



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 – September 2022

Topic	Indicator	(%)
Education	Children (6-15 years) attending school	95
	Children (6-15 years) attended school and left	5
	Children never attended school	0
Employment	Out of labour force (16+ years - female)	94
	Out of labour force (16+ years - male)	33
	Employed (16+ years – female)	5
	Employed (16+ years – male)	57
	Unemployed (16+ years – female)	1
	Unemployed (16+ years – male)	10
Employed - contractual status	Verbal agreement	37
	Collective agreement	1
	No contract	50
	Written contract – indefinite period	4
	Written contract – fixed period	8
	Employed - working hours per week (1-14 hrs)	21
	Employed - working hours per week (15-34 hrs)	29
	Employed - working hours per week (35 hrs +)	50
Employment – number of months in last 12 months	Employed – less than 9 months	61
	Employed – 9-11 months	15
	Employed – 12 months	24
Employment injuries	Employed – suffered employment related injuries during last 12 months	6
House tenure	Owned	52
	Rented	39
	For free	8
	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	4
	Any family member has ever thought of migrating outside Lebanon	34
	Any family member has started serious emigration procedures	5
Transfers	Receiving remittance from relatives	9
Debt	Debt taken in past 3 months	51
Poverty (self-estimation)	Extremely poor	22
	Poor	60
	Moderate	18
	Rich	0
Poverty headcount ratio	In relation to the 2011 national poverty line adjusted to changes in the consumer price indices	93
Consumption (proportion spent on indicated item out of total expenditures – main expenditure items)	Food	45
	Housing	4
	House needs	4
	Medical care	8
	Communication	3
	Electricity/fuels	15
	Transportation	5
	Durable goods	0
Average monthly total household expenditure		LL 11,300,000
Food security (in last 7 days)	Refrained from consuming expensive products and reverted to alternatives	94
	Purchased leftovers from the market	89
	Reduced number of meals for all family members	62
	Reduced quantity of food in each meal for all family members	53
	Borrowed food/sought assistance from family	35
	Reduced quantity of food by adults in favour of children	37



Survey Methodology

UNRWA has conducted the third round of its high frequency survey to monitor the socio-economic situation of Palestine refugees in Lebanon. As in the previous rounds, the survey sample was designed to provide representative estimates for a set of key indicators, such as poverty, consumption, food security, debts and remittances, migration, housing, school attendance and employment.

A total of 503 households were randomly selected without stratification from UNRWA serviced population databases. Data collection took place between 9 and 16 September 2022 by 27 UNRWA relief workers. Out of the 503 selected households, 4 could not be reached and 1 refused to be interviewed, yielding a final sample of 498 households.

The 498 interviewed households consist of 2,224 individuals, of whom 49 per cent females and 51 per cent males. About 42 per cent are under 19 years, 7 per cent are aged 60 years and above, and the remaining 51 per cent are in the age range 20-59 years.

Key Findings

Poverty

A total of 93 per cent of individuals live below the poverty line (2011 national poverty line adjusted for changes in the consumer price indices). This is another considerable increase within a very short period – this survey series found that in March 2022 a total of 86 per cent of Palestine refugees were living below the poverty line. Based on a review of household consumption behaviour, it is estimated that the significant increases in basic consumer prices have been a decisive factor triggering this sharp increase in the poverty headcount ratio.

About 22 per cent of families described themselves as “extremely poor”, 60 per cent described themselves as “poor”, and 18 per cent indicated that they were “moderately poor.”

Consumption

The total average household expenditure per month increased from LL 6.25 million (March 2022) to LL 11.3 million (September 2022). Reflecting this against the increase in poverty, households have been pressured to cover basic needs in a context of significantly increased consumer prices. The proportion of expenditures on food increased from previously 39 per cent to 45 per cent over the same period.

Food security

A total of 62 per cent of families have reduced the number of meals consumed within the 7 days preceding the survey, and 53 per cent of families have reduced the quantity of food within meals. A total of 89 per cent of households purchased leftovers from the market and 35 per cent reported seeking assistance or borrowing foods from family.



Debt and Remittances

A total of 51 per cent of families reported having taken debts within the last 3 months. Only 9 per cent of families reported having received remittances from relatives.

Migration

About 4 per cent of families reported having a family member who has migrated outside Lebanon since 2015 and has not returned. A total of 34 per cent of families reported having a family member who has ever thought of migrating outside Lebanon, with 5 per cent of them having started serious emigration procedures.

Housing

A total of 52 per cent of families reported owning their habitat compared to 39 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 95 per cent of children aged 6-15 years attending school. The remaining 5 per cent of children in this age group were reported as 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 5 per cent indicating being employed. Only 1 per cent of females above the age of 16 years reported looking for a job opportunity and not finding one ("unemployed").

In contrast, 33 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 57 per cent being employed and 10 per cent reporting being unemployed.

Duration of employment over the past 12 months was less than 9 months for 61 per cent of employees, 15 per cent of employees worked for 9-11 months and only 24 per cent of employees had employment for the full 12 months.

As for the hours worked per week, 21 per cent worked 1-14 hours, 29 per cent worked 15-34 hours and 50 per cent worked for more than 35 hours. A total of 6 per cent of employed reported employment related injuries sustained in the past 12 months.

Only 4 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.