

UNITED NATIONS RELIEF AND WORKS AGENCY FOR PALESTINE REFUGEES

Relief and Social Services Department

Socio-economic Situation of Palestine Refugees in Lebanon

Crisis Monitoring Report – High Frequency Survey Results – July 2021

Topic	Indicator	(%)
Education	Children (6-15 years) attending school	94
	Children (6-15 years) attended school and left	4
	Children never attended school	2
Employment	Out of labour force (16+ years - female)	89
	Out of labour force (16+ years - male)	40
	Employed (16+ years – female)	9
	Employed (16+ years – male)	45
	Unemployed (16+ years – female)	2
	Unemployed (16+ years – male)	15
Employed - contractual status	Verbal agreement	39
	No contract	38
	Written contract – indefinite period	13
	Written contract – fixed period	10
	Employed - working hours per week (1-14 hrs)	25
	Employed - working hours per week (15-34 hrs)	33
	Employed - working hours per week (35 hrs +)	42
Employment – number of months in last 12 months	Employed – less than 9 months	64
	Employed – 9-11 months	15
	Employed – 12 months	21
Employment injuries	Employed – suffered employment related injuries during last 12 months	8
House tenure	Owned	54
	Rented	36
	For free	9
	Other housing arrangements	1
	Average no. of rooms (excl. kitchen, bath etc.)	3
	Average no. of only bedrooms	2
	Average family size	4

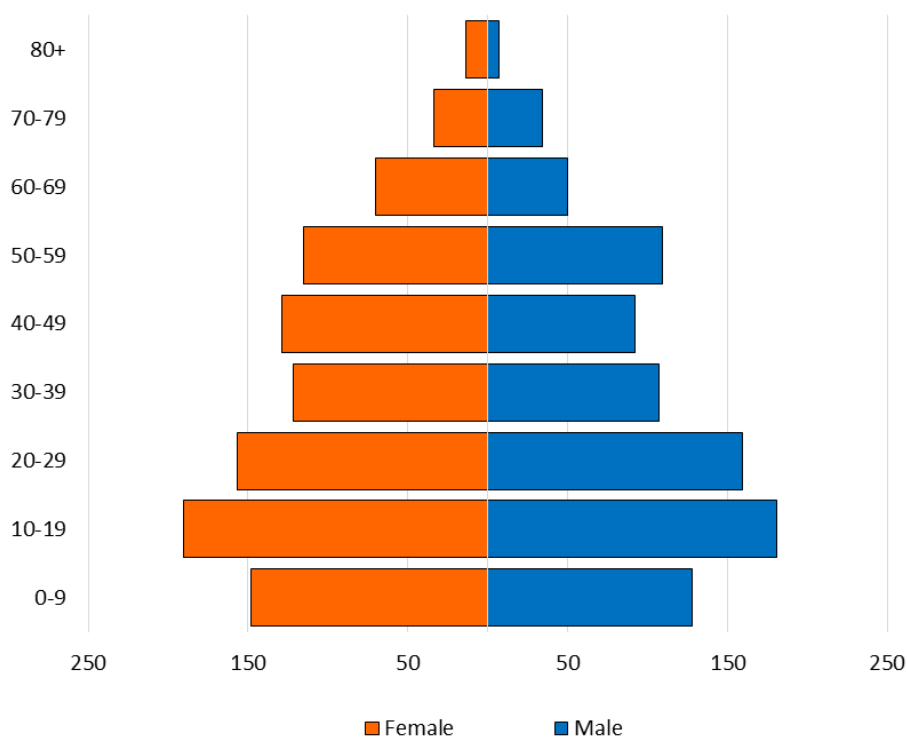
Migration	Any family member has migrated outside Lebanon since 2015 and has not returned	3
	Any family member has ever thought of migrating outside Lebanon	40
	Any family member has started serious emigration procedures	9
Transfers	Receiving remittance from relatives	28
Debt	Debt taken in past 3 months	47
Poverty (self estimation)	Extremely poor	23
	Poor	56
	Moderate	21
	Rich	0
Poverty	In relation to the 2011 national poverty line adjusted to changes in the consumer price indices	73
Consumption (proportion spent on indicated item out of total expenditures – main expenditure items)	Food	45
	Health care	11
	Electricity, fuels	6
	House needs, cleaning materials	5.5
	Housing, rent	5
	Transportation	4
	Communication	3
	Durable goods	0
Average monthly total household expenditure		LL 5,463,067
Average household size	Number of persons in household	4
Food security (in last 7 days)	Refrained from consuming expensive products and reverted to alternatives	92
	Purchased leftovers from the market	85
	Reduced number of meals for all family members	58
	Reduced quantity of food in each meal for all family members	56
	Borrowed food/sought assistance from family	34
	Reduced quantity of food by adults in favour of children	25

Survey Methodology

UNRWA has started a series of high frequency surveys to monitor the socio-economic situation of Palestine refugees in Lebanon. The survey sample was designed to provide representative estimates for a set of key indicators, such as poverty, household consumption, food security, debts and remittances, migration, housing, school attendance and employment.

A total of 512 households were randomly selected without stratification from three UNRWA serviced population databases that include verified clients from the UNRWA Social Safety Net Programme and an extraordinary COVID-19 cash assistance intervention carried out in 2020, and Palestine refugees from Syria residing in Lebanon that were included too. Data collection took place between 30th June and 19th July 2021 by 25 UNRWA relief workers. To avoid risk of covid-19 transmission, interviews were conducted over the phone. Out of the 512 selected households, 37 could not be reached or refused to be interviewed, yielding a final sample of 475 households.

The 475 interviewed households consist of 1,846 individuals, of whom 979 females and 867 males. A total of 35 per cent of these individuals are under 19 years, 11 per cent are aged 60 years and above, and the remaining 54 per cent are in the age range 20-59 years (see below sex and age structure of assessed population).





Key Findings

Poverty

A total of 73 per cent of individuals or nearly three quarters of the population live below the poverty line (2011 national poverty line adjusted for changes in the consumer price indices). Poverty for this survey has been based on reported household consumption data. In comparison, a 2015 UNRWA socio-economic survey of Palestine refugees in Lebanon (conducted in collaboration with the American University of Beirut), found that 65 per cent of Palestine refugees lived in poverty.

About 23 per cent of families described themselves as “extremely poor”, 56 per cent described themselves as “poor”, and 21 per cent indicated that they were “moderately poor”.

Household consumption

The reported proportion of expenditures on food items in households is 45 per cent of total household expenditures pointing to considerable stress in households to secure basic food requirements. The second largest expenditure item is for health services and medical care where households spend on average 11 per cent of total household expenditures. A total of 6 per cent of expenditures are invested in electricity costs and fuels, followed by 5.5 per cent on materials required to maintain the homes (cleaning materials etc.) and 5 per cent are of expenditures are on average spent on rent and other housing related costs. Transportation related expenditures account for 4 per cent. Expenditures on durable goods, furniture and recreational activities are close to zero per cent as households have no leverage and prioritise towards most basic needs.

Food security

A total of 58 per cent of families have reduced the number of meals consumed within the 7 days preceding the survey, and 56 per cent of families have reduced the quantity of food within meals. A total of 85 per cent of households purchased leftovers from the market and 34 per cent reported seeking assistance or borrowing foods from family.

Debt and Remittances

A total of 47 per cent of families reported having taken debts within the last 3 months. A total of 28 per cent of families reported having received remittances from relatives.

Migration

About 3 per cent of families reported having a family member who has migrated outside Lebanon since 2015 and has not returned. A total of 40 per cent of families reported



having a family member who has ever thought of migrating outside Lebanon, with 4 per cent of them having started serious emigration procedures.

Housing

A total of 54 per cent of families reported owning their habitat compared to 36 per cent indicating that they rented the place they live in. With the average family size being 4 persons, families are inhabiting on average 3 rooms (excluding kitchen, bathroom etc.), and the average number of bedrooms is 2 per family.

School attendance

School attendance is considered high with a total of 94 per cent of children aged 6-15 years attending school. About 2 per cent of children in this age group were reported as never having attended school and 4 per cent were reported having been enrolled but left school at some point in time.

Employment

The participation of females above the age of 16 years in the labour force is very low with only 9 per cent indicating being employed. Only 2 per cent of females above the age of 16 years reported looking for a job opportunity and not finding one (“unemployed”).

In contrast, 40 per cent of males above the age of 16 years reported being out of the labour force (neither looking for work nor being employed), with only 45 per cent being employed and 15 per cent reporting being unemployed.

Duration of employment over the past 12 months was less than 9 months for 64 per cent of employees, 15 per cent of employees worked for 9-11 months and only 21 per cent of employees had employment for the full 12 months.

As for the hours worked per week, 25 per cent worked 1-14 hours, 33 per cent worked 15-34 hours and 42 per cent worked for more than 35 hours. A total of 8 per cent of employed reported employment related injuries sustained in the past 12 months.

Only 23 per cent of the employed hold a written contract for either an indefinite or a fixed period, whereas the remainder hold either no contract or are employed based on a verbal agreement.