Multi-Sector Needs Assessment 2023

Gender Snapshot

Live-out Migrant Households in Lebanon

ABOUT UN Women

UN Women is the United Nations entity dedicated to gender equality and the empowerment of women. A global champion for women and girls, UN Women was established to accelerate progress on meeting their needs worldwide.

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CONTEXT

Lebanon has been a destination for migrant workers coming mainly from Asia and Africa. Per the International Organisation for Migration (IOM), more than 160,000 migrants are identified in Lebanon. Out of the total number of migrants, the living arrangements of 67,449 individuals (42%) were identified as of August 2023. Among them, the majority, 43,380 migrants (63%), are categorized as "live-in" migrants, while 23,890 migrants (37%) are classified as "live-out" migrants **(IOM 2023)**. This gender snapshot covers the live-out migrants.
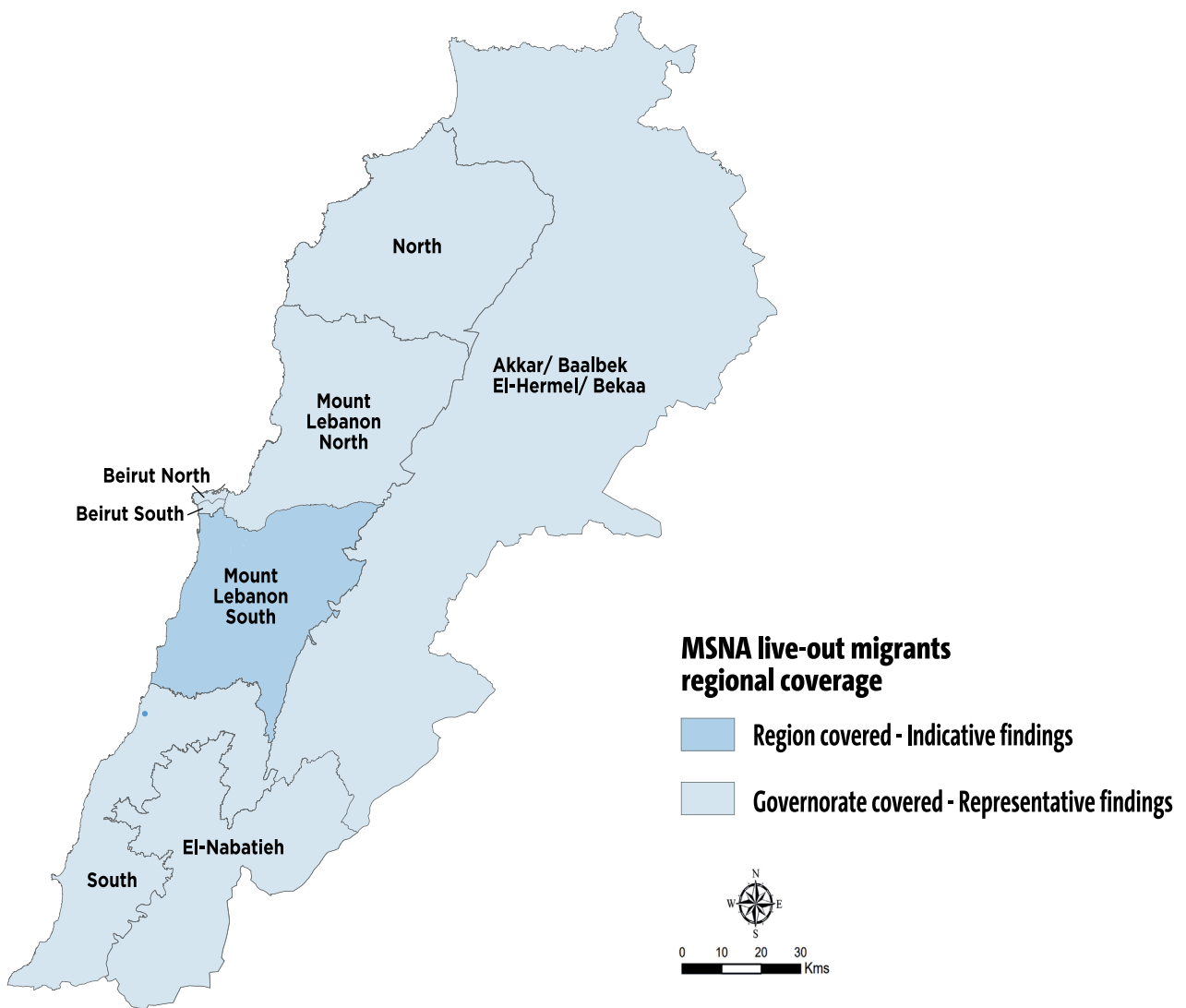
Like other populations, Lebanon's multi-layered and unprecedented political and socio-economic crisis has affected migrant workers, among which women feature strongly, close to 65% of the total migrant population. Indeed, many have lost their employment, leaving them homeless and unable to meet their basic living needs or the cost of their flight home should they wish to leave the country thus introducing them to more precarity. Living in multi-dimensional poverty, they lack sufficient funds to send remittances to their families in their home countries. Collecting and analysing sex-disaggregated data is a critical step in developing gender-responsive action that address migration unique experiences of women and girls.

The commitment to leave no one behind including those in humanitarian need of assistance requires action informed by robust **gender statistics**. To this end, UN Women has partnered with the **REACH Initiative** (REACH), the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs **(OCHA)** and International Organisation for Migration **(IOM)** to produce a gender snapshot on the country-wide Multi-Sector Needs Assessment (MSNA) data.[1] The purpose of this gender snapshot is to provide humanitarian practitioners and stakeholders with access to gender statistics disaggregated by sex of the head of household and where relevant by age and disability status to inform their humanitarian interventions targeting live-out migrants in Lebanon in need in all governates.

This gender snapshot is based on the MSNA 2023, in which findings obtained from data collected with 682 households (HHs) of live-out migrants in Lebanon between 24th of July and 14th of October 2023 are analysed at the household and where possible individual level. Live-out migrants in all governates were covered by the MSNA. Due to access constraints, data collection in Mount Lebanon-South was completed remotely using snowball sampling. Therefore, findings from this region should be considered as indicative and were not included in the national-level findings.

For the purposes of this snapshot, a household is defined as a person or group of persons that share the same shelter and pool some, or all, of their income. It includes all people who live together, whether they are related or not. While the MSNA samples at the HH level, many migrants have moved to Lebanon without family members and are thus one member HHs. In addition to the sex disaggregation of the Head of Household (HoH), i.e.,female headed households (FHHs) and male headed households (MHHs), the MSNA 2023 included an additional category of co-headed households (CHHs), defined as households in which decision-making is shared by two household members as self-reported by individuals interviewed.

MSNA live-out migrants regional coverage

Region covered - Indicative findings

Governorate covered - Representative findings

Categorization of findings by sex of head of household shares two assumptions backed by gender research: **(1)** women relative to men are disadvantaged in accessing society's economic resources and opportunities; and **(2)** the gender of the head of household affects both the way household resources are utilized and disbursed within the household, and the way households network for exchange of resources with other households. By offering gender statistics in different sectors, the snapshot presents a multidimensional perspective of vulnerability of different types of households. This allows for more varied conclusions with implications for future programming all the same cautioning that means available to improve the status of households and their members are not gender neutral and that conclusions may not be drawn for individual members of such structures by simply observing the households.

SURVEY DEMOGRAPHICS

SAMPLE
682 Households

1094
HH members covered by the assessment

Gender of survey respondents

Female 51%
Male 49%

Gender of the head of household

Female 26%   **Male 66%**   **Co-headed 5%[3]**

50% were married,[2] and 39% were single or never married at the time of data collection.

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[2] Please note that the survey does not solicit information on whether married migrants have moved to Lebanon with their spouses. The household size indicates that likely many of the migrants although married, may have left their families behind in the country of origin.

[3] Less than 30 of the households were co-headed. All findings for this type of household are indicative only.

	Female		Male
5%		0-5 Years	5%
7%		5-17 Years	8%
66%		18-64 Years	65%
8%		65+ Years	7%
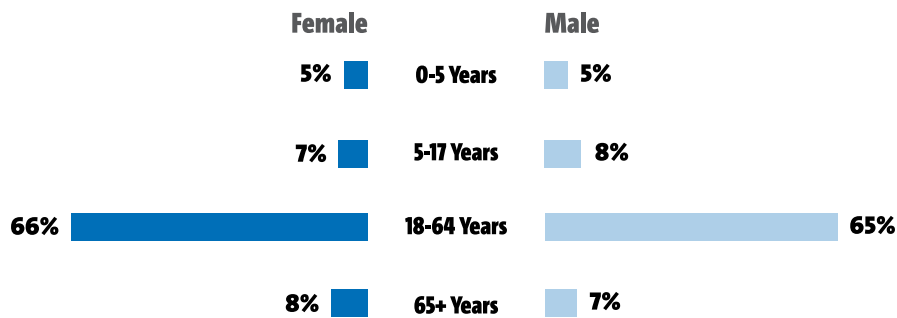
On average live-out migrant households were of small size, 1.7 members. CHHs were larger, with 2.6 members. FHHs and MHHs were smaller, with 1.7 and 1.6 members respectively. CHHs had higher **age dependency ratio**, 23% compared to MHHs (16%) and FHHs (13%).

SPECIFIC VULNERABILITIES

Older People

In **2%** of households, the HoH was 65 or older. These were found in FHHs (3%) and MHHs (2%).

Persons with Disabilities

Overall, **3%** of individuals reported having **one or more disabilities** as defined by the **Washington Group on Disability Statistics (WGS).**

CHHs 2%	FHHs 5%	MHHs 2%

5% of HHs included at least one member with one or more disabilities; more FHHs (8%) reported this compared to CHHs (3%) and MHHs (3%).

3% of HH had a HoH with a disability level 3 or 4 per WGS guidance found in equal percentages in FHHs (5%) and CHHs (5%); 2% of MHHs were headed by a person with a disability.

Young children

14% of HHs had at least one child below 18, years of age.

CHHs 45%	FHHs 12%	MHHs 13%

6% of women had given birth in the last two years.

CHHs 15%	FHHs 4%	MHHs 9%

PROFILE OF LIVE-OUT MIGRANTS

Surveyed migrants had moved to Lebanon on average 10 years ago, long before the country plunged into the multi-layered economic and political crisis. Over 90% of individuals migrated to Lebanon looking for a job.

79% of HHs intended to stay in Lebanon in the three months following the survey.

CHHs 77%   **FHHs 88%**   **MHHs 75%**

44% of HHs wished but were not able to leave Lebanon. More MHHs (47%) reported this compared to CHHs (41%) and FHHs (38%). More FHHs cited debt in Lebanon or their country of origin as a reason for keeping them in Lebanon.

Reason for not returning	Total	CHHs	FHHs	MHHs
Can't afford to travel	84%	100%	74%	85%
Lack of documentation for self and/ or one's children	16%	0%	9%	21%
Debt in Lebanon and/ or country of origin	5%	0%	24%	0%

BASIC NEEDS

Meeting basic needs was a challenge for many live-out migrant households.

12% of the HHs were able to meet all their needs, most of these found in CHHs (23%) compared to MHHs (12%) and FHHs (9%).

Basic needs met	Total	CHHs	FHHs	MHHs
None (0%)	2%	6%	4%	1%
A few (25-1%)	20%	2%	33%	16%
Some (50-26%)	34%	38%	22%	38%
Many (75-51%)	24%	26%	27%	23%
Almost all (99 -%76%)	8%	10%	4%	10%
All(100%)	12%	23%	9%	12%

Food was the most basic need unmet. More FHHs struggled to meet food needs and electricity needs than other types of households.

Basic needs unmet	Total	CHHs	FHHs	MHHs
Food needs	76%	73%	83%	73%
Health need (medicines, treatments)	34%	55%	43%	29%
Electricity	25%	4%	36%	22%
Communication needs (phone credit, provider costs)	33%	11%	30%	35%

Low salaries or wages was the top reason HHs were not able to meet all basic needs in the 30 days prior to data collection, more felt by MHHs, and CHHs. However, lack of work and sending money abroad were key reasons for more FHHs compared to other types of households.

Reasons for unmet need	Total	CHHs	FHHs	MHHs
Salary or wages too low	74%	69%	61%	79%
Lack of work	41%	53%	63%	32%
Remittances/ sending money to dependents abroad	18%	3%	21%	18%

🛡 FOOD SECURITY

65% of HHs had acceptable **food consumption score**. However, more FHH (20%) had "poor" food consumption score.

Score	Total	CHHs	FHHs	MHHs
Acceptable	65%	40%	62%	68%
Borderline	21%	48%	18%	20%
Poor	14%	12%	20%	12%

Although 1% of HHs were on the severe hunger scale, more FHHs (2%) reported this compared to MHHs (1%). No CHHs were on the severe hunger scale.

87% of HHs resorted to at least one negative food coping strategy. More CHHs (90%) reported this compared to MHHs (87%) and FHHs (86%).

86% of HHs relied on less preferred and less expensive food at least one day per week; more CHHs (90%) reported this compared to MHHs (87%) and FHHs (82%).

35% of HHs relied on help from a relative or friend at least one day per week. More FHHs (50%) resorted to this compared to CHHs (34%) and MHHs (29%).

60% of HHs reported limiting the portion size of meals at mealtime at least one day per week. More FHHs (68%) did this followed by 59% CHHs and 57% MHHs.

Asked on how many months households expected their dry food stocks to last, 80% had no such stock with these found more in FHHs and CHHs (85% each) and MHHs (77%).
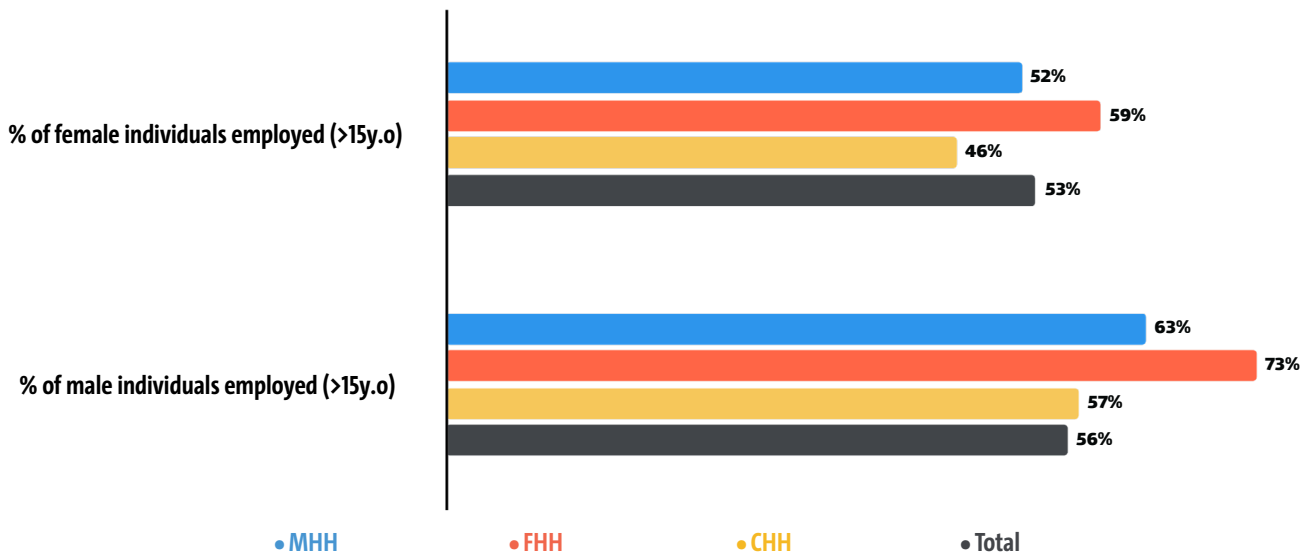
💵 LIVELIHOOD

Employment

55% of individuals (15+ years old) were employed.

CHHs 41%   **FHHs 64%**   **MHHs 52%**

More female and male individuals were employed in FHHs.

% of female individuals employed (>15y.o)
- MHH: 52%
- FHH: 59%
- CHH: 46%
- Total: 53%

% of male individuals employed (>15y.o)
- MHH: 63%
- FHH: 73%
- CHH: 57%
- Total: 56%

● MHH   ● FHH   ● CHH   ● Total

9% of individuals were unemployed, searching for a job and ready to start a working (15+ year old)

CHHs 4%   FHHs 17%   MHHs 7%

Top three barriers to finding a job for women	Total	CHHs	FHHs	MHHs
Increased competition for jobs, not enough jobs	60%	42%	70%	38%
Only low-skilled, dangerous or low-paying jobs	30%	0%	36%	20%
Available jobs are too far away / commute is too expensive	15%	0%	15%	17%

Income

Salaried work (permanent or fixed term contract) was the main source of income for live-out migrant households; on average monthly income from such work was USD 195. **FHHs had a lower income from salaried work.**

CHHs USD 282 — **FHHs USD 130** — **MHHs USD 214**

FHHs derived on average slightly more income from casual or daily labour (USD 107) than CHHs (USD 101), but almost four times as much as MHHs (USD 25).
More FHHs depend on casual or daily labour and informal debt putting such households in more precarity than other types of households.

Source of income	Total	CHHs	FHHs	MHHs
Salaried work (fixed-term or permanent contract)	63%	65%	35%	74%
Casual or daily labour	21%	27%	42%	12%
Credit/debts (informal - shops, friends, hosts)	9%	7%	16%	7%

Food, supporting dependents abroad and accommodation were the three top areas where live-out migrant households had expenditures. More FHHs spent on accommodation compared to other types of households.

Expenditures	Total	CHHs	FHHs	MHHs
Food items	32%	39%	26%	33%
Supporting dependents abroad financially	20%	17%	19%	21%
Accommodation (rent, mortgage, etc)	16%	15%	23%	14%

Debt

Live-out migrant households had relatively high debt compared to the average monthly income from their main source of income, i.e., salaried work or in the case of FHHs, casual labour. On average, debt from all sources amounted to USD 272.

Type of Household	Monthly income from all sources	Current debt	New debt in the last 30 days
Total households	USD 300	USD 272	USD 89
CHHs	USD 413	USD 203	USD 79
FHHs	USD 299	USD 242	USD 94
MHHs	USD 293	USD 289	USD 89

44% **of HHs borrowed money or received credit** in the three months prior to data collection.

CHHs 33%   **FHHs 51%**   **MHHs 42%**

17% of income was spent on debt repayment over the six months prior to data collection.

14% of HHs reported facing harassment from debtors.

CHHs 9%   **FHHs 23%**   **MHHs 10%**

More FHHS borrowed money to pay for rent and to support dependents abroad.

Reasons	Total	CHHs	FHHs	MHHs
To buy food	75%	55%	76%	76%
To pay rent	35%	36%	41%	33%
Remittances/financial support to dependents abroad	20%	12%	21%	20%

❤ HEALTH

29% of HHs had at least one member with a health problem and in need to access healthcare in the three months prior to data collection, almost evenly distributed among the different types of households.

5% of HHs had at least one member of their household with disability and in need to access healthcare in the three months prior to data collection.

CHHs 8% **FHHs 5%** **MHHs 3%**

20% of individuals (evenly distributed among households) in **need to access to healthcare services** in the three months prior to data collection.

28% of individuals had an unmet health care need mostly found in CHHs (55%) compared to FHHs (29%) and MHHs (25%).

Over **80%** of those reporting barriers identified non-affordability of the treatment and the consultation as key barriers to accessing health care service.

Barriers	Total	CHHs	FHHs	MHHs
Could not afford cost of consultation	82%	74%	78%	86%
Could not afford cost of treatment	74%	93%	82%	65%

26% of HHs delayed or cancelled diagnostic procedure or other analysis.

CHHs 30% **FHHs 49%** **MHHs 14%**

63% of HHs did not have insurance.

CHHs 67% **FHHs 74%** **MHHs 58%**

🛡️ HYGIENE

27% of female household members of menstruating age **struggled to access menstrual material.**

In **25% of such households**, the most often reported challenge was that the **menstrual materials were too expensive.**

🛡️ PROTECTION

Legal residency

The two categories of residence most often found among live-out migrants were sponsorship and work.

ype of residence	Total	CHHs	FHHs	MHHs
Sponsorship	46%	100%	52%	43%
Work	42%	0%	37%	45%
Courtesy [4]	7%	0%	9%	7%

A concerning finding is that many of the individuals had challenges associated with their identity documents. Individuals in FHHs could be particularly vulnerable given that less than half of them have national passport or national ID.

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[4] In Arabic "mujamala". This type of residency is given to those who do not meet the stringent requirements for standard residency but need legal recognition to avoid deportation and access essential services.

The cost associated with obtaining the legal residence was the oft cited reason especially for individuals in FHHs.

| Inability to obtain legal residence	Total	FHHs	MHHs
I can't afford the fees and associated costs	46%	51%	43%
I am unable to obtain a Lebanese sponsor / problems with current sponsor	17%	23%	14%
My residency expired and it's not renewable	12%	10%	13%
Lacks ID documents	10%	27%	2%

Safety and Security

36% **of HHs reported at least one safety and security concerns for women** in their communities. Number one concern was being robbed (25%) followed by bullying (13%) and verbal harassment (8%).

15% **of HHs reported that women and girls avoided certain areas** in their location because they felt unsafe there.
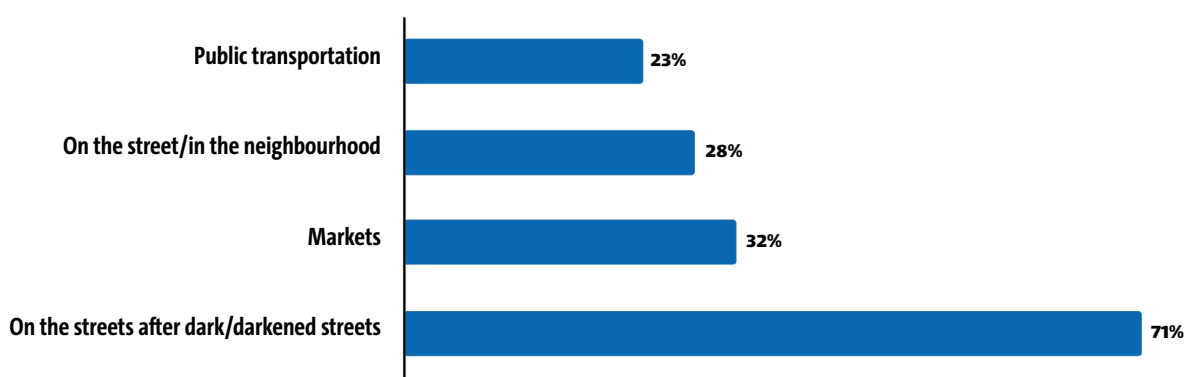
41% **of HHs reported at least one safety and security concerns for girls** in their communities.
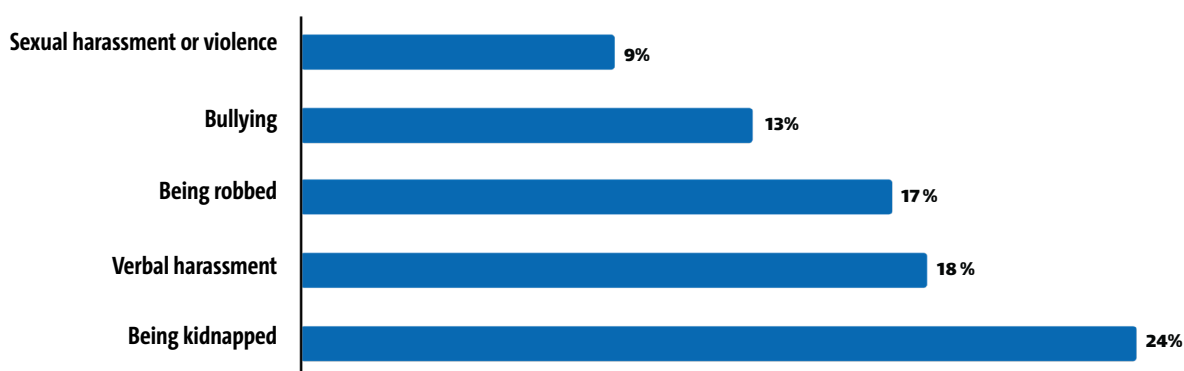
Services associated with protecting women and girls against violence may be available in different areas. However, 54% of households reported that they did not know of such services; 42% denied the presence of such services.

Respondents in 45% of households reported that they would be able to inform a member of their community if these were subjected to gender-based violence and approached them for help where to find support/help to access legal, psychosocial, health or safety/ security services. These respondents were found more in MHHs (53%) compared to FHHs (31%) and CHHs (18%).

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[5] Please note no individuals in CHHs responded to the questions related to reasons for not having regularized legal residency.

ANNEX 1: MULTI-SECTORAL NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Introduction

Started in 2021, the Multi-Sectoral Needs Assessment (MSNA) in Lebanon is an annual multi-sectorial in-person survey conducted by one of the **IMPACT initiatives**, **REACH initiative**. It assesses the needs of a representative sample of Lebanese, Palestinian refugees in Lebanon, and migrant households within the year in which the survey is conducted. Beyond Demographics and Disability, the survey tool includes questions in the following areas: Health, Education, Nutrition, Food Security, Livelihoods, Shelter, WASH, Energy and Communication, Protection (covering general concerns as well as child protection and gender-based violence), population movement and Accountability to Affected Populations. A cross-sectoral module addresses basic needs.

Sampling

REACH coordinated closely with IOM to obtain statistically representative results at a 95% confidence level and a +/- 10% margin of error across the eight strata, using a 2-stage cluster sampling methodology. Selection of HHs was done using the walking technique. Data collection was closely monitored to control the random selection of the HHs. The sampling frame was generated using data from the most recent MigrantsPresence Monitoring conducted by IOM in May 2023. For further details on the methodology, For further details on the methodology, please refer to **Terms of Reference**.

Data Collection and Analysis

Quantitative data were collected through a household-level survey assessing 682 Households (HH) of live-out migrants. Data collection took place between 24th of July and 14th of October 2023. The MSNA was designed so that some survey questions were posed at the household level (i.e., the head of household or any adult household member were asked questions regarding the entire household) while others were posed at the individual level per each household member, meaning individual level findings should be considered indicative. This means full sex disaggregation by male and female was available for some findings while disaggregation only by the sex of the head of household was available for others. Other categories of analysis included older individuals and individuals with disabilities as well as households with older members and households that included at least one person with a disability.

Following data collection, REACH Initiative makes available tables with findings in each of the areas where it collects data. As well, it prepares the general factsheet highlighting key findings. The MSNA 2023 for households of live-out migrants in Lebanon may be accessed **here**. As well, data and other knowledge products based on the MSNA 2023 data may be accessed **here**.

Limitations

This gender snapshot organizes the findings primarily through household structure as reported by individuals interviewed for the purposes of this assessment, i.e., households were co-headed, female headed, or male headed. This leaves room for different interpretations from respondents. No other questions regarding the definition of households were asked. Findings thus categorized should be interpreted with caution.

Individual-level findings should be regarded as indicative only since information was reported by the head of household during the interviews. For some findings, when the subsample is less than 30, findings are to be considered indicative.

ANNEX 2: DEFINITION OF TERMS

Age dependency ratio relates to the number of individuals who are likely to be "dependent" on the support of others for their daily living to the number of those individuals who are capable of providing such support. A low dependency ratio is a good dependency ratio. For the purposes of this snapshot age dependency ratio is calculated as the number of dependents (ages 0-14 years old and >64 years old) divided by the working-age population (ages 15-64 years old), multiplied by 100.

Basic Needs refers to the essential goods, utilities, services or resources required on a regular, seasonal, or exceptional basis by households for ensuring survival and minimum living standards, without resorting to negative coping mechanisms or compromising their health, dignity and essential livelihood assets. For more see here: **https://www.unocha.org/publications/report/world/basic-needs-assessment-guidance-and-toolbox.**

Food Consumption Score (FCS) is the most commonly used food security indicator by the World Food Programme and partners. This indicator is a composite score based on households' dietary diversity, food consumption frequency, and relative nutritional value of different food groups. The FCS is calculated by asking how often households consume food items from the 8 different food groups (plus condiments) during a 7-day reference period. For more see here: **https://resources.vam.wfp.org/data-analysis/quantitative/food-security/food-consumption-score.**

Gender statistics. Data that adequately reflect differences and inequalities in the situation of women and men in all areas of life. This definition of gender statistics closely follows the Beijing Platform for Action, which was adopted at the Fourth World Conference on Women, held in Beijing in 1995, and in paragraph 206 (a) of which it was recommended that national, regional and international statistical services should ensure that statistics related to individuals are collected, compiled, analysed and presented by sex and age and reflect problems, issues and questions related to women and men in society (United Nations, 1996). For a detailed look into integrating a gender perspective in statistics, see for example, United Nations (2016) at **https://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic-social/Standards-and-Methods/files/Handbooks/gender/Integrating-a-Gender-Perspective-into-Statistics-E.pdf.**

Labour Force Participation is calculated by looking at all individuals who reportedly had any type of job at the time of data collection (either working for someone else for pay, running their own business, supporting a family business, etc.) or who were looking for a job and available to start working in 7 days divided by the total number of working-aged individuals (15+ years) in the population.

Persons with disabilities include those who have long-term physical, mental, intellectual, or sensory impairments which in interaction with various barriers may hinder their full and effective participation in society on equal basis with others (per the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities). In the MSNA surveyed persons who responded to any of the Washington Group Questions (WGQ) (seeing, hearing, walking, self-care, remembering and communicating) with 'a lot of difficulty' or 'cannot do at all' were classified as having one or more disabilities. Please note, that WGQ is a tool for identifying potential disabilities through functional difficulties and are not intended to diagnose specific conditions. Information on disabilities for children 0-5 years of age is obtained through administering the Child Functioning Module.

Unemployment is calculated by dividing the number of individuals who were reportedly looking for work at the time of data collection by the number of individuals who either had a job (any type) or were looking for a job at the time of data collection.

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