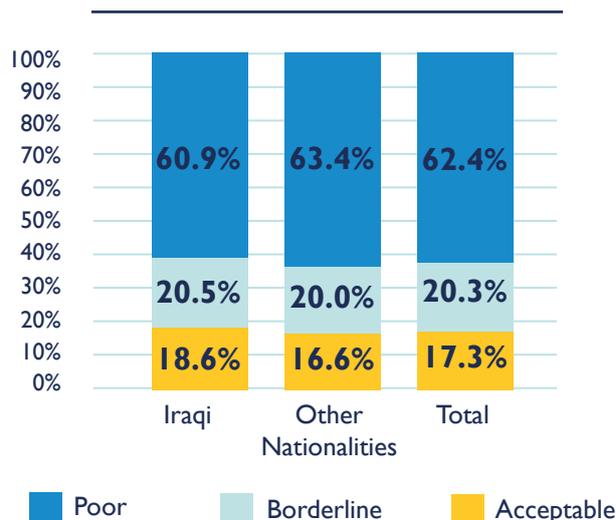
**67%** had acceptable food consumption, while **10%** had poor food consumption

**FOOD CONSUMPTION SCORE BY NATIONALITY** (figure 41)



Looking at food consumption by poverty level, there was only a small difference between poor and non-poor households in terms of the share with poor and borderline scores.

**FOOD CONSUMPTION SCORE BY POVERTY LEVEL** (figure 42)



## FOOD CONSUMPTION SCORE NUTRITION QUALITY ANALYSIS (FCS-N)

The information gathered to develop the FCS provides a wealth of data which was also used to calculate the food consumption score nutrient<sup>3</sup> (FCS-N), an indicator used to inform about nutrient-rich food groups consumed by households. These nutrients are essential for nutritional health and well-being: protein (essential for growth), iron (to prevent anemia) and vitamin A (to prevent blindness, and essential for the immune system, growth, development and reproduction).

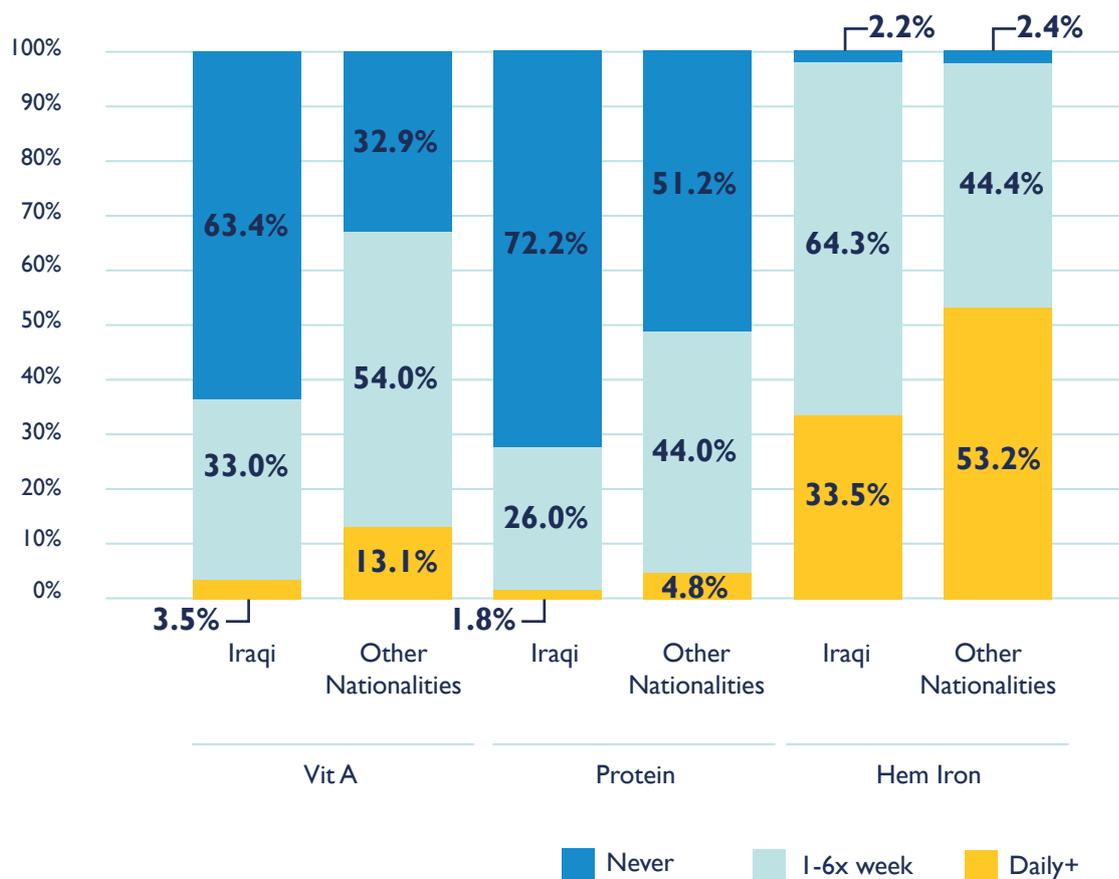
Overall, Iraqis consumed these vital micronutrients more frequently than refugees of other nationalities, but both groups had limited consumption of iron.

<sup>1</sup> A detailed explanation on Annex I

<sup>2</sup> The methodology used to calculate the Food Consumption Score for VARON 2018 was the same as the one used as for VASyR 2018. <https://www.unhcr.org/lb/wp-content/uploads/sites/16/2018/12/VASyR-2018.pdf>

<sup>3</sup> For more details on FCS-N refer to this link [https://resources.vam.wfp.org/sites/default/files/FCS-N\\_Guidance\\_final\\_version.pdf](https://resources.vam.wfp.org/sites/default/files/FCS-N_Guidance_final_version.pdf).

MICRONUTRIENT CONSUMPTION 2018 (figure 43)



## DIETARY DIVERSITY

The Household Diet Diversity is a proxy measure which indicates, in a snapshot, the ability of a household to access food. To better reflect a quality diet, the number of different food groups consumed is calculated on a weekly and daily basis and categorized into Household Weekly Diet Diversity (HWDD) and Household Daily Average Diet Diversity (HDADD)<sup>4</sup>. The number of different foods or food groups eaten over a reference period are recorded, without regard to frequency of consumption. Household weekly

diet diversity is equal to the number of food groups consumed over the seven days previous to data collection. Household daily average diet diversity equal to the number of food groups consumed over the previous 24 hours (for this assessment, the number of food groups consumed was divided by 7 to determine equivalency for one day).

Dietary diversity is positively linked with adequacy of food intake. Hence, a larger value indicates a better quality of diet. Studies have shown that an increase in dietary diversity is associated with socio-economic status and household food security.

<sup>4</sup> Guidelines for measuring household and individual dietary diversity. (FAO 2010). <http://www.fao.org/3/a-i1983e.pdf>

For a detailed discussion on the dietary diversity indicator, see the following websites: [http://www.fantaproject.org/downloads/pdfs/HDDS\\_v2\\_Sep06.pdf](http://www.fantaproject.org/downloads/pdfs/HDDS_v2_Sep06.pdf).

[http://documents.wfp.org/stellent/groups/public/documents/manual\\_guide\\_proced/wfp203208.pdf](http://documents.wfp.org/stellent/groups/public/documents/manual_guide_proced/wfp203208.pdf)

Dietary Diversity as a Food Security Indicator, John F. Hoddinott and Yisehac Yohannes. Food Consumption and Nutrition Division, International Food Policy Research Institute 2033 K Street, N.W. Washington, D.C. 20006 U.S.A. 2002.

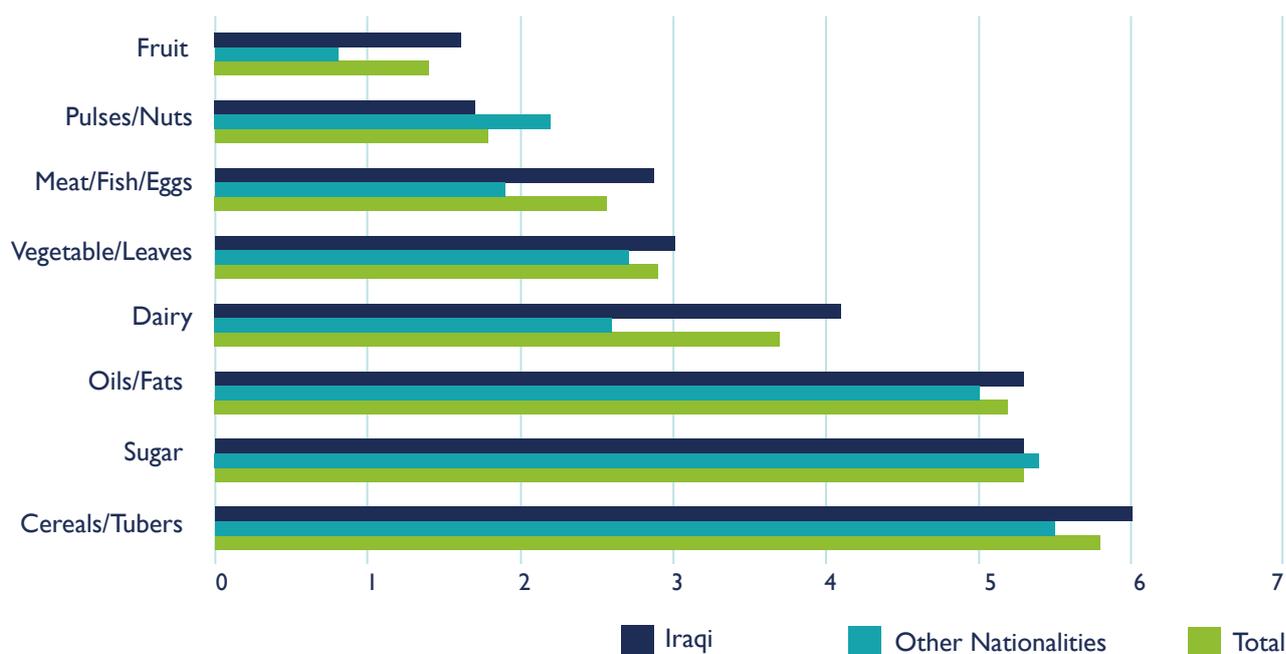
### HWDD AND HDADD GROUPS BY NATIONALITY (figure 44)

	HOUSEHOLD WEEKLY DIET DIVERSITY			HOUSEHOLD WEEKLY DIET DIVERSITY	HOUSEHOLD DAILY DIET DIVERSITY			HOUSEHOLD DAILY DIET DIVERSITY
	LOW ≤6 FOOD GROUPS	MEDIUM 7-8 FOOD GROUPS	HIGH ≥9 FOOD GROUPS	MEAN FOOD GROUPS	LOW ≤4.5 FOOD GROUPS	MEDIUM 4.5-6.4 FOOD GROUPS	HIGH ≥6.5 FOOD GROUPS	MEAN FOOD GROUPS
<b>IRAQIS</b>	<b>5.7%</b>	<b>5.7%</b>	<b>82.0%</b>	<b>9.9</b>	<b>24.3%</b>	<b>34.2%</b>	<b>41.4%</b>	<b>5.7</b>
<b>OTHER NATIONALITIES</b>	<b>15.1%</b>	<b>15.1%</b>	<b>56.2%</b>	<b>8.6</b>	<b>37.7%</b>	<b>41.1%</b>	<b>21.2%</b>	<b>4.9</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>8.6%</b>	<b>8.6%</b>	<b>74.3%</b>	<b>9.5</b>	<b>28.3%</b>	<b>36.3%</b>	<b>35.3%</b>	<b>5.5</b>

Looking at both weekly and daily consumption, Iraqi households were consuming a more diversified diet than households of other nationalities. Just 5% of Iraqi households had low weekly diet diversity, indicating a poorer quality of diet, compared to

15% of households of other nationalities. For both nationality groups, the food groups consumed most frequently were cereal, sugar and fats, all of which are characterized by their low nutritional value.

### NUMBER OF DAYS PER WEEK FOOD GROUPS WERE CONSUMED (figure 45)



## FOOD SECURITY

Food security classification is a composite indicator that classifies households into one of four categories: food secure, marginally food insecure, moderately food insecure and severely food insecure.

Food security encompasses three dimensions:

- **Food consumption:** In addition to the three categories of Food Consumption Score (acceptable, borderline and poor), a fourth group is created for those who have acceptable food consumption and then applied any food related coping strategies.
- **Economic vulnerability:** Households are categorized based on the share of total expenditures directed to food. A high share of expenditures on food indicates economic vulnerability, and those households are more likely to be food insecure.

- **Sustainability of livelihoods:** Use of livelihood coping strategies indicates the sustainability of livelihoods. Households are categorized based on severity of livelihood coping strategies, while those which did not apply any coping strategies are classified as food secure. These three factors (Food Consumption Score, Food Expenditure Share and Coping Strategies) are converted in a 4-point scale 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. 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<sup>5</sup>.

Food security classification:

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

## FOOD EXPENDITURES SHARE

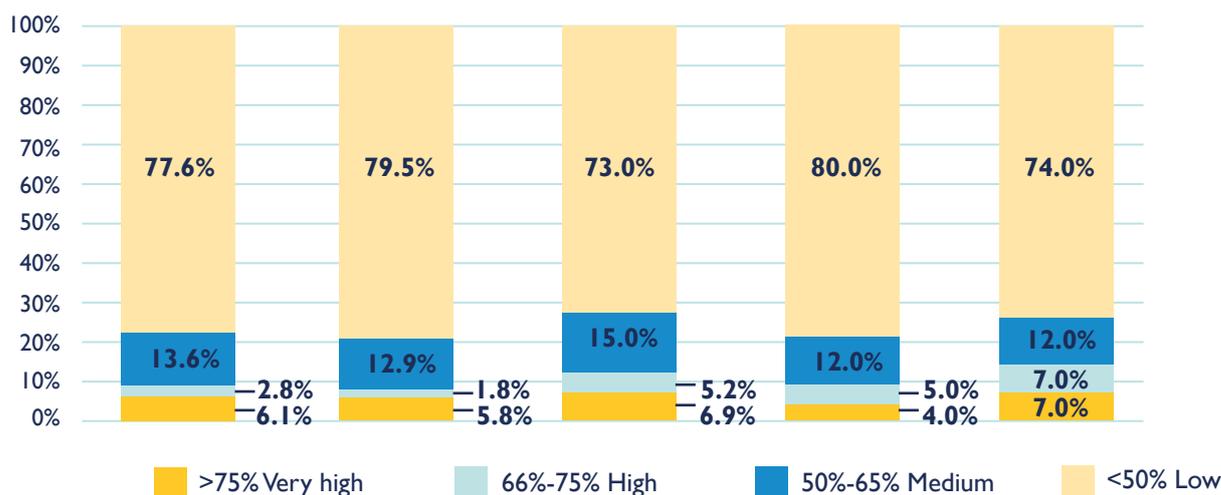
An additional proxy indicator of food security is food expenditure as a share of household expenses. Households with a high share of food expenditure often do not have enough resources to cover other important costs such as health

and education. The food expenditure share is classified into four categories:

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

<sup>5</sup>The methodology used to compute food security classification for VARON 2018 is the same that was used for VASyR 2018. <https://www.unhcr.org/lb/wp-content/uploads/sites/16/2018/12/VASyR-2018.pdf>

**FOOD EXPENDITURES SHARE (figure 46)**



On average, food made up 35% of household expenditures<sup>6</sup>. As in 2017, 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 the ability to utilize resources to cover other needs within the households. The share of households spending more than 75% of their expenditure on food increased continued its upward creep, from 4.3% in 2016 and 5% in 2017 to 6.1% in 2018. These households were unlikely to have resources to spend on other needs. Another 2.8% of households were allocating 65% to 74% of their expenditures to food, for a total of 8.9% households classified as having high or very high expenditures on food, and therefore limited ability to cover other needs.

Per capita food expenditure also increased, to US\$ 75 per month<sup>7</sup> with significant differences between Iraqi households (US\$ 71) and those of other nationalities (US\$ 84)<sup>8</sup>. 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.

**COMPARE TO SYRIAN REFUGEES**



Food makes up **40%** of household expenditures

**12.5%** have a high or very high expenditure on food

Per capita expenditure on food is

**US\$ 40**

**OVERALL FOOD SECURITY**

Based on this analysis of food consumption, food expenditure and coping strategies, one third of the refugees surveyed were classified as moderately to severely food insecure. When broken out by nationality, 28.6% of Iraqi refugees were found to be moderately to severely food insecure. A significantly larger share of households of other nationalities were found to be severely to moderately food insecure, at nearly 45%. Food insecurity is exacerbated by poverty, and 7% of poor households were severely food insecure.

**COMPARE TO SYRIAN REFUGEES**

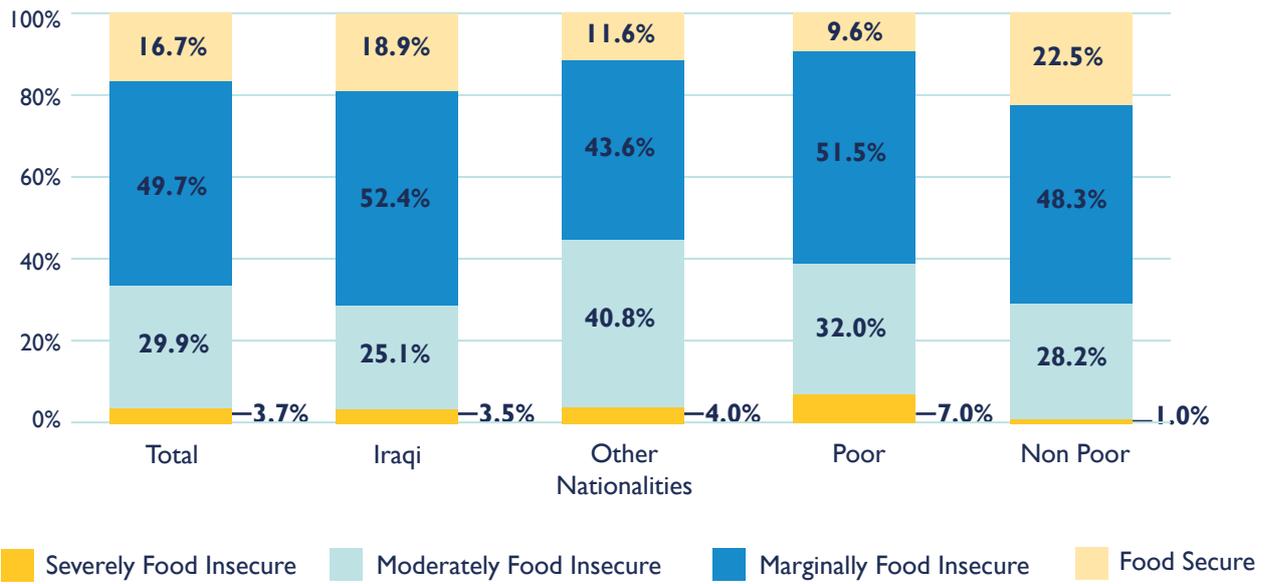
**34%** are moderately to severely food insecure

<sup>6</sup> VARON 2017: 30%.

<sup>7</sup> Food expenditure includes purchased and non-purchased food. VARON 2017: US\$63; VARON 2016: US\$ 46.

<sup>8</sup> VARON 2017: Iraqi households: US\$ 59; other surveyed households: US\$ 73.

**FOOD SECURITY BY NATIONALITY AND BY POVERTY LEVEL (figure 47)**



# ECONOMIC VULNERABILITY

This section describes the economic vulnerability of Iraqi and other nationality refugee households in Lebanon, taking into account composition and amount of expenditures, poverty and debt.

## KEY FINDINGS

- Average per capita monthly expenditure was US\$ 245. Iraqi households have greater per capita expenditures than households of other nationalities.
- Food and rent made up the largest shares of per capita household expenditures, at approximately one third apiece.
- One in five surveyed households were living below the poverty line.
- Over half of surveyed households borrowed money or made purchases on credit during the three months prior to the survey, showing that refugee households continue to lack enough resources to cover their essential needs.

## EXPENDITURES

The average per capita expenditure of surveyed households was US\$ 245 per month<sup>1</sup>. For Iraqi households, the average expenditure was US\$ 252, while for households of other nationalities, it was US\$ 229.

As expected, total expenditure was much smaller for poor households (US\$ 103 per capita) than for non-poor households (US\$ 361). Similarly, per capita expenditures were larger for food secure households and smaller for food insecure households.

### COMPARE TO SYRIAN REFUGEES

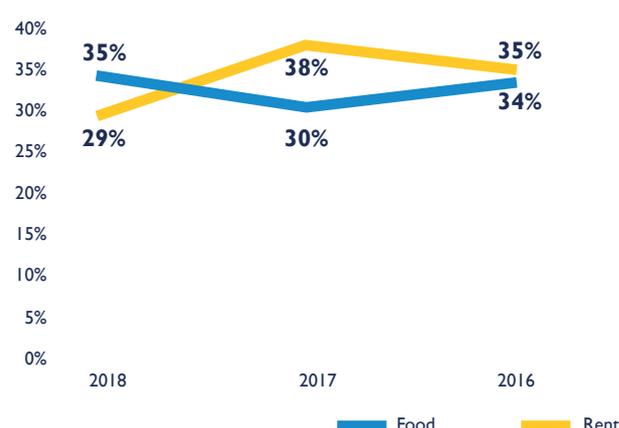
Average per capita expenditure is

**US\$ 111/month**

FOOD SECURITY CATEGORY	MONTHLY PER CAPITA HOUSEHOLD EXPENDITURE
FOOD SECURE	US\$ 344
MARGINALLY FOOD INSECURE	US\$ 239
MODERATELY FOOD INSECURE	US\$ 221
SEVERELY FOOD INSECURE	US\$ 81

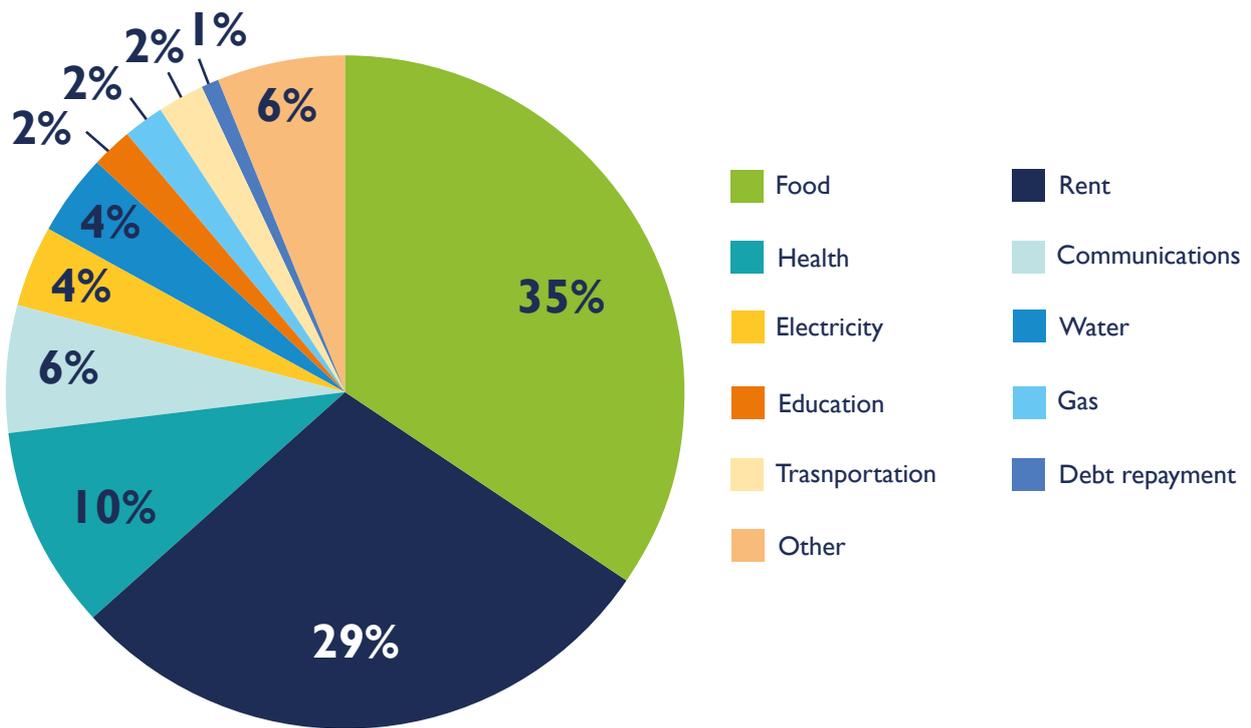
On average, the two highest expenditure groups were food (35%) and rent (29%). While Iraqi households allocated 33% of their expenditures to food, households of other nationalities allocated 39%. Spending on healthcare was as a distant third for both groups, followed by communications, electricity and water.

**FOOD AND RENT EXPENDITURES AS A SHARE OF TOTAL, 2016-2018 (figure 48)**

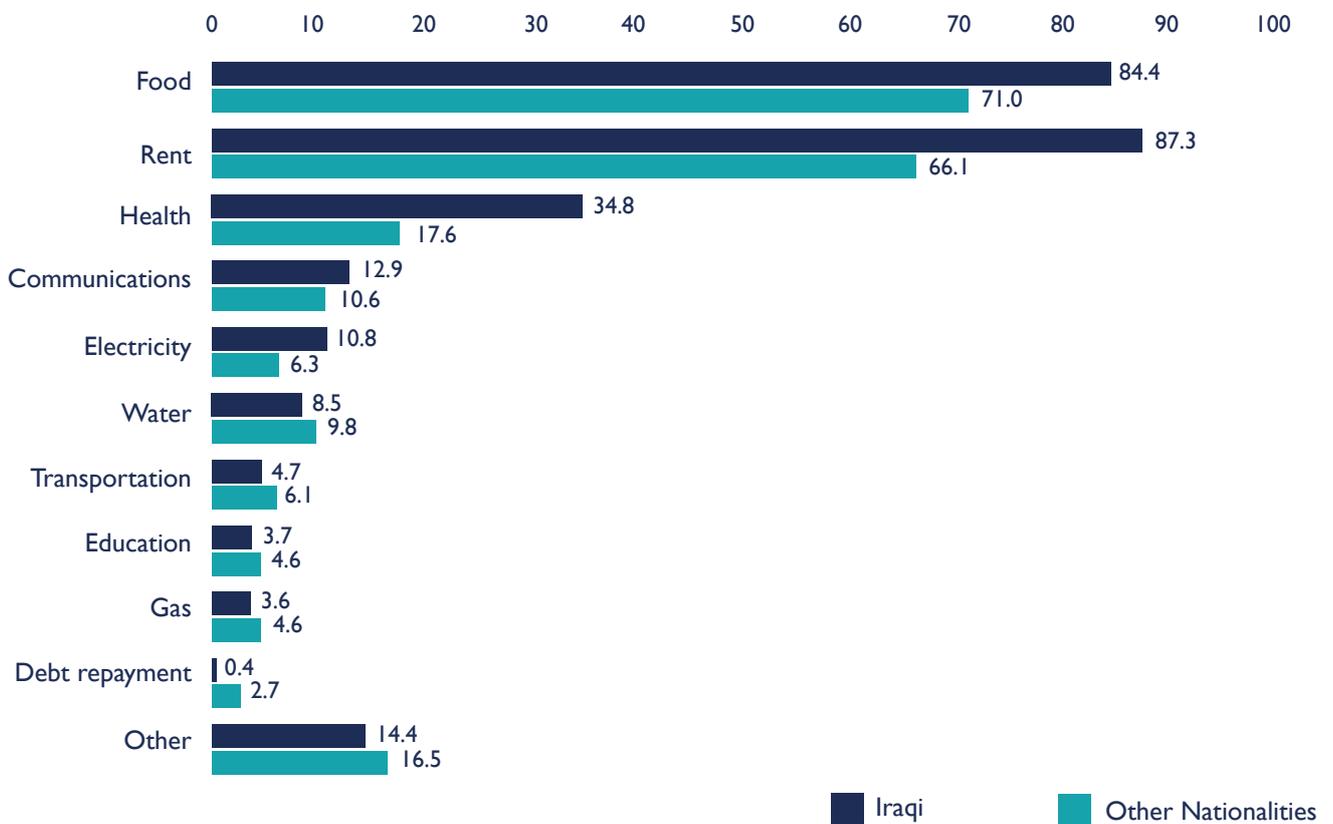


<sup>1</sup> This figure is not comparable to the 2017 results, due to differences in the survey timing and sample. Refer to the methodology section for details

**PERCENTAGE OF HOUSEHOLD EXPENDITURES BY ITEM (figure 49)**



**AVERAGE MONTHLY EXPENDITURE PER CAPITA BY ITEM AND NATIONALITY (US\$) (figure 50)**

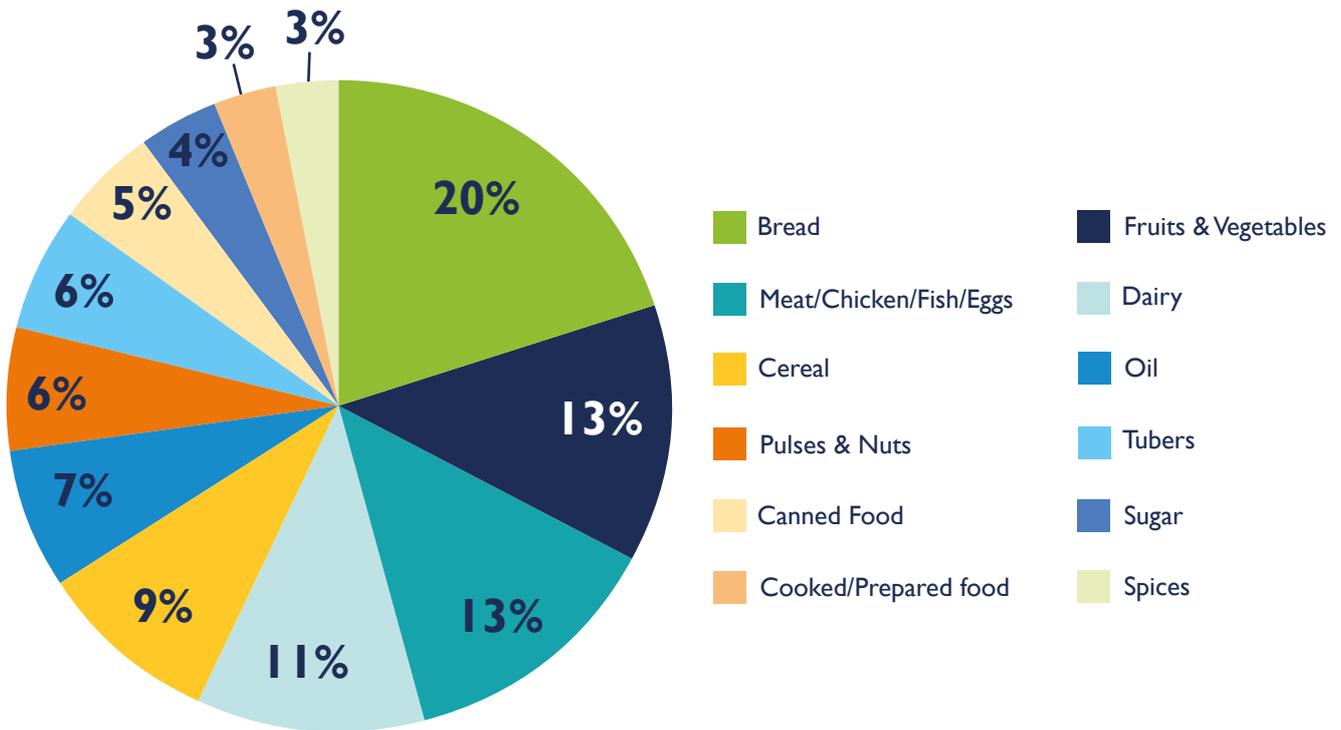


\*Other includes tobacco/alcohol, hygiene, fuel, clothing, entertainment, legal fees and other small expenditures on items such as household assets and shelter materials

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 monthly per capita expenditure on rent cost was US\$ 81, as noted in the Shelter chapter.

Looking more closely at food expenditures, staple foods (bread, cereals and tubers) account for 41% of total food expenditure, indicating a high dependency on these foods in refugee diets.

**EXPENDITURE SHARES BY ITEM (US\$) (FIGURE 51)**



The households with the largest shares of expenditure on food are the most vulnerable. Overall, monthly per capita expenditures were lower in Iraqi households than in households of other nationalities, in line with the fact that fewer Iraqi households were poor (53% compared to 60%) and therefore have more ability to make expenditures.

### POVERTY LINE

Households were also classified according to the poverty line proposed for Lebanon by the World Bank in 2013<sup>2</sup>, established at US\$ 3.84 per person per day. The poverty line is the most recent expenditure value approved by the Lebanese government as the cut-off below which people are considered poor in Lebanon and it is applied to all residents in Lebanon. The proportion of surveyed households living below the poverty

line was 22% in 2018. More specifically, 21.5% of Iraqi households and 24% of households of other nationalities were living below the poverty line.

The Minimum Expenditure Basket (MEB) that was developed for Syrian refugees was used as a reference for the development of a poverty line for refugees of Iraqi and other nationalities. The data clearly indicated, however, a significant difference in the rent component of the basket for Syrian refugees compared to refugees of Iraqi and other nationalities. Accordingly, the average rent for refugees of Iraqi and other nationalities was estimated to be US\$ 239, and average household

<sup>2</sup> United Nations Development Programme and the Council for Development and Reconstruction (2014). Lebanon Millennium Development Goals Report 2013-2014.

size was estimated at 3.5, compared to a rent of US\$ 193 and average household size of 5 used to compute MEB per capita for Syrian refugee households. After adjusting the MEB with the new rent component, the threshold increases from US\$ 114 (estimated for Syrian refugees) to US\$ 176.

Poor households comprised 45% of the population of Iraqi and other nationality refugees. Monthly per capita expenditures in these households averaged just US\$ 103. In non-poor households, the monthly per capita expenditures averaged US\$ 361.

### COMPARE TO SYRIAN REFUGEES

**69%** live below the poverty line.

## DEBT AND BORROWING MONEY

Over half of surveyed households (53%) reported borrowing money or receiving credit in the last 90 days.<sup>3</sup> This share was lower among Iraqi households (50%) than households of other nationalities (61%).<sup>4</sup>

The total amount of debt per household averaged US\$ 886<sup>5</sup> and was significantly higher for Iraqi households (US\$ 1,019) than for households of other nationalities (US\$ 583). When analysed on a per capita basis, this difference reverses, with households of other nationalities having a larger per capita debt (US\$ 373) than Iraqi households (US\$ 317). These figures reflected an increase in debt from 2017, when per capita debt was US\$ 324 for households of other nationalities and US\$ 275 for Iraqis.

If only households which have debt are considered, the figures increase further, as shown in Figure 52.

### COMPARE TO SYRIAN REFUGEES

During the three months prior to the survey

**9 OUT OF 10**  
households acquired debt

**8 OUT OF 10**  
households borrowed money

**DEBT PER HOUSEHOLD AND PER CAPITA, BY NATIONALITY (figure 52)**

	PER HOUSEHOLD	PER HOUSEHOLD (ONLY HOUSEHOLDS WITH DEBT)	PER CAPITA	PER CAPITA (ONLY HOUSEHOLDS WITH DEBT)
<b>IRAQIS</b>	<b>US\$ 1,019</b>	<b>US\$ 1,944</b>	<b>US\$ 334</b>	<b>US\$ 605</b>
<b>OTHER NATIONALITIES</b>	<b>US\$ 583</b>	<b>US\$ 794</b>	<b>US\$ 373</b>	<b>US\$ 508</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>US\$ 886</b>	<b>US\$ 1,506</b>	<b>US\$ 324</b>	<b>US\$ 568</b>

Of all households, 41% did not have any debt, while 12% had less than US\$200 debt, 17% had between US\$200 and US\$600 debt, while 30% had over US\$600 in debt. While nearly half (48%) of Iraqi households did not have any debt, just one quarter (27%) of households of other nationalities did not have any debt.

**1 in 2** Iraqi refugee households has debt.  
**3 of every 4** refugee households of other nationalities has debt.



<sup>3</sup> VARON 2016: 54%. (VARON 2017 asked about the last 30 days and so is not comparable.)

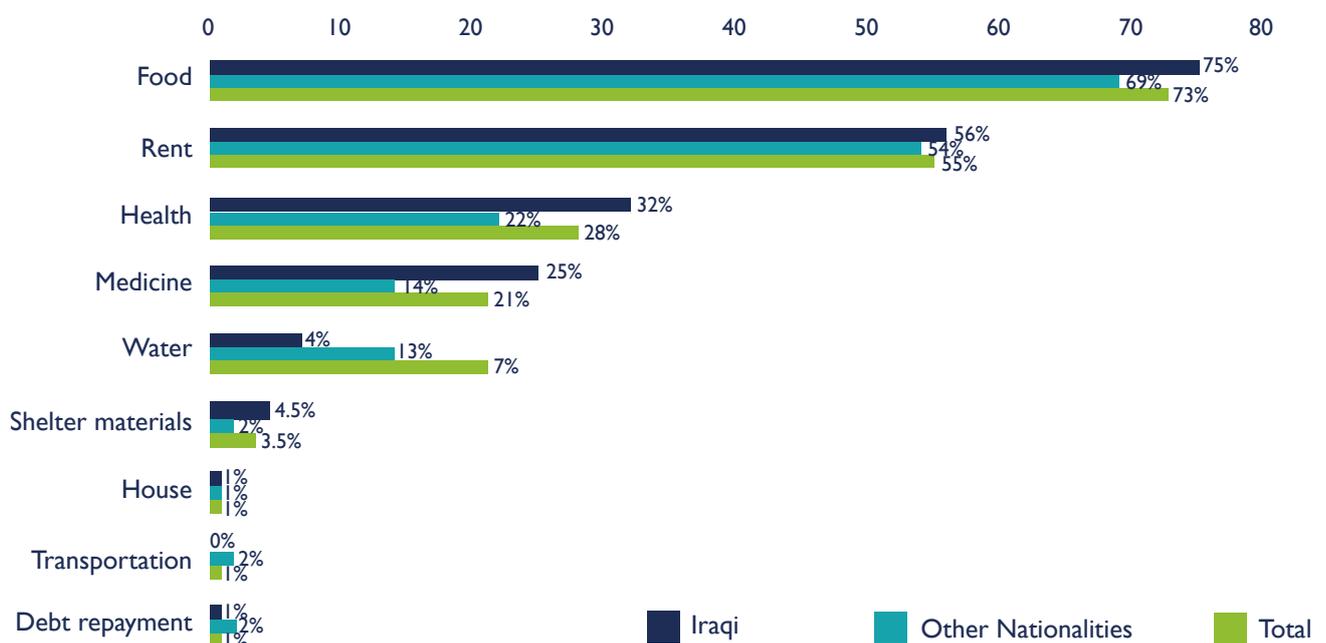
<sup>4</sup> VARON 2016: Iraqi households: 49%; other surveyed households: 61%

<sup>5</sup> VARON 2016: US\$ 682.

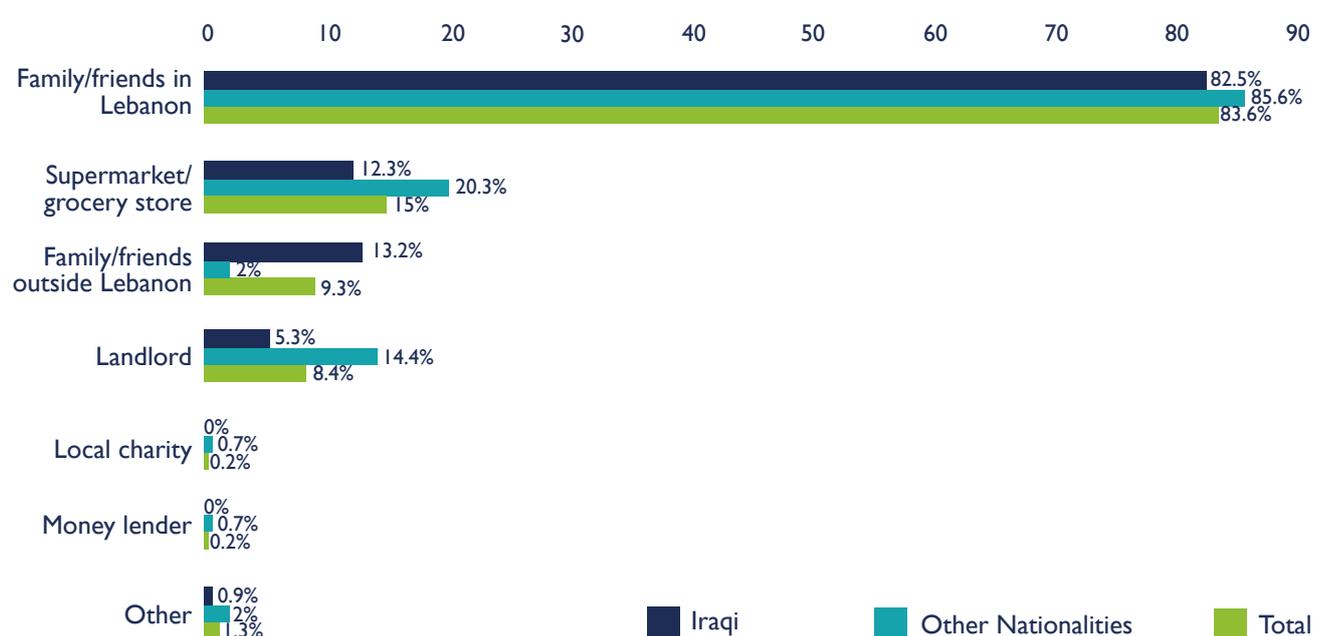
Poor households had less debt per capita than non-poor households. Similarly, severely food insecure households had significantly less debt per capita than all other categories of food security. For example, for households with debt, the average per capita debt ranged from US\$545 to US\$600 for food secure to moderately food insecure households, while severely food insecure households had an average per capita debt of US\$ 297. This perhaps indicates an inability to access credit.

The most common reasons for borrowing money were to pay for food and rent, followed by healthcare and medicine. Refugees rely on informal sources of credit: the vast majority (84%) reported borrowing money from family and friends in Lebanon, although the supermarket or grocery store was also an important source (cited by 15% of households). Figures 53 and 54 show the reasons and sources for borrowing in more detail.

**REASONS FOR BORROWING MONEY BY NATIONALITY FOR HOUSEHOLDS WITH DEBT (figure 53)**



**SOURCES FOR BORROWING MONEY BY NATIONALITY FOR HOUSEHOLDS WITH DEBT (figure 54)**



# LIVELIHOODS AND INCOME

The assessment collected information at both individual and household levels, then measured income opportunities among Iraqi refugees and those of other nationalities. The first part of this chapter analyses income-generating activities for individuals who worked during the week prior to the survey. To better understand the income-generating activities, type of work, wages earned, employment and unemployment levels, and number of days worked, questions were asked at the individual level for each household member aged 15 years and above. At the household level, questions addressed both the main income sources and what households rely on as the primary income source for living expenses. Results were compared to 2017 where feasible.

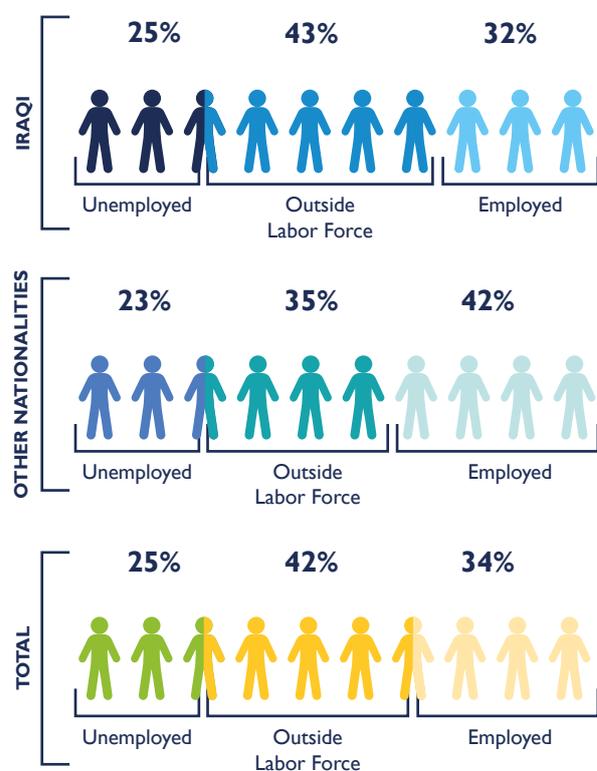
## KEY FINDINGS

- Overall, 34% of 'working age' individuals had worked in the 30 days prior to the survey for an average of 20.4 days in the month and 44 hours per week. At the household level, 65% had at least one member who had worked in the previous 30 days.
- Refugees of other nationalities were much more likely than Iraqis to have worked in the last 30 days: 42% reported to have done so, compared to 32% of Iraqis. When comparing employed refugees, however, Iraqis worked more days per month and more hours per week than refugees of other nationalities.
- While work was the main source of income for the majority of households, one in ten refugees reported debt/credit as their primary source of income.
- Building concierge and the non-professional service sector were the most commonly reported forms of employment.
- Household expenditure per capita exceeded income per capita by US\$ 121 on average.

## LIVELIHOODS AND INCOME

Individuals between the ages of 15 and 59 (the working-age population) comprise 67% of the Iraqi refugee population and 77% of refugees of other nationalities. The labour force (individuals employed + not-working above 15 years old) represented 68% of the individuals. Figure 55 shows the shares of people employed, not-working and "outside the labour force" by nationality.

POPULATION EMPLOYMENT STATUS (figure 55)



Overall, 34% of 'working age' individuals had worked in the 30 days prior to the survey for an average of 20.4 days in the month and 44 hours per week. Of the remaining individuals, 41.5% were outside of the labour force, and 24.5% were unemployed. This means that the labor force participation rate for Iraqi and other nationality refugees was 58% overall, with a rate of 57% for Iraqis and 65% for refugees of other nationalities.

As in 2017, refugees of other nationalities were much more likely than Iraqis to have worked in the last 30 days: 42% reported to have done so, compared to 32% of Iraqi refugees. This is a

narrower gap than in 2017, when the relevant figures were 48% and 24%. There was little difference in the unemployment rates of Iraqi refugees (25%) and those of other nationalities (23%). In the majority of cases (85%), the working individual was also the primary breadwinner for the household. This was true for 82% of working Iraqi refugees, and 94% of refugees of other nationalities.

Among employed refugees, 60% reported having regular work, with 65% of working Iraqis reporting regular employment, but less than half (46%) of refugees of other nationalities reporting regular employment. One in ten working refugees reported having more than one job, with little difference between the two groups (12% of Iraqis compared to 10.5% of refugees of other nationalities).

## DAYS AND HOURS WORKED

Employed refugees worked an average of 20.4 days per month. Iraqis worked an average of 21.4 days per month, while refugees of other nationalities worked an average of 17.5 days. Looking at the number of hours worked per week, Iraqis again reported higher numbers, with an average of 46 hours per week compared to 39 hours for refugees of other nationalities. The average for both groups came to 44 hours worked per week.

## INCOME

For working individuals, the median total reported income for the past 30 days was US\$ 333. For Iraqi refugees, the median income was US\$ 367, while for refugees of other nationalities, the median income was US\$ 200. While refugees of other nationalities work fewer days per month than Iraqis, this only partially explains the significantly lower individual income.

At the household level, 65% had at least one member who had worked in the previous 30 days. This proportion was notably higher for Iraqi refugees (68%) than for refugees of other nationalities (56%).

Per capita, Iraqi households earned US\$ 116 compared to US\$ 143 for refugees of other nationalities, compared to US\$ 91 and US\$ 164 in

2017. When extrapolated to the household, total reported income was US\$ 428 per month for Iraqi households and US\$ 272 for households of other nationalities – noting the impact of larger Iraqi household sizes. In 2017, these figures were US\$ 335 and US\$ 278, respectively.

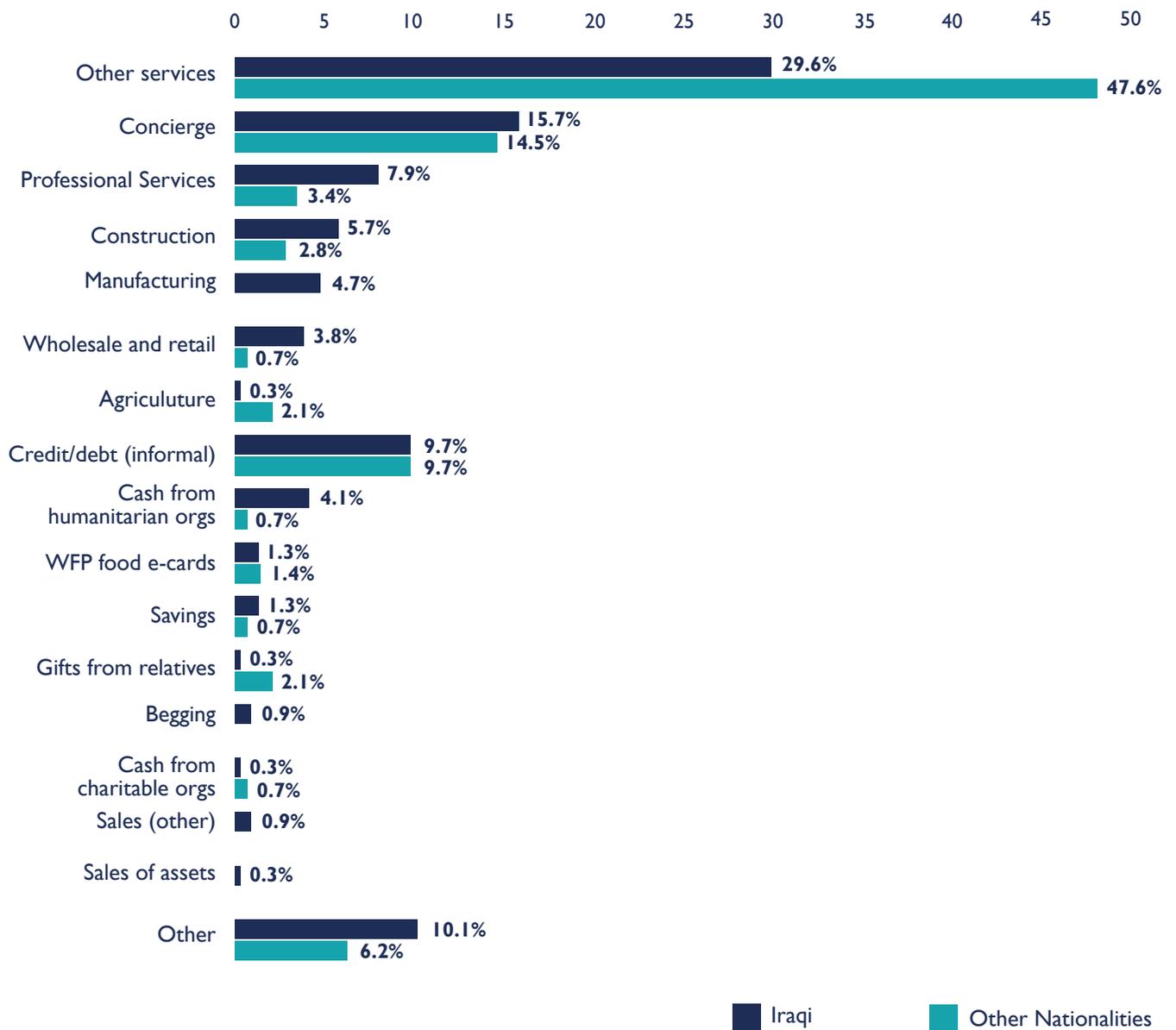
Work/labour was the main source of income for 69% of surveyed households. This was reported by 68% of Iraqi households and 71% of households of other nationalities. Services were the most common primary income source reported by households (35%), followed by employment as a concierge (15%). One in ten refugee households of both Iraqi and other nationalities relied on debt as their main source of income. There were significant differences between the two refugee groups for primary source of income, as illustrated in Figure 56.

### COMPARE TO SYRIAN REFUGEES

**68%** of households had at least one working member

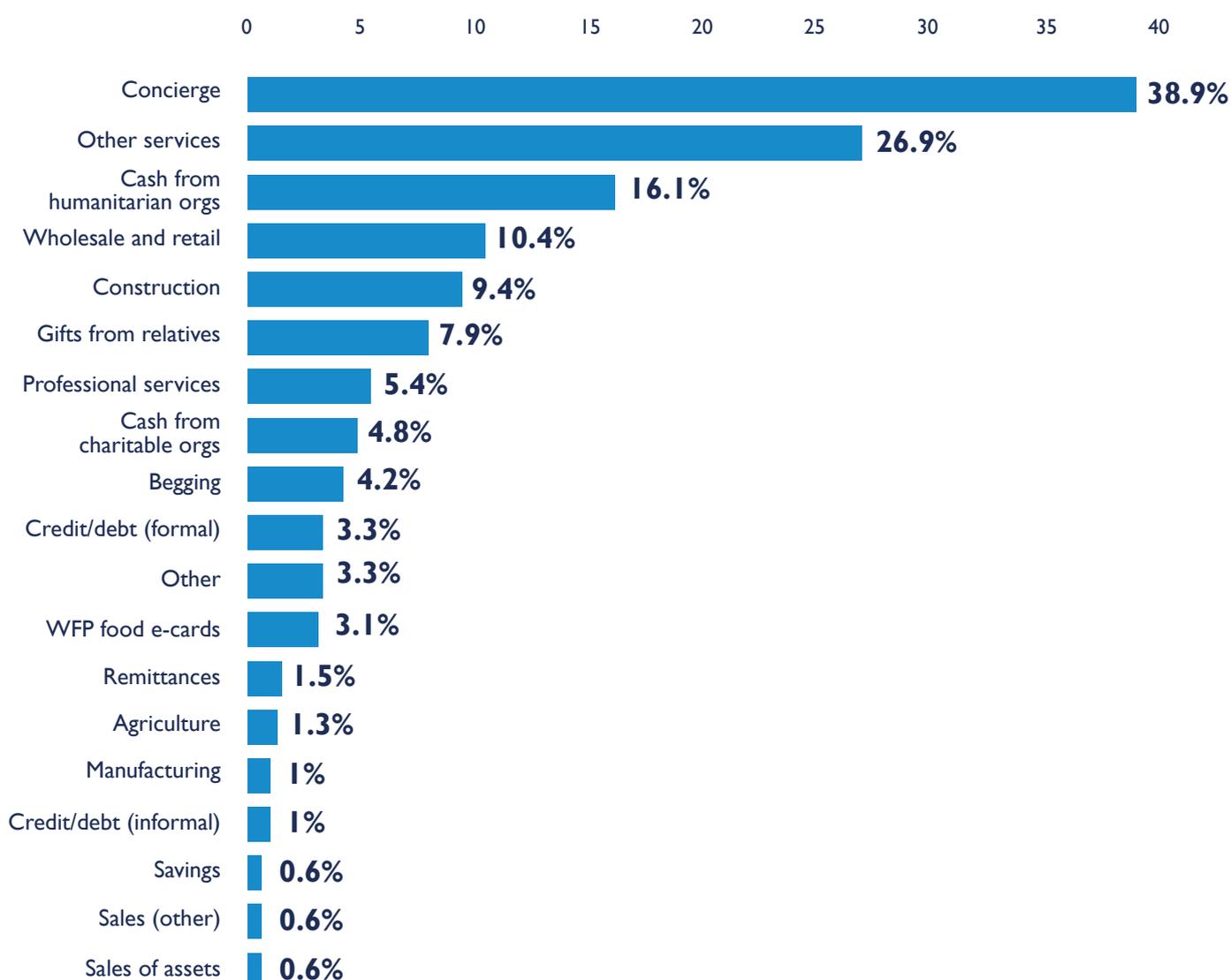


**PRIMARY SOURCE OF INCOME BY NATIONALITY (figure 56)**



When looking at the top three sources of income for households (Figure 57), the importance of secondary and tertiary sources of income is clearer.

### TOP THREE SOURCES OF INCOME FOR REFUGEE HOUSEHOLDS OF IRAQI AND OTHER NATIONALITIES (figure 57)



### INCOME-EXPENDITURE GAP

Household expenditure per capita exceeded income per capita by US\$ 121 on average.<sup>1</sup> This gap was higher in Iraqi households at US\$ 136 compared to US\$ 86 for households of other nationalities.<sup>2,3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> VARON 2017: US\$ 85. VARON 2016: US\$ 174.

<sup>2</sup> VARON 2017: Iraqi households: US\$ 100; other surveyed households: US\$ 47

<sup>3</sup> VARON 2016: Iraqi households: US\$ 231; other surveyed households: US\$ 51.

# ASSISTANCE AND HOUSEHOLD ASSETS

In Lebanon, the majority of assistance for basic needs is distributed as cash. With the refugee population living among the host community and the availability of ATMs in the country, cash assistance has proven to be an effective way to support refugee families in meeting their basic needs and prioritizing their expenditures in a dignified manner, at the same time that it contributes to the local economy. In the assessment, provision of cash and non-cash assistance is examined as reported by the refugees. There is also an examination of the level of ownership of key assets among these households.

## KEY FINDINGS

- In the current sample, 21% of households reported that they had received multi-purpose cash assistance. Reporting on the receipt of non-cash assistance was much less common, with only about 1% reporting having received vocational training, or hygiene awareness sessions.
- Over half of the households had access to all basic assets and 24% had access to all medium level assets. No household reported having access to all extended assets.

## ASSISTANCE DELIVERY

Assistance provision to refugees can be split in to two main categories: cash and non-cash assistance.

- Cash assistance is in the form of multi-purpose cash grants from UNHCR.
- In-kind assistance includes food, vocational training, education sessions, etc.

## MULTIPURPOSE CASH ASSISTANCE

Multi-purpose cash assistance is the most common type of cash assistance that this population receives. Families are targeted through an econometric model which predicts expenditure as a proxy for poverty. In this way, the population is classified as being poor or less poor. Those found to be poor are eligible for this cash assistance. With limited resources, UNHCR prioritizes assisting the poorest families in this population.

In May 2018, UNHCR was assisting 1,443 families with multi-purpose cash assistance,

which represented 84% of the poor and about a quarter of the overall population group. These families received 260,000 LBP (US\$ 175) per month, distributed through an ATM card. There was a decrease in the share of households reporting having received multipurpose cash assistance, from 27% in 2017 to 21% in 2018. A larger proportion of Iraqi households reported receiving this type of assistance, at 29%, compared to 14% of households of other nationalities.

## OTHER TYPES OF ASSISTANCE

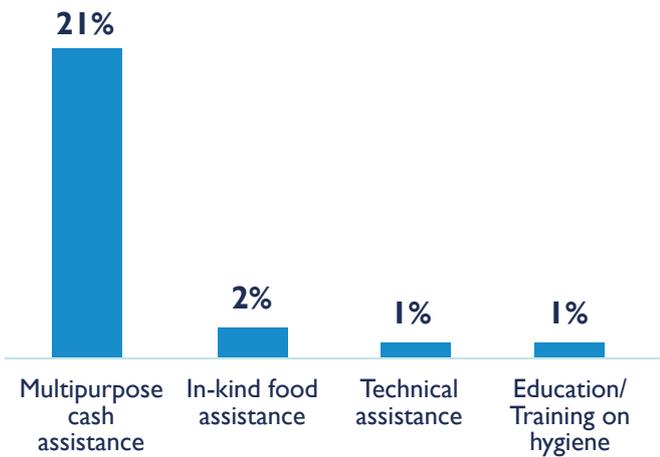
In-kind food assistance was less common than the provision of cash grants to refugee households with just 2% (nine households) reporting that they received such assistance on a regular basis. Only 1% of households reported receiving technical assistance in the form of capacity building or vocational training, and less than 1% of refugee households reported receiving education or training on hygiene over the past year.

### COMPARE TO SYRIAN REFUGEES

**19%** reported receiving multi-purpose cash assistance during the month of April. 

**10%** reported receiving in-kind food assistance 

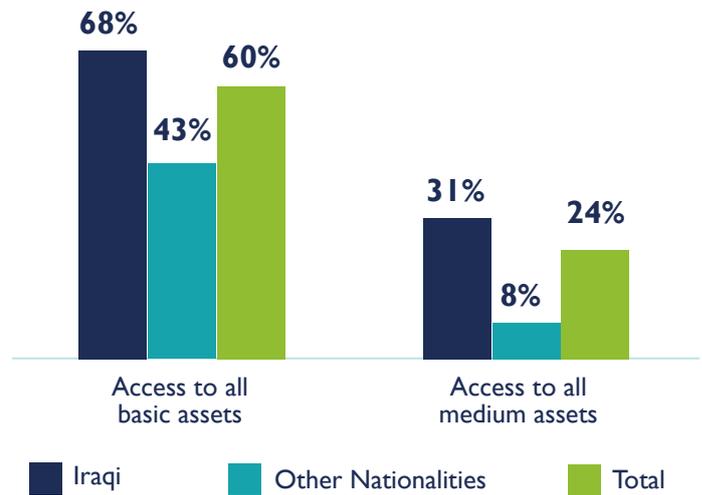
**REPORTED TYPES OF ASSISTANCE TO REFUGEE HOUSEHOLDS OF OTHER NATIONALITIES (figure 58)**



**COMPARE TO SYRIAN REFUGEES**

**55%** had access to all basic assets

**SHARE OF HOUSEHOLDS WITH ACCESS TO ALL BASIC AND MEDIUM ASSETS BY NATIONALITY (figure 59)**



**HOUSEHOLD ASSETS**

Household assets are classified into three categories: basic, medium and extended.

**Basic Assets**

Mattress, blankets, winter clothes, gas stove

**Medium Assets** Water heater and containers, bed, table, chair, refrigerator, washing machine, kitchen utensils and cutlery sets, pots and pans, heater

**Extended Assets**

Electric oven, microwave, dish washer, central heating, air conditioning, sewing machine, TV, Satellite dish, DVD player, computer, mobile phones, internet, motorcycle, car, vacuum cleaner, dryer, freezer

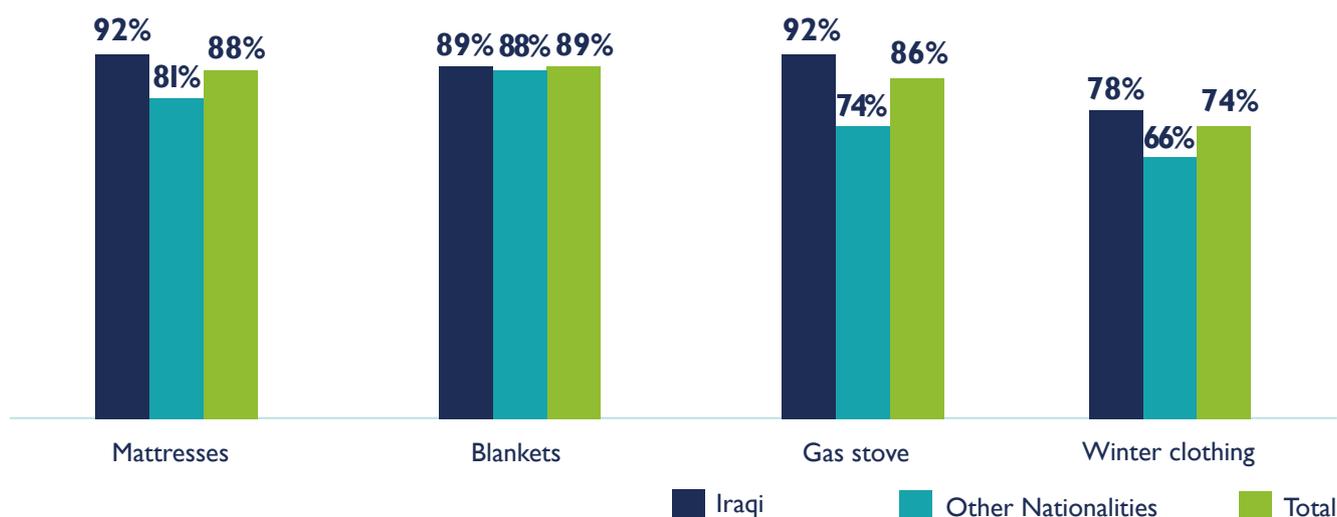
**LEVEL OF OWNERSHIP**

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

Almost two-thirds (60%) of the surveyed refugees in both nationality groups had sufficient access to all basic assets. More than two-thirds (68%) of surveyed Iraqi refugee households had access, compared to less than half (43%) of refugee households of other nationalities. Access to all medium assets was less common at 24%, with approximately one-third (31%) of Iraqi households having such access, compared to only 8% of households of other nationalities. None of the surveyed households reported having access to all extended assets. The most commonly owned extended assets were mobile phones (87%), TVs (78%) and internet (51%).

Refugees in both nationality groups had high ownership levels for three of the four basic assets: mattresses, blankets, gas stoves and winter clothing. Iraqi refugee households had high ownership of all four basic assets, while refugee households of other nationalities had high ownership levels of only two basic assets: mattresses and blankets. Ownership of gas stoves and winter clothes lagged behind for that group, at 74% and 66% respectively.

### OWNERSHIP LEVEL OF BASIC ASSETS BY NATIONALITY (figure 60)



Several differences in ownership levels were noted among the two nationality groups. For instance, tables and chairs were more common among Iraqi households at 67%, compared to 44% among households of other nationalities. Similarly, Iraqi households were more likely to own a small gas stove for cooking, at 92%, compared to 74% of households of other nationalities. Moreover,

ovens were more common among Iraqi households at 23%, compared to only 8% among households of other nationalities. Additionally, 71% of Iraqi households owned washing machines, compared to 39% of households of other nationalities. Family size and composition could be a factor in these noted differences with Iraqis having, on average, a larger family size.

### SHARE OF HOUSEHOLDS BY ASSET OWNED (figure 61)

HIGH OWNERSHIP		LOW OWNERSHIP	
Asset	%HH	Asset	%HH
Mattresses	92%	Oven	19%
Blankets	89%	Sewing machine	11%
Mobile phone	87%		
Small gas stove for cooking	86%		
Kitchen utensils & cutlery sets	83%		
Refrigerator	81%		
Pots and pans	79%		
TV	78%		
		VERY LOW OWNERSHIP	
Asset	%HH	Asset	%HH
Winter clothing	74%	Air conditioning	9%
Heaters	73%	Vacuum cleaner	8%
Water heater	61%	DVD player	8%
Washing machine	61%	Computer	8%
Tables and chairs	60%	Microwave	7%
Beds	55%	Motorcycle	2%
Internet	51%	Separate freezer	3%
Satellite dish	47%	Motorcycle	3%
		Dryer	2%
		Car/van/truck	2%
		Dishwasher	2%

# ANNEX I:

## 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.

### FOOD GROUPS WEIGHTING (figure 62)

FOOD GROUPS	WEIGHT	JUSTIFICATION
<b>Main Staples</b>	2	Energy dense/usually eaten in large quantities, protein content lower and poorer quality (PER less) than pulses, micro-nutrients (bounded by phytates).
<b>Pulses</b>	3	Energy dense, high amounts of protein but of lower quality (PER less) than meats, micro-nutrients (inhibited by phytates), low fat.
<b>Vegetables</b>	1	Low energy, low protein, no fat, micro-nutrients.
<b>Fruits</b>	1	Low energy, low protein, no fat, micro-nutrients.
<b>Meat, fish or eggs</b>	4	Highest quality protein, easily absorbable micro-nutrients (no phytates), energy dense, fat. Even when consumed in small quantities, improvements to the quality of diet are large.
<b>Milk</b>	4	Highest quality protein, micro-nutrients, vitamin A, energy. However, milk could be consumed only in very small amounts and should then be treated as condiment (re-classification in such cases is needed).
<b>Sugar</b>	0.5	Empty calories. Usually consumed in small quantities.
<b>Oil</b>	0.5	Energy dense but usually no other micro-nutrients. Usually consumed in small quantities.
<b>Condiments</b>	0	These foods are by definition eaten in very small quantities and are 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.

## FOOD CONSUMPTION SCORE NUTRITION (FCS-N)

The way in which the FCS is analysed does not explicitly provide information on the main macronutrient (carbohydrate, fat, protein) and micronutrient (vitamins and minerals) adequacy and consequent potential risks of deficiencies of these nutrients, but the data recorded in the FCS module provides enough information to shed light on the consumption of these nutrients.

WFP has developed an analytical method to utilize this data and provide information on specific nutrients – a tool called the FCS-N. While it does not identify individual nutrient intake, the ‘food consumption score nutrition quality analysis’ fills this gap at the household level and attempts to improve the link between household food access/ consumption and nutritional outcomes.

The analysis looks at how often a household consumed foods rich in a certain nutrient. The thesis of the FCS-N is that although the nutrient, for example Vitamin A, can be obtained from many foods, the number of times a household consumed food particularly rich in this nutrient can be used to assess likely adequacy of that nutrient. The FCS-N analysis is complementary to the standard FCS estimation.

The following two steps illustrate this analytical method using a hypothetical example.

### Step 1. Aggregate the individual food groups into nutrient rich food groups.

As the purpose of the analysis is to assess nutrient inadequacy by looking at the frequency of consumption of food groups rich in the nutrients of interest, we first need to create the nutrient-rich food groups. This is done by summing up the consumption frequency of the food sub-groups belonging to each nutrient-rich food group, following the FCS module table above:

1. Vitamin A rich foods: dairy, organ meat, eggs, orange vegetables, green vegetables and orange fruits.

2. Protein rich foods: pulses, dairy, flesh meat, organ meat, fish and eggs.

3. Hem iron rich foods: flesh meat, organ meat and fish. The first three groups above (Vitamin A, Iron and Protein) are mandatory to be able to perform FCS-N.

1.1. Categorize the Vitamin A rich groups (dairy, organ meat, orange vegetables, green vegetables, orange fruits) and sum up the frequencies of consumption of foods rich in Vitamin A.

1.2. Categorize the protein rich groups (pulses/ nuts, dairy, meat, organ meat, fish, eggs) and sum up the frequencies of consumption of foods rich in protein.

1.3. Categorize the hem iron rich group (flesh meat, organ meat and fish) and sum up the consumption of foods rich in hem iron.

**Step 2. Build categories of frequency of food consumption groups.** Based on the validation tests, frequency groups are classified according to the consumption frequency of:

- > Never: 0 day
- > Sometimes: 1-6 days
- > At least daily: 7 (and/or more) days

For the purposes of analysis, the consumption frequencies of each nutrient rich food group are then recoded into three categories:

- > 1 = 0 times (never consumed)
- > 2 = 1-6 times (consumed sometimes)
- > 3 = 7 times or more (consumed at least daily)

2.1 Build the category of frequency of the Vitamin A rich group

2.2 Build the category of frequency of the protein rich group

2.3 Build the category of frequency of the hem iron rich group

Reference: <https://resources.vam.wfp.org/node/87>

## DIET DIVERSITY

Household food access is defined as the ability to acquire a sufficient quality and quantity of food to meet all household members' nutritional requirements for productive lives. Household dietary diversity, defined as the number of unique foods consumed by household members over a given period, has been validated to be a useful proxy for measuring household food access, particularly when resources for undertaking such measurement are scarce.

The number of different foods or food groups eaten over a reference period are recorded (in the VARON questions were asked about food groups consumed over the 7 days previous to the data collection), without regard to frequency of consumption.

Household weekly diet diversity is equal to the number of food groups consumed over the previous 7 days. Household daily average diet diversity equal to the number of food groups consumed over the previous 24 hours (for this assessment, the number of food groups consumed was divided by 7 to determine equivalency for one day).

For a better reflection of diet quality, the calculation is based on the number of different food groups consumed and not on the number of different foods consumed. The more food groups households consumed, the more diversified the diet is; for example, an average of four different food groups implies that their diets offer some diversity in both macro- and micronutrients. This is a more meaningful indicator than knowing that households consume four different foods, which might all be cereals.

The following set of 12 food groups is used to calculate the household dietary diversity score (HDDS):<sup>1</sup>

1. Cereals
2. Roots and tubers
3. Vegetables
4. Fruits
5. Meat/poultry/organ meat
6. Eggs
7. Fish and seafood
8. Pulses/legumes/nuts
9. Milk and milk products
10. Oils/fats
11. Sugar/honey
12. Miscellaneous

**Key concerns:** The dietary diversity score does not take into account the nutrient value of food items eaten. The questionnaire should properly account for food items consumed in very small quantities. For instance, if a spoon of fish powder is added to the pot, this should be treated as a condiment rather than a day's consumption of fish. The same is true for a teaspoon of milk in tea.

**Reporting:** Mean dietary diversity score; compare mean between different groups.

**Descriptive procedure:** compare means; descriptive statistics.

**Interpretation:** Dietary diversity is positively linked with adequacy of food intake. Hence, a smaller value indicates poor quality of diet.

For a detailed discussion on the dietary diversity indicator, see the following websites:

[http://www.fantaproject.org/downloads/pdfs/HDDS\\_v2\\_Sep06.pdf](http://www.fantaproject.org/downloads/pdfs/HDDS_v2_Sep06.pdf)

[http://documents.wfp.org/stellent/groups/public/documents/manual\\_guide\\_proced/wfp203208.pdf](http://documents.wfp.org/stellent/groups/public/documents/manual_guide_proced/wfp203208.pdf)

<sup>1</sup> This set of food groups is derived from the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization Food Composition Table for Africa. Rome, Italy, 1970. [[www.fao.org/docrep/003/X6877E/X6877E00.htm](http://www.fao.org/docrep/003/X6877E/X6877E00.htm)] For a more thorough discussion of the differences between measures of dietary diversity from the socioeconomic compared with the nutritional perspective, see Ruel, Marie. Is Dietary Diversity an Indicator of Food Security or Dietary Quality? A Review of Measurement Issues and Research Needs. FCND Discussion Paper 140, International Food Policy Research Institute, Washington, DC. 2002. [[www.ifpri.org/divs/fcnd/dp/papers/fcndp140.pdf](http://www.ifpri.org/divs/fcnd/dp/papers/fcndp140.pdf)]

# 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 use of livelihood coping strategies measures sustainability of livelihoods. Households are categorized based on severity of asset depletion coping strategies employed as indicated in Annex I: Coping Strategies Categories. 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.

## THRESHOLDS AND POINT SCALE FOR FOOD SECURITY CLASSIFICATION (figure 63)

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

Table 63 describes the combination of the components for the FS classification.

## FOOD SECURITY CATEGORIES DESCRIPTION (figure 64)

FOOD SECURITY GROUP	HOUSEHOLD GROUP CONDITION*
<b>1. FOOD SECURITY</b>	Able to meet essential food and non-food needs without engaging in atypical coping strategies
<b>2. MILD FOOD INSECURITY</b>	Has minimally adequate food consumption without engaging in irreversible coping strategies; unable to afford some essential non-food expenditures
<b>3. MODERATE FOOD INSECURITY</b>	Has significant food consumption gaps or marginally able to meet minimum food needs only with irreversible coping strategies
<b>4. SEVERE FOOD INSECURITY</b>	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:

1. 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
<b>ACCEPTABLE</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>ACCEPTABLE WITH FOOD-RELATED COPING STRATEGIES</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>BORDERLINE</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>POOR</b>	<b>4</b>

2. Calculate the coping capacity indicator by computing a rounded mean for the coping strategies index and the food expenditures share index;
3. 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.

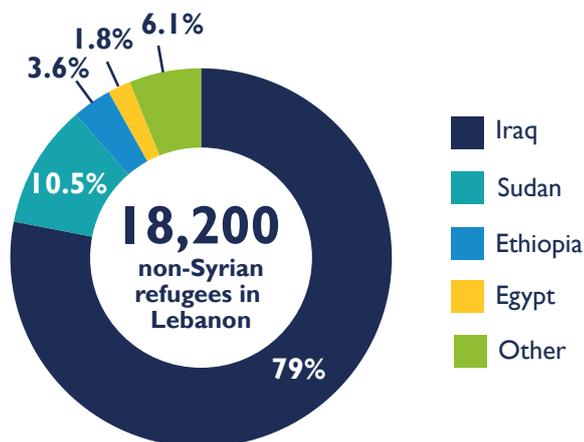
Please refer to the link for more information about food security classification:

[http://documents.wfp.org/stellent/groups/public/documents/manual\\_guide\\_proced/wfp203208.pdf](http://documents.wfp.org/stellent/groups/public/documents/manual_guide_proced/wfp203208.pdf)

# 2018 VARON - KEY FINDINGS

## Vulnerability Assessment of Refugees of other Nationalities

Lebanon is host to a significant refugee population from Iraq, as well as a smaller number from other countries. The annual vulnerability assessment aims to shed light on the reality of this group of refugees who continue to face daily struggles. There continued to be marked differences between Iraqi households and households of other nationalities on key characteristics and indicators. This documents intends to summarize some of the key findings from the 2018 VARON.



### NUMBER OF PERSONS BY HOUSEHOLD



1/5

HOUSEHOLDS LIVING BELOW POVERTY LINE



50%

MARGINALLY FOOD INSECURE REFUGEES

“Households of other nationalities were even more vulnerable on many indicators than their Iraqi counterparts.”

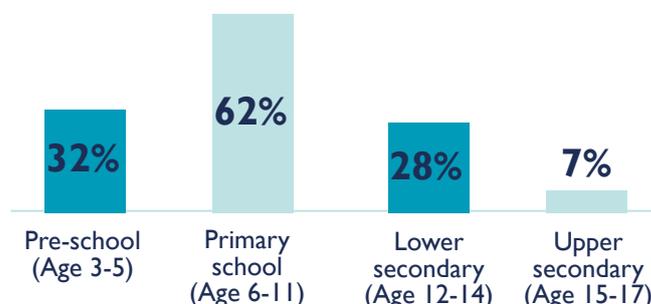
2/3

REFUGEES AGED 15 AND OLDER WITHOUT LEGAL RESIDENCY

50%

CHILDREN BORN IN LEBANON WITH BIRTHS REGISTERED WITH THE FOREIGN REGISTRY

### EDUCATION - ATTENDANCE



1/4

REFUGEES RESIDING IN INADEQUATE SHELTERS

