



**Inter-Agency
Coordination**
Lebanon

BASIC ASSISTANCE WORKING GROUP MEETING

26TH AUGUST 2021

AGENDA

Page 2

- 1) Sector updates
 - July Assistance and coverage
- 2) SMEB 2021 Update
- 3) WFP situational Analysis
- 4) Dollarization- Update from Partners
- 5) Winter 2021 Basket and Transfer Value
- 6) Update on the Protection Risk Analysis

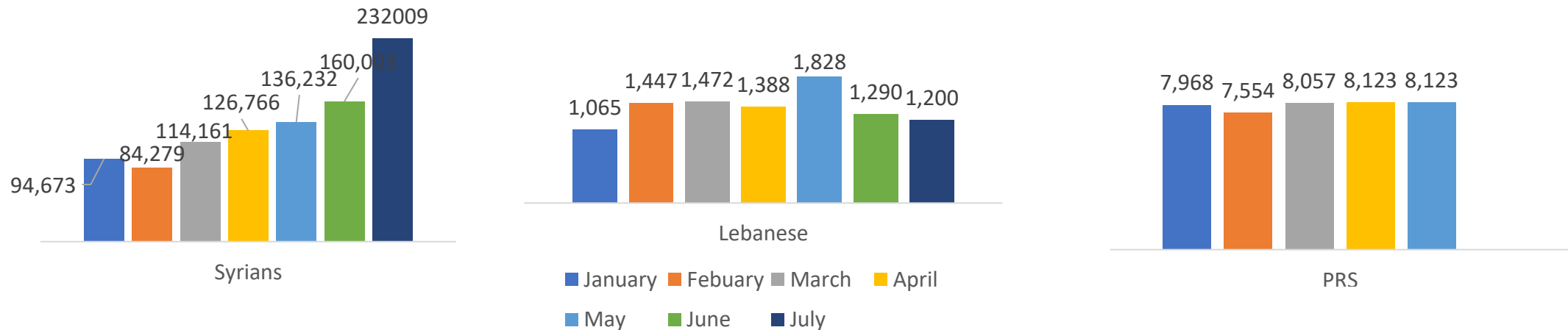


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1) Sector Updates:

July 2021 Assistance Summary (Activity info)

233, 263 vulnerable households received multi-purpose cash grants
232,009 SYR HHs 1,200 LEB HHs 8,123 PRS HHs* (Based on May)



MPCA disbursed in the amount of US\$ 6,623,638



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2) 2021 UPDATE OF THE SMEB

NON-FOOD

Components of the SMEB

- ***The Food Basket:*** Using a hybrid approach prices for food items are tracked on a monthly basis through WFP retail data in contracted shops across Lebanon.
- ***Non-Food Items:*** Basket of nine core hygiene items as well as blankets, mattresses, and cooking gas.
- ***Non-Food Services:*** The services component of the SMEB and MEB define a set of service (or non-asset) related needs for families in Lebanon. Different associated costs for each need/service are primarily based on an expenditure approach, sourcing data from the annual Vulnerability Assessment of Syrian Refugees (VASyR). These are then updated monthly using the Consumer Price Index (CPI) released by the Central Administration of Statistics' (CAS). Some components are defined using a rights-based approach to ensure needs are adequately reflected.

Non-food items

- Hygiene items

- The components and quantities of the hygiene items remain unchanged from the 2020 S/MEB review and prices continue to be tracked and updated using WFP retail data.

- Blankets

- The 2021 estimated cost for one high-thermal blanket is \$6.6.

- Mattresses

- Mattresses are only included in the MEB at an estimated cost of \$14.95 per mattress.

- Cooking gas

- Quantity of needed cooking gas is estimated by comparing expenditure data from the VASyR and official prices for gas

Item	July 2021	June 2021	September 2020
Toilet Paper	6,500	4,673	3,037
Toothbrush	12,641	10,002	4,513
Toothpaste	30,242	24,750	19,748
Laundry soap/detergent	16,650	12,881	8,310
Liquid Dishes detergent	12,325	9,167	6,712
Sanitary napkins	78,918	62,868	28,794
Individual soap	40,000	31,250	18,460
Shampoo	43,036	34,350	13,843
Diapers	170,587	123,912	62,352
Disinfectant fluid/Bleach	8,038	6,000	3,470
Blankets	53,369	27,158	13,294
Mattresses	120,889	79,369	39,943
Cooking gas	74,852	61,485	21,727

Non-Food Services

- **Clothes**

- The cost of clothes is estimated by using the average expenditure from VASyR, across all families, and updated monthly using CPI data.

- **Communication**

- A rights-based approach to determining the costs of communication is used. The price of communication is estimated using the average costs of the two telecommunication companies in Lebanon. The MEB adds on the cost of internet, using the average price of the smallest data bundle available.

- **Rent**

- The rent cost in the SMEB is reflective of the average rent cost, across shelter types
- The rent cost in the MEB focused on shelters that are deemed to be in “good condition”.

	July 2021	June 2021	September 2020
Clothes	3,465	10,937	4,599
Communication	34,050	44,050	44,050
Rent	301,914	285,625	275,363

Non-Food Services

- *Water*

- The cost of water in the SMEB and MEB is estimated by using the 5% trimmed mean expenditure from VASyR per family and updated monthly using CPI data.

- *Transportation*

- The cost of transportation in the SMEB and MEB is estimated by using the 5% trimmed mean expenditure from VASyR per family and updated monthly using CPI data. Due to changing prices in fuel in the coming months, the transportation costs will be initially updated monthly using the CPI data. If the CPI monthly changes are not seen to be indicative of real price changes in fuel, other sources (ex. Data from agencies' post distribution monitoring) will be explored.

- *Electricity*

- The costs of electricity in the SMEB and MEB are estimated using the VASyR. A subset of families that have at least 20 hours was used.

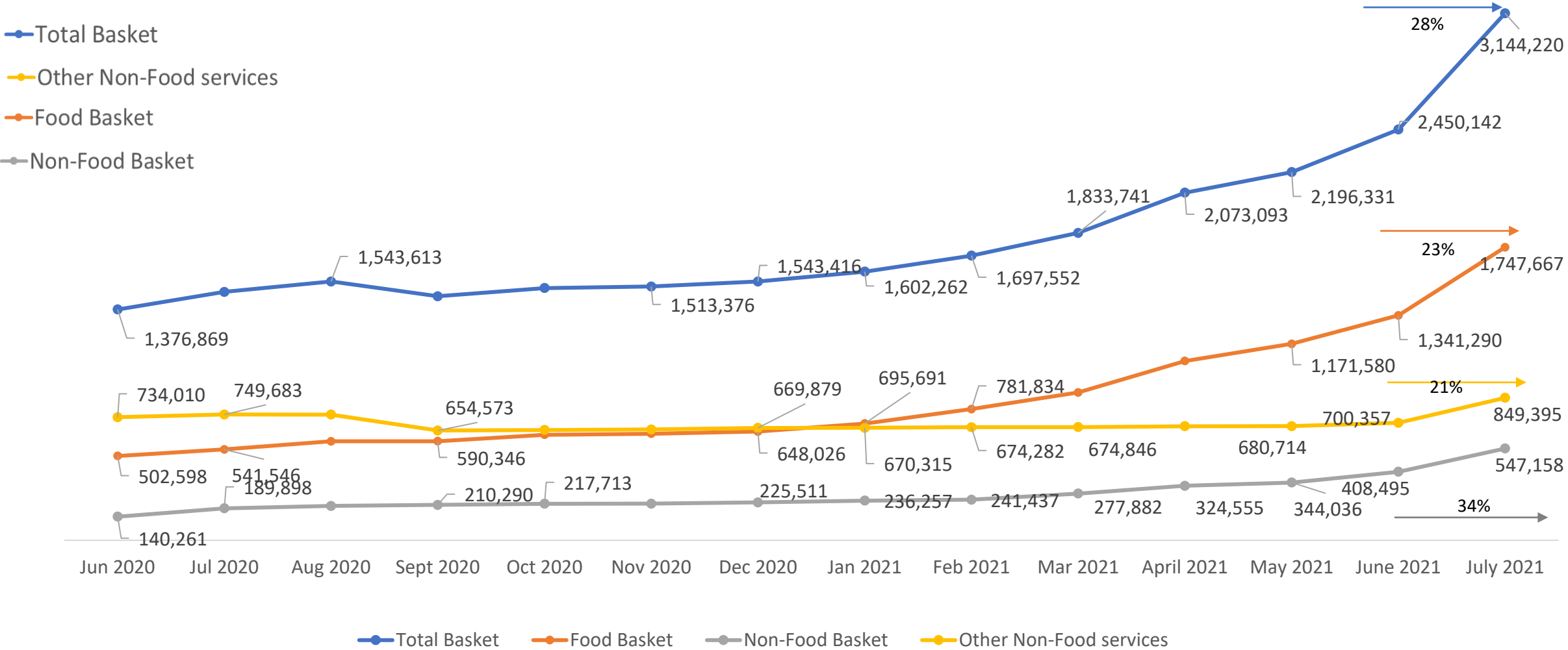
	July 2021	June 2021	September 2020
Water	28,780	28,465	22,483
Transportation	19,132	9,415	5,976
Electricity	83,063	52,653	34,254

Non-Food Services

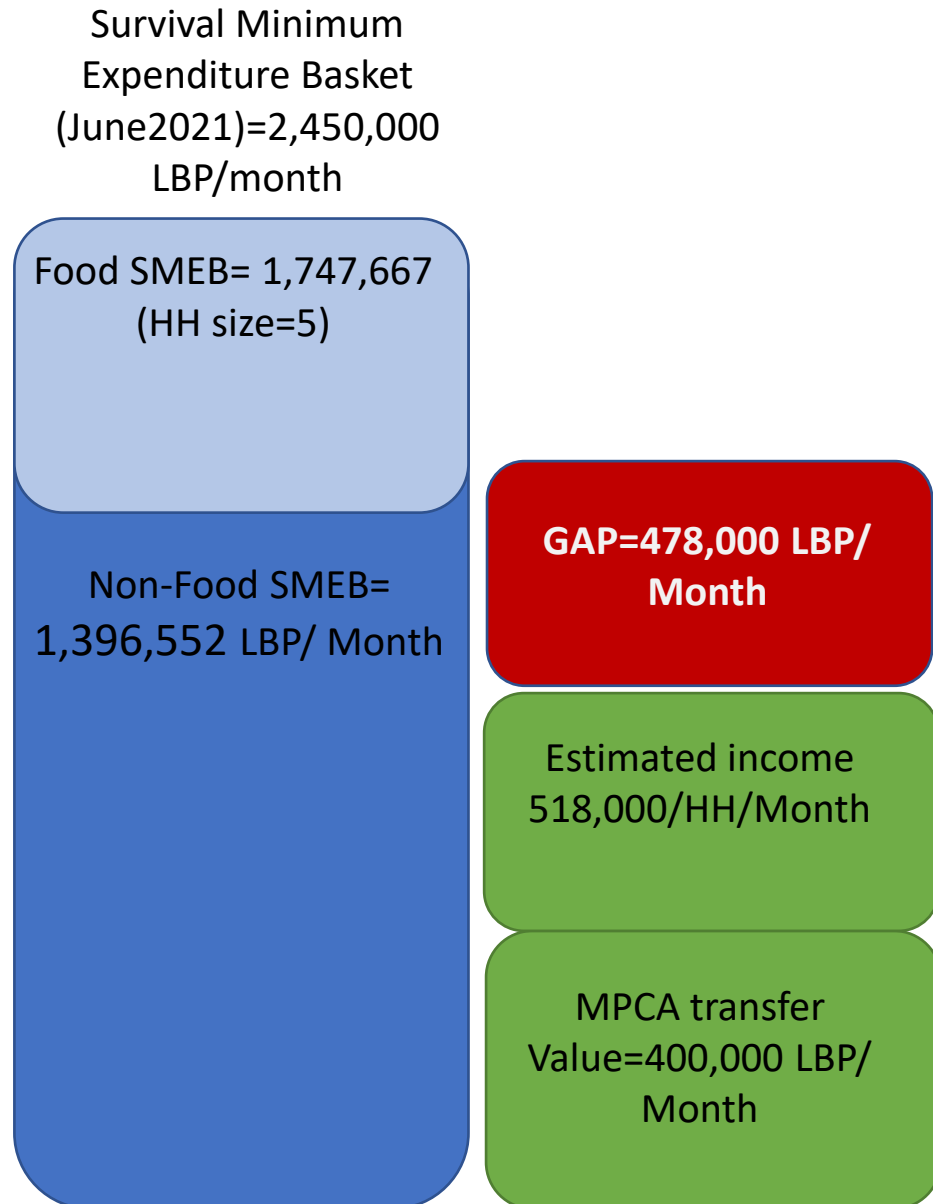
- **Health**
 - Costs in the SMEB related to accessing health services are estimated using average expenditures from the VASyR.
 - SMEB: Primary health care MEB: hospital care
- **Education**
 - Exploring a rights-based approach as expenditure on education in VASyR 2021 was very low, likely due to school closures during the time.
- **Debt repayment**
 - The monthly needed amount to repay debts in the S/MEB is estimated by using the average unpaid household debt from VASyR divided by 12 months.

	July 2021	June 2021	September 2020
Health	144,269	106,685	106,685
Health (MEB)	298,731	258,821	158,498
Education	46,478	46,478	43,567
Debt Repayment	188,244	169,112	169,112
Residency payment	25,000	25,000	25,000

SMEB price monitoring



Transfer Value for MPCA



- Amount needed to cover full Non-Food SMEB= 878,000LBP/month/household.
- Current TV set at 400,000LBP covers only 46% of estimated needs
- Discussions with HC/RC, MoSA/Gol are on-going. Request to increase TV to 800,000 LBP has been initiated.



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3) DOLLARIZATION

Dollarization

- Most recent LCRP steering committee reinforced a common position from the government, UN and NGOs on dollarization
 - Phase I: Dollarization of the NPTP; dollarization of assistance for Palestine refugees; other programmes that can be quickly dollarized that do not focus specifically on Syrians
 - Phase II: Dollarization of social assistance for Syrians (including MPCA).
- Currently dollarized programs under the Sector: “Haddi” program by UNICEF; UNRWA MPCA to PRS; LRC
- Dollarization of cash assistance is confirmed to be coordinated under the Cash Task Force, under the HCT
- BA Core Group meeting held to discuss USD transfer value for multi-purpose cash assistance
 - USD transfer values are determined by using the average unofficial exchange rate
 - Monitored on a monthly basis to determine when an adjustment to the value is needed

Dollarization

Updates from:

- UNRWA
- LRC
- UNICEF

Haddi – Mini PDM

August 2020

Haddi – Background

- Haddi: UNICEF's Integrated Child Grant programme.
- The initiative is designed to respond to the current economic context through the provision of integrated social assistance to some of the most vulnerable children in Lebanon over a period of at least 6 months through the existing programmes of UNICEF Lebanon partners.
- Monthly cash transfer over a period of 6 months through OMT in USD currency, for around 70,000 individuals. ~30% Lebanese, ~20% Palestinians and ~50% Syrians.
- The transfer value:
 - 40 USD → families with 1 child
 - 60 USD → families with 2 children
 - 80 USD → families with 3+ children

Haddi – Monitoring and Evaluation

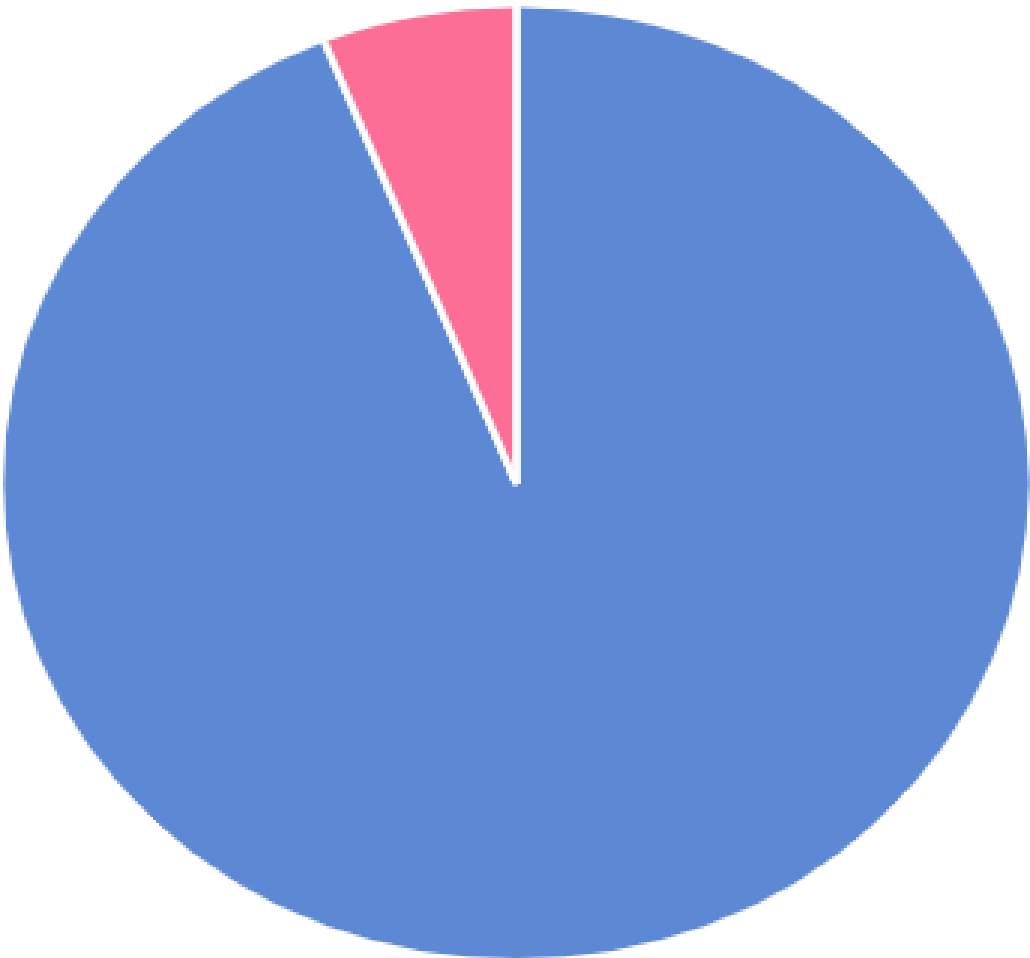
- Since the programme is the first programme that is piloting dollarization during the current economic situation, UNICEF decided to keep monitoring the programme processes, and to have a continuous follow-up on the Risk and Mitigation Plan.
 - Rapid surveys conducted several times with different samples after 24 hours of the redemption
 - Mini PDM (extended Rapid survey), conducted with a sample of HHs redeemed their 2nd payment.
 - Proper PDM: will be designed soon, and will be conducted with a sample of HHs received their 3rd payment.
 - Impact evaluation: ongoing with a control and treatment group

Haddi – Mini PDM

- The Mini PDM was conducted with a sample of 362 families received their 2nd payment and successfully redeemed the assistance from OMT offices.
- The main aim of the Mini PDM
 - Evaluate the processes of the programme, specifically during the disbursement USD assistance
 - What are the challenges that families are facing during redemption of assistance and during exchanging the money.
 - Impact of the assistance on the children wellbeing.

Did you face any problem with the OMT agent when you went to get your cash?

No Yes



Value	Frequency	Percentage
No	340	93.92
Yes	22	6.08

- Challenges were mainly related to:
- Electricity cut
 - The agent didn't have small bills of USD or they didn't have USD

All challenges related to USD bills were communicated with our FSP to keep ensuring the availability of the bills at the agents.

Were you able to withdraw the full amount in USD?

Value	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	319	88.12
No	43	11.88

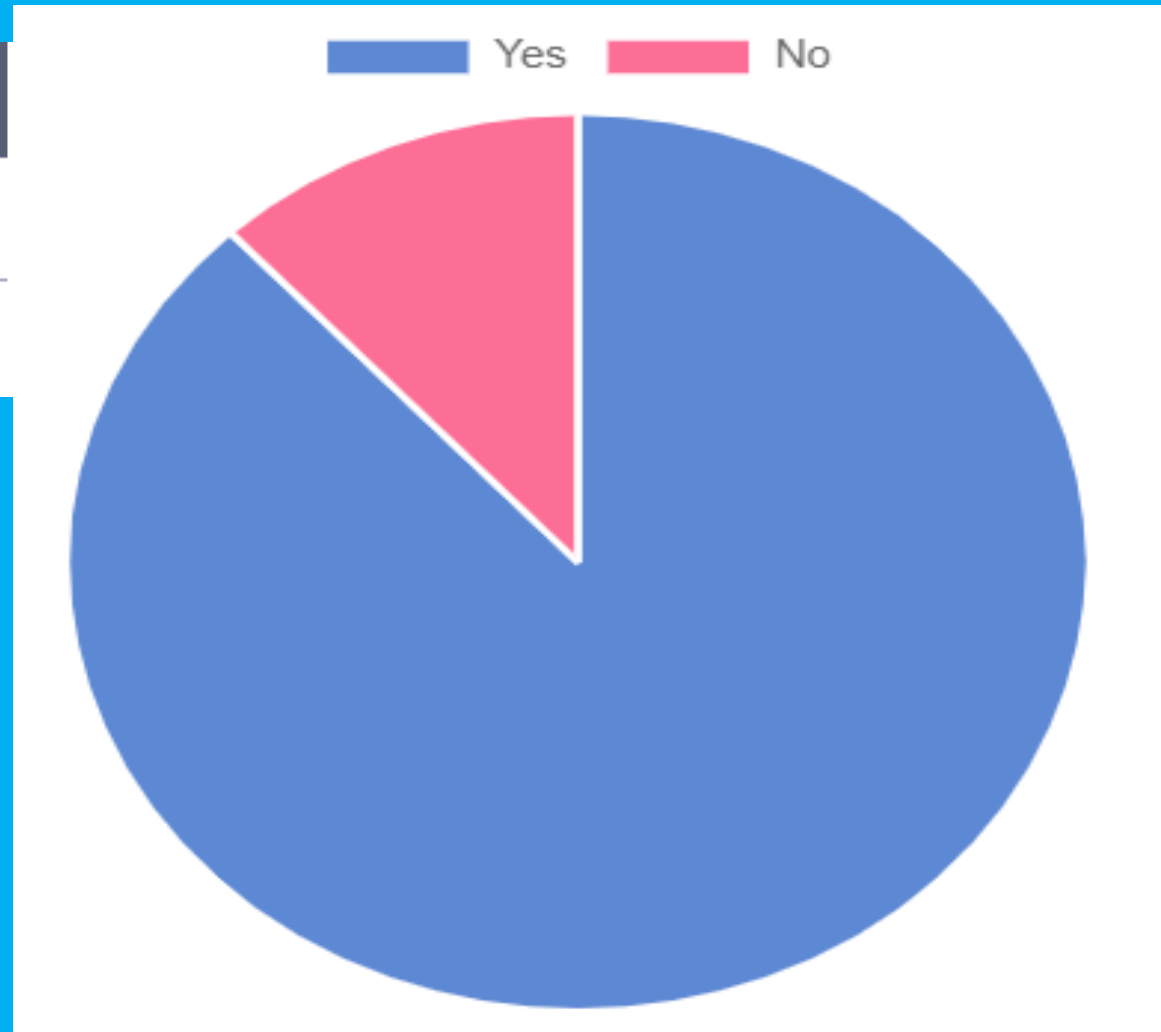
Main reasons were:

- No Change at the OMT agent or no small bills
- Agents didn't have USD bills.

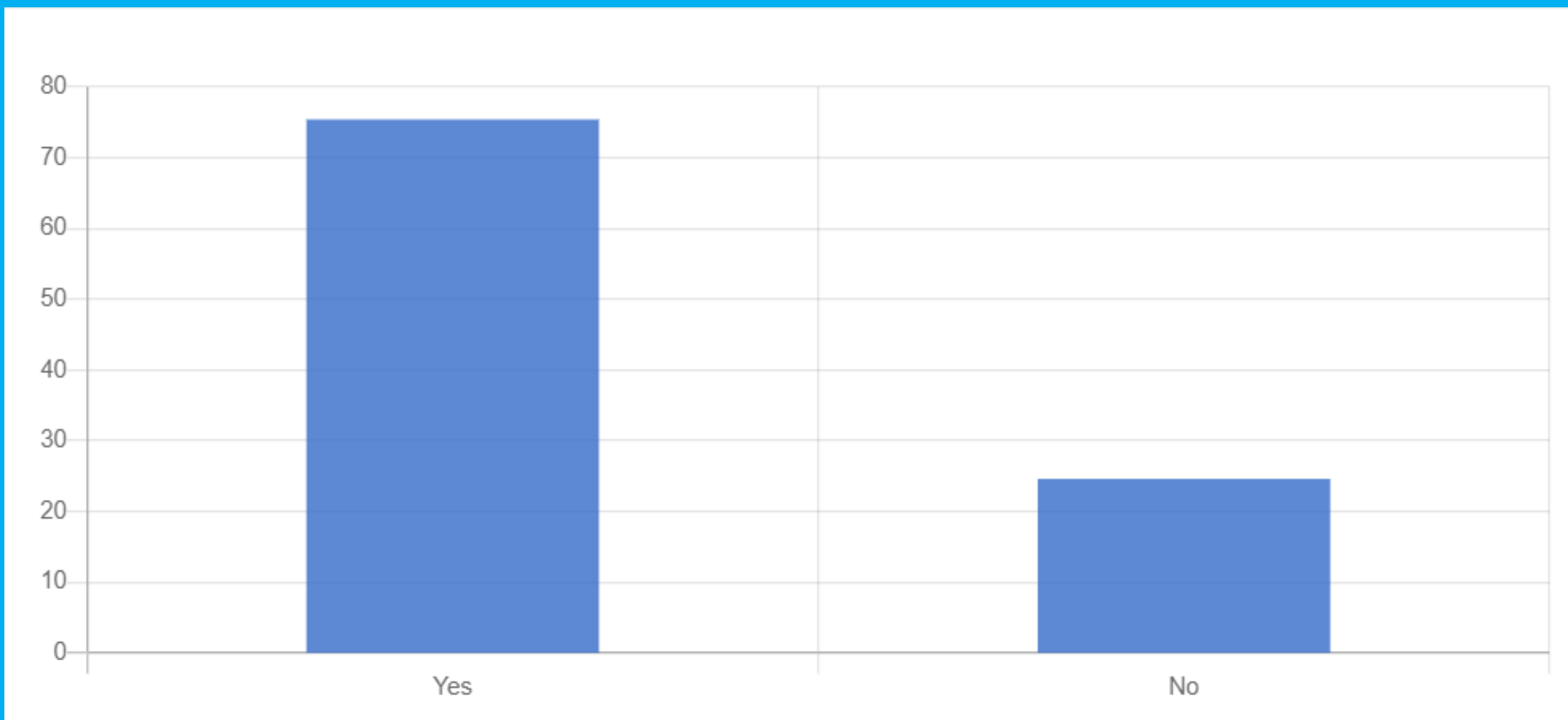
For such cases, beneficiaries agreed with the agent to withdraw in LBP at a market rate.

Other cases, that wanted to gain sometime, redeem the assistance in USD, but had an agreement with the agent to exchange at the market rate.

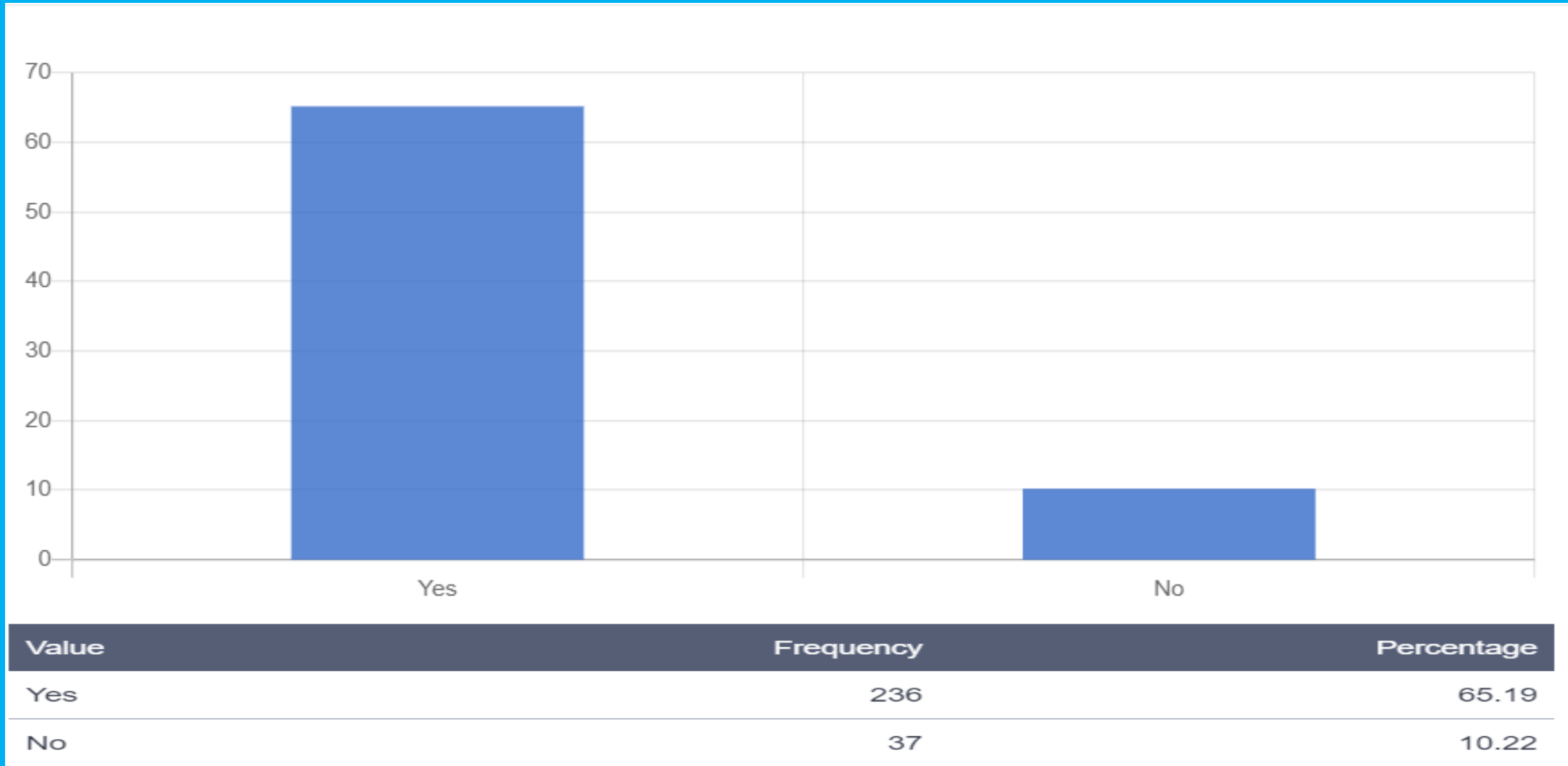
All challenges related to USD bills were communicated with our FSP to keep ensuring the availability of the bills at the agents.



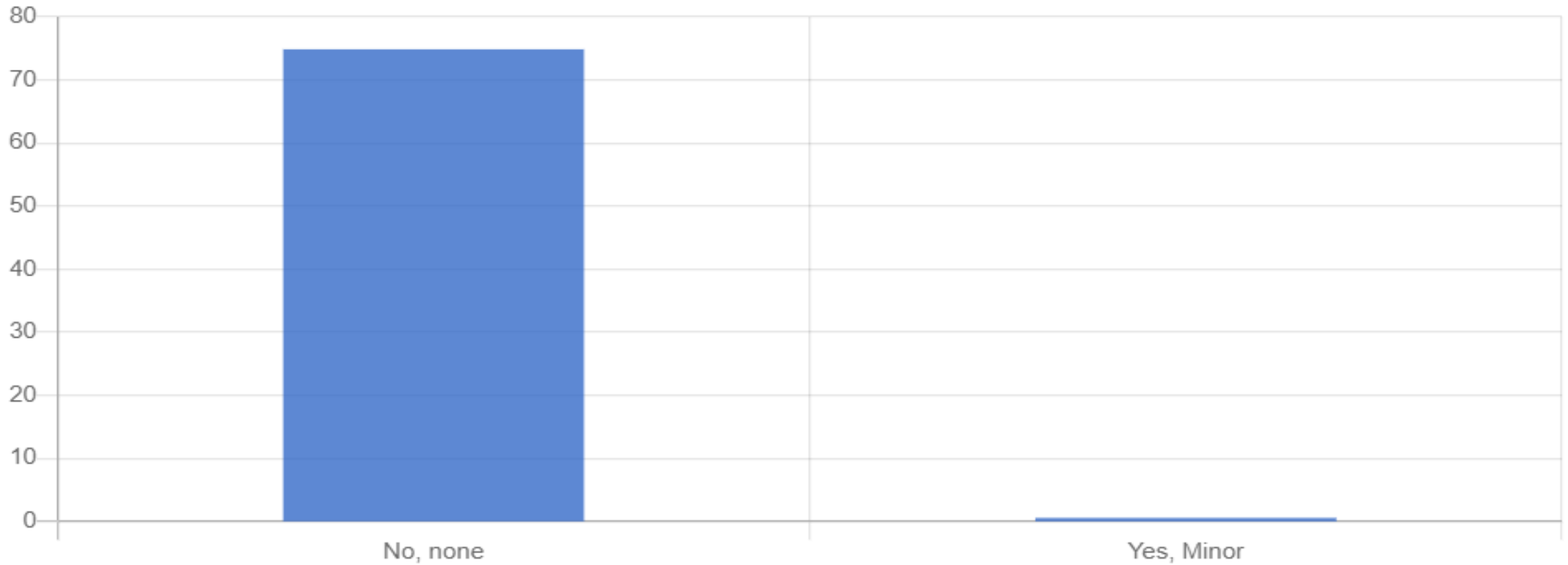
If you received some in USD, did you exchange it into LBP?



Did you feel safe when changing the money?

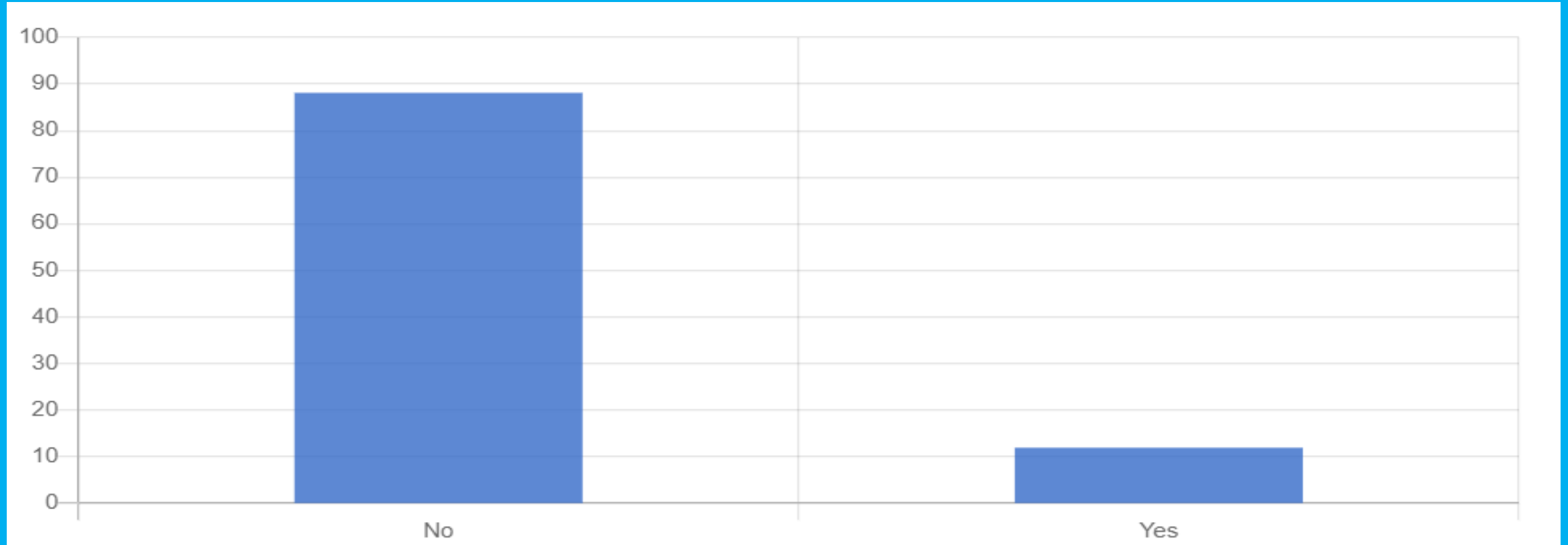


Did you face any problem in exchanging to LBP?



Value	Frequency	Percentage
Getting a good rate	2	0.55

Was it crowded at the OMT agent when you went to get your assistance?



Value	Frequency	Percentage
No	319	88.12
Yes	43	11.88



World Food
Programme

WFP RAM & Retail/Supply Chain Unit Lebanon

National BAWG – Food Security and Markets Situation Analysis

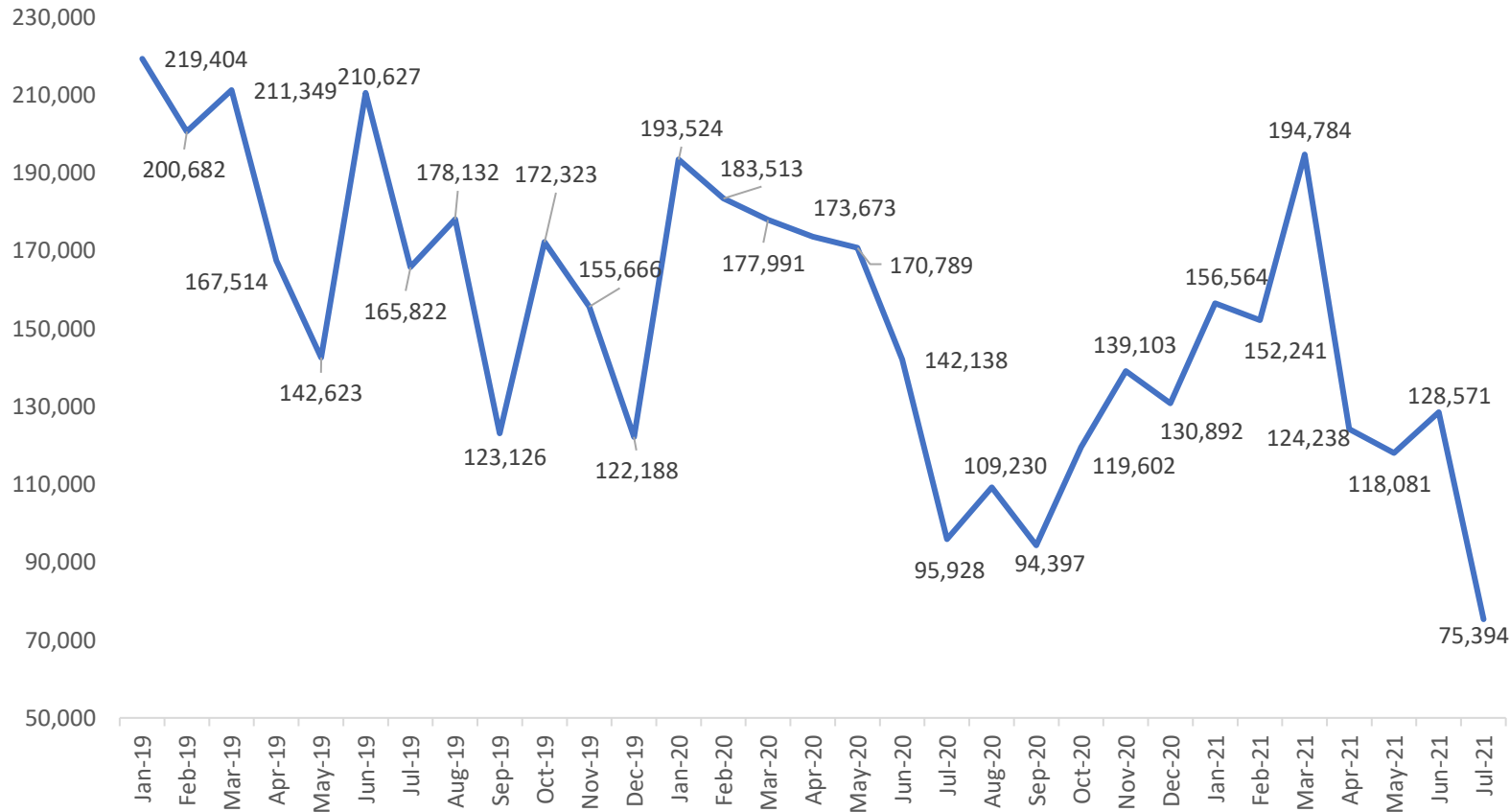
BAWG Meeting

26 August 2021

SAVING
LIVES
CHANGING
LIVES

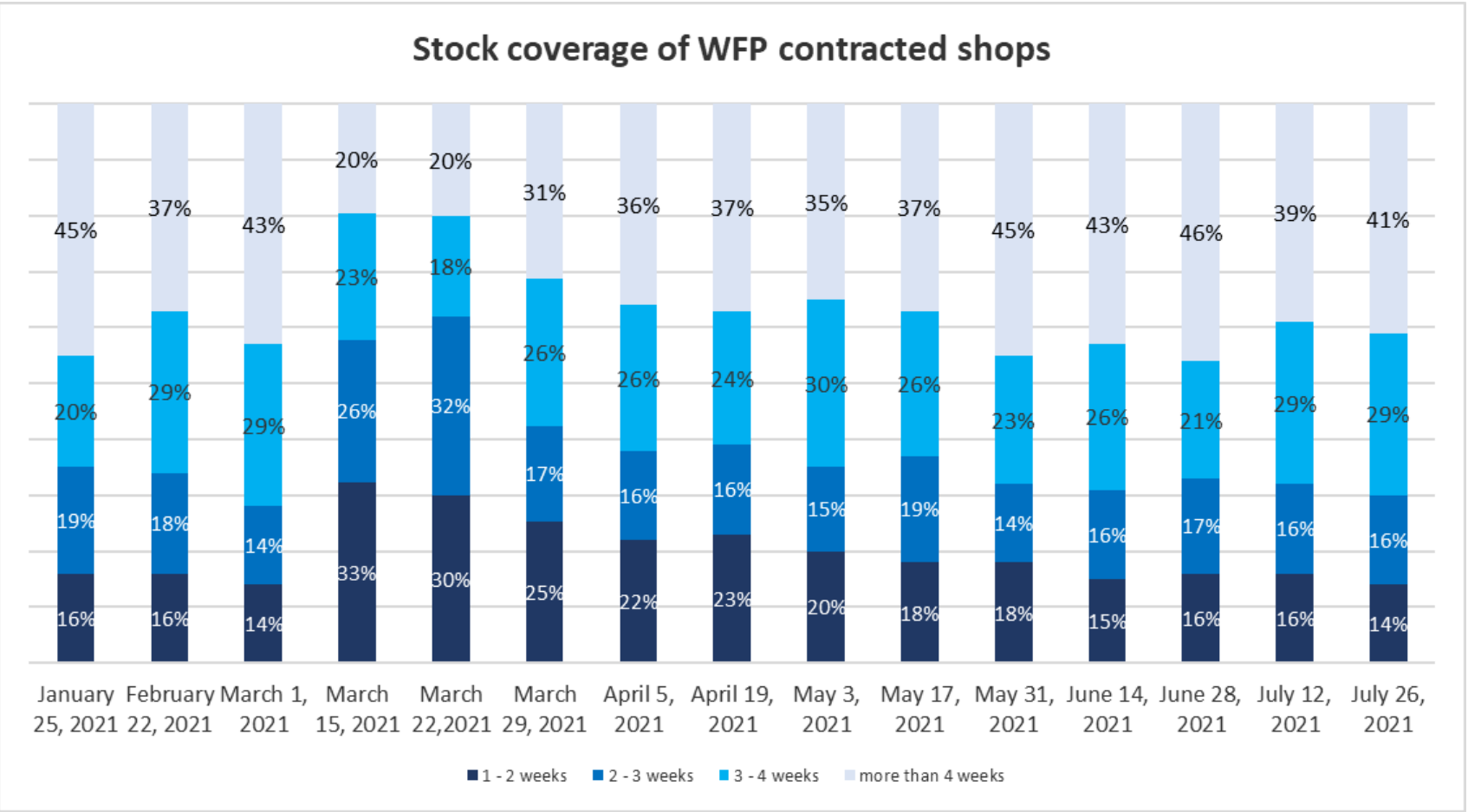
Decreasing trend (- 16%) in food imports continue in 2021

Port of Beirut Unloaded Food Weight (Jan 19 – July 21)



- A decrease of 18% is noticed when comparing August 2020 - July 2021 figures against the same period the previous year.
- A decrease of 16% is registered when comparing January to July 2021 figures to the same period in 2020.
- Decrease in 2021 led by the following imports categories decrease:
 - 41% in edible vegetables
 - 21% in live animals
 - 19% in sugar and confectionary
 - 16% in cereals
- A decrease of 21% is registered when comparing July 2021 figures to July 2020 figures.
- **Subject to change for the July 2021 figures as more data is released!**

Stock levels remain stable as trader continue to re-stock until beginning of August—however brand diversity and high end products became further scarce



- Stock levels continue to be stable, as traders have been able to re-stock so far.
- Shops with more than 2 weeks of stock coverage now at 86 percent, similar to beginning of March 2021.
- By sub offices during the week of July 26:
 - Contracted shops located in the BML & South region had the highest shop coverage above 2 weeks (98 percent), followed by the Beqaa region (91 percent). Contracted shops in the north had the lowest one (70 percent).
 - Shops in the BML & South region had the highest 4 weeks stock coverage (70 percent), followed by shops in the Beqaa region (28 percent) and shops in the north (26 percent).

Product availability and delivery remains stable despite transportation challenges until the beginning of August - Subsidized products non-existing

➤ Based on the retail unit contracted shops assessment survey results:

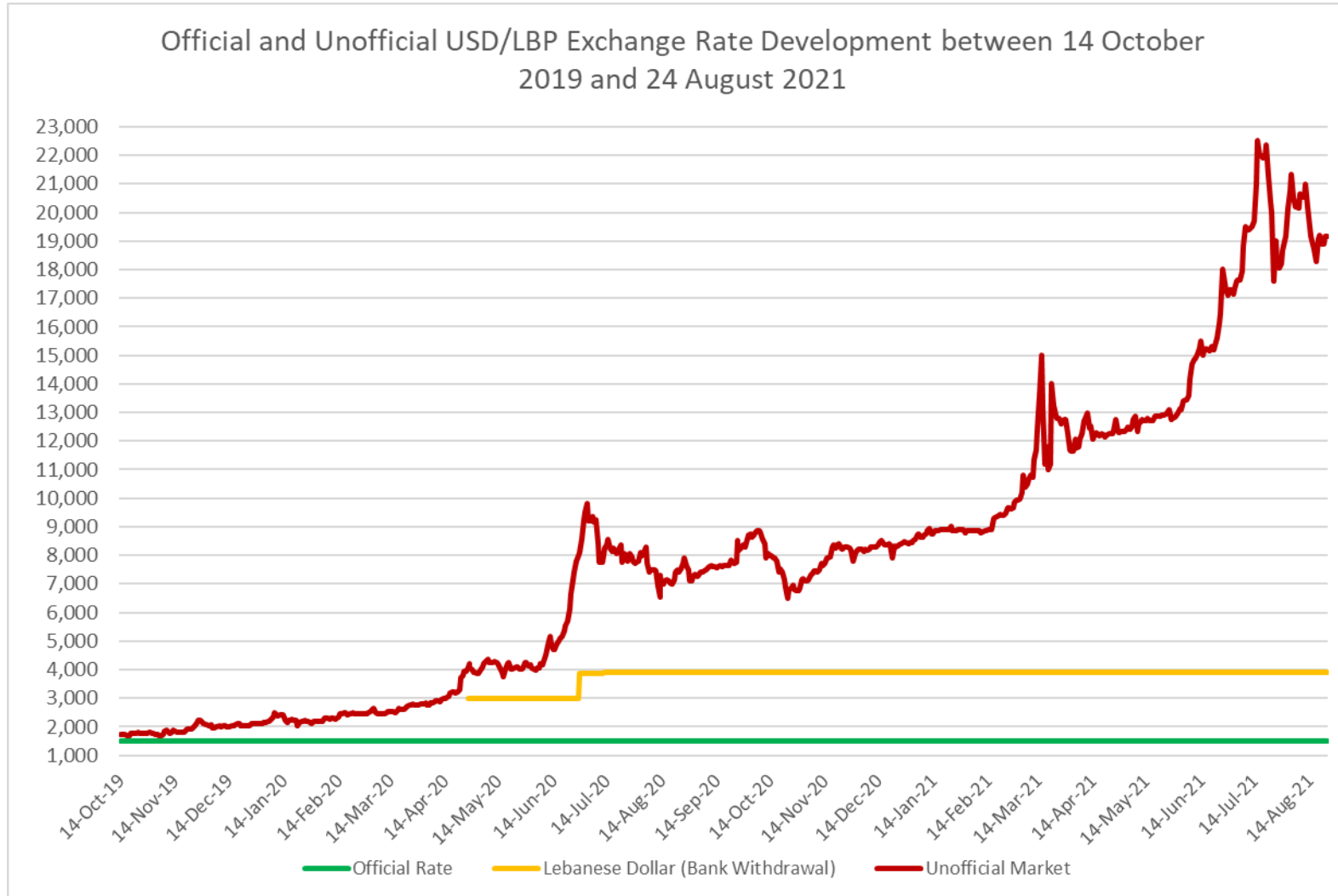
Reported	Week of March 1, 2021	Week of April 5, 2021	Week of May 3, 2021	Week of May 31, 2021	Week of June 28, 2021	Week of July 26, 2021
Scarcity in certain Products	68%	60%	51%	55%	57%	54%
Expecting to receive new orders within one week	94%	83%	95%	97%	85%	94%
Suppliers delivering full ordered quantities	62%	45%	50%	66%	71%	73%
Availability of subsidized products	79%	72%	67%	54%	12%	5%
Suppliers accepting new subsidized products orders	64%	42%	40%	15%	5%	1%
Receiving full ordered subsidized products quantities	1%	1%	1%	1%	0%	0%

Sources: Retail Weekly Shop Phone Survey – as of 9 August 2021

Electricity Outages & Fuel Shortages Impact on Markets

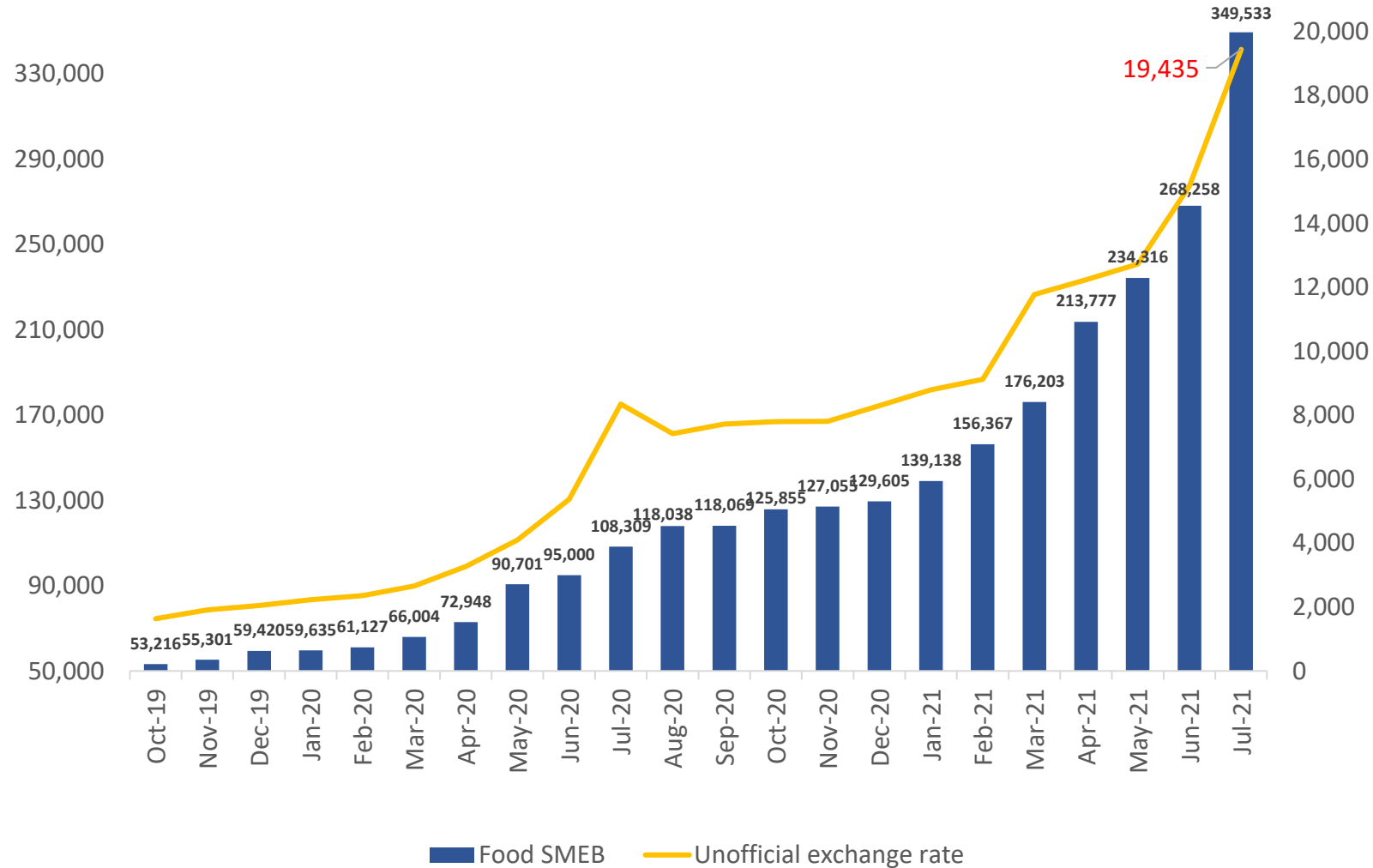
- Retail shops across country affected by electricity blackouts and fuel availability.
- Media reports of shops turning off refrigerators to save up on diesel consumption. Head of the syndicate of supermarket owners indicated that due to the decrease in the demand on fresh meat and cheese, along with the diesel crisis availability and high prices, a number of refrigerators were turned off and some sections were closed down.
- Food Importers Syndicate previously raised the alarm over the availability of diesel. This is affecting distribution to supermarkets, as well as the availability of products that require refrigeration.
- Head of the syndicate of food importers also indicated that some companies had to close down shop, while others are operating on a half week basis.
- Supply chain affected by fuel shortages. Delivery of products to retail shops becoming increasingly challenging across the country.
- Reports of decreasing bottled water availability in shops, as companies face challenges in delivering quantities from their factories, located mostly in the mountains, to shops across the country.

Informal market rate trading around the LBP 19,000 since mid-August 2021 – Rate continues to be highly affected by political developments



- Black market rate (red line) trading around LBP 19,000 since mid-August 2021.
- Political developments and instability lead to historical high daily volatility.
- Withdrawal from non-fresh money dollar account in LBP at LBP 3,900 (circular 151) continues.
- No news on the implementation of Circular 158 yet.
- Central Bank publishing daily the amount of transaction taking place on the “Sayrafa” platform. Central Bank requiring all Exchange houses to register transactions taking place.

Rapid depreciation of the exchange rate leads to a 30% increase in the cost of the revised food SMEB cost (national average) – Since October 2019 (557%)



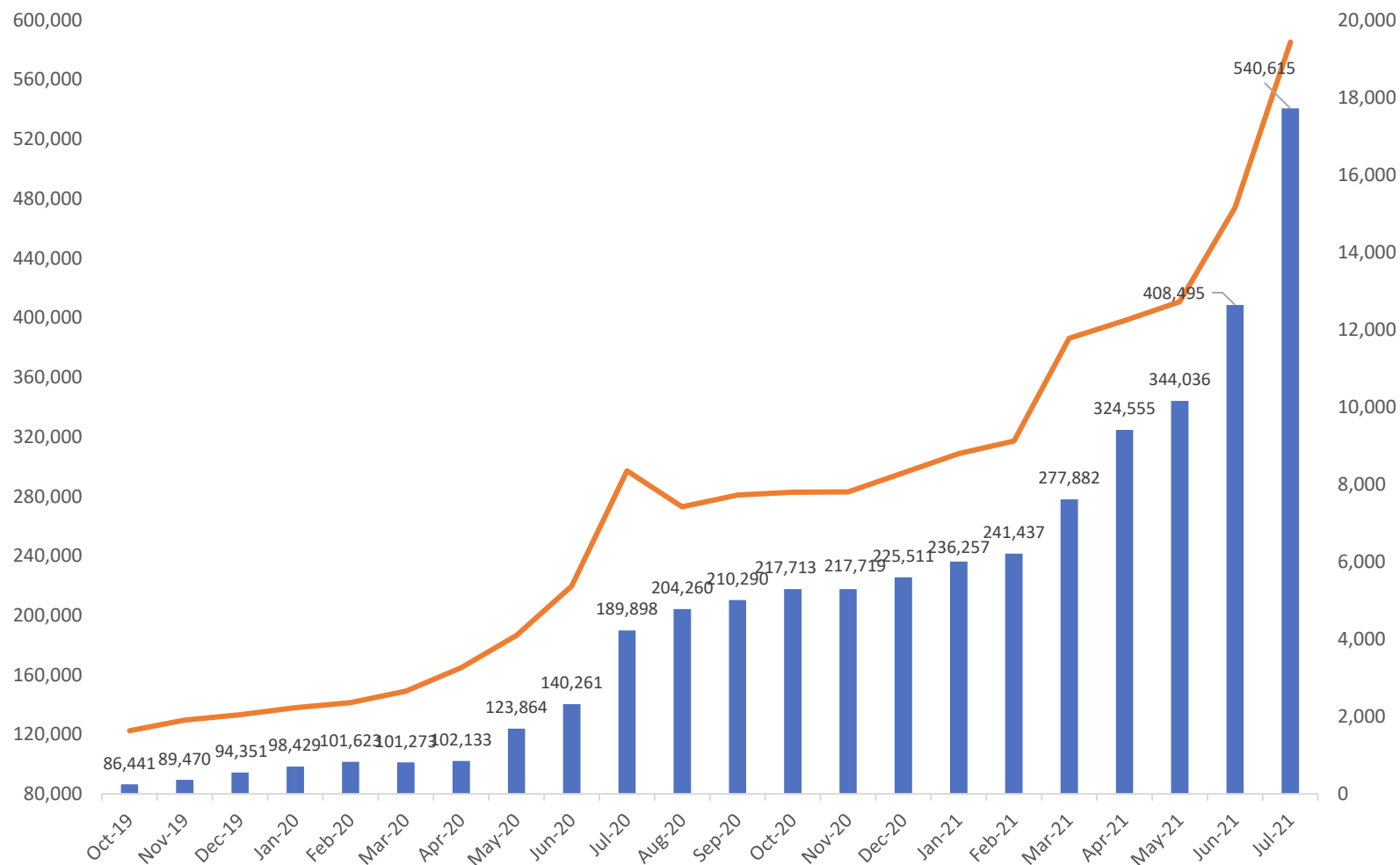
- Revised Food SMEB recorded a 30% increase between June and July 2021, at LBP 349,533.
- The cost of the revised food SMEB in June 2021 is more than six times the cost of the basket back in October 2019 (557% increase).
- Weekly preliminary data from WFP contracted shops show that basket reached LBP 383,632 during the week of August 9.

Source: WFP price data, 2020, & 2021 as of 25 August 2021, subject to changes. The weights of the commodities used in the calculation of the price of the basket was further updated in the calculation of the basket cost from February 2021 onwards. Further revisions to the previously published prices might take place in the future.



World Food Programme

Similar to food basket, revised non food items (NFI) basket register important price increases (32%), reflecting the Lira Depreciation – Since October 2019 (525%)



- The revised non-food items basket of 12 commodities is composed of the same items as the 2014 non-food basket, except hypoallergic soap that was removed. The basket include in addition 5 toothbrushes (changed every 3 months) and 5 blankets. Cooking gas quantity was further increased compared to the 2014 basket.
- Between October 2019 and May 2021, the basket has increased by more than 6 times (525%)
- Between June & July 2021, a 32% increase was registered.
- Weekly preliminary data shows that basket reached a cost of LBP 620,118 during the week of August 9

Source: WFP retail price database, 2020 & 2021, as of 25 August 2021, subject to changes & IPT Fuel Price for Cooking Gaz: <https://www.iptgroup.com.lb/ipt/en/our-stations/fuel-prices> - Blanket Price from UNHCR Retail Team - The weights of the commodities used in the calculation of the price of the basket was further updated in the calculation of the basket cost from February 2021. Further revisions to the previously published prices might take place in the future – Gaz Quantity further changed in July 2021 based on VASyR 2021 data.

Subsidization rate official modified to USD/LBP 8,000 until end of September 2021, however severe shortages continue

Date	Gasoline 95 Oct	Diesel	Cooking Gas
January 2020	26,000	18,400	22,200
August 24, 2021	128,200	98,800	90,600
Price increase	102,200	80,400	68,400
% increase	393	437	308

- Latest crisis started following Central bank decision to provide US dollars for fuel imports at market rate.
- Subsidization rate officialy modified to USD/LBP 8,000, up from USD/LBP 3,900.
- Government to cover difference between subsidization rate and market rate until end of September, using a USD 225 million fund opened by the Central Bank.
- Severe gasoline, diesel and cooking gas shortages continue. Black market prices already higher than expected prices once full subsidy removed.

Subsidies removal ongoing with no clear alternative plans

- No further updates on the financial support card were released recently. Card previously approved by Parliament, with cash assistance to be provided to 500,000 families, with an amount of up to USD 126 per family per month (exact amount vary with family size).
- Media news indicating that financial support card could provide 15 dollars per person, with a cap of six per family, along with a top up of USD 25 per family, and USD 11 for families with a member above the age of 75.
- Potential assistance for the provision of electricity from Jordan. Plan includes transmitting Egyptian national gas to Jordan, to be used in generating additional electricity power that will be transmitted to Lebanon. Plan also includes direct transfer of natural gas from Egypt to Lebanon, to be used for the generation of electricity. Source of funding remains to be confirmed.
- Daily transportation allowance for public sector employees to be increased to LBP 24,000, up from LBP 8,000. A financial support in the form of one month additional salary in LBP will be provided to public sector employees as well.
- Further increases in the price of bread. Large package price has increased by 233 percent since June 2020. Media news circulating around the creation of a black market for bread – Latest official prices are:
 - Large package (950 grams) set at LBP 4,500 if sold at bakeries and LBP 5,000 if sold at retail shops.
 - Medium package (380 grams) set at LBP 2,750 if sold at bakeries and LBP 3,250 if sold at retail shops.

A woman wearing a blue WFP (World Food Programme) uniform and cap is working in a market stall. She is surrounded by various fresh produce, including large crates of red tomatoes, bunches of yellow bananas, and green leafy vegetables. The background shows other people and market stalls, suggesting a busy outdoor market environment.

Thanks! Questions?

WFP Lebanon

RAM & Retail/Supply Chain Unit

WFP RAM 2020 Key Products

[March 2021](#)

[March/April 2021](#)

[December 2020](#)



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5) WINTER 2021 BASKET

Non-food items

	Quantity	Cost per unit, USD	Total cost, USD	Cost, LBP (using August average rate)
Mat synthetic sleeping	5	\$1.85	\$9.25	LBP 184,694.75
Blanket, synthetic (fleece) 1.5 x 2 m, high thermal	5	\$6.60	\$33.00	LBP 658,911.00
Mattress, foam, light	5	\$14.95	\$74.77	LBP 1,492,832.76
Heaters	1	\$63.00	\$63.00	LBP 1,257,921.00
Winter set (men)	1	\$83.00	\$83.00	LBP 1,657,261.00
Winter set (women)	1	\$110.00	\$110.00	LBP 2,196,370.00
Baby clothes	1	\$5.00	\$5.00	LBP 99,835.00
Children clothing	2	\$42.00	\$84.00	LBP 1,677,228.00

Full basket (all NFIs)	\$462.02	LBP 9,225,053.51
Medium Basket (without heaters, mattresses, and mats)	\$315.00	LBP 6,289,605.00
Small Basket (without heaters, mattresses, mats, and adult clothing)	\$122.00	LBP 2,435,974.00

2021 Winter Basket

Heating costs

Page 40

	Quantity	Price/Unit (average)
Diesel	60	LBP 9,220/L
Wood		LBP 2,290,000/month
Gaz- Cooking /Heating (10Kg bottle)	1	LBP 90,600/10KG
Total heating cost per month, average across types, LBP		LBP 977,933
Total heating cost per month, average across types, USD		\$48.98

Transfer Values

Winter cash assistance can be provided as a monthly cash transfer or as a one-off transfer, preferably at the start of the season (October/November) to help families prepare.

The sector recommends a range for the monthly transfer value and the exact value determined by agencies depending on available fund and targeted groups.

	One-off		Monthly TV	
	USD	LBP	USD	LBP
Minimum TV (covers three months of heating)	\$ 147	LBP 2,933,800	\$ 49	LBP 977,933
Maximum TV (covers five months of heating and medium basket)	\$ 560	LBP 11,179,271	\$ 112	LBP 2,235,854



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6) Update on the Protection Risk Assessment

Update on the PRA progress

Page 43

Following Field level discussion, BA Core group and Working group discussions- Protection Sector provided support in prioritizing risks.

- High (16)
- Medium (11)
- Low (6)

Risks were prioritized by examining the likelihood and impact and also ensuring alignment with the Protection Sector overall priorities.

Several high priority risks will be addressed through

- PSEA mainstreaming
- M&E tools review
- Strengthening referrals
- On-going operational efforts by partners

Protection sector support includes

- Dissemination of training material
- Assessment of needed trainings
- Participation in the M&E taskforce