Gender in the 2017 Vulnerability Assessment of Syrian Refugees in Lebanon
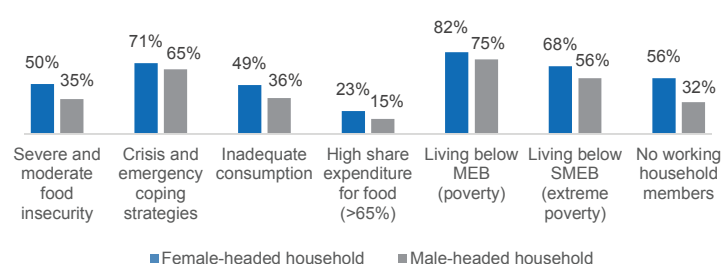
Inter-Agency Coordination Lebanon

The Vulnerability Assessment of Syrian Refugees in Lebanon (VASyR) is an annual survey assessing the situation of Syrian refugee households in Lebanon, to identify situational changes and trends. It was conducted for the fifth time in 2017, jointly by the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), and the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP). This dashboard provides disaggregated statistics relating to women and men in key areas assessed in the 2017 VASyR.

OVERALL VULNERABILITY

Female-headed households are still among the most vulnerable. They fared worse than male-headed households on nearly every indicator of vulnerability.

Vulnerability of female-headed vs. male-headed families

|	Female-headed household	Male-headed household
Severe and moderate food insecurity	50%	35%
Crisis and emergency coping strategies	71%	65%
Inadequate consumption	49%	36%
High share expenditure for food (>65%)	23%	15%
Living below MEB (poverty)	82%	75%
Living below SMEB (extreme poverty)	68%	56%
No working household members	56%	32%

Their greater vulnerability could be partly explained by the fact that 56% of female-headed households had no working members, compared to just 32% of male-headed households.
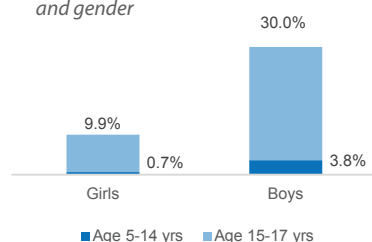
LEGAL RESIDENCY

Members of female-headed families were less likely to have legal residency.

Households with no members with legal residency, by gender of household head

Female: **61%**
Male: **54%**
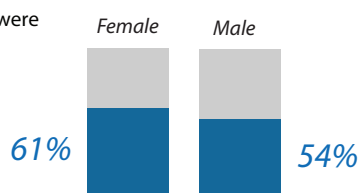
CHILD LABOUR

Child labour by age and gender

	Age 5-14 yrs	Age 15-17 yrs	Total
Girls	0.7%		9.9%
Boys	3.8%		30.0%

5% of Syrian refugee children aged 5-17 years reported to be working (same as 2016 data). There was a higher percentage of child labour* among boys aged 5-17 years than among girls (7% vs. 2%).
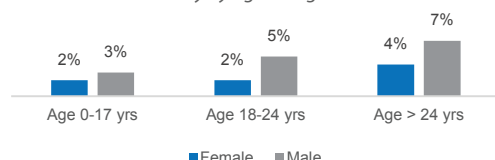
*Working at least one day in the previous 30 days.

CHILD MARRIAGE

Girls were disproportionally affected by child marriage, defined as formal marriage or informal union before the age of 18 years. Some *22%* of girls aged 15-19 were married, with *18%* of them having spouses who are 10 or more years older than them.
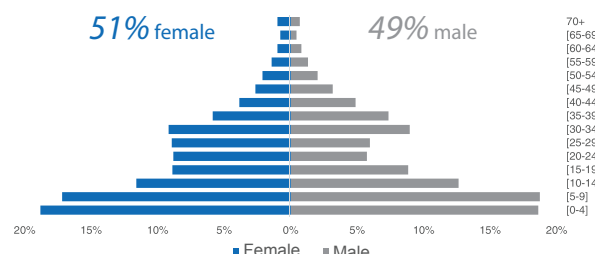
DISABILITY

Men and boys are more likely than women and girls to have a disability.

Disability by age and gender

	Female	Male
Age 0-17 yrs	2%	3%
Age 18-24 yrs	2%	5%
Age > 24 yrs	4%	7%

DEMOGRAPHICS

Distribution of individuals by age and gender

51% female   **49%** male

Age groups: 70+, [65-69], [60-64], [55-59], [50-54], [45-49], [40-44], [35-39], [30-34], [25-29], [20-24], [15-19], [10-14], [5-9], [0-4]

■ Female ■ Male

19% of Syrian refugee families were headed by women (2016: 17%).
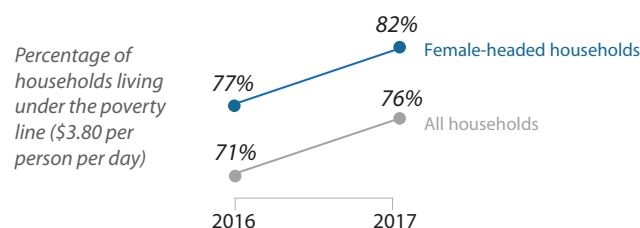
SAFETY & SECURITY

The share of female-headed households experiencing insecurities (in the three-month period before the survey) was lower than that of male-headed households (2% vs. 4%).

	Verbal harassment	Physical abuse
Female-headed households	*77%*	*10%*
Male-headed households	*66%*	*19%*

Regarding the source of insecurity, there were no noticeable differences based on the gender of the head of the households.

POVERTY

The proportion of families living below the poverty line continues to increase. Poverty among female-headed households increased to 82%, and remains higher than for male-headed households (75%).

Percentage of households living under the poverty line ($3.80 per person per day)

	2016	2017
Female-headed households	77%	82%
All households	71%	76%

However, female-headed households were less indebted (32%) in 2017 than those headed by males (46%).

SCHOOL ENROLMENT

The proportion of boys to girls enrolled in school decreases as they get older. Boys are more likely to leave school early to start work.

*School enrolment, gender parity index**

Primary 0.94 — The number of girls and boys enrolled is nearly even.

Lower secondary 1.48 — There are significantly more girls than boys enrolled.

Higher secondary 1.51 — There are significantly more girls than boys enrolled.

** Proportion of girls enrolled in school over boys. When the index is more than 1, school enrolment is higher for girls than boys, and vice versa.
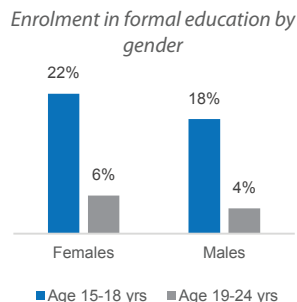
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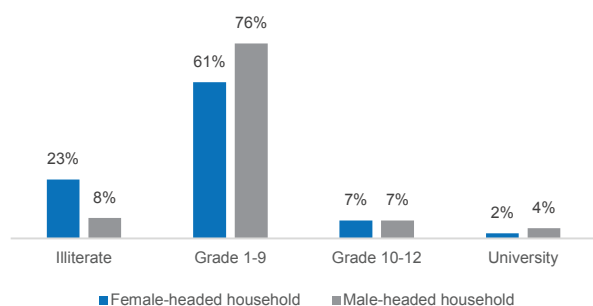**Inter-Agency Coordination Lebanon**

YOUTH EDUCATION

Females reported a higher enrolment rate in formal education than males in both the 15-18 age group and the 19-24 age group.

Enrolment in formal education by gender

- Females: 22% (Age 15-18 yrs), 6% (Age 19-24 yrs)
- Males: 18% (Age 15-18 yrs), 4% (Age 19-24 yrs)

■ Age 15-18 yrs   ■ Age 19-24 yrs

HOUSEHOLD HEAD EDUCATION

Female heads of household were consistently less well-educated than male heads of household.

Highest education level attained by head of household, by gender

- Illiterate: 23% (Female-headed), 8% (Male-headed)
- Grade 1-9: 61% (Female-headed), 76% (Male-headed)
- Grade 10-12: 7% (Female-headed), 7% (Male-headed)
- University: 2% (Female-headed), 4% (Male-headed)

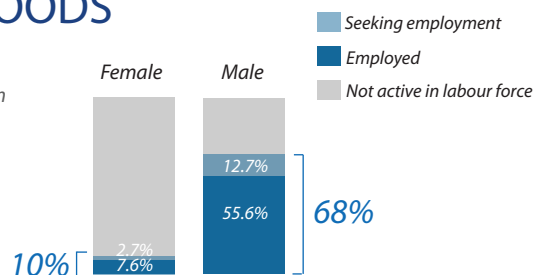■ Female-headed household   ■ Male-headed household

SHELTER

Female-headed households are almost twice as likely as male-headed households to live in informal settlements (26% vs. 15%), and are less likely to live in residential buildings (62% vs. 76%).
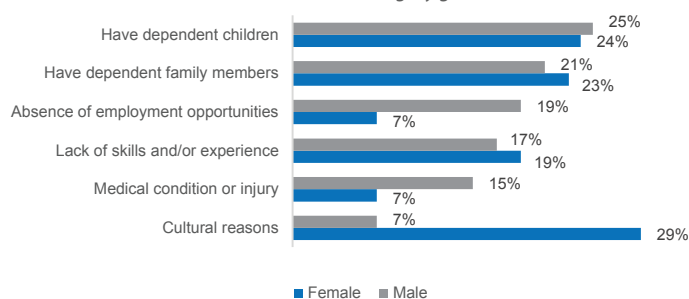
LIVELIHOODS

■ Seeking employment
■ Employed
■ Not active in labour force

Working age men and women (15-64 years) employed or seeking employment

- Female: 10% [2.7% Seeking employment, 7.6% Employed]
- Male: 68% [12.7% Seeking employment, 55.6% Employed]

More than half (56%) of female-headed households did not have any working members, compared to 32% of male-headed households. The vast majority (88%) of working men were considered the primary breadwinner of the household, compared to 57% of working women. Few women are working afternoon and night shifts.

Reasons for not working, by gender

- Have dependent children: 24% (Female), 25% (Male)
- Have dependent family members: 23% (Female), 21% (Male)
- Absence of employment opportunities: 7% (Female), 19% (Male)
- Lack of skills and/or experience: 19% (Female), 17% (Male)
- Medical condition or injury: 7% (Female), 15% (Male)
- Cultural reasons: 29% (Female), 7% (Male)
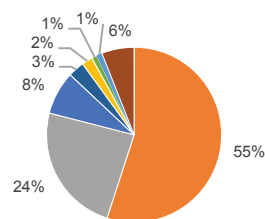
■ Female   ■ Male

For both men and women, having dependent family members or children was a primary reason for not working. Women were much more likely to not work for cultural reasons, while men were twice as likely to not work due to medical condition or injury. The absence of employment opportunities also affected men much more than women.
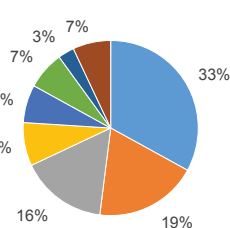
Days worked and pay for working adults, by gender

	Female	Male
Average days worked per month	13 days	14 days
Average monthly income	$158	$206
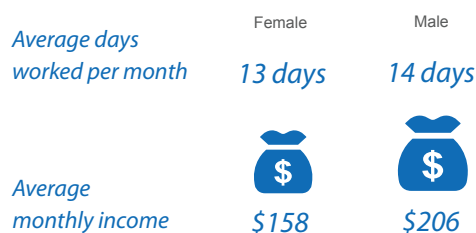
Women and men are involved in different economic activities:

Areas of work for females (15-64 yrs)

- 55%
- 24%
- 8%
- 3%
- 2%
- 1%
- 1%
- 6%

Areas of work for males (15-64 yrs)

- 33%
- 19%
- 16%
- 8%
- 7%
- 7%
- 7%
- 3%

■ Construction   ■ Agriculture
■ Services   ■ Manufacturing
■ Professional activities   ■ Occasional work
■ Wholesale and retail sale   ■ Other