

# VULNERABILITY ASSESSMENT OF SYRIAN REFUGEES IN LEBANON

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## VASyR 2021

## PRELIMINARY FINDINGS

September 2021



Inter-Agency  
Coordination  
Lebanon



**UNHCR**  
The UN Refugee Agency



World Food  
Programme

unicef 

for every child

## **B A C K G R O U N D**

- **Ninth annual survey** assessing the situation/trends of a representative sample of refugee households.
- **Only uninterrupted yearly survey for Syrians in Lebanon** which **covers all sectors**.
- **Governorate level insights** on key areas such as protection, food security, economic vulnerability, shelter conditions, access to water, health, education and more.
- **Cornerstone of the LCRP and programming for many (I)NGO, UN and development actors.** Used by 10 LCRP sector working groups to revise strategies, logframes and targets.
- Results are used **to guide inter-sectoral discussions** in a series of field level workshops preceding the **revision of each years' LCRP**.
- VASyR 2021 provides insight on the **impact of the political and economic crisis**. During 2021 there has been a **further deterioration in the socioeconomic situation in Lebanon** with increased devaluation of the LBP, with the informal exchange rate at around 20,000LBP/ USD. More issues have emerged such as shortage in fuel, electricity and medications.

# METHODOLOGY

## FIELD WORK (7 June – 7 July)



COMPLETED  
VISITS

5,035

Syrian households

25,655

Individuals



TEAMS

75



DATA  
COLLECTION

5 weeks

7 June / 7 July



ENUMERATORS

150

(2 per team)



FIELD DATA  
COLLECTION

CARITAS | Makhzoumi Foundation  
World Vision International | SHIELD



HOUSEHOLD  
VISITS PER  
TEAM

5 to 6

per day

### SAMPLE

- Two-stage cluster approach
- “30 x 7”: 30 clusters per district, 7 households per cluster
- 165 cases per district was required, leading to a target of 4,950 cases nationally.
  - 50% estimated prevalence
  - 10% precision
  - 1.5 design effect
  - 5% margin of error

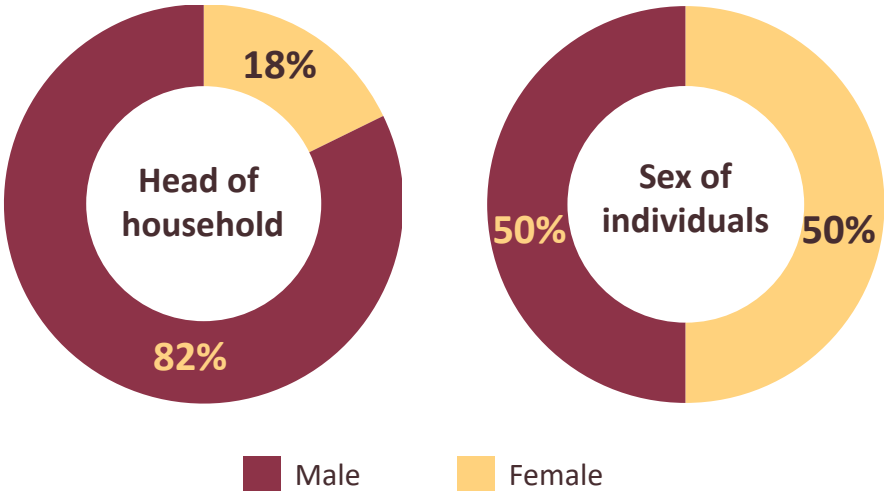
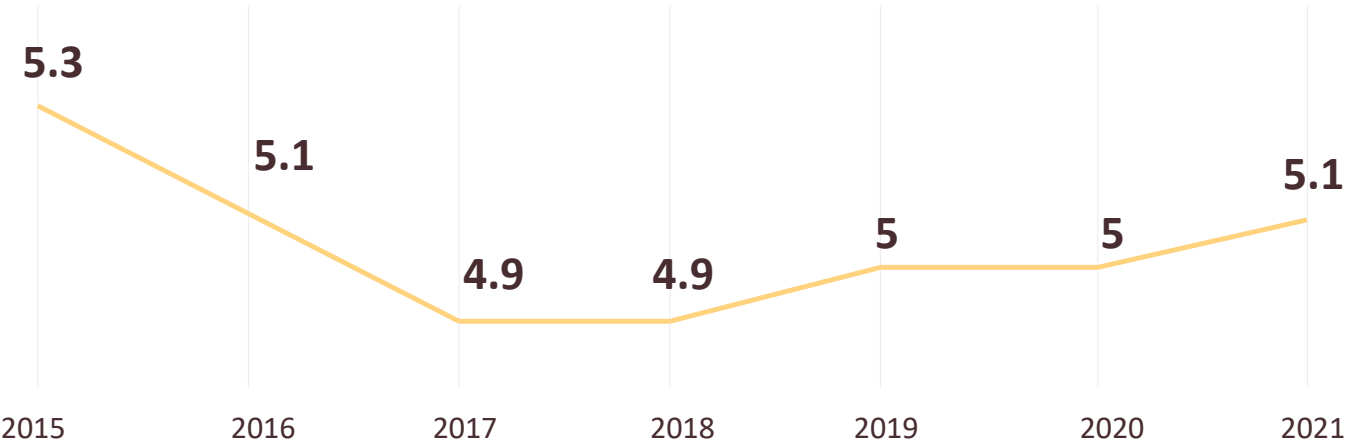
# DEMOGRAPHICS

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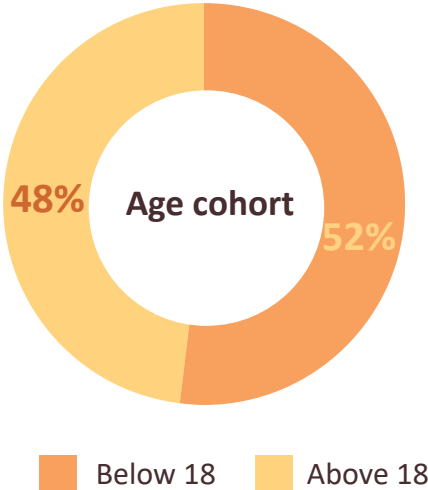
## HOUSEHOLD COMPOSITION

### AVERAGE HOUSEHOLD SIZE



9% of individuals (ages 2+) have a disability.

30% of households have at least one member with a disability.



PROTECTION

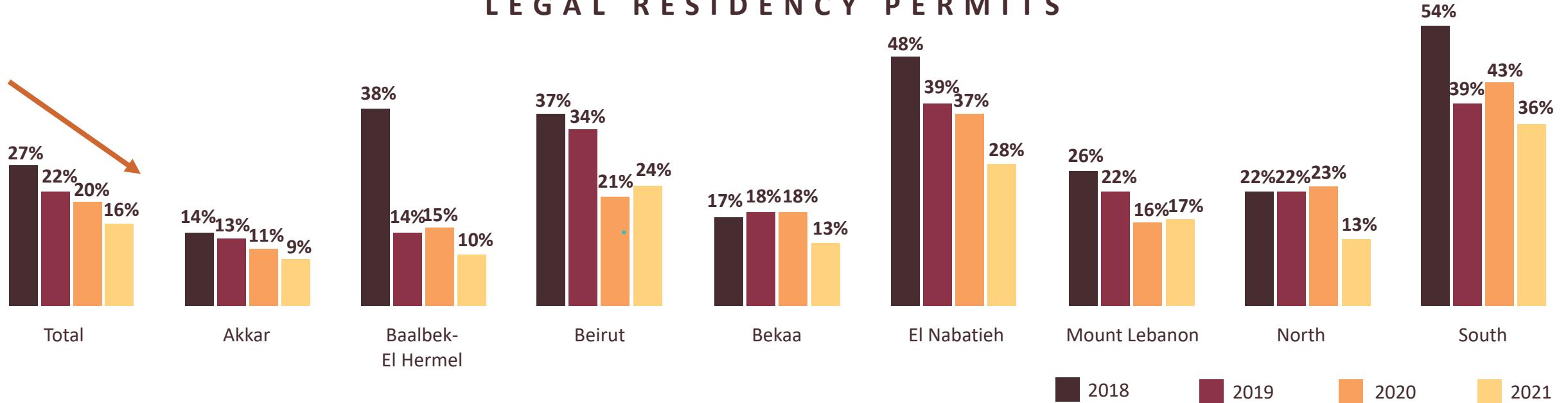
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# PROTECTION

## LEGAL RESIDENCY STATUS – INDIVIDUAL LEVEL

Legal residency rates continue to deteriorate: **16%** of individuals ages 15+ hold legal residency permits (20% in 2020).

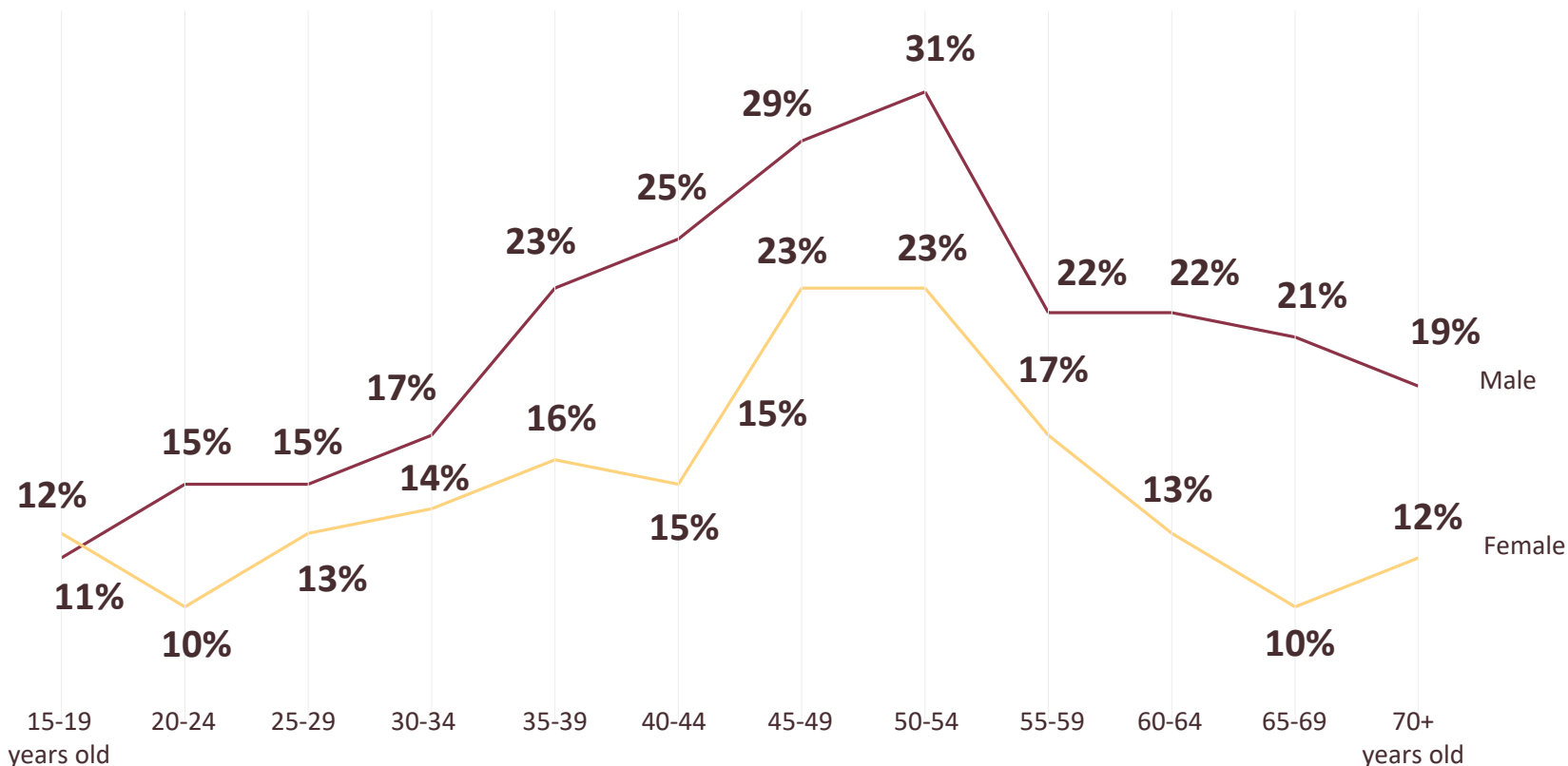
### % OF INDIVIDUALS AGES 15+ HOLDING LEGAL RESIDENCY PERMITS



# PROTECTION

## LEGAL RESIDENCY PERMITS

% OF INDIVIDUALS AGES 15+ HOLDING  
LEGAL RESIDENCY PERMITS BY GENDER  
AND AGE GROUP



Younger people (15-34)  
less likely to have  
residency than older  
people.

Women/female-headed  
HHs have lower rates of  
legal residency than men/  
male-headed HHs.



# PROTECTION

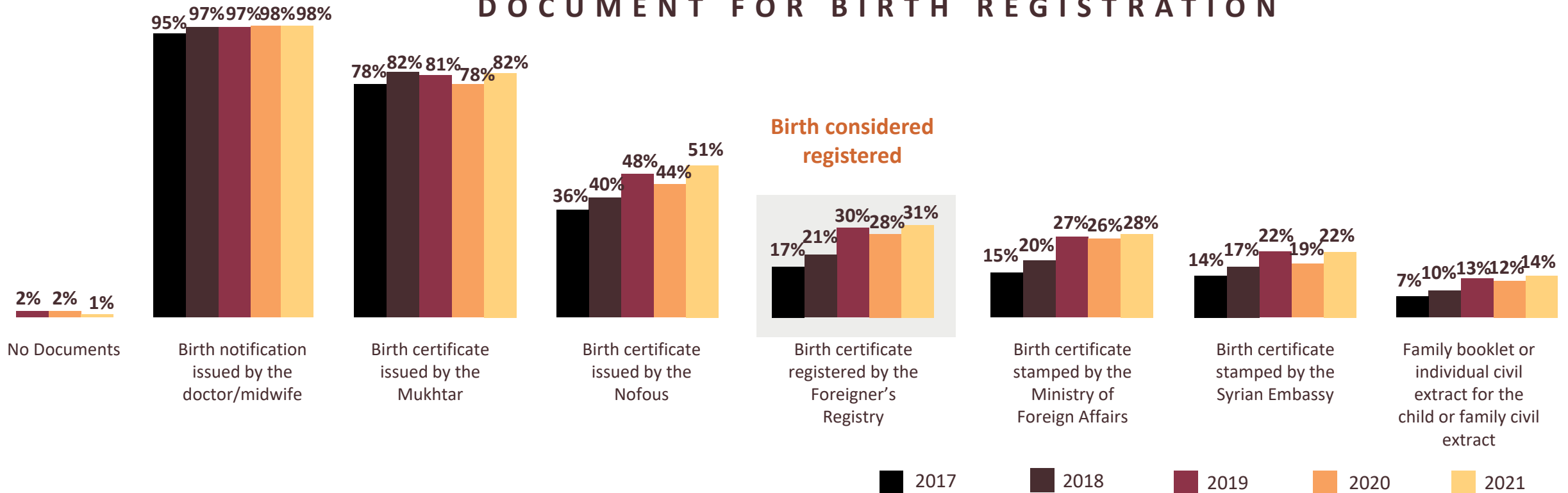
## BIRTH REGISTRATION

31% (28% in 2020)

Of birth registered at Foreigner's Registry  
(for children born in Lebanon)

Main reasons for not completing the birth registration process: associated costs, followed by being unaware of the procedures.

CUMULATIVE % OF THE HIGHEST LEVEL OF DOCUMENT FOR BIRTH REGISTRATION



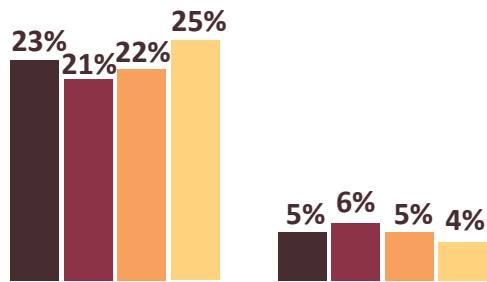
# PROTECTION

## MARRIAGE DOCUMENTATION



29%

married with no legal documentation (27% in 2020 and 2019, 28% in 2018)

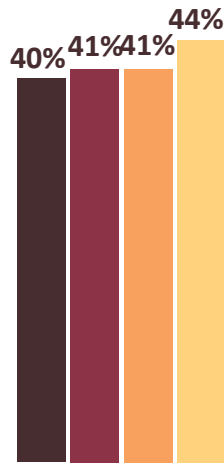


Marriage contract from an uncertified Sheikh

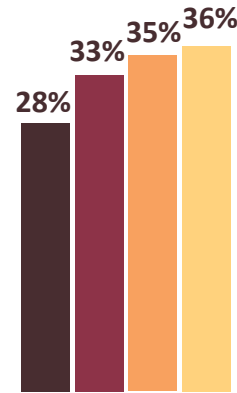
No documents, or other unknown documents



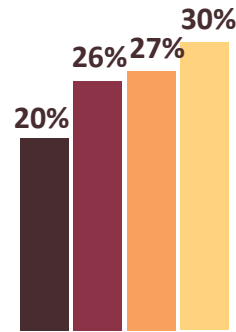
Marriage contract from a religious authority or Proof of marriage from the Sharia Court



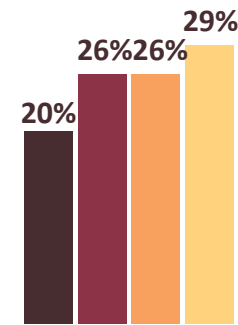
Marriage certificate authenticated by the Mukhtar



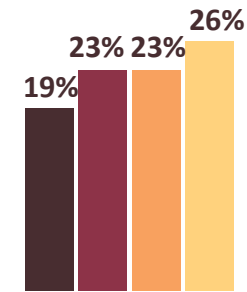
Marriage certificate registered by the Nofous



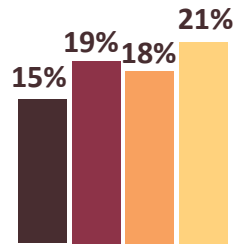
Marriage certificate registered with the Foreigners' Registry



Marriage certificate stamped by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs



Marriage certificate stamped by the Syrian Embassy



Updated Family booklet or family civil extract or marriage certificate from Syria

2018 2019 2020 2021

20%

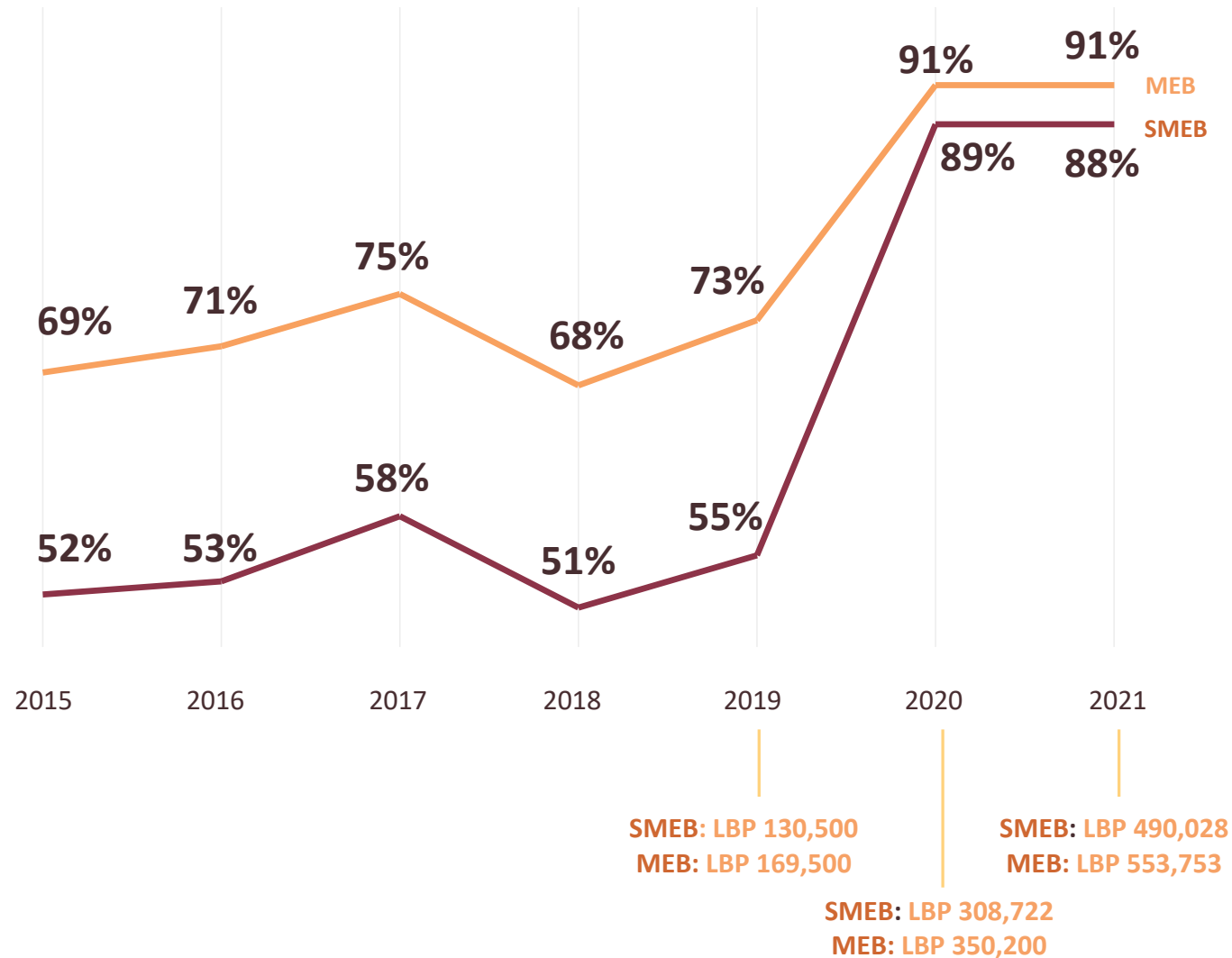
of females ages 15-19 were married (24% in 2020; 27% in 2019)

# ECONOMIC VULNERABILITY

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# ECONOMIC VULNERABILITY

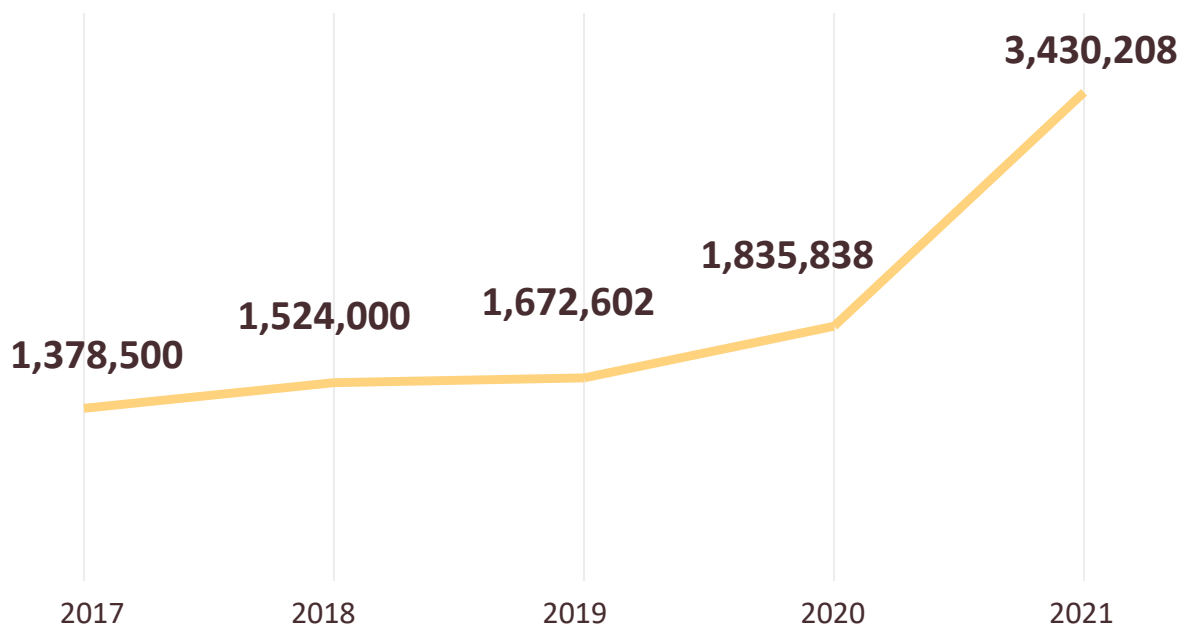
## % HOUSEHOLDS BELOW MEB / SMEB



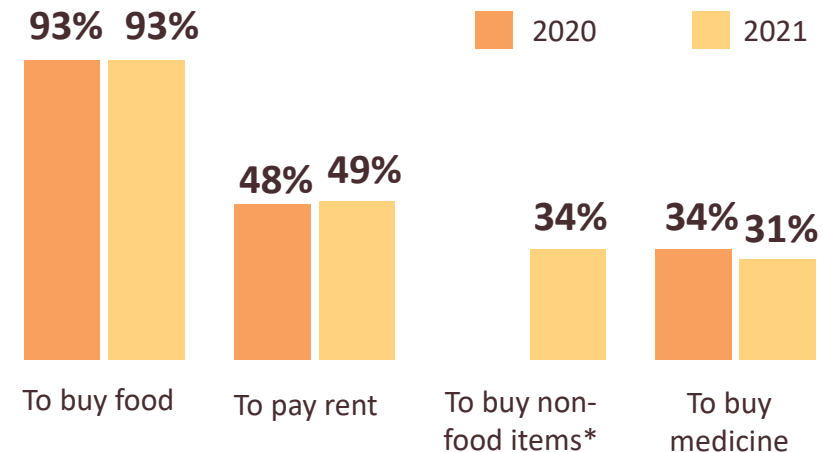
Since 2020, economic and COVID-19 crisis pushed **almost the entire** refugee population to **below the SMEB**

# ECONOMIC VULNERABILITY

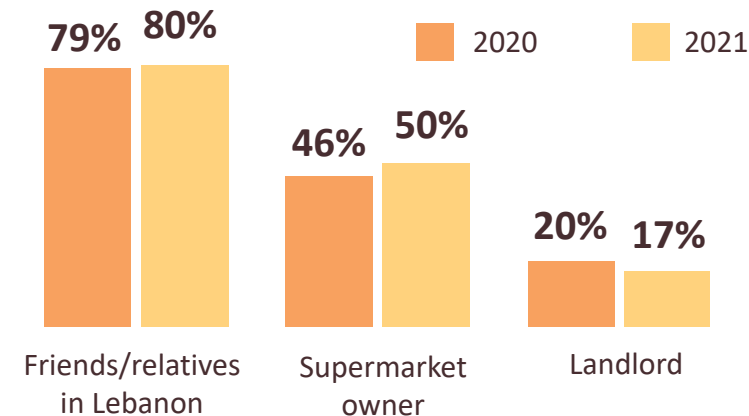
## AVERAGE DEBT PER HOUSEHOLD (ONLY HOUSEHOLDS WITH DEBT) (LBP)



## REASON FOR BORROWING MONEY

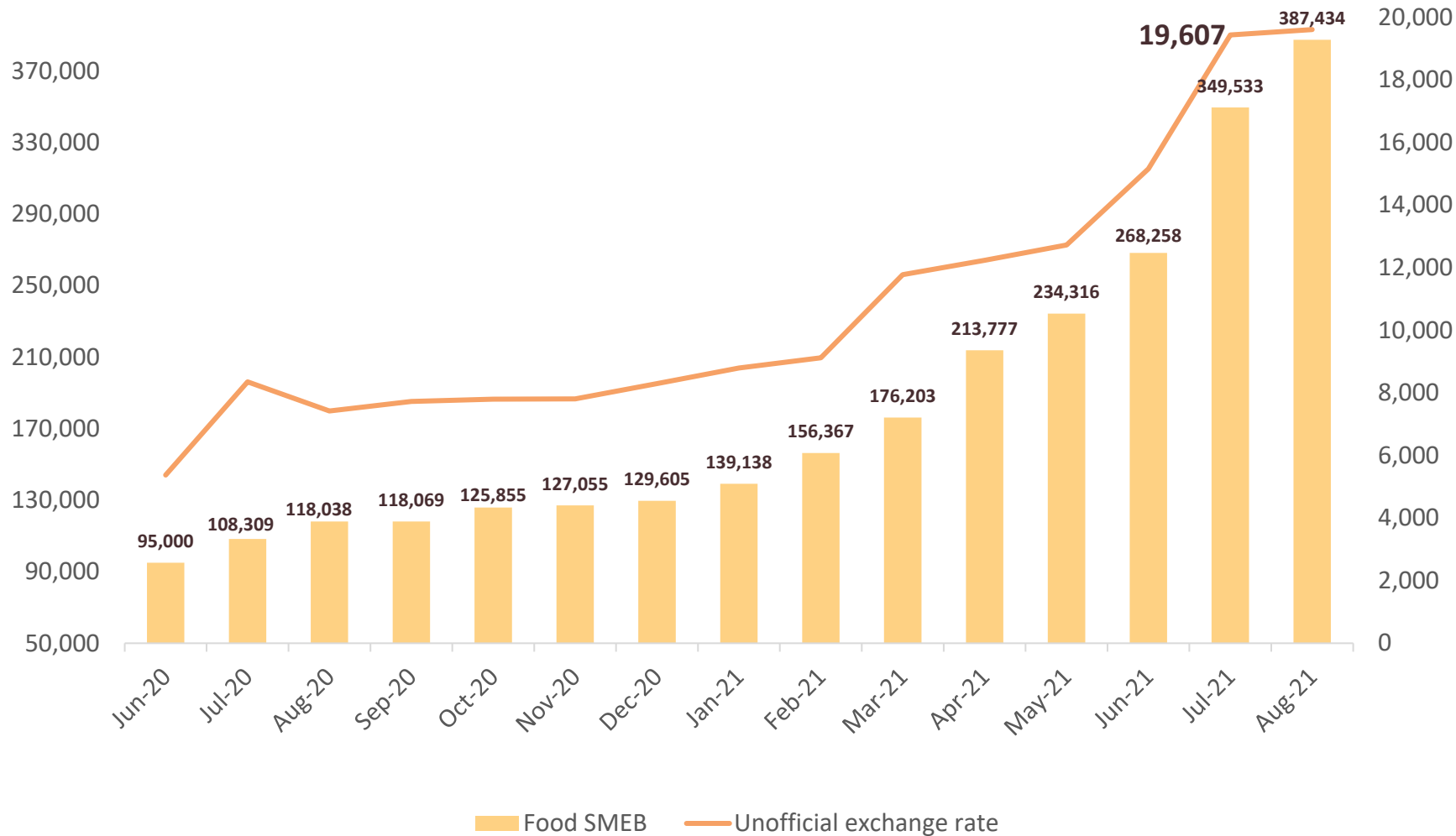


## SOURCE OF BORROWING MONEY



\*answer option added in VASyR 2021, not among the options in VASYR 2020

## REVISED FOOD SMEB COST EVOLUTION VS EXCHANGE RATE



➤ Revised Food SMEB recorded an 127% increase between August 2020 (VASyR 2020 data collection period) and June 2021 (VASyR 2021 data collection period)

➤ The cost of the revised food SMEB increased by 404 percent between October 2019 and June 2021

➤ The cost of the revised food SMEB in August 2021 is more than seven times the cost of the basket back in October 2019 (628% increase).

# ECONOMIC VULNERABILITY

## INCOME AND EMPLOYMENT

 66%

of households have at least  
one working member  
(52% in 2020)

517,564 LL

total income (from employment) of  
all the household members  
(up from LBP 262,333 in 2020)

Period	SMEB (LL)	Monthly income (from employment) of all households	Ratio of income to SMEB value
August 2020	1,543,613	262,333	17%
June 2021	2,450,142	517,564	21%

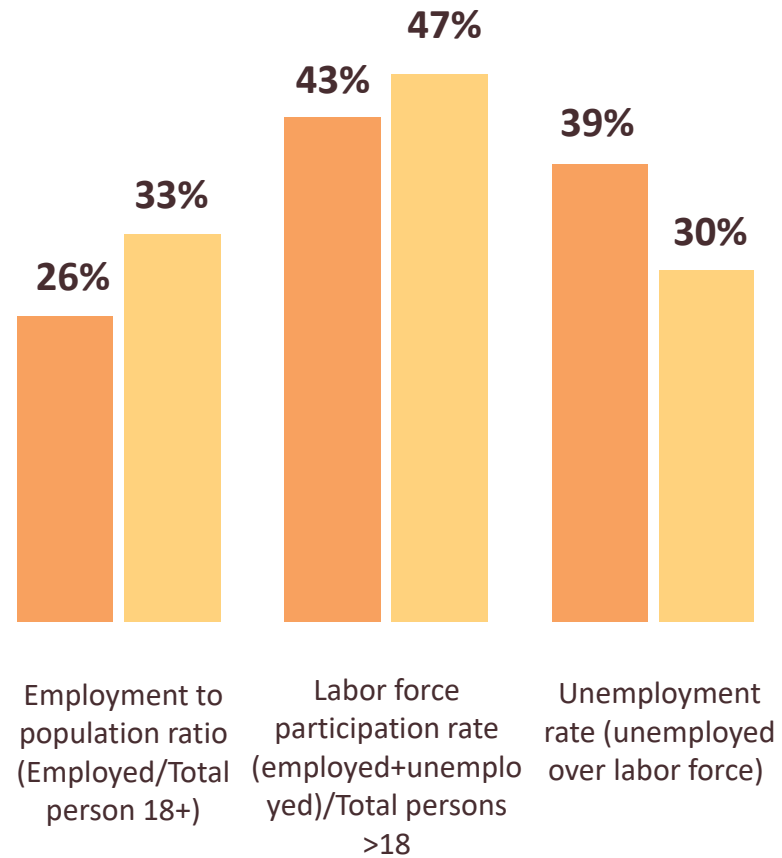
Period	Exchange rate / usd	Monthly income (from employment) of all households	Value of monthly income in dollars
August 2020	7,420	262,333	USD 35
June 2021	15,158	517,564	USD 34

Even with more Syrian refugees working, the amount of income that the HH gains from employment is still **1/5<sup>th</sup>** of the SMEB  
Humanitarian assistance remains the main income source

# ECONOMIC VULNERABILITY

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## INCOME AND EMPLOYMENT



2020

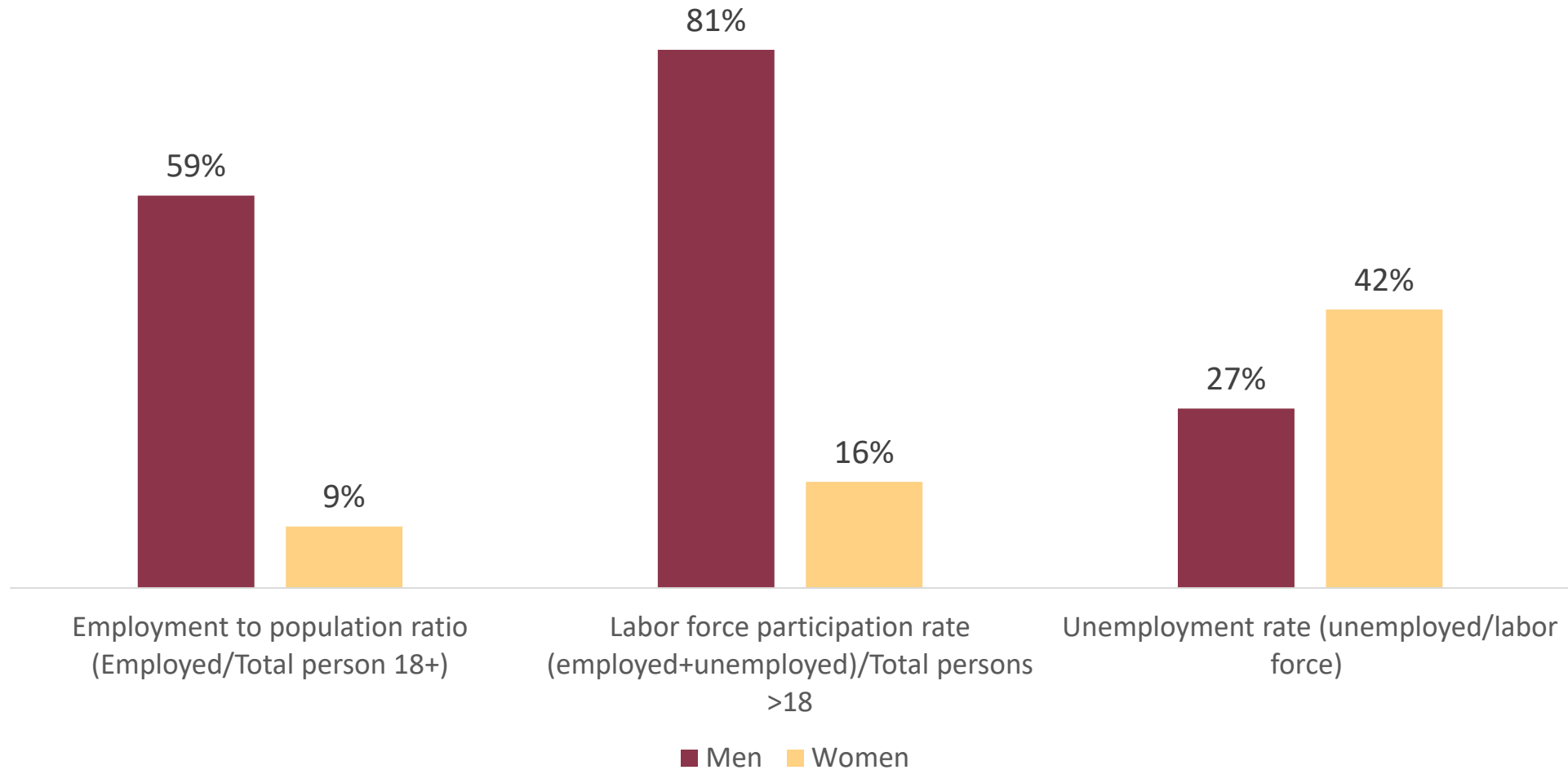
2021



# ECONOMIC VULNERABILITY

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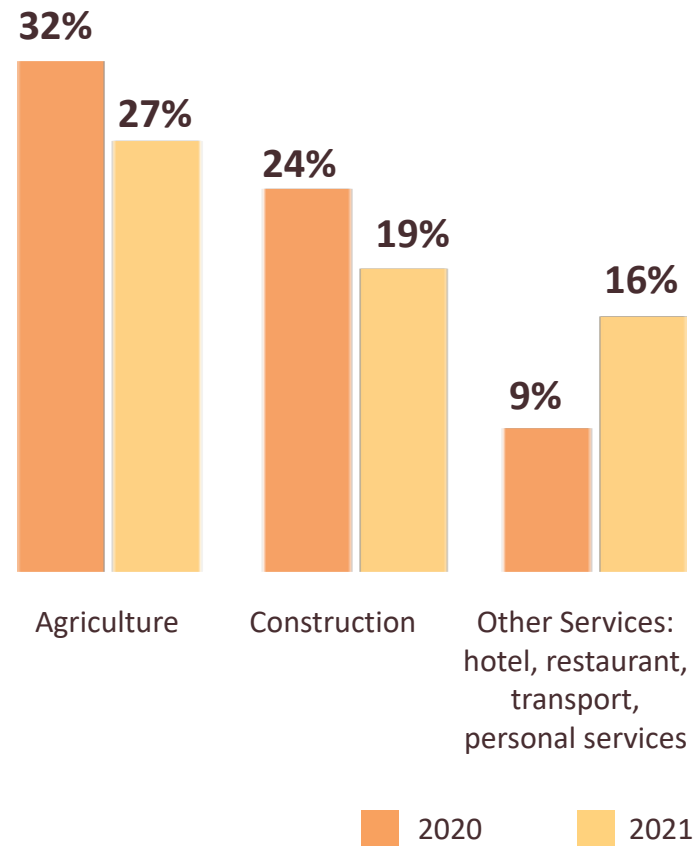
## INCOME AND EMPLOYMENT



# ECONOMIC VULNERABILITY

## INCOME AND EMPLOYMENT

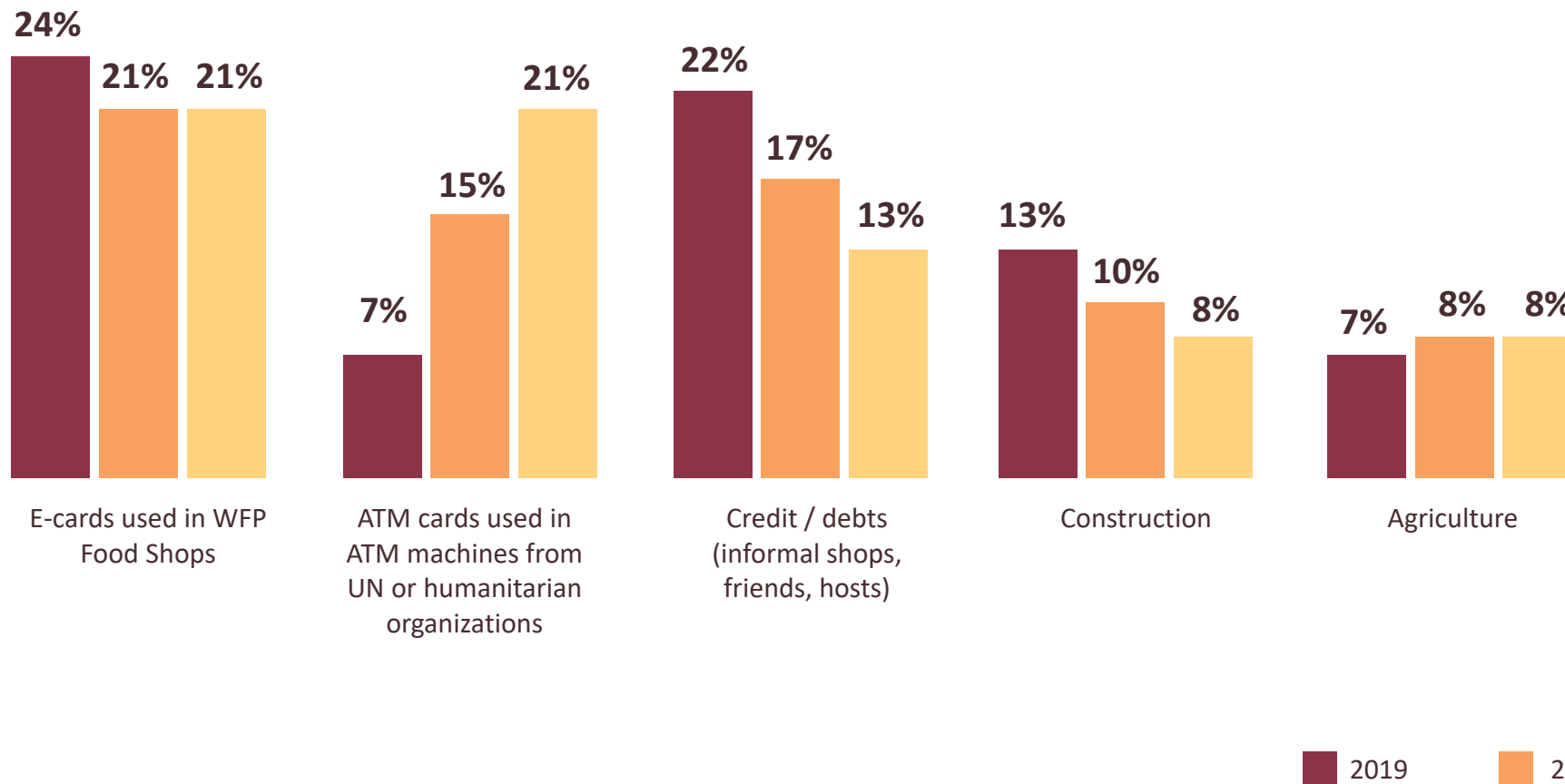
### MAIN SECTORS OF EMPLOYMENT



# ECONOMIC VULNERABILITY

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## MAIN SOURCES OF INCOME

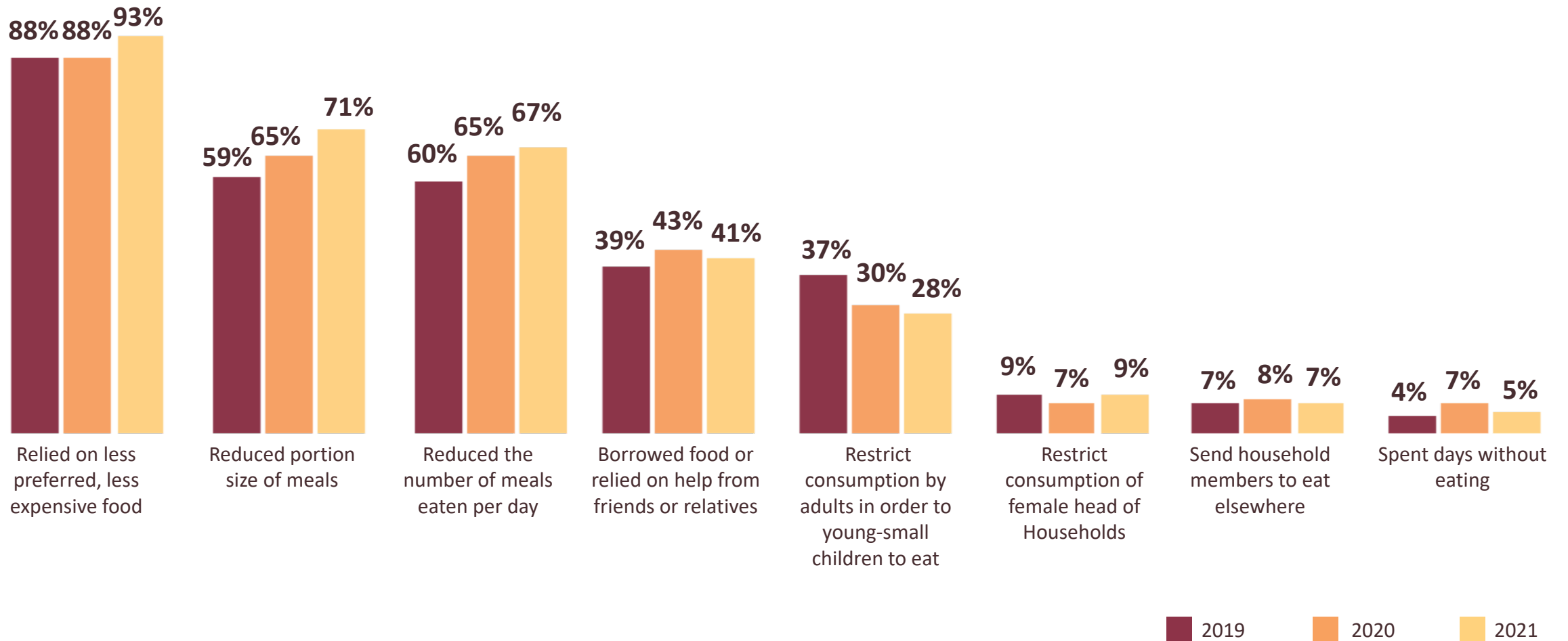


# FOOD SECURITY

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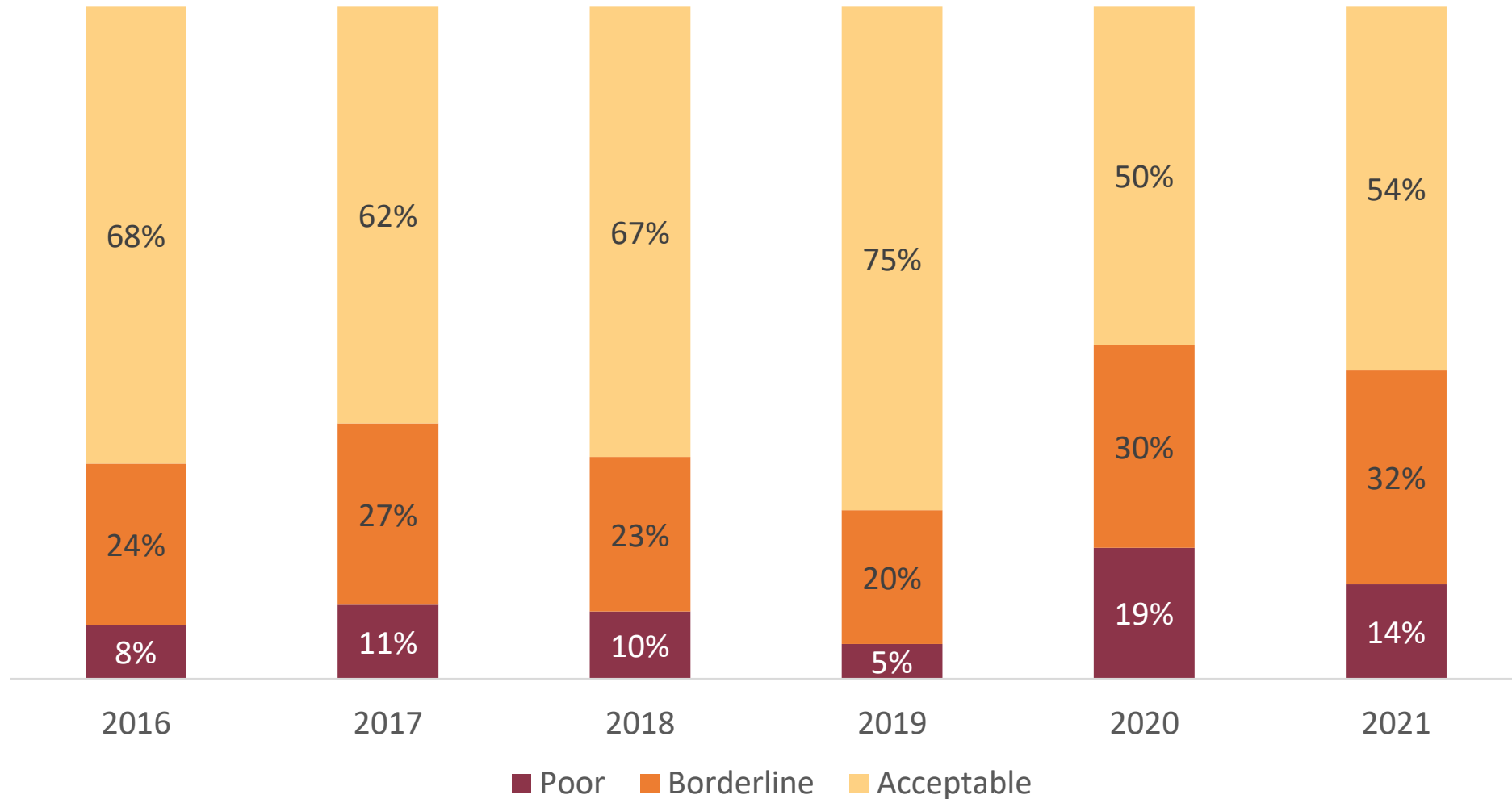
# FOOD SECURITY

## FOOD-BASED COPING STRATEGIES



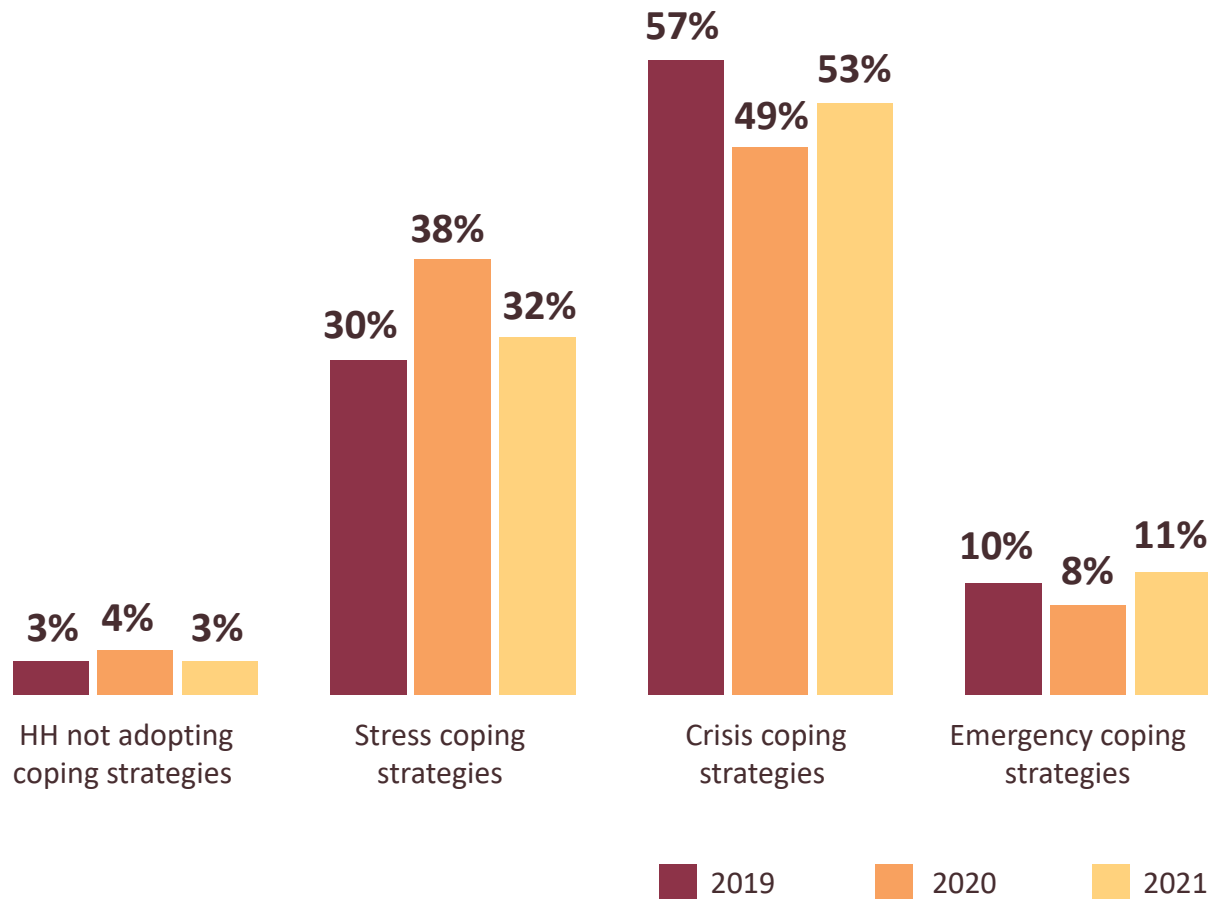
# FOOD SECURITY

## POOR, BORDERLINE AND ACCEPTABLE FOOD CONSUMPTION



# FOOD SECURITY

## LIVELIHOOD-BASED COPING STRATEGIES



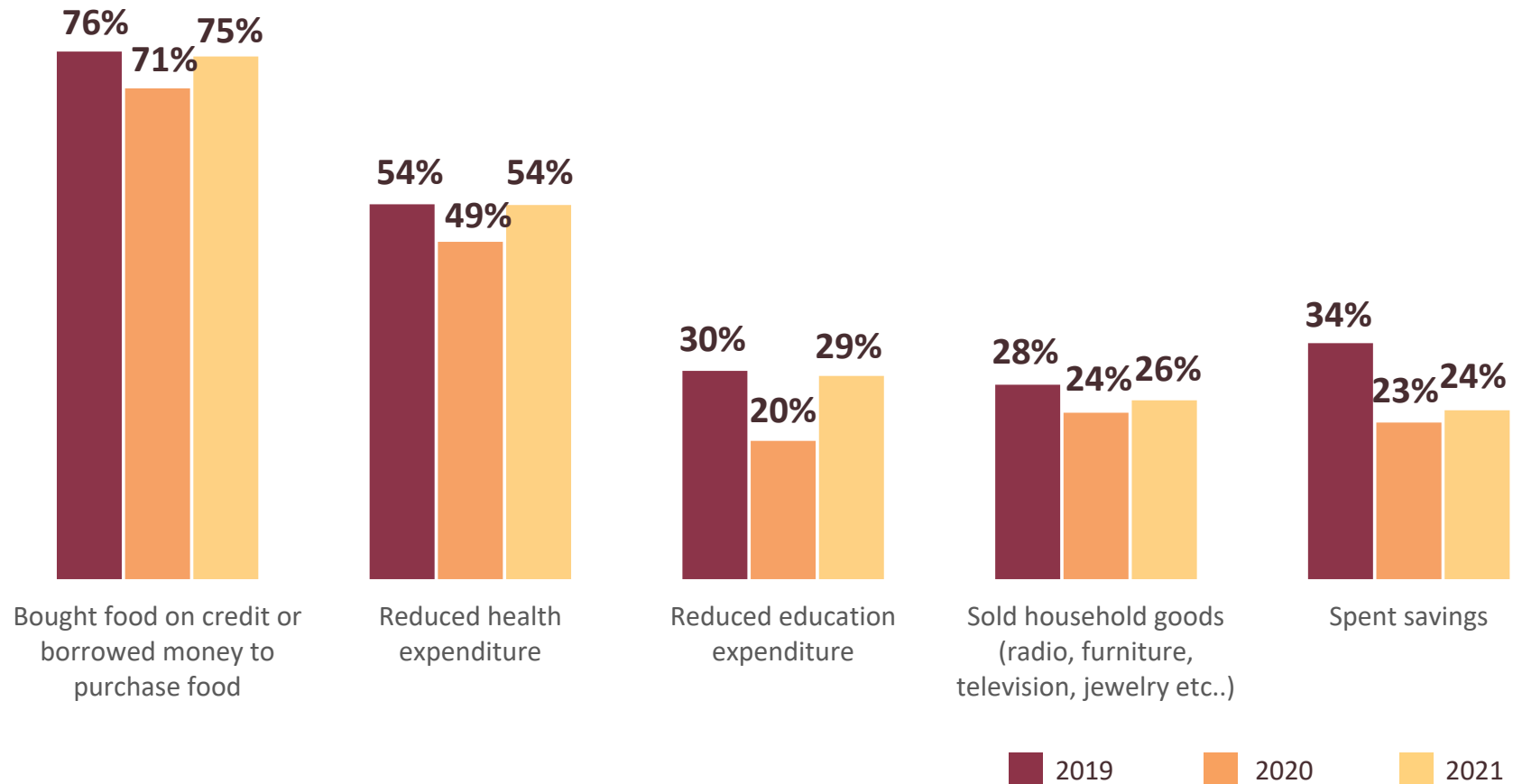
**Stress CS:** Purchase food on credit, Sell domestic assets, Spend savings, HH has debts.

**Crisis CS:** Withdraw children from school, Sell productive assets, Marriage of children under 18, Reduce non-food (education and health) essential expenses

**Emergency CS:** Send HH member to beg, Involve school children in income generation, Accept high risk or illegal jobs, Sell house or land in Syria.

# FOOD SECURITY

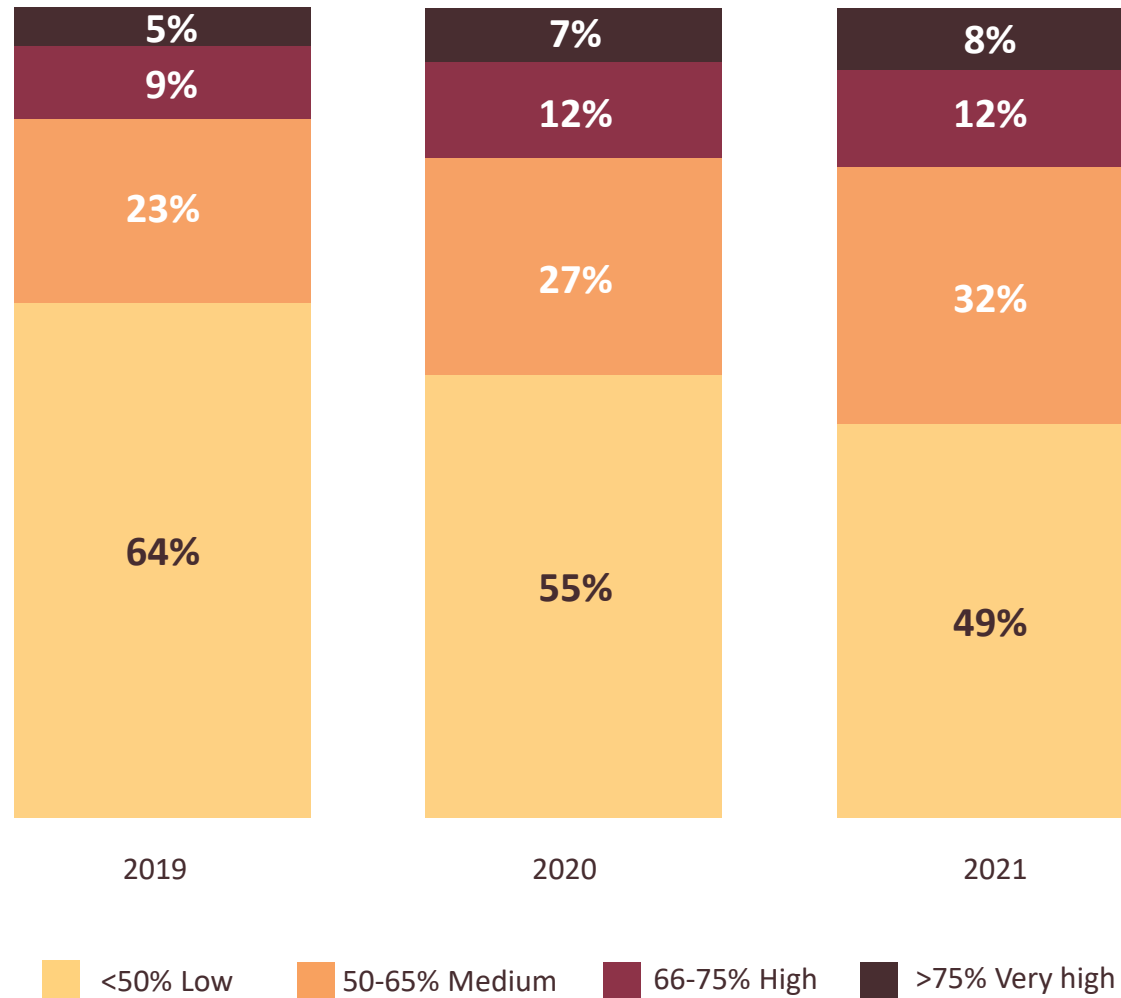
## LIVELIHOOD-BASED COPING STRATEGIES





# FOOD SECURITY

## FOOD EXPENDITURE SHARE

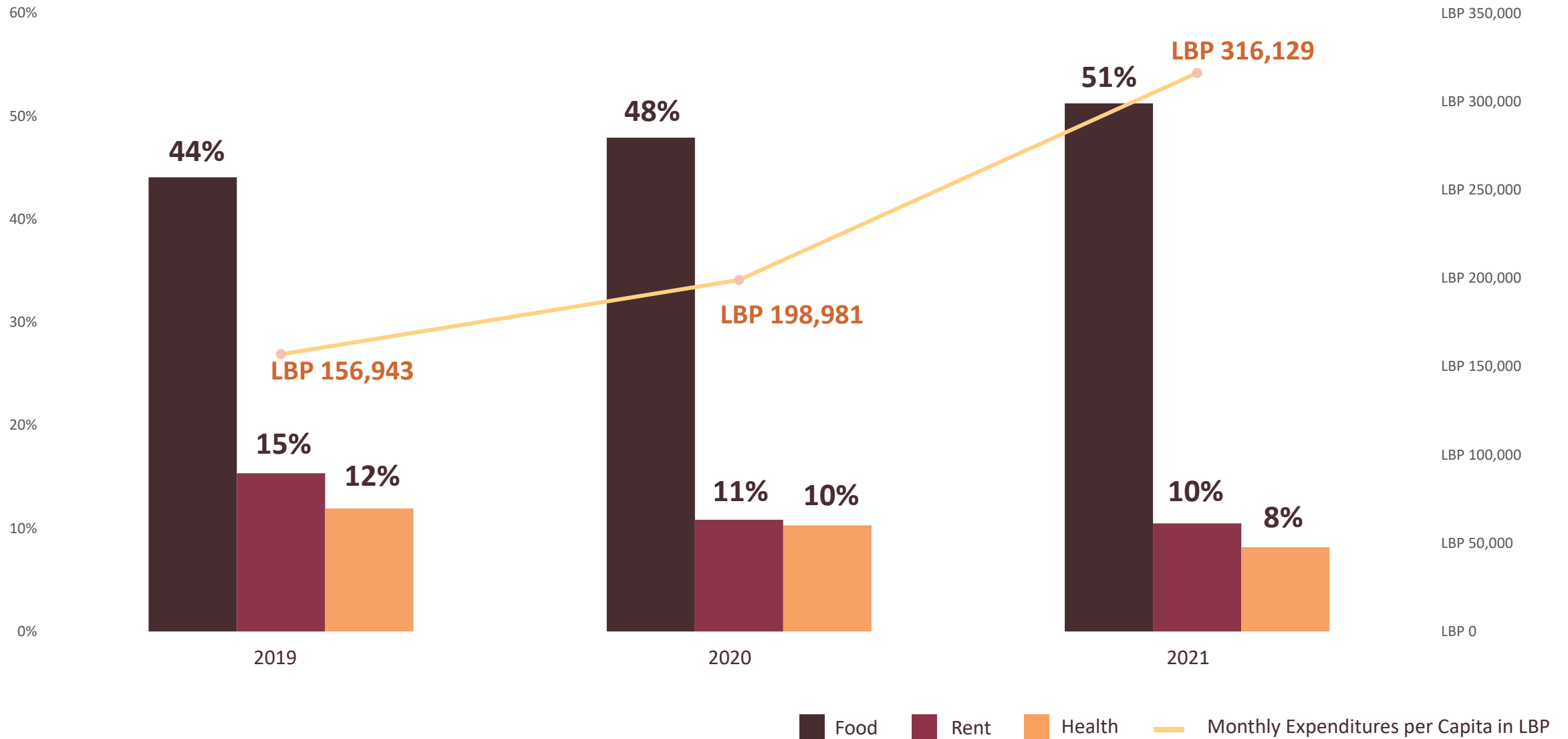


51%

with Medium to  
Very high food  
expenditure share

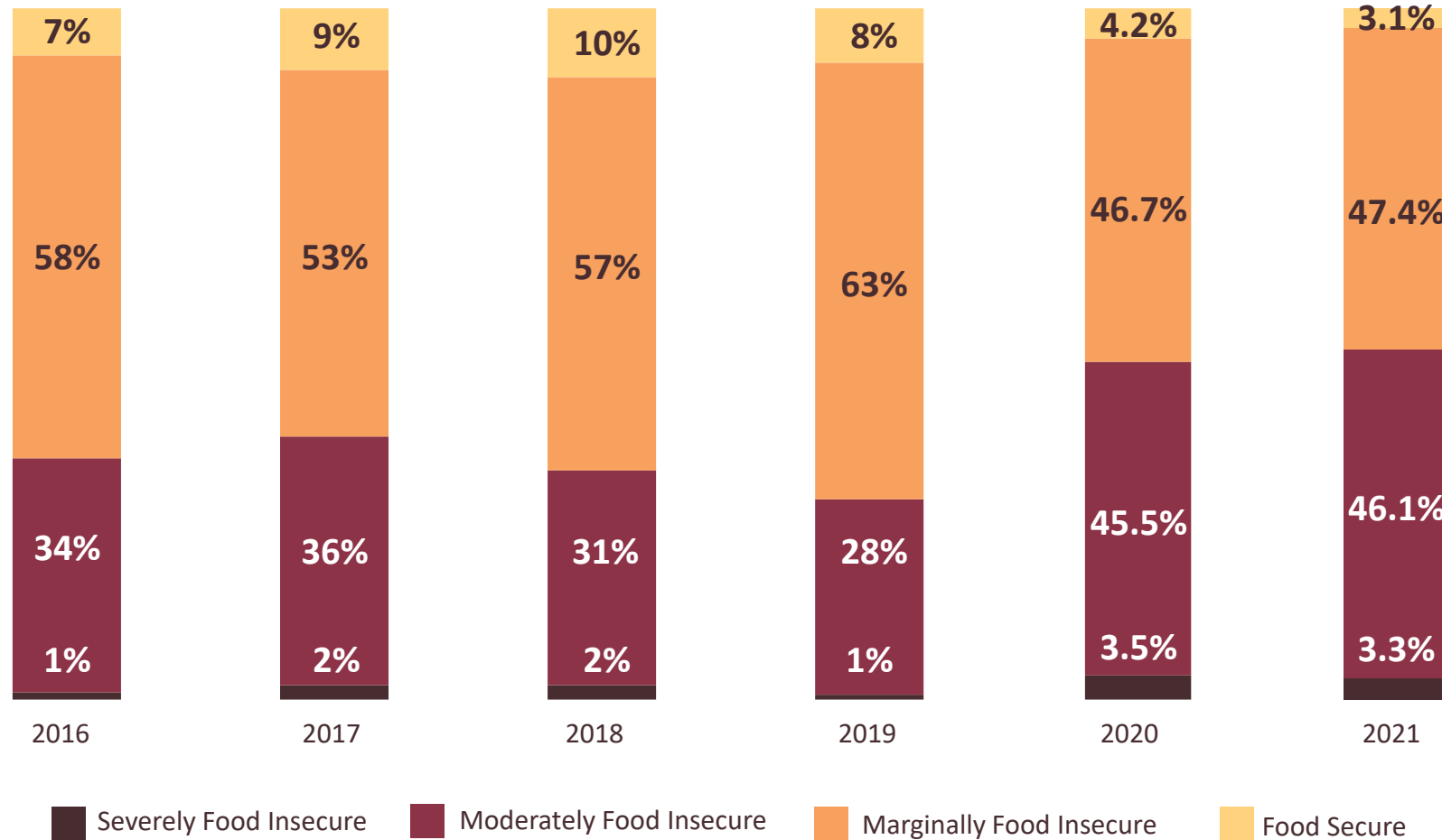
# ECONOMIC VULNERABILITY

## EXPENDITURES SHARE



# FOOD SECURITY

## FOOD INSECURITY TRENDS (2016-2021)



**Half**  
of the population is  
now food insecure

The food security status of Syrian refugees in Lebanon is measured using a composite indicator that combines three dimensions of food security:

- Current consumption as determined by the food consumption score;
- Food as a share of total expenditure reflecting economic vulnerability; and
- Asset depletion strategies (livelihood coping strategies) which indicate the long-term coping capacity of livelihoods to shocks.

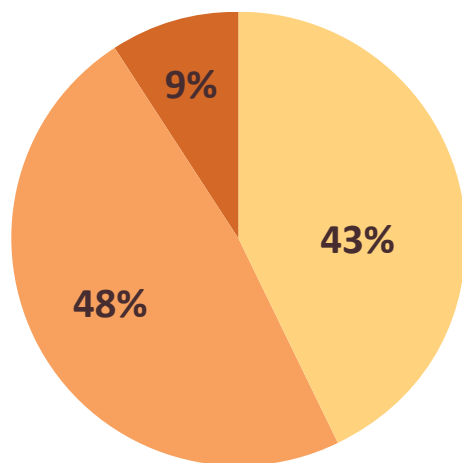
HEALTH

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## HEALTH

 59%

of households had a member that required medications in the last 3 months.



- Acquired all /Majority of medication
- Acquired some of needed medication but not all
- Did not acquire any of the needed medications

 73%

of households know how to access medical services in case a member is suspected to have COVID-19

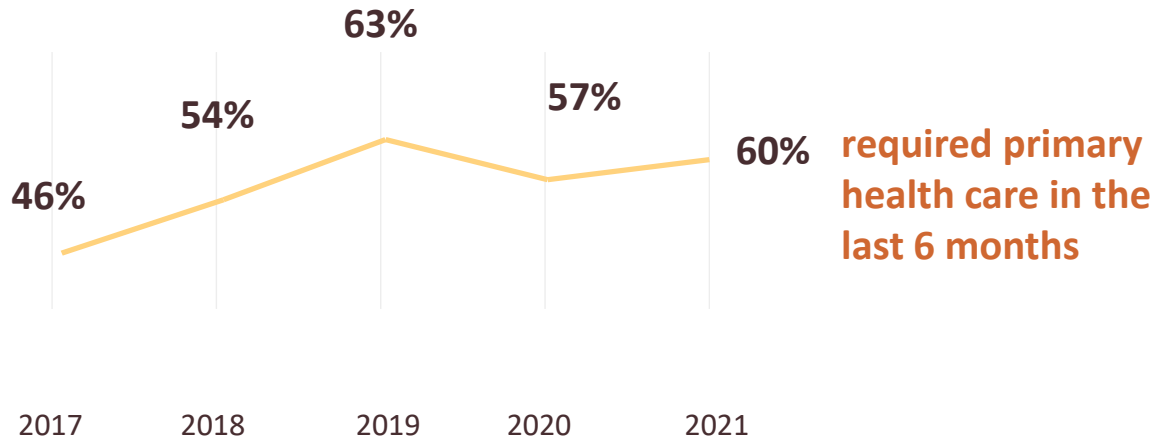
 24%

of refugee children under age 2 suffered from at least one disease in the past 2 weeks (similar to 2020)

# HEALTH

## PRIMARY HEALTH CARE

### PRIMARY HEALTH CARE



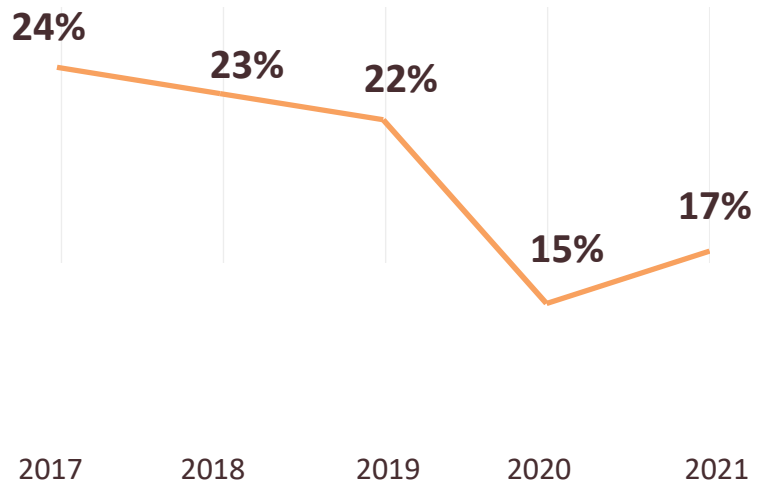
**Lowest**  
Beirut (73%)

**Highest**  
Akkar (98%)  
Baalbek-El Hermel (96%)

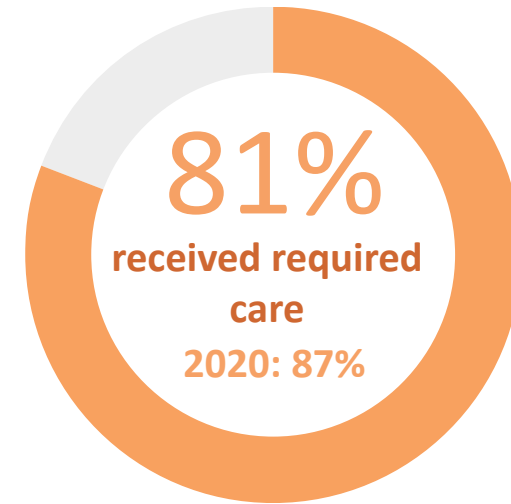
# HEALTH

## HOSPITAL CARE

### HOSPITAL CARE



required hospital care in the last 6 months



**Lowest**  
Beirut (60%)

**Highest**  
Akkar and Baalbek-El  
Hermel (96%)

CHILD LABOUR & CHILD  

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DISCIPLINE



# PROTECTION

## CHILD LABOR

# 5%

(around 27,825 children)

of children (age 5 to 17) were engaged in child labor  
(4% in 2020 and 2% in 2019).



Boys (8%) are more likely to be engaged in child labor than girls (2%).



Child labor is higher among female headed HHs (8%) than male headed HHs (5%).



Highest rate in El Nabatieh (9%).



The rate increases as the child's age increases, reaching 16% for children 17 years old.

## PROTECTION

### CHILD DISCIPLINE

91% of caregivers reported **lack of community expectations** to use violent discipline to teach children the right behavior.

If caregivers discipline their child who misbehaved with violent child discipline, **23%** respondents report that **community would judge them**.

Most parents (**63%**) reported using **non-violent** parenting methods with their children

*Similar rates across sex of head of household and education level*

**56%** of children ages 1 to 14 years old have experienced **at least one form of violent discipline**



Highest rate in Bekaa (**78%**).  
Lowest rate in South (**33%**).

EDUCATION

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# EDUCATION

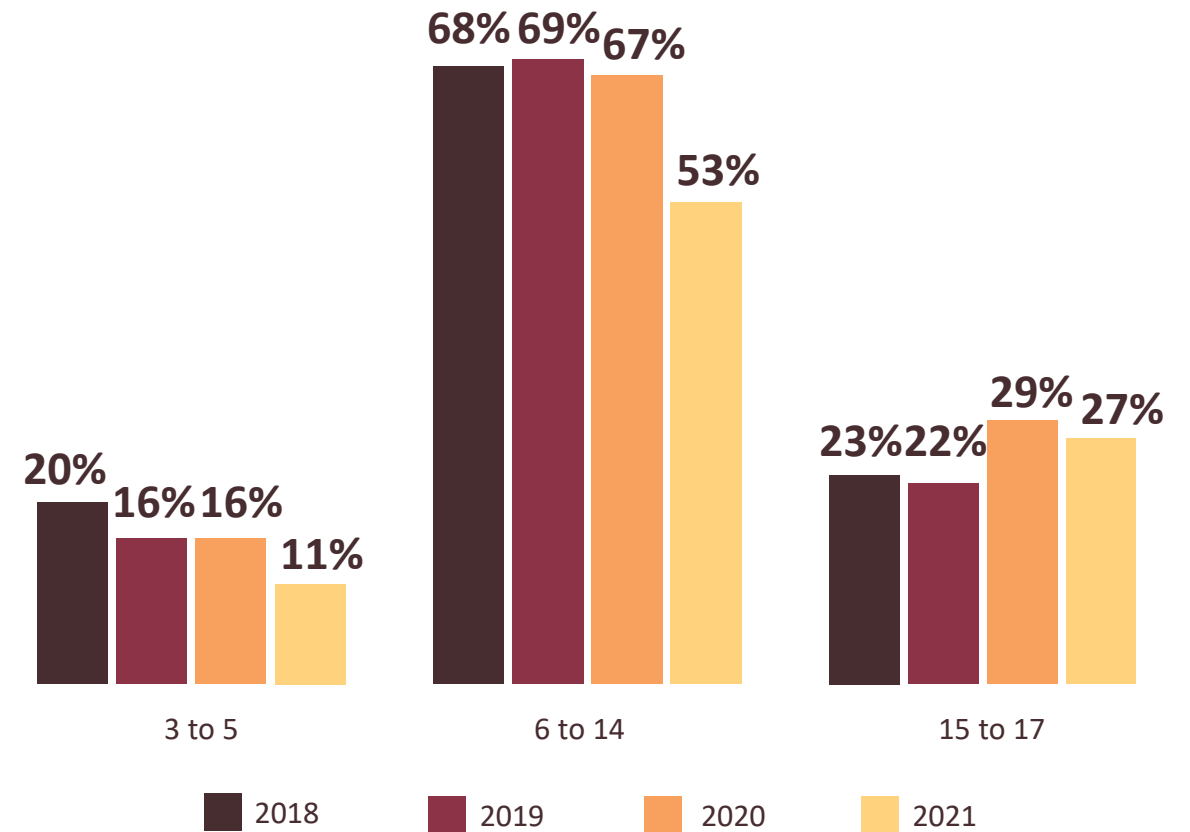
## ATTENDANCE DURING 2020 - 2021 SCHOOL YEAR

**11%**  
of children ages 3-5  
(highest in the South: 17%)

**53%**  
of children ages 6-14  
(highest in Beirut: 69%)

**27%**  
of children ages 15-17  
(highest in Beirut: 47%)

## ENROLMENT (2018-2020) AND ATTENDANCE (2021)



# EDUCATION

## REASONS FOR NOT ATTENDING

Ages 19 to 24

Male



Female



Ages 15 to 18

Male



Female



Ages 6 to 14

Male



Female



0% 10% 20% 30% 40% 50% 60% 70% 80% 90% 100%

## EDUCATION

Learning modality for those  
in school age (ages 6-17):

22%

are attending physically

30%

are attending online

47%

are attending hybrid



Of those that received  
remote learning

80%

ages 6-17 (school age) were  
able to follow remote learning

93%

for those ages 15-17

## EDUCATION

30%

of children in school age (ages 6-17)  
have never been to school

46%

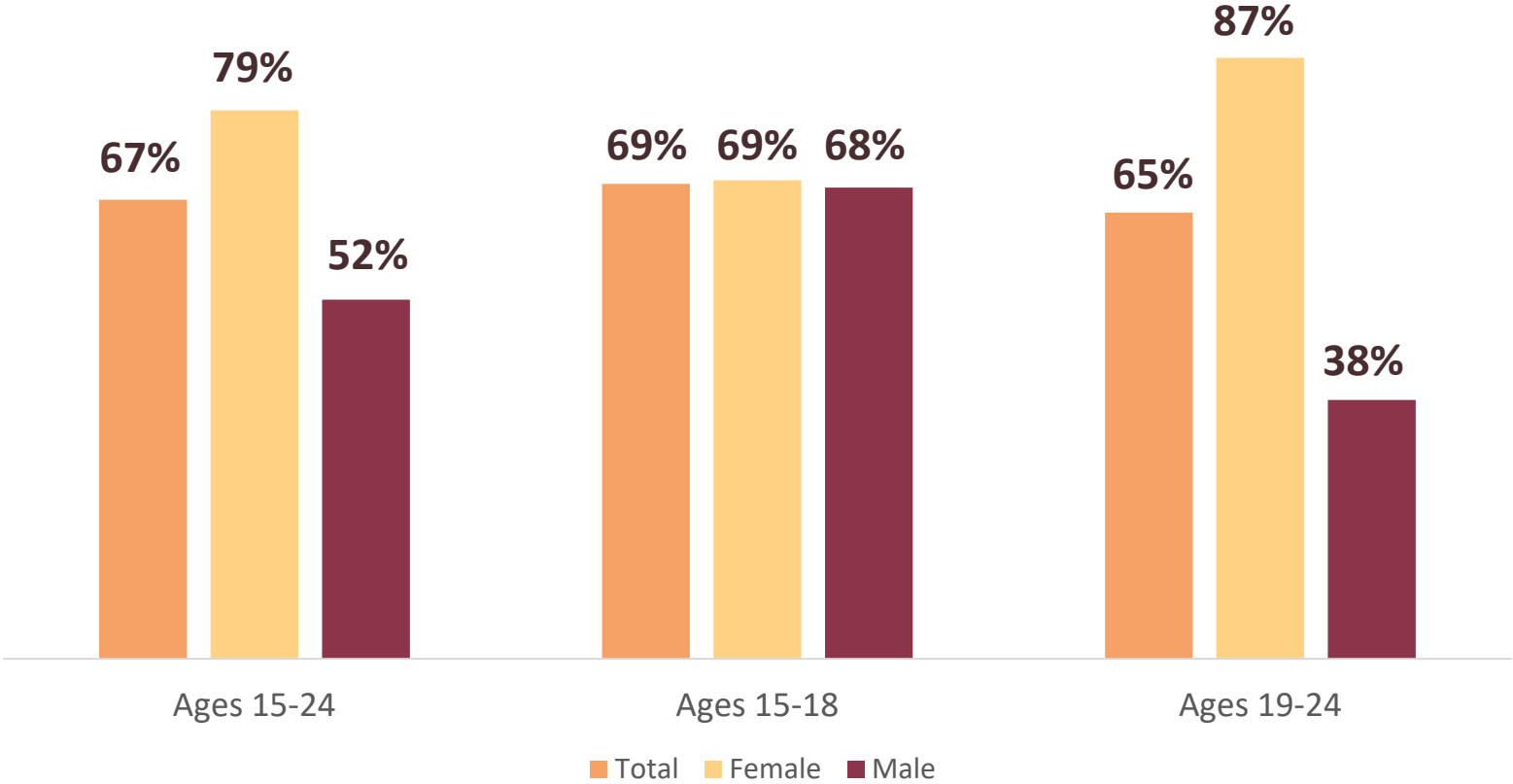
of 40 to 60 year olds have never  
been to school

91%

of the 15+ year olds report being  
able to read and write

# EDUCATION

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



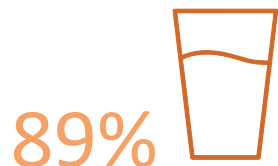


# WATER AND SANITATION

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# WATER, SANITATION, AND HYGIENE (WASH)

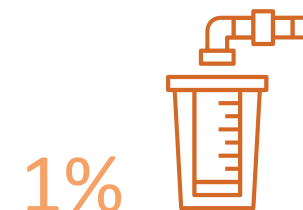
## DRINKING WATER SOURCES



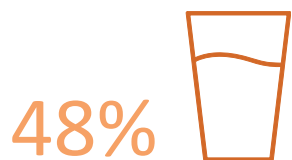
have access to improved drinking water source (87% in 2020).  
Lowest in North (81%) and Nabatieh (82%)



of household members have the water source available when needed (a 4 p.p. increase from 2020)



of households treat water to make it safer for drinking.



of households reported paying for drinking water in the last month: 63,500 LBP (avg per month).



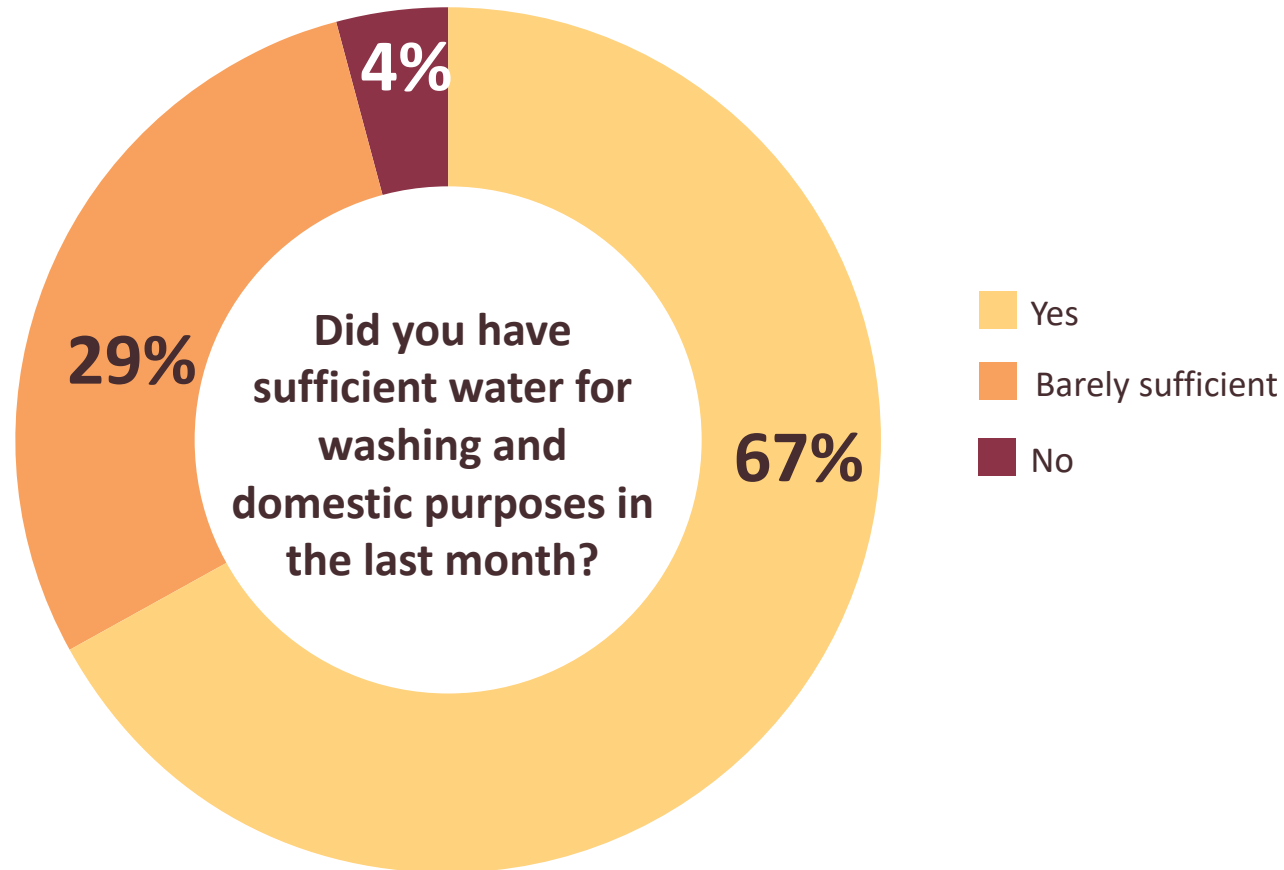
of households reported paying for private water trucking in the last month: 70,500 LBP (avg per month).



of households reporting paying for public network in the last month: 54,334 LBP (avg per month).

# WATER, SANITATION, AND HYGIENE (WASH)

## DRINKING WATER SOURCES



Bottled mineral water (38%) remains to be the most used drinking water source that households rely on (37% in 2020).

# WATER, SANITATION, AND HYGIENE (WASH)

## SANITATION

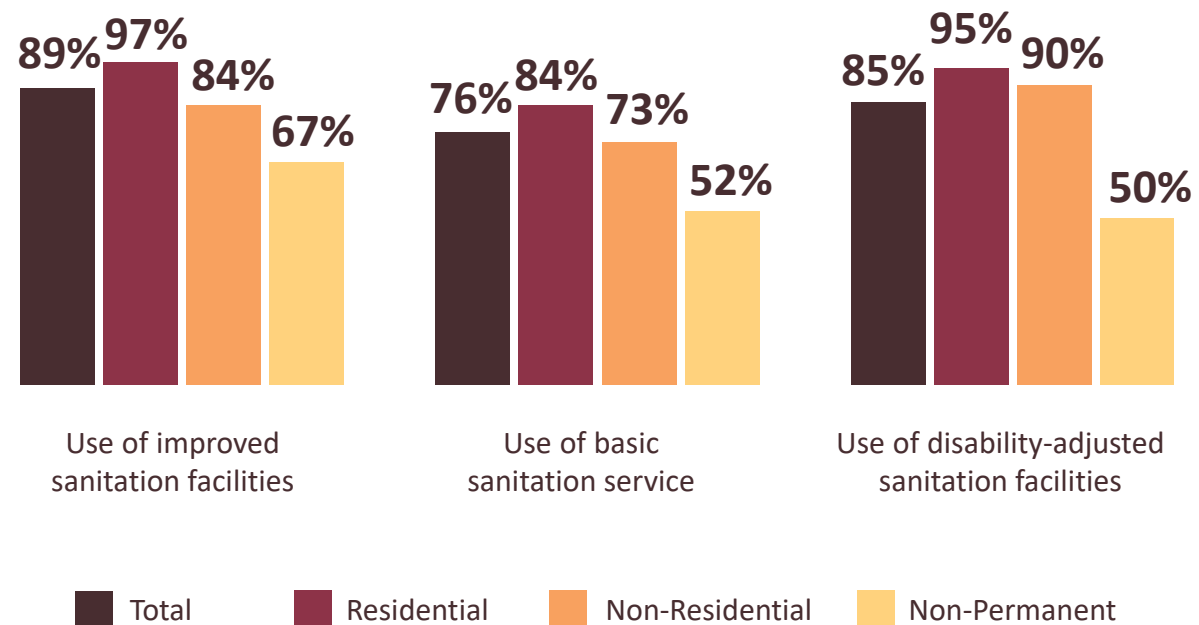


# 89%

of individuals have access to an improved sanitation facility (91% in 2020, and 94% in 2019). With 67% access in non-permanent shelters (78% in 2020).

The use of a basic sanitation service (an improved not shared sanitation facility) is 76% (77% in 2020), with the lowest rate in Akkar (59%) and Bekaa (61%).

## USE OF SANITATION FACILITIES BY SHELTER TYPE




# WATER, SANITATION, AND HYGIENE (WASH)

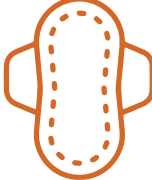
## HYGIENE

85% 

of households reported having enough Personal hygiene items (soap, toothbrush/paste, etc)

94% 


of households reported having enough Cleaning/hygiene items (laundry detergent, cleaning products etc).

10% 

of households with females reported not having enough access to Female hygiene/dignity items. Highest in El Nabatieh (36%).

23% 

of households with babies reported not having enough Baby care items (diapers, etc). Highest in El Nabatieh (47%) and North (34%).

12% 

of households reported receiving disinfection kits in the last month. Highest in Bekaa at 26%.

SHELTER

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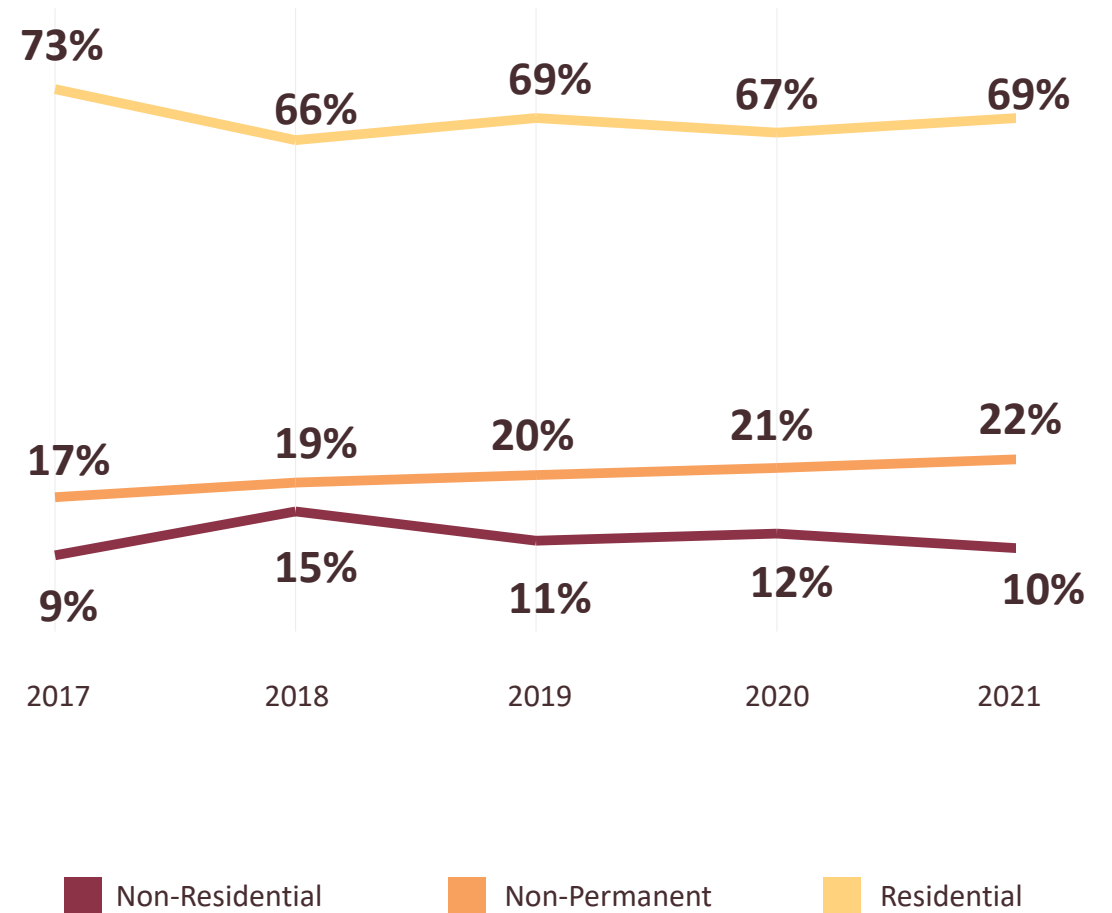
# SHELTER

## SHELTER CATEGORIES



Refugees still live in the same types of shelter (slight increase in residential and decrease in non-residential compared to 2020)

A 5 percent point increase in FHH in non-permanent shelters from 28% in 2020 to 33% in 2021.



# SHELTER

## RENTAL PRICES

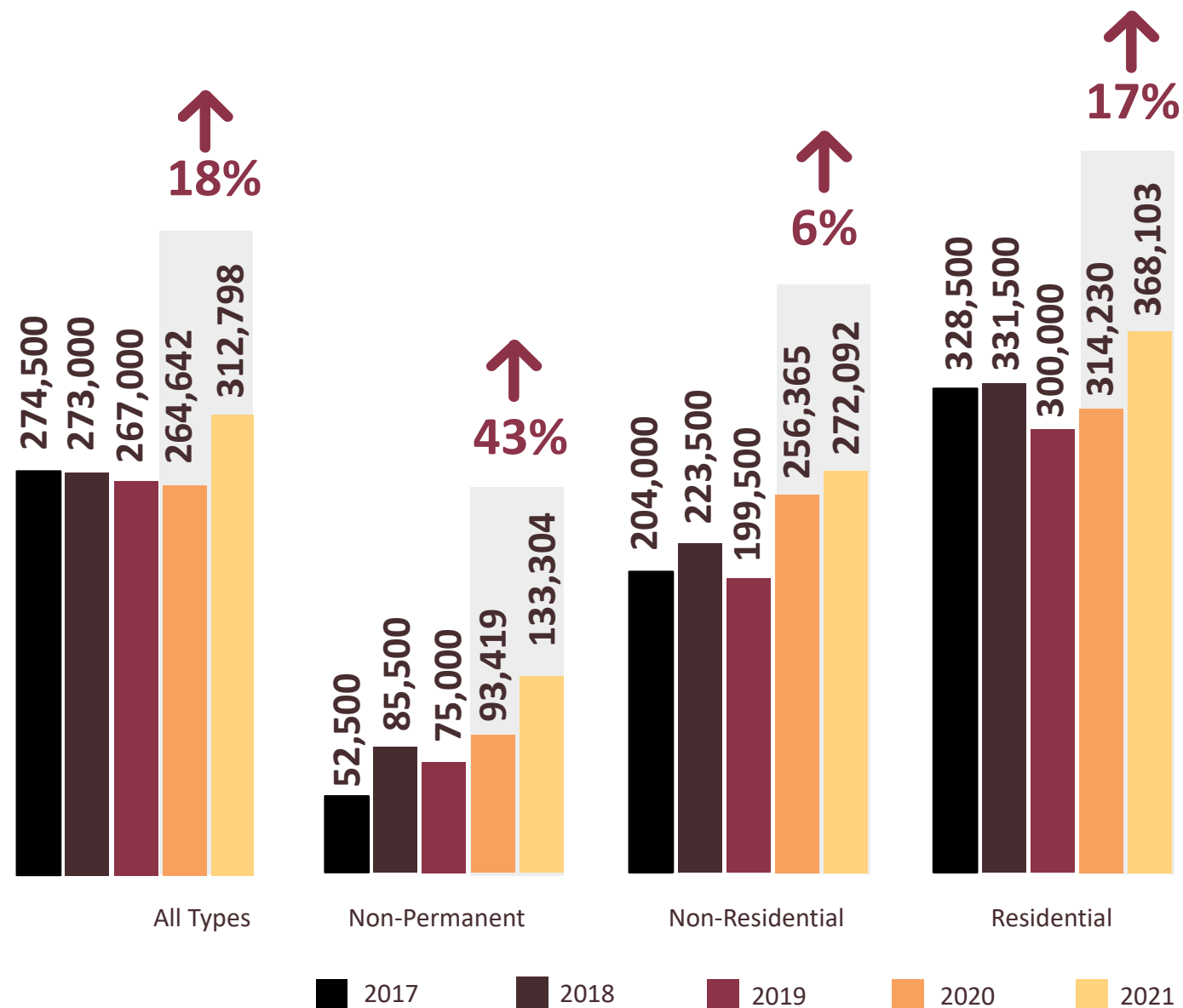


Increase in average rent in LBP in all shelter types and in all governorates

15% of households had their rent increased in the last 3 months (average increase of 158,318 LBP).

Rent cost and proximity to relatives are still the main factors for selecting place of residence

### MONTHLY AVERAGE RENT IN LBP





# SHELTER

## SHELTER CONDITIONS



of households were living in a shelter that was dangerous, substandard or overcrowded.

(58% in 2020)

# EVICTIION & MOBILITY

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## EVICTIION & MOBILITY

### CURRENTLY LIVING UNDER AN EVICTION NOTICE



5.4%

of households are currently living under an eviction notice.

(4.9% in 2020)

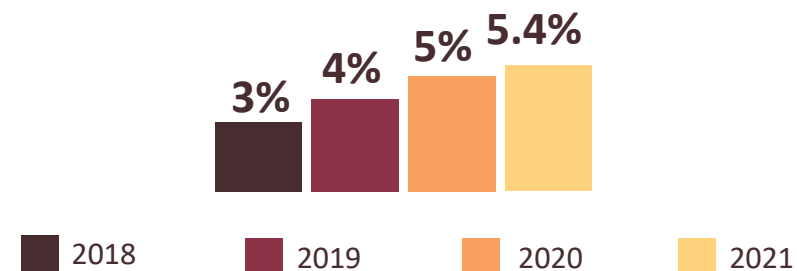


Highest in the South (9%)

Mount Lebanon (8%)

and El Nabatieh (7%)

### EVICTIION THREATS



75%

were expected to leave within a month. Of them, 18% were expected to leave in a week.

95% eviction notices issued by landlord

# EVICTION & MOBILITY

## MOBILITY

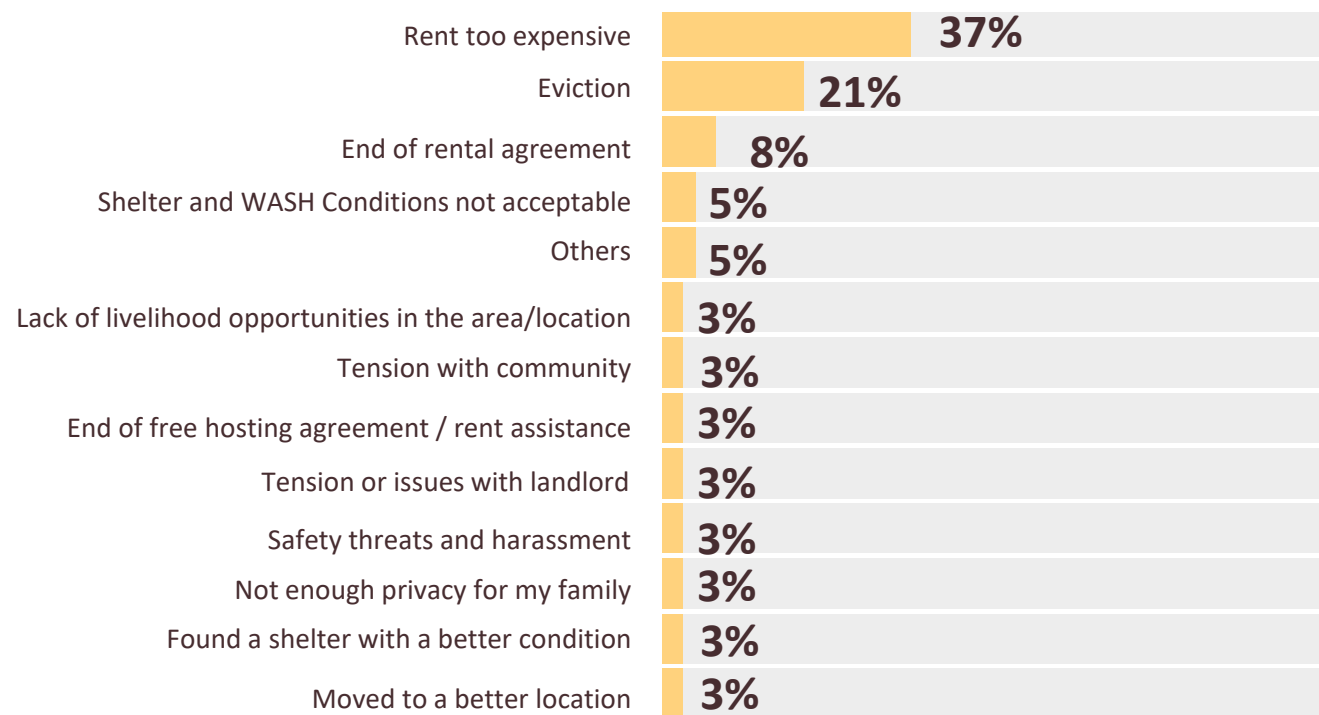
# 15%

of households moved accommodation in the last 12 months (similar to 2020 & 78% of them in the last 6 months).

Highest in the South with 23%.

Of those that moved in the last 12 months, 21% were evicted (3% of all households) and 37% moved because the rent was too expensive (6% of all households). Similar to 2020.

### REASONS WHY HOUSEHOLDS CHANGED ACCOMMODATION IN THE LAST 12 MONTH



Reasons with less than 0.5% include:

- To seek healthcare as it was not available in the area where we were staying
- Restrictive measures
- Seasonal work

ENERGY

# ENERGY



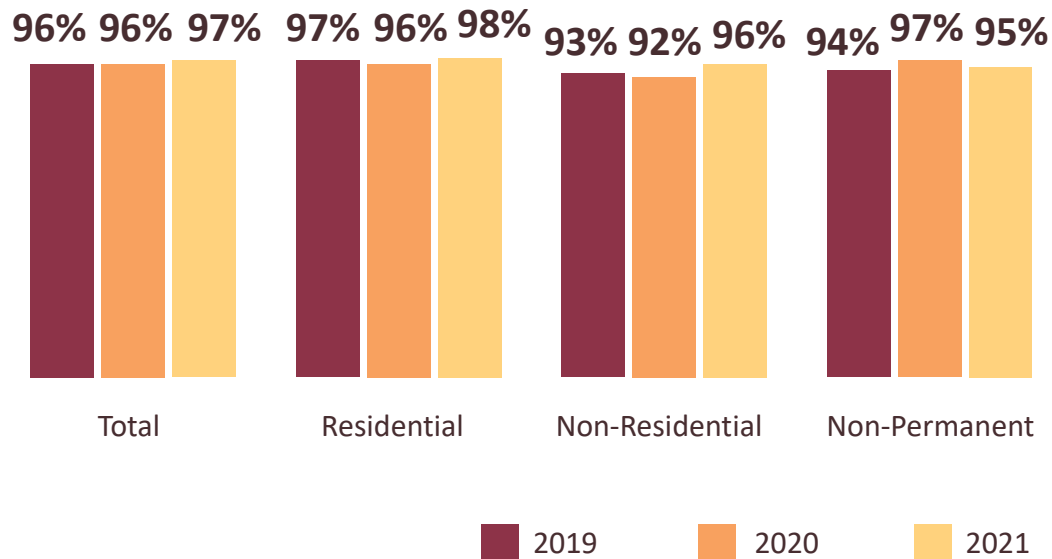
97%

of households have access to electricity

(96% in 2019 and 2020)

96% among female Headed Households (93% in 2020)

ACCESS TO ELECTRICITY PER SHELTER TYPE



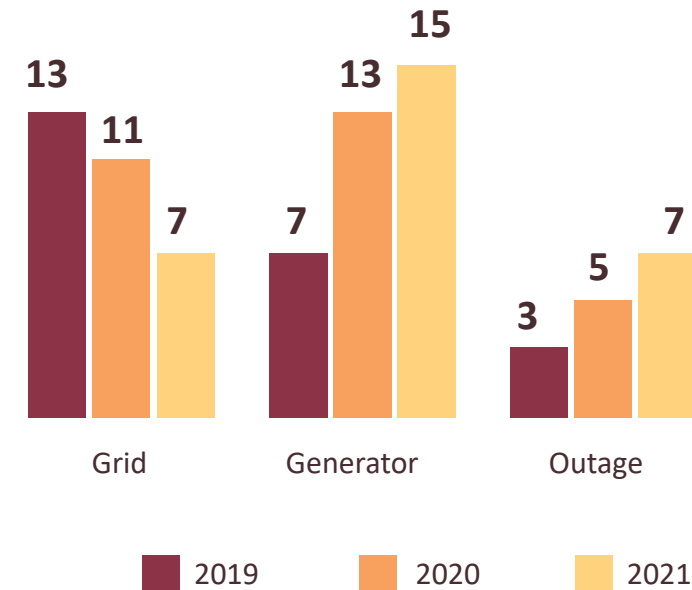
65%

of households of household used

diesel generators as source of

electricity (61% in 2020)

HOURS OF ELECTRICITY PER DAY, BY SOURCE



# GENDER ANALYSIS

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In collaboration with UNWOMEN



## GENDER ANALYSIS

### INCREASED VULNERABILITY OF FEMALE HEADED HOUSEHOLDS



FHH (12%) more likely than MHH (7%) to be spending more than 75% of their income on food



FHH (54%) more likely than MHH (38%) to say they borrowed food or relied on help from friends or relatives because of a lack of food



FHH (11%) were slightly more likely than MHH (6%) to have school-aged children involved in income generation



The average per capita income for FHH (80,782) was far lower than it was for MHH (133,398).

### SHELTER IS A PRIORITY NEED



Female respondents (17%) more commonly reported having disputes with the landlord as the reason for being evicted than men (6%)



FHH (33%) were almost twice as likely as MHH (19%) to be living in non-permanent shelter



FHH (13%) were more commonly being hosted for free than MHH (7%) – More vulnerable to exploitation



Women respondents (29%) and FHH (34%) said proximity to family and relatives was the most important factor.



# GENDER ANALYSIS

## HEALTH SERVICES ARE INCREASINGLY INACCESSIBLE



Members of FHH (66%) were more likely than MHH (59%) to have required primary healthcare in the last 6 months



FHH reported being less able to access medications: 81% of FHH and 69% of MHH said they were unable to access medication



FHH (82%) more commonly reported not accessing because of the cost of drugs/treatment than MHH (71%)



Of HH that required hospital care, 82% of MHH received it compared to 75% of FHH

## LIVELIHOODS ARE WEAKENING



Women's labor force participation increased from 12% to 17% 2020-2021.



Women's employment was highest in El Nabatieh (16%) and the South (15%)



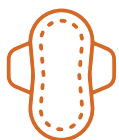
Unemployment for women was double than that for men: 27% of men were unemployed compared to 42% of women

# GENDER ANALYSIS

## WASH AND HYGIENE



FHH (57%) less commonly have flush toilets than MHH (71%).



10% of HH overall reported not having access to female hygienic items



23% of households that needed baby care items did not have access to them

## EDUCATION, CHILD MARRIAGE AND CHILD LABOUR



The NEET gap rises dramatically after age 18. Of young women aged 19-24, 87% are NEET compared to 38% of young men.



Among those not attending school, 46% of girls ages 15-24 do not attend due to marriage. For girls 15-18 years old, 22% do not attend due to marriage compared to 0.1% for boys. This is even higher for women 19-24 years old, 58% of whom are not attending due to marriage compared to 14% of men.



Overall 8% of boys and 2% of girls are engaged in child labour