



Socio-Economic Assessment of Children and Youth in the time of COVID-19 – Jordan

REPORT TEAM

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Contents

BACKGROUND AND RATIONALE	06
OBJECTIVE OF THE STUDY	06
COVID-19 –CURRENT SITUATION	07
KEY FINDINGS	08
CHAPTER 1: METHODOLOGICAL FRAMEWORK	10
CHAPTER 2: HEALTH AND NUTRITION	16
CHAPTER 3: EDUCATION	22
CHAPTER 4: CHILD DISCIPLINE	25
CHAPTER 5: NEGATIVE COPING STRATEGIES	28
CHAPTER 6: SOCIAL PROTECTION	33
CHAPTER 7: INCOME AND LIVELIHOODS	39
CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS	53

“The coronavirus pandemic has triggered an unprecedented socio-economic crisis that is draining resources for families all over the world,” said Henrietta Fore, UNICEF Executive Director.

Background and Rationale

The global socio-economic crisis caused by the COVID-19 pandemic could push 117 million more children into poverty by the end of the year, according to projections as of June 29, 2020. The total number of children living in poor households globally could reach just over 700 million in the absence of any mitigating policies (UNICEF, 2020).

Jordan’s short-term economic growth has substantially worsened due to the COVID-19 pandemic, according to the World Bank (2020) estimates. The economic growth is projected to contract significantly to -3.5 per cent of GDP in 2020. The private sector consumption is expected to decrease by 5.8 per cent, and the exports of goods and services to reduce by 17.7 per cent.

Sluggish economic growth, high rates of unemployment, and rolling back of social protection programs will have a long-term impact on the lives of children and youth in Jordan.

The pandemic is highly detrimental to children’s cognitive development,

emotional and physical health, lack of quality healthcare and missed vaccinations, child protection concerns with raising levels of stressful home environments, unequal access to digital services, food insecurity, and exacerbating vulnerabilities.

Objective of the Study

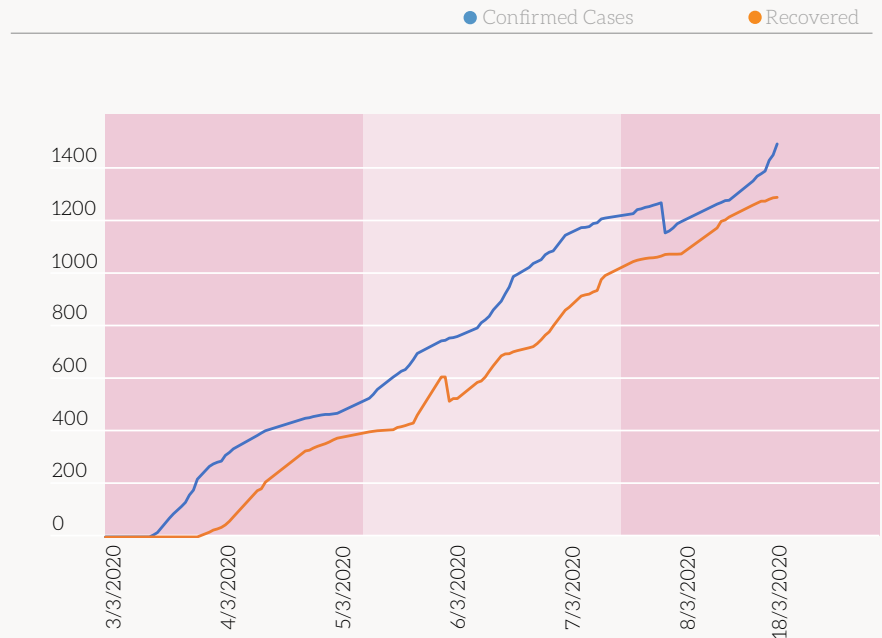
The objective of this assessment is to identify how COVID-19 has affected the socio-economic situation of households with children and youth.

- The assessment covers sectors that are related to the situation of children and youth. The analysis depicts the situation of households before and during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Sectors covered in this assessment are Education, Health, Nutrition, Negative Coping Strategies, Child Protection, Social Protection, Livelihoods, and Income.

COVID-19 –Current Situation

Since the onset of the COVID-19 crisis and reporting of the first case within the country, the Government of Jordan has made significant strides to curtail the spread of the virus by implementing a mandatory curfew in mid of March 2020. These strict measures have resulted in stopping community spread. As of August 18, 2020, there are 1438 confirmed cases reported by Jordan, of which 1243 have recovered, and 11 deaths reported so far, there are 185 people still under treatment in Government hospitals. There is a fear of second wave of pandemic in the country with local transmission significantly increasing since last week.

The government of Jordan followed international guideline and conducted a significantly high proportion of COVID-19 tests in the country, as of August 19, the total number of tests conducted in the country reached 705,920.



1,438
Total Confirmed Cases

1,243
Total Recovered Cases

185
Under Treatment

11
Death Reported

705,920
Test Conducted

1. Data originally sourced from the World Health Organization (WHO) <https://data.humdata.org/dataset/novel-coronavirus-2019-ncov-cases> and Government of Jordan Coronavirus website: corona.moh.gov.jo

2. The sharp decline in cases is observed because some of the cases were reported at the border crossings, those cases which are returned at the border are subtracted from the total after recommendation from WHO.



Key Findings

Health

- Seventeen per cent of the households reported that their children under 5 did not receive basic vaccination (BCG, three doses of DPT-IPV-Hib, and one dose of measles) whereas those who received the vaccination, 21 per cent reported that due to COVID-19 the vaccination routine was affected.
- Twenty per cent of the households reported having experienced an increase in prices of basic medicines.
- When asked where to consult in case of a household member is infected with COVID-19, 16 per cent of the respondents did not know where to seek treatment.

Nutrition

- Twenty-eight per cent of the households reported that their children went to bed hungry during the lockdown, with the opening of sectors and employment opportunities, this has decreased to 15 per cent, which is still very high. Syrians (41 per cent), female-headed (44 per cent) and larger households (33 per cent) are more likely to have children going to bed hungry during the COVID-19 lockdown; this has significantly improved after the COVID-19 lockdown was lifted.

Education

- One-fourth of households with children reported that the children are not accessing Darsak. Children in male-headed households (25 per cent), Jordanians (29 per cent), host/ out of camps (26 per cent), and smaller households (30 per cent) are more likely not accessing Darsak.

Child Protection

- Two-third of the households reported that they had difficulty in dealing with children at home during and after the lockdown was lifted, whereas only one-third of the parents said that they are less tolerant towards their children.
- Forty per cent of the households surveyed during the interview mentioned that children face psychological and physical violence at home: this is relatively high for female-headed (56 per cent), Syrians (53 per cent), and larger households (44 per cent).

Negative Coping Strategies

- Eighty per cent of households adopted at least one negative coping strategy during the past 3 months to try to meet their basic needs: for Syrians (94 per cent), female-headed (91 per cent), and larger (87 per cent) households, along with camp respondents (90 per cent) were more likely to have employed negative coping strategies.

Social Protection

- Fifty-eight per cent of the households reported receiving assistance or subsidies after the onset of the Covid-19 pandemic. This differed considerably based on nationality, as 88 per cent of Syrian households received social assistance compared to 35 per cent among Jordanians.
- The more negative coping strategies a household had adopted, on average, the more likely it was to be covered by a social assistance programme.

Income and Livelihoods

- Only 28 per cent of households stated that they have enough money (cash in hand or banks) to sustain the household through another two weeks (Jordanians, 41 per cent; Syrians, 13 per cent).
- Six per cent of households had a monthly income of less than 100 JD prior to Covid-19, while this has now increased to 12 per cent. There has also been a decrease of 7 percentage point (p.p.) among households that had a monthly income above 250 JOD from 59 per cent before the pandemic to 52 per cent after the onset of Covid-19.
- Forty-two per cent of household heads reported working or being engaged in an economic activity

before Covid-19, while this has dropped by 5 p.p. to 37 per cent. There has also been, on average, a reduction of 4 working hours per week for household heads that are still engaged in economic activity.

- Almost half of the household heads that are not currently engaged in economic activity are seeking work. The most frequent reason among household heads that are not seeking employment is due to illness or disability (59 per cent).
- Only 15 per cent of households reported that there was a working woman in the household.

Livelihoods Youth

- There has been an increase of 1 p.p. of youth that are working or engaged in economic activity to 24 per cent, with a reduction of 4 p.p. among female youth (16 to 12 per cent), and an increase by 5 p.p. for male youth (29 to 34 per cent).
- Forty-four per cent of youth not currently engaged in economic activity are seeking work, with significant differences based on nationality (Syrians, 54 per cent; Jordanians, 37 per cent) and gender (male youth, 51 per cent; female youth, 38 per cent). Most common reason for not seeking work was due to studies (70 per cent).
- Almost seven out of ten youth perform domestic work inside the household. While 89 per cent of female youth work on household tasks, this is 40 p.p. lower for male youth at 49 per cent. Furthermore, on average, female youth spend 20 hours a week on domestic work compared to 8 hours per week for male youth.

Chapter 1

Methodological Framework



Sampling Methodology

This assessment intended to cover UNICEF beneficiary households with children and youth. For households with children, the sample is drawn from Makani and Hajati programs, whereas for youth, the sample is drawn from Nahno platform (volunteer platform for youth in Jordan) and those who are supported by UNICEF and registered with BDC and Luminus under Youth Economic Engagement Program. The study follows a stratified random sampling methodology to cover all the populations covered by Makani, Hajati, and Youth program. Stratified random sampling is a probabilistic sampling option which is preferable when the strata are chosen to divide a population into essential categories relevant to the

research interest. Given the guidelines and research interests, a simple random sample is drawn from each stratum, given that each of the strata is distinct, and the team wanted to oversample Jordanian households in the population.

The sampling methodology generated representation of different populations; vulnerable Jordanians and Syrians, with varying levels of confidence (CL) and different margins of error. The aggregated results for all populations do not have the same CL and margins of error. For Syrians, the sample has 95 per cent CL and 5 per cent margin of error. Whereas for the Jordanian household sample and youth, the sample has CL is 90 per cent with 10 per cent margin of error.

	Sample	Percentage
Nationality		
Syrians	228	46
Jordanians	267	54
Gender of the Head of Household		
Male	418	84
Female	77	16
Youth Respondents		
Male	59	41
Female	86	59

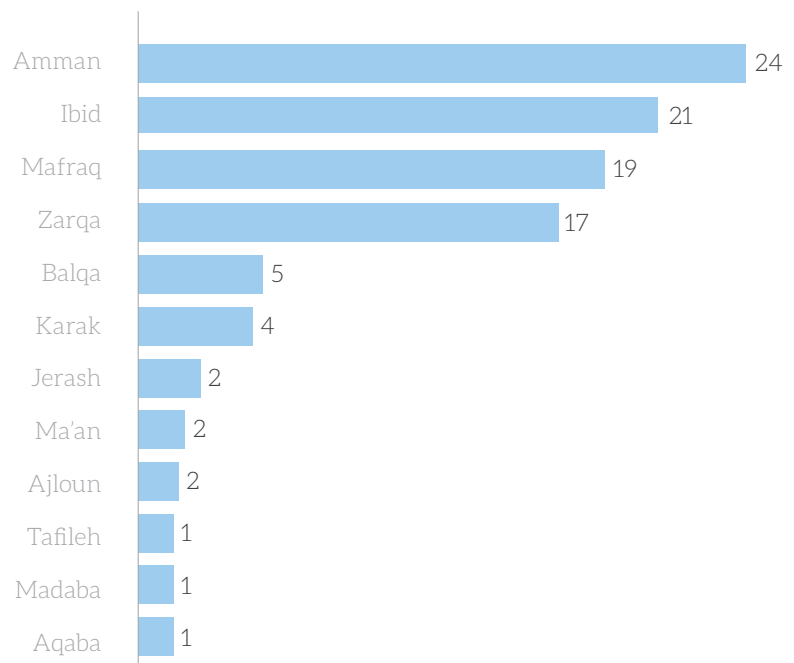
	Sample	Percentage
Household Size		
1-4	42	8.48
5-7	284	57.37
5-7	169	34.14
Geographical Location		
Host/Out of Camps	432	87.27
Camps	63	12.72

Sampling Distribution

The table shows the sample distribution of households with household size, the geographical location of the households, and the marital status of the head of households. For Analysis purposes, we have combined the responses from ITS with Host/Out of Camps, because the results from ITS will not be statistically significant.

The graph shows the distribution of households interviewed at the governorate level, though the sample is not representative at the governorate level.

Governorate Level Segregation of Sample (Percentages)



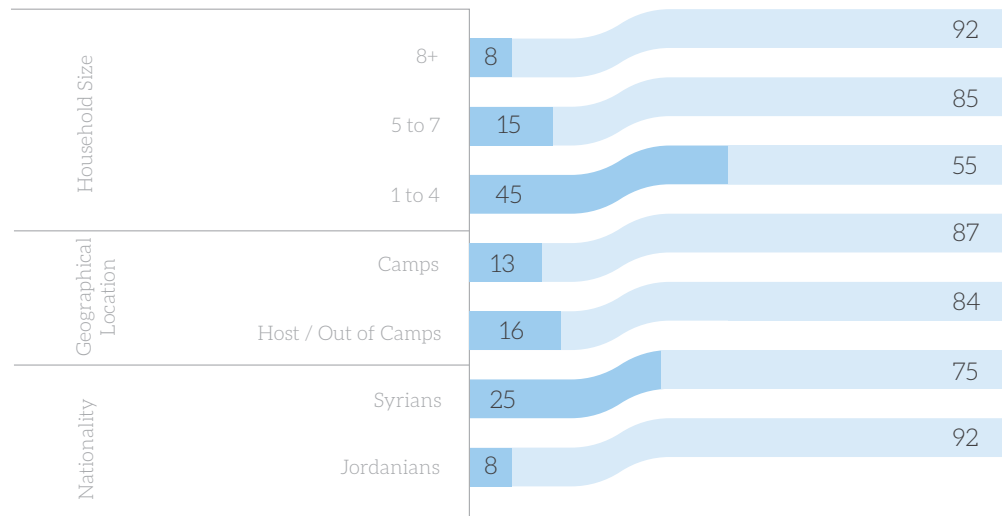
Sample Distribution-Gender of the Head of Household

The graph shows the distribution for the gender of the head of households by nationality, geographical location, and household size.

Overall, 84 per cent of the households were male-headed households, whereas, for Syrians, 25 per cent of the households interviewed are female-headed. In smaller households (1 to 4 household size), 45 per cent were female-headed.

Gender of Head of Household by Nationality, Location and Household Size (%)

● Female ● Male

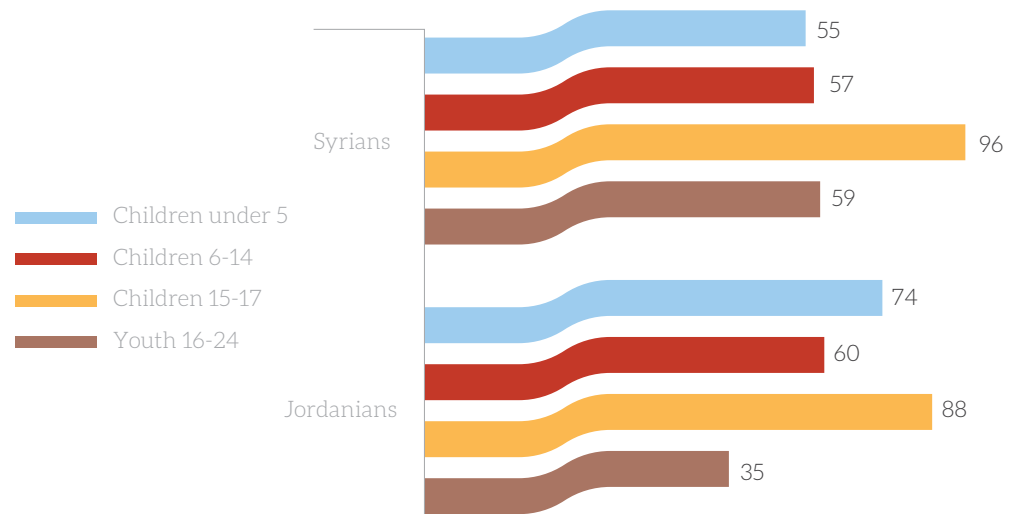


Sample Distribution-Children and Youth

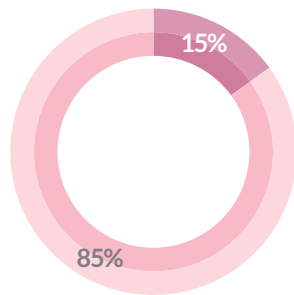
The graph shows the distribution of households with children and youth, 96 per cent of Syrians households have children from 6-14 years whereas for Jordanians it is 88 per cent.

For Jordanian households, 74 per cent reported that they have youth in the age bracket of 16-24; for Syrian households, it is only 55 per cent. Syrian households report a relatively high proportion of children under 5.

Percentage of Households with Children and Youth

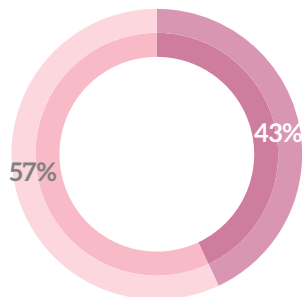


Disability



● Yes ● No

Chronic Illness



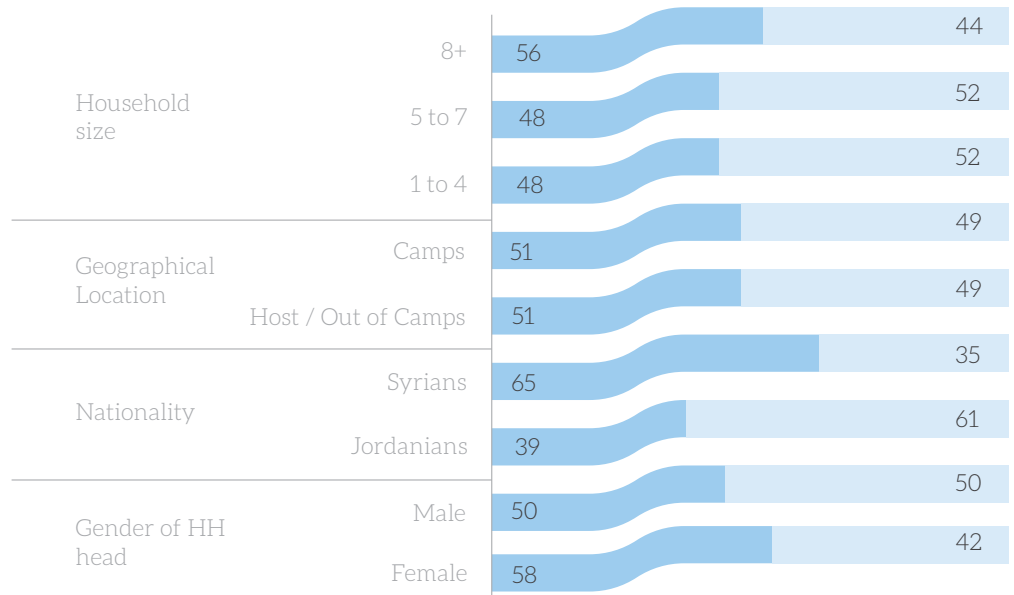
Disability and Chronic Illness

Fifteen per cent of the households reported that they have members with disabilities, whereas 43 per cent said that they have members with chronic illness, which makes these households vulnerable to any kind of external shocks like COVID-19.

The graph shows the distribution of households with chronic illness or disability: a relatively high proportion of Jordanian households reported members with a disability and chronic illness compared to Syrians. Male headed households and smaller households i.e., from 1 to 7, reported more cases of members with chronic illness or disability compared to larger households.

Households with members with Disability and Chronic Illness by household size, geographical location, nationality and gender percentage

● Yes ● No

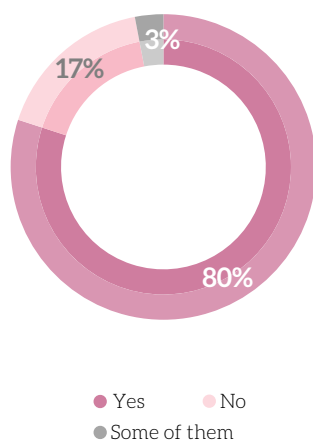


Chapter 2

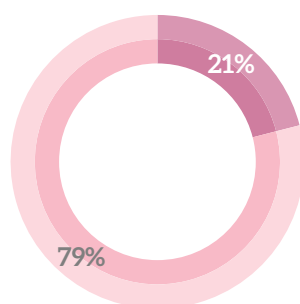
Health and Nutrition



Basic Vaccination for children under 5



Vaccination routine got affected due to COVID-19



Vaccination-Children Under 5

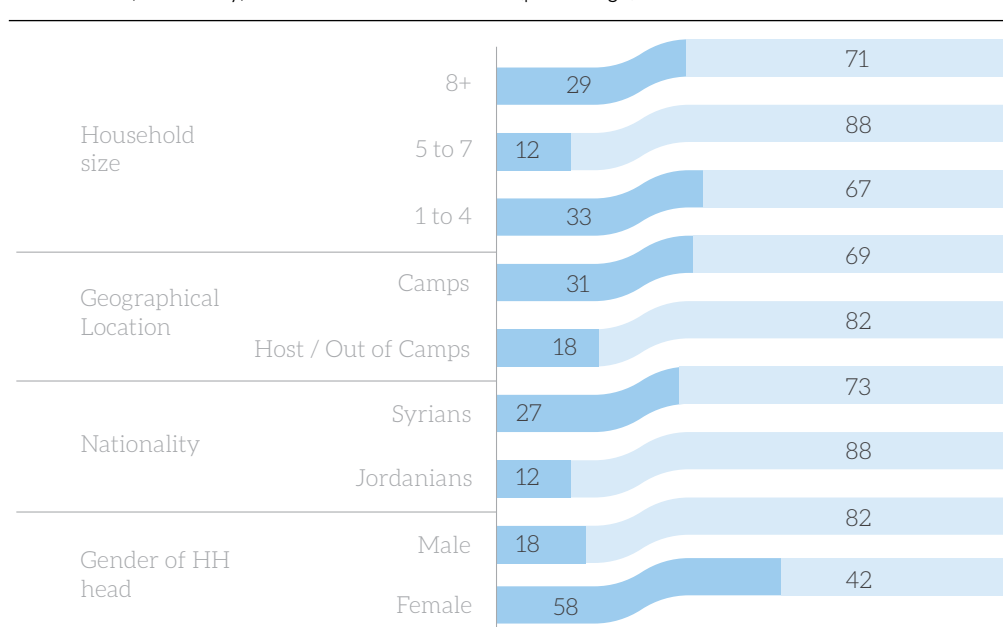
Seventeen per cent of the households reported that their children under 5 did not receive the basic vaccine. Basic vaccination includes; BCG, three doses of DPT-IPV-Hib, and one dose of measles. Those who reported Yes to receiving basic vaccination, 21 per cent of households said that due to COVID-19, the vaccination routine was affected.

Female-headed households (58 per cent),

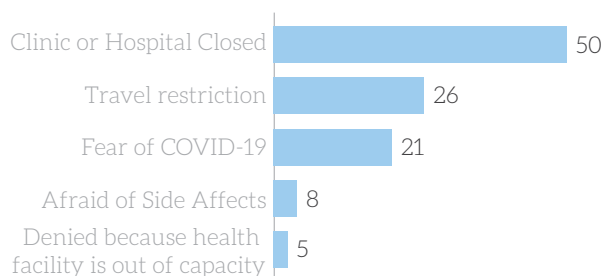
Syrians (27 per cent), camps population (31 per cent), and smaller households (33 per cent) are worst off when reported that vaccination routine got affected due to lockdown.

When asked what the primary reasons for the delay in the vaccination, the majority of the respondents reported closure of clinic or hospital nearby, travel restrictions, and fear of COVID-19.

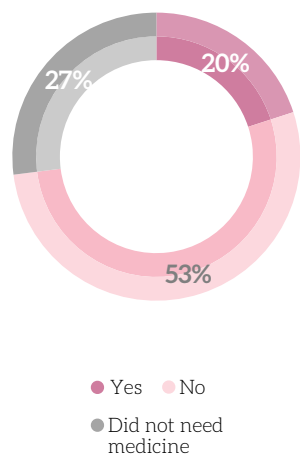
Vaccination routine got affected due to COVID-19-by gender of head of household, nationality, location and household size (percentage)



Reasons for Delay in Vaccination (percentage)



Households Experienced increased prices of basic vaccination



Medicines-Increased Prices

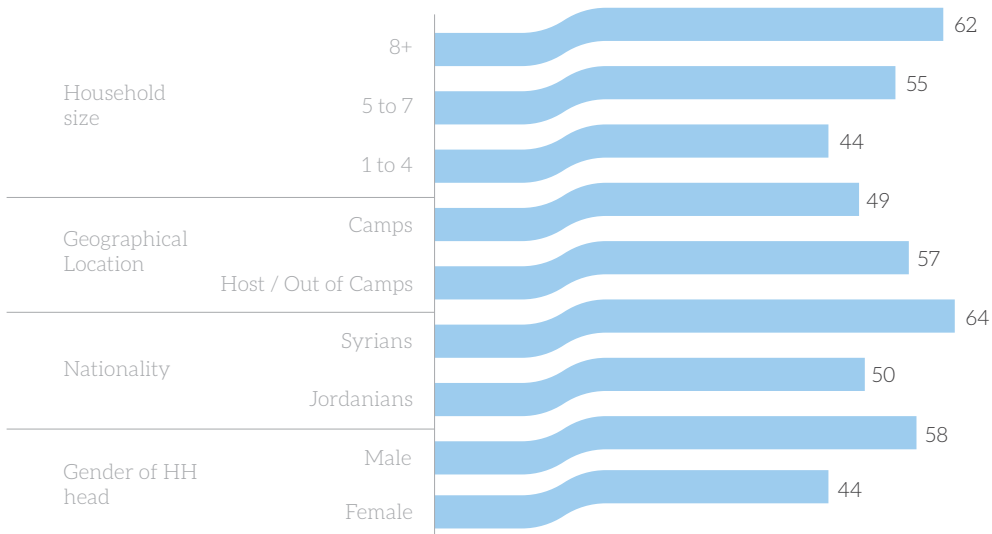
More than 20 per cent of the household reported having experienced an increase in prices of necessary medicines.

On average households spent 56 JOD in the last two months on medicines. During the previous two months, Syrians spent 64 JOD on average on medications compared to 50 JOD for Jordanians. The average household income for the poorest decile in the country is 241 JOD/month, which means that households are spending 9 per cent of their

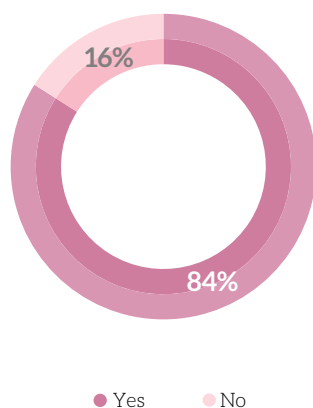
income on medicines, whereas Syrians are spending 13 per cent of their income.

This reiterates the fact the Syrians are in urgent need of comprehensive health coverage in the country, and for vulnerable households spending more on medicines would mean less disposable income for other basic needs such as food and education. Male-headed households were also able to spend more on medications than female-headed households.

Average spent on medicines (JOD)



Affected by COVID-19: Know where to consult



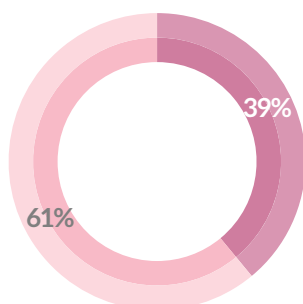
Awareness about COVID-19

When asked where to consult in case of a household member is infected with COVID-19, 16 per cent of the respondents did not know where to seek treatment. These findings are similar to the ones observed in the Basic Need Assessment conducted during the COVID-19 lockdown. Female-headed households (22 per cent), Syrians (21 per cent), and larger households (18 per cent) are more likely

not aware of the procedures for seeking treatment.

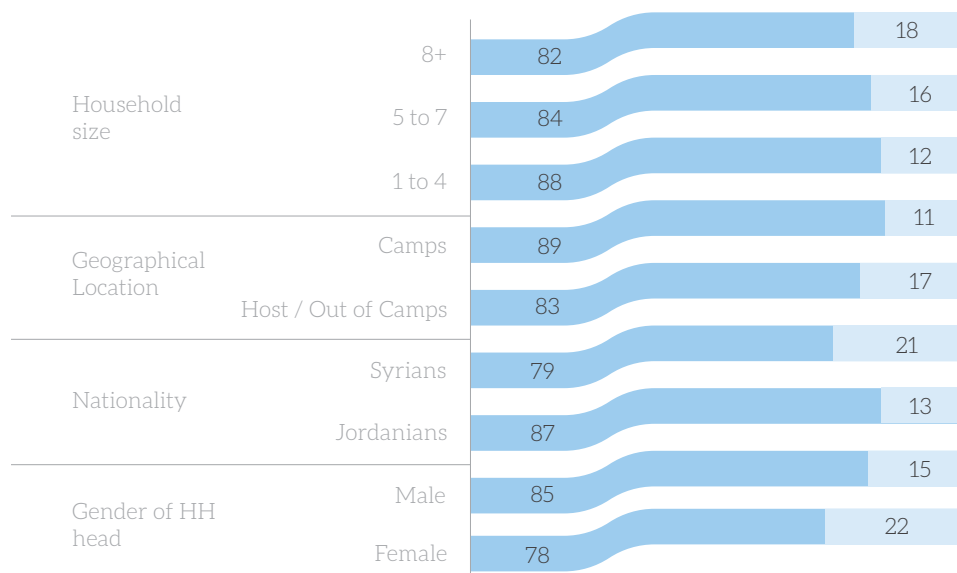
Thirty-nine per cent of the households were unable to purchase the hygiene products required. Households are spending more on other basic needs; it is leaving them fewer resources for other commodities such as hygiene products.

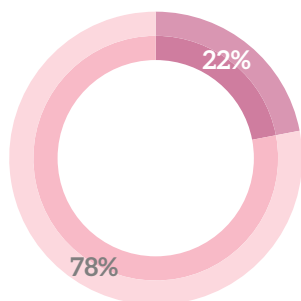
Hygiene products required by households but unable to purchase



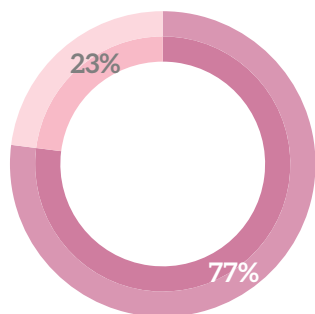
Know where to consult in case of contacted with COVID-19 by household size, geographical location, nationality and gender of head of household (percentage)

● Yes ● No



Child got sick/ill in the last two months

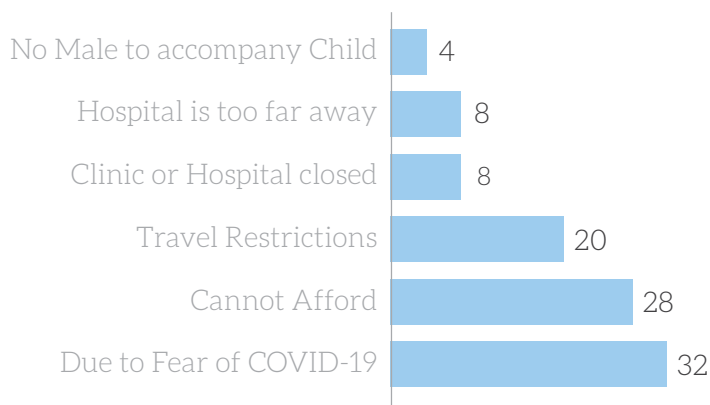
● Yes ● No

Received medical attention**Access to Healthcare**

Nearly 4 out of 5 households interviewed reported that their children got very sick in the last months, but 77 per cent of them received medical attention.

The reasons for not receiving medical attention are: 32 per cent reported fear of COVID-19, 28 per cent cannot afford medication, and 20 per cent could not go to the hospital because of travel restrictions.

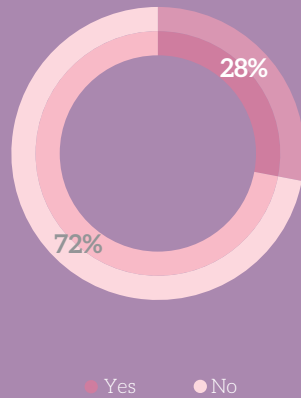
Reasons for not receiving medical attention (percentage)

**Nutrition**

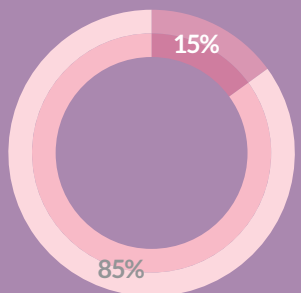
COVID-19 lockdown in the country has pushed many households way below the poverty line, and those who were extremely vulnerable fell below the absolute poverty line, which is also evident from the survey findings. Twenty-eight per cent of the households reported that their children went to bed hungry during the lockdown, with the opening of sectors and employment opportunities, this has decreased to 15 per cent, which is still very high.

Syrians (41 per cent), female-headed (44 per cent), and larger households (33 per cent) are more likely to have children going to bed hungry during the COVID-19 lockdown; this has significantly improved after the COVID-19 lockdown was lifted in the country. After lifting of lockdown, statistically, significant reductions are observed for Syrian (20 per cent), female-headed (18 per cent), and larger households (19 per cent). This does show a significant impact of opening the economy or sectors on the living situation of vulnerable households.

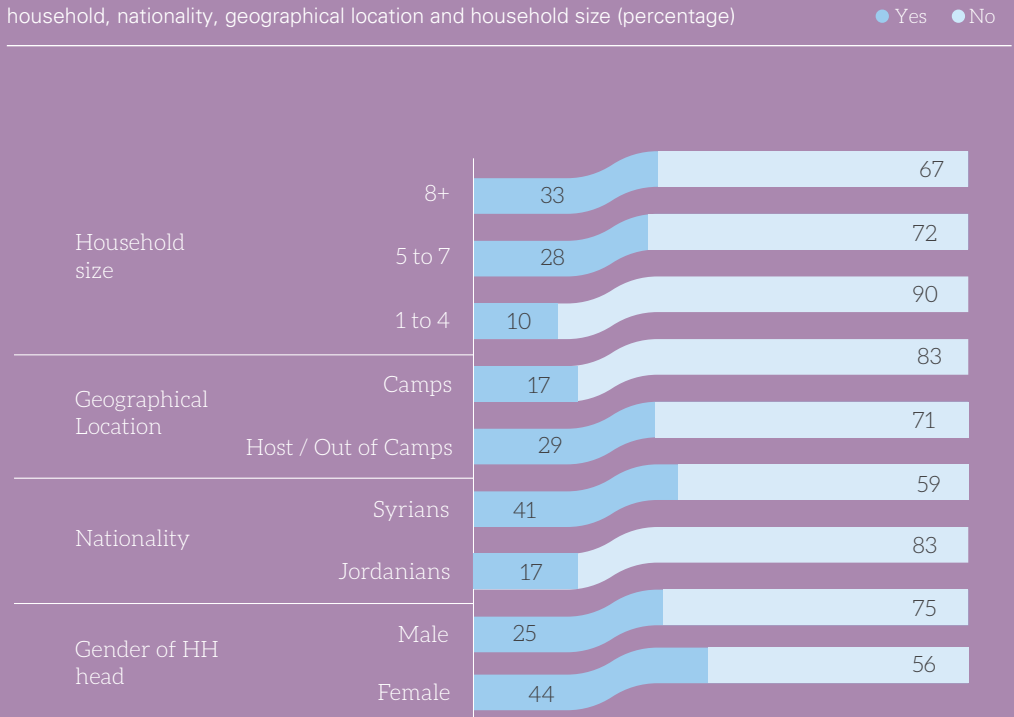
During COVID-19 lockdown: Did children go to bed hungry



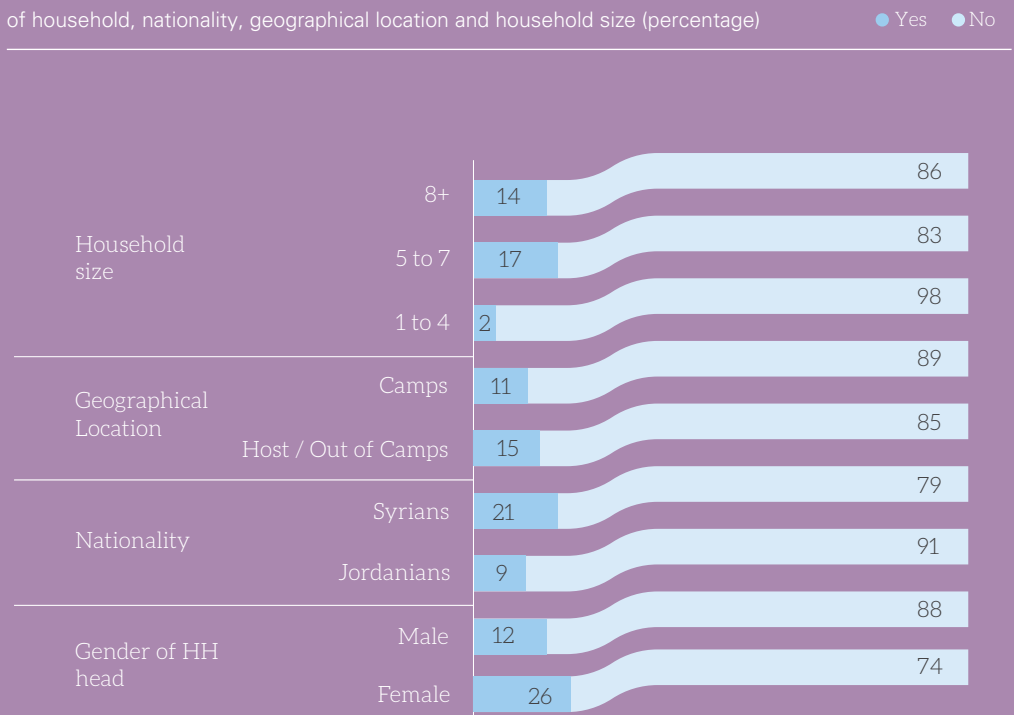
After COVID-19 lockdown: Did children go to bed hungry



During COVID-19: Did children go to hungry-classification by gender of head of household, nationality, geographical location and household size (percentage)

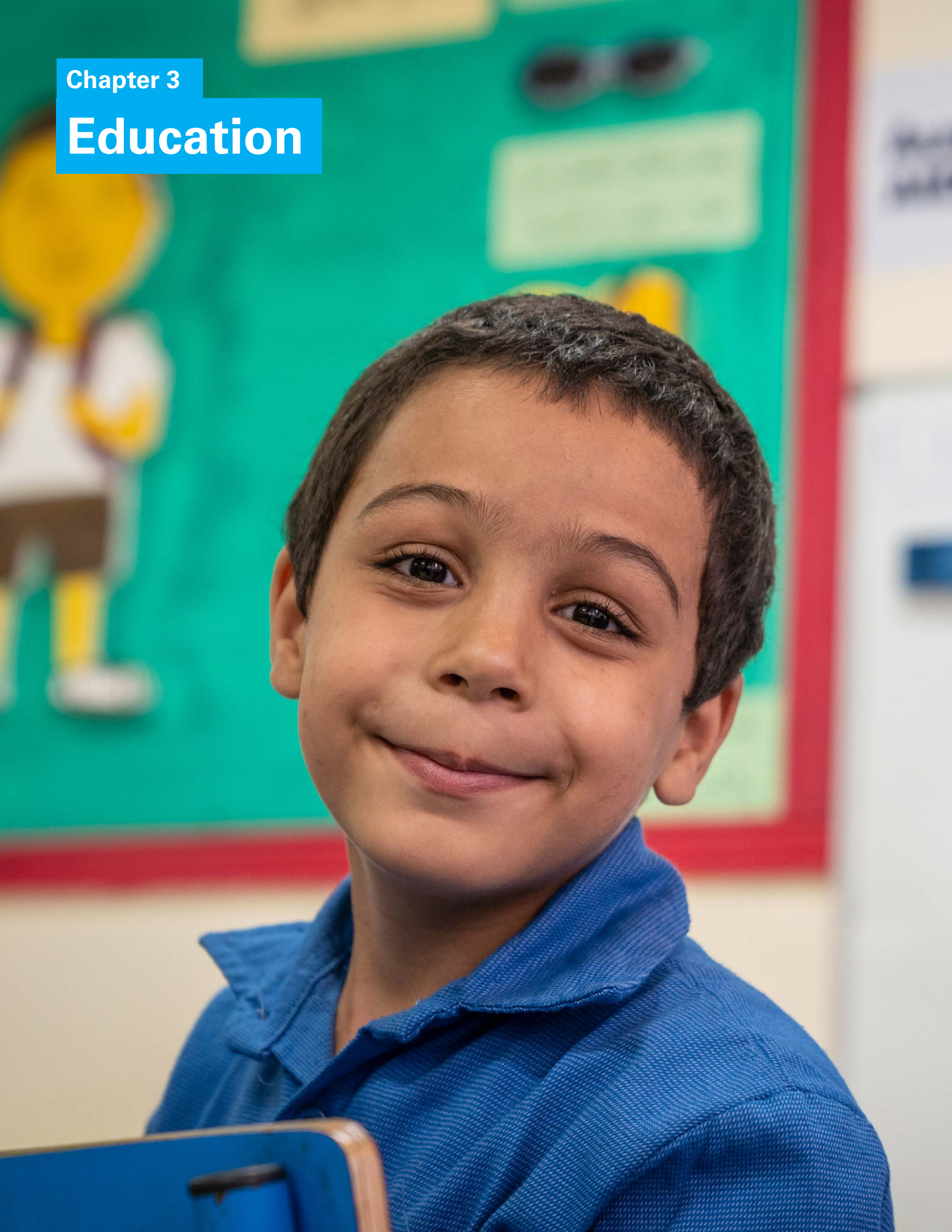


After COVID-19: Did children go to bed hungry-classification by gender of head of household, nationality, geographical location and household size (percentage)

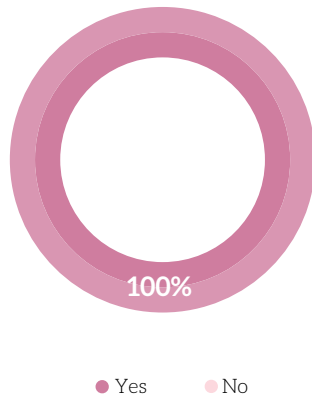


Chapter 3

Education



Attended School Before COVID-19



Households were asked about the school enrolment for their children, whether they were attending school before the lockdown, and if they were able to access the Darsak platform (official government platform for classes) during the lockdown or until the schools reopen.

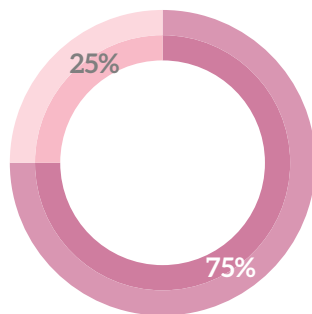
Nearly all of the households surveyed reported that their children were attending school before the COVID-19 lockdown, but one-fourth of them said that the children did not access Darsak. This will have a significant impact on the learning outcomes for children in the coming years, where they will lag

behind other students, and it will also impact the passing percentages for all the grades.

Surprisingly, children in male-headed households (25 per cent), Jordanians (29 per cent), host/out of camps (26 per cent), and smaller households (30 per cent) are more likely not accessing Darsak.

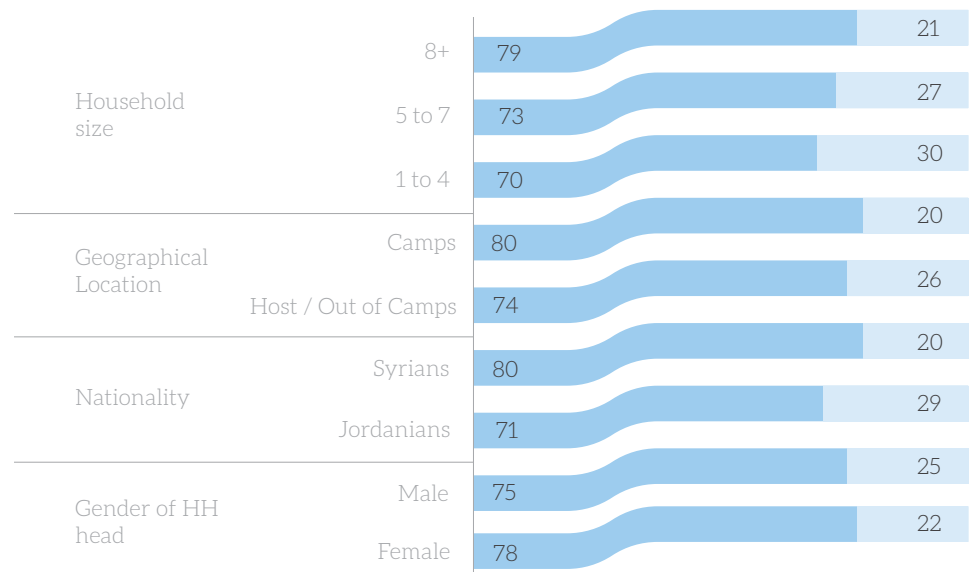
When asked why children are not accessing Darsak, half of the respondents reported that they did not have enough internet data package, 18 per cent said lack of guidance, and 16 per cent reported that children watched televised lessons.

Accessing Darsak

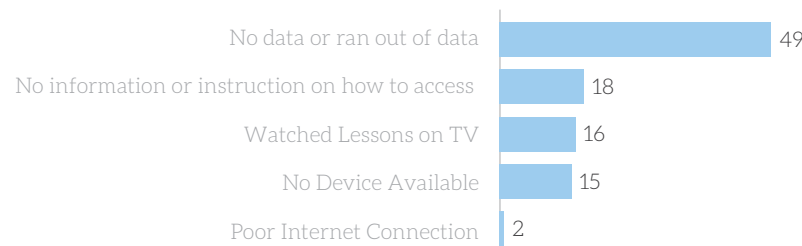


Accessing Darsak- classification by gender of head of household, nationality, geographical location and household size (percentage)

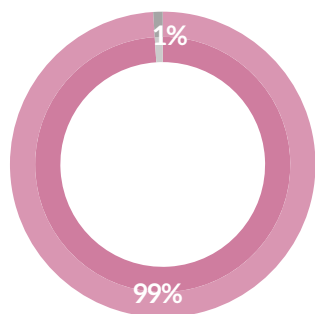
● Yes ● No



Why Not Accessing Darsak (percentage)



Planning to Start School in August-September



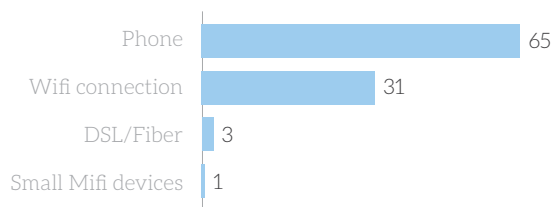
● Yes ● No (0%)
● Some of them

As a follow-up to the school enrolment question, the households were asked if they are planning to send children once the school reopen, 99 per cent of them reported that they would send their children back to school.

Access to internet and electronic devices to access the internet for children has been one of the major hurdles reported

by many households in Basic Need Assessment and other surveys conducted during the COVID-19 lockdown. As this is also evident from this assessment, 65 per cent of the households reported that they access the internet via phone, which makes it challenging to follow classes, and only 31 per cent have a Wifi connection at home lessons.

Households with Internet Devices (percentage)

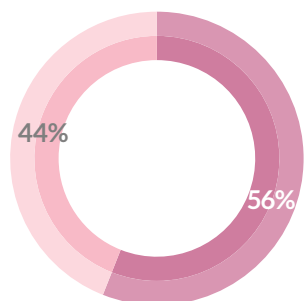


Chapter 4

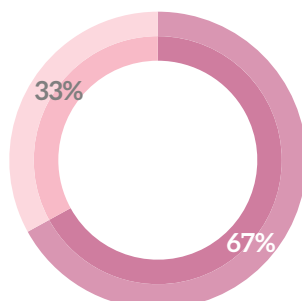
Child Discipline



Psychological Violence against Children

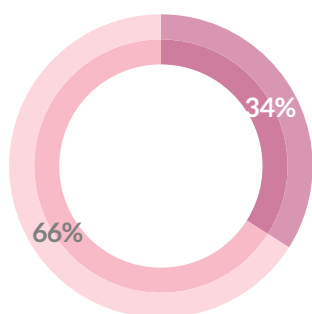


Challenging to deal with children during lockdown

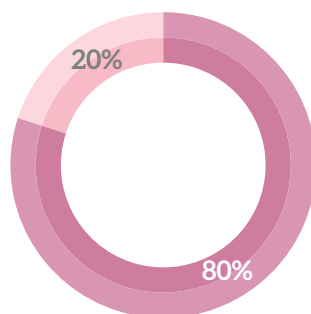


● Yes ● No

Parents less tolerant towards children



Psychological violence increased during COVID-19 lockdown

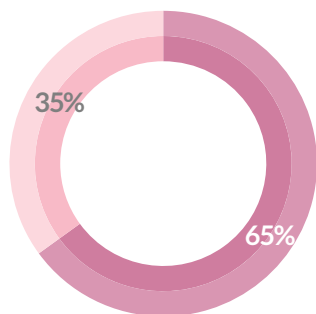


Child Discipline-Psychological aggression against children

The COVID-19 lockdown has raised protection concerns for children, with high rates of domestic violence reported in several countries and psychological impact on children.

Two-third of the households reported that they had difficulty in dealing with children at home during and after the lockdown was lifted, whereas only one-third of the parents reported that they are less tolerant towards their children. This did lead to an increased in psychological aggression against children during the lockdown, 56 per cent of the households reported psychological violence, and 80 per cent reported that it increased during the COVID-19 lockdown.

Physical Violence increased during COVID-19 lockdown

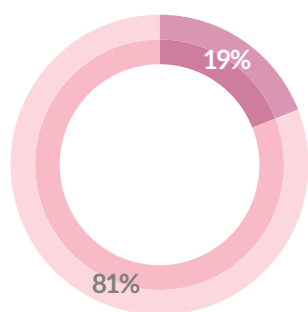


Child Protection- Physical and Overall Violence against Children

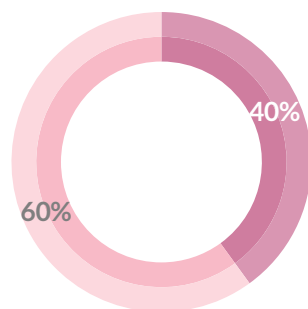
When asked if the children faced physical violence only 19 per cent reported yes, which is way below the national average, while 65 per cent said that physical punishment against children increased during the COVID-19 lockdown. There are some caveats to these findings because the majority of the households are UNICEF beneficiaries and households are part of Child Protection programs.

For this analysis purposes, physical and psychological aggression responses are joined using an intersection approach. Forty per cent of the households reported that children faced psychological and physical violence. This is particularly high for female-headed (56 per cent), Syrians (53 per cent), and larger households (44 per cent).

Physical Violence against children



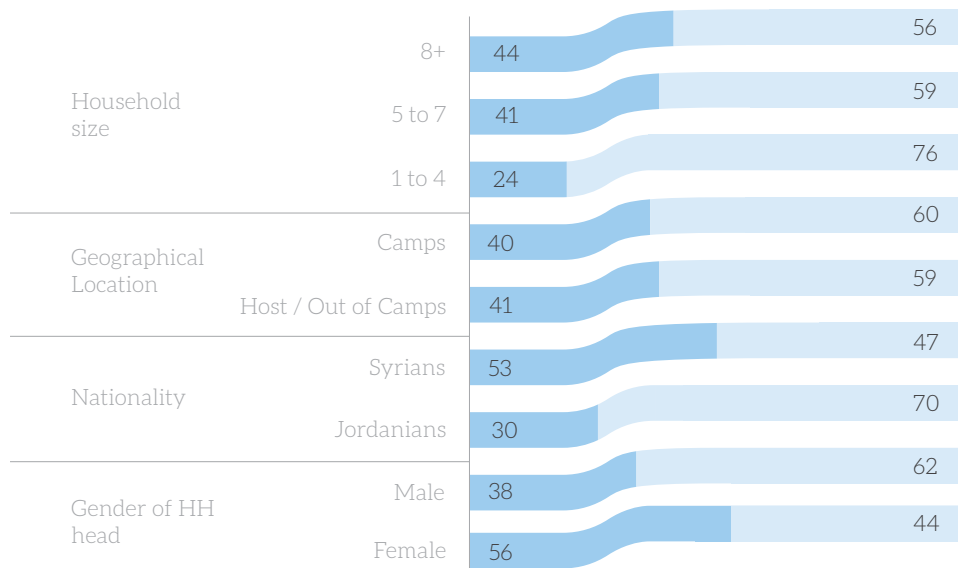
Violence Against Children (Physical and Psychological)



● Yes ● No

Violence against children by households size, geographical location, nationality and gender of head of household (percentage)

● Yes ● No

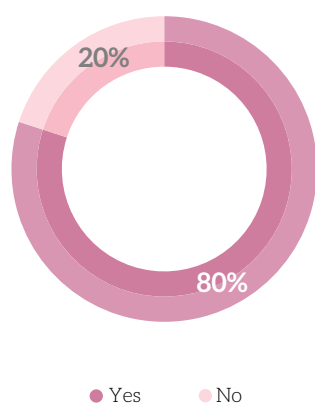


Chapter 5

Negative Coping Strategies



Proportion of Households that Adopted at Least One Negative Coping Strategy During Past 3 Months

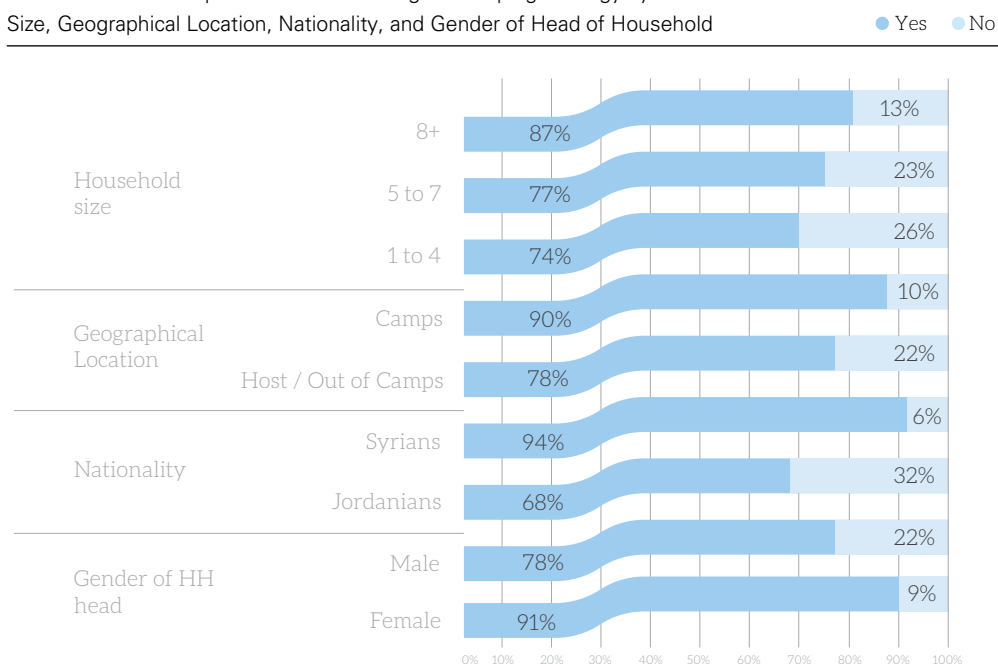


Adopted at Least One Coping Strategy

Eighty per cent of households adopted at least one negative coping strategy during the past 3 months to try to meet their basic needs. This differed significantly based on nationality, as 94 per cent of Syrian households resorted to at least one negative coping strategy compared to 68 per cent among Jordanians, similarly, for female-headed households at 91 per cent in contrast to 78 per cent for male-

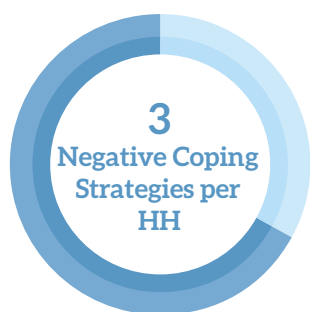
headed households. Households in camps also adopted at least one negative coping strategy during the past three months more frequently (90 per cent) compared to households in host communities (78 per cent). Households with more members also tended to resort more commonly to negative coping mechanisms to cover their basic needs.

Households that Adopted at Least One Negative Coping Strategy by Household Size, Geographical Location, Nationality, and Gender of Head of Household



List of negative coping strategies in survey: Purchasing food on credit or borrowing money to purchase food; Sent households members to eat elsewhere; Sold household assets (TV, radio, furniture); Changed the place of residence or type to reduce rent expenses; Sold means of production or sources of income; Sold house, land or car; Stopped children's education; Sent children (less than 18 years) to work in order to provide resources for the household; Reduced expenses on health treatment; Reduced expenses on education; Sent children under 18 to beg; Adult members of the households accepted socially degrading, exploitive, high risk or illegal temporary jobs.

Average Number of Negative Coping Strategies Employed During Past 3 Months

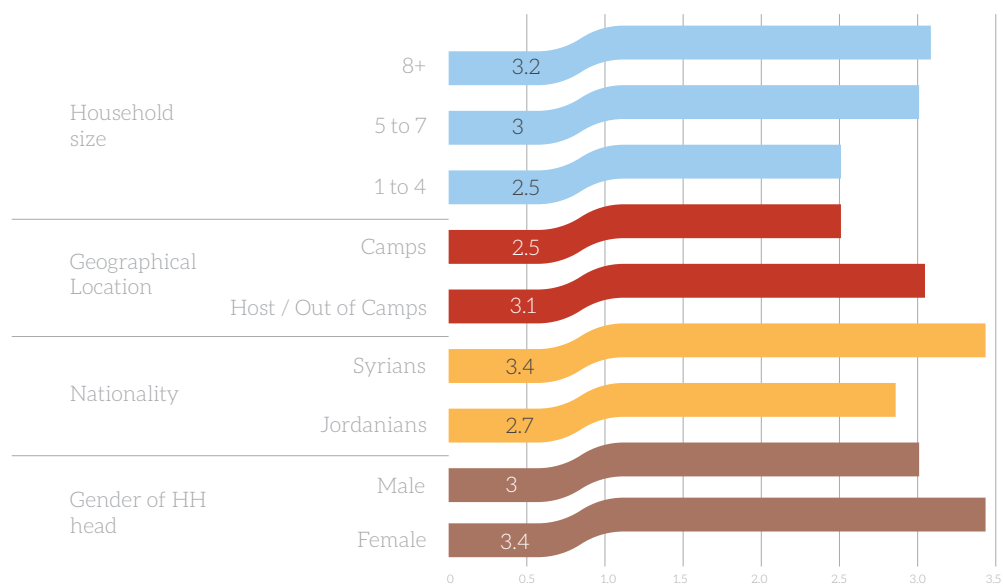


Average Number of Coping Strategies Employed

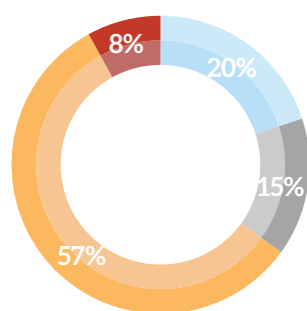
Among the 80 per cent of households that adopted at least one coping strategy during the past three months, the results show that these households employed an average of 3 negative coping strategies. There are significant differences based on demographic characteristics. Female-headed households employ more negative coping strategies on average (3.4) relative to male-headed households (3). Syrian

households adopted an average of 3.4 coping mechanisms compared to 2.7 among Jordanian households. Additionally, the larger the household size, the more negative coping strategies on average the household employs. Households in host communities, on average, adopted more coping mechanisms (3.1) relative to camp households (2.5).

Average Number of Negative Coping Strategies Adopted by Household Size, Geographical Location, Nationality and Gender of Household Head



Severity of Negative Coping Strategy Adopted During Past 3 Months to Meet Basic Needs



● None ● Stress
● Crisis ● Emergency

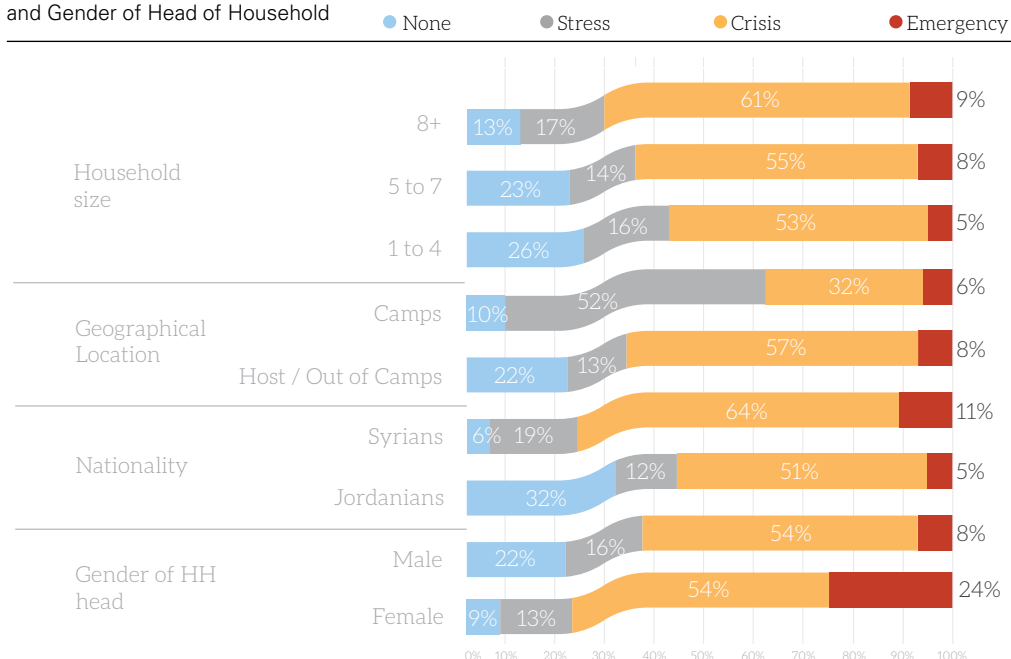
Severity of Coping Strategies Adopted

Negative coping strategies can be classified into three different categorizations depending on their level of severity, ranging from the adoption of stress, crisis to emergency coping strategies. More than half (57 per cent) of the households adopted a crisis-level coping mechanism, followed by stress (15 per cent) and emergency (8 per cent) coping strategies. Female-headed households adopted more severe coping strategies (78 per cent crisis or emergency strategy compared to 62 per cent for male-

headed households). Seventy-five per cent of Syrian households resorted to a crisis or emergency coping mechanism in contrast to 56 per cent among Jordanians.

In camps, households adopted relatively more stress-level coping strategies than households in host communities (52 per cent to 13 per cent), but less crisis coping mechanisms (32 per cent to 57 per cent). Households with more members also tended to resort to more severe coping mechanisms.

Severity of Adopted Negative Coping Strategies by Household Size, Geographical Location, Nationality, and Gender of Head of Household



Negative Coping Strategies

Purchasing food on credit or borrowing money to purchase food
Sent household members to eat elsewhere
Sold household assets (TV, radio, furniture)
Changed the place of residence or type to reduce rent expenses.

Sold means of production or sources of income
Sold house, land or car
Stopped children's education

Sent children (less than 18 years) to work in order to provide resources for the household
Reduced expenses on health treatment
Reduced expenses on education

Sent children under 18 to beg

Adult members of the households accepted socially degrading, exploitive, high risk or illegal temporary jobs

Severity

Stress

Crisis

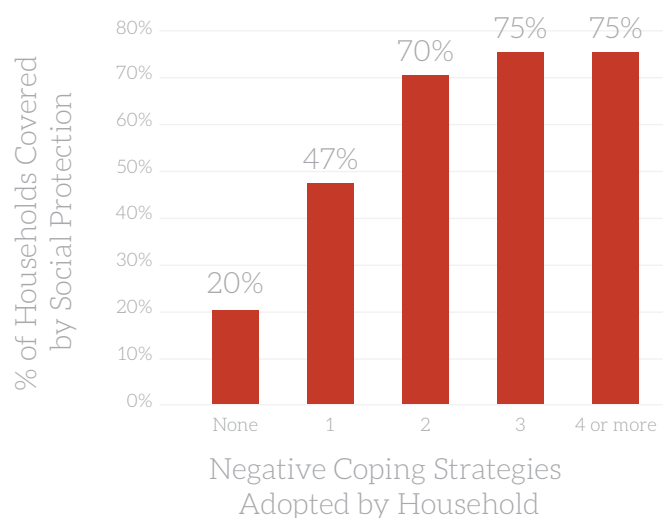
Emergency

Coping Strategies Employed by Social Protection Coverage

The graph shows that social protection coverage among households increases as the number of negative coping strategies adopted by the household increases. Among households that have not adopted any negative coping strategies, only 20 per cent have received assistance or subsidies after the onset of the Covid-19 pandemic. For households that have

employed one coping strategy, the social protection coverage is 47 per cent. Among households that have adopted two negative coping strategies, 7 out of 10 are receiving social assistance. For households that have employed three or more coping strategies, the social protection coverage rate is 75 per cent.

Proportion of Households Covered by Social Protection by Number of Negative Coping Strategies Adopted

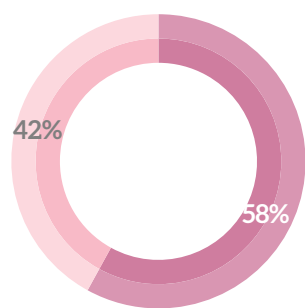


Chapter 6

Social Protection



Proportion of Households that Received Assistance or Subsidies Since the Onset of The Covid-19 Pandemic



● Yes ● No

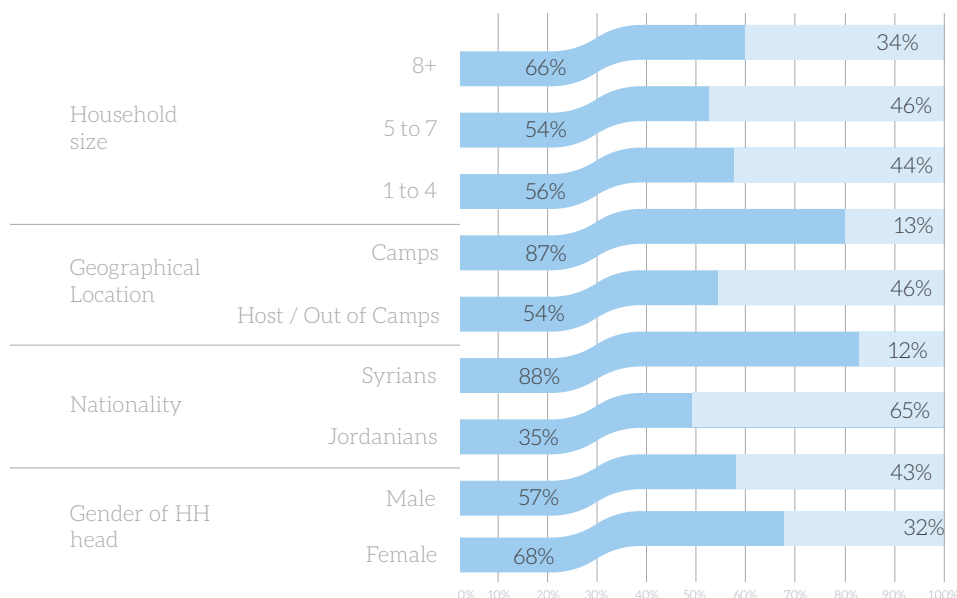
Received Assistance or Subsidies

Fifty-eight per cent of the households reported receiving assistance or subsidies after the onset of the Covid-19 pandemic. This differed considerably based on nationality, as 88 per cent of Syrian households received assistance/subsidies since the lockdown compared to 35 per cent among Jordanians. Similarly, many more households in the camps received assistance or subsidies at 87 per cent in contrast to 54 per cent for people living

in host communities. Female-headed households were also more likely to receive assistance/subsidies (68 per cent) compared to male-headed households (57 per cent). There is some variation in regards to household size, as 66 per cent of households with 8 or more members received social assistance compared to 56 per cent of households with 4 or less households members.

Households that Received Assistance or Subsidies since Onset of Covid-19 Pandemic by Household Size, Geographical Location, Nationality, and Gender of Head of Household

● Yes ● No

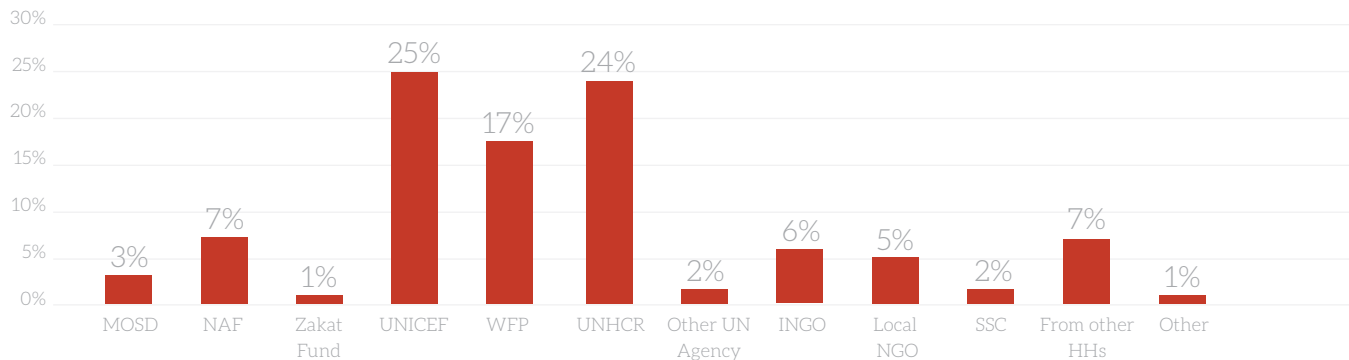


Source of Assistance or Subsidies

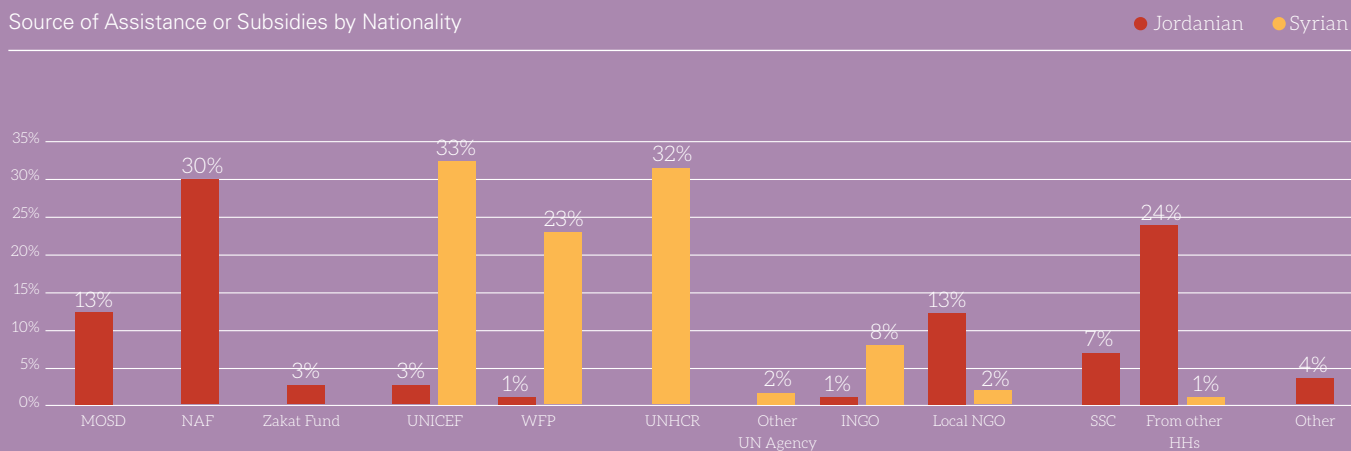
The most frequent source of social assistance for households that received assistance/subsidies was from three UN agencies: UNICEF (25 per cent), UNHCR (24 per cent), and WFP (17 per cent). This was followed by NAF or from other households at 7 per cent, along with either from an international (6 per cent) or local (5 per cent) NGO. Disaggregated by nationality, the results show that Syrian households primarily receive social assistance from the three aforementioned UN agencies, while Jordanian households

received assistance or subsidies most frequently from the National Aid Fund/NAF (30 per cent) or other households (24 per cent). Similarly, as all of the households in Azraq and Za'atari refugee camps are Syrian, they also predominantly receive assistance from UNHCR (36 per cent), WFP (20 per cent), and UNICEF (14 per cent), along with INGOs (23 per cent). This is also the case for households in host communities, where most of the recipients also received social assistance from the same three UN agencies.

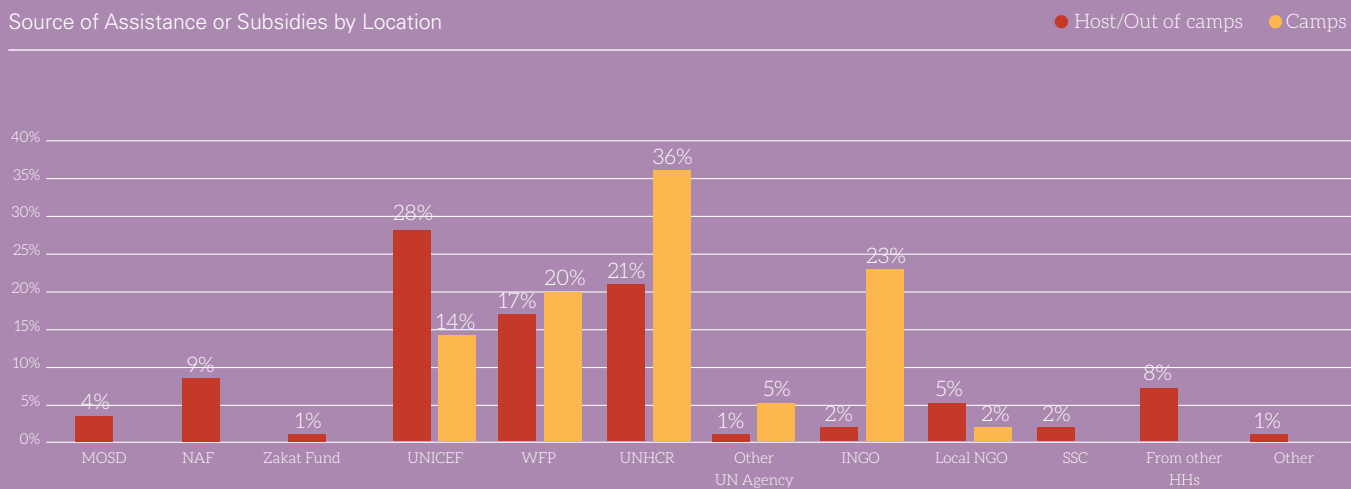
Source of Assistance or Subsidies for Recipients since the Onset of the Covid-19 Pandemic



Source of Assistance or Subsidies by Nationality



Source of Assistance or Subsidies by Location

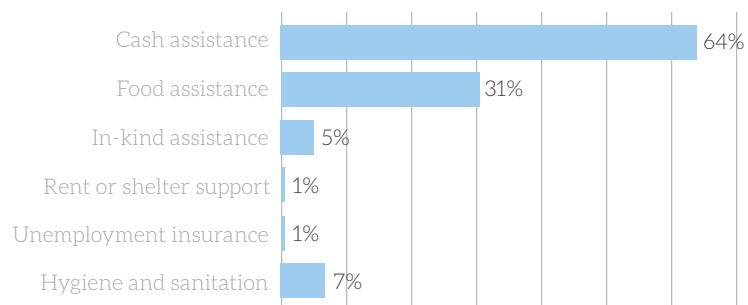


Type of Assistance or Subsidies

The most common type of social assistance received by households since the onset of the Covid-19 pandemic was cash assistance at 64 per cent, followed by food assistance at 31 per cent. This was also the case across nationality, for both Jordanians and Syrians. However, there are some differences based on nationality, as well. There is a higher percentage of food assistance received by Jordanians at 40 per cent compared to 27 per cent for Syrians. Only Syrian households received hygiene and sanitation products at 9 per cent, while a few Jordanian households

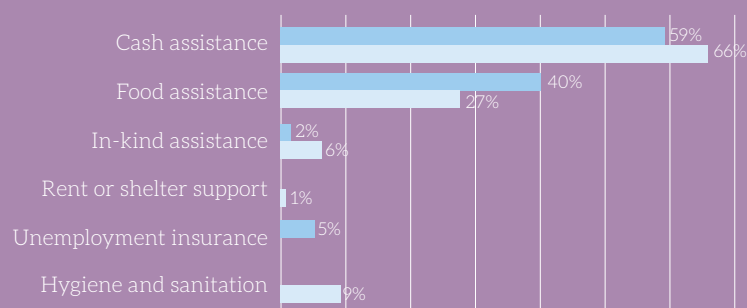
received unemployment insurance (5 per cent). Disaggregated by location, we can see that cash assistance was the most frequent assistance type (74 per cent) for households in host communities, while it was food assistance (43 per cent) and hygiene and sanitation products (33 per cent) for households in the camps. Twenty-eight per cent of out of camp households received food assistance. Twenty-three and seventeen per cent of households in camps received cash assistance and in-kind assistance, respectively.

Type of Assistance or Subsidies Received by Households since the Onset of the Covid-19 Pandemic



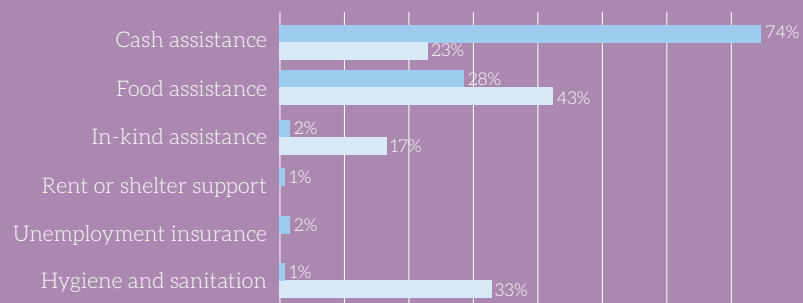
Type of Assistance Received by Nationality

● Jordanian ● Syrian



Type of Assistance Received by Location

● Host/Out of camps ● Camps

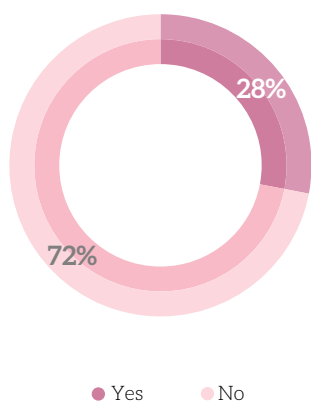


Chapter 7

Income and Livelihoods



Proportion of Households that Have Enough Money to Get Through Another Two Weeks at Time of Survey

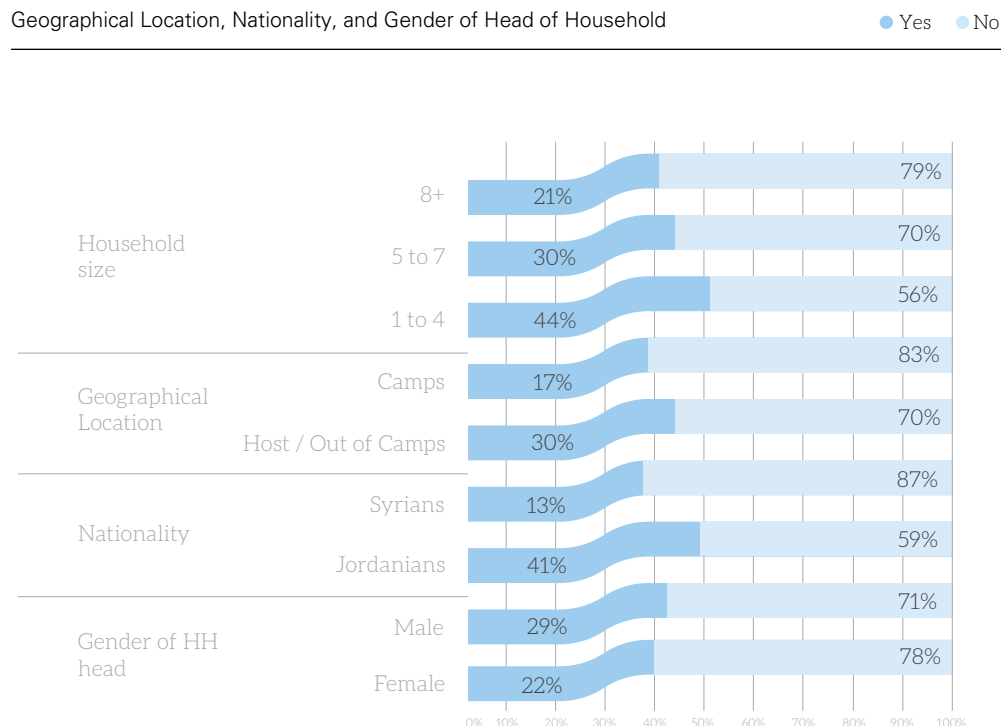


Savings – Enough Money to Get Through Another Two Weeks?

Only 28 per cent of households stated that they have enough money (cash in hand or banks) to sustain the household through another two weeks at the time of the survey. There are also significant differences for the various cohorts. While 41 per cent of Jordanian households have enough money for two weeks, this is only the case for 13 per cent of Syrians. Similarly, based on location, 30 per cent of households in host communities reported having enough money to sustain the household for another

two weeks, compared to 17 per cent for households in the camps. In terms of household size, the more members there are in the household, the less likely the household is to have enough money for the next two weeks. There is also a slight difference disaggregated by head of household, with 22 per cent of female-headed households having enough money for an additional two weeks compared to 29 per cent among male-headed households.

Households that Have Enough Money for Another Two Weeks by Household Size, Geographical Location, Nationality, and Gender of Head of Household



Household Income – Before and After the Onset of Covid-19 Pandemic

The results show that the monthly household income before and after the onset of the Covid-19 pandemic has decreased for some of the households. Prior to the pandemic, there was 6 per cent of households that had a monthly income less than 100 JD, while this has increased to 12 per cent at the time of the survey. There has also been a decrease of 7 p.p. among households that had a monthly income above 250 JOD from 59 per cent before Covid-19 to 52 per cent after the onset of the pandemic.

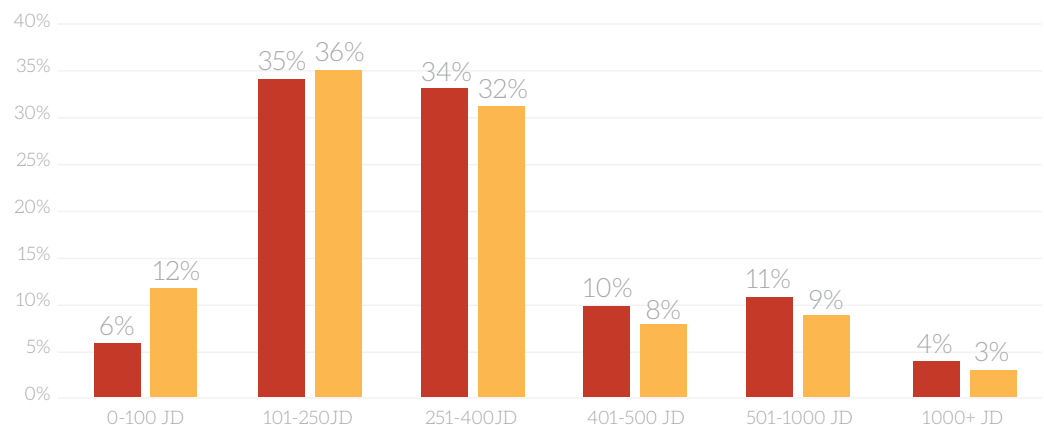
- The decrease in monthly income for male-headed households that prior to the Covid-19 pandemic earned above 250 JOD has been 8 p.p. compared to 4 p.p. among female-headed households. However, there were less female-headed households that had a monthly income above 250 JOD prior to Covid-19 at 41

per cent compared to 62 per cent for male-headed households.

- Similar trend based on location. Monthly income of households in camps decreased by 5 p.p. to 7 p.p. for households in host communities that earn above 250 JOD, but there were far fewer camp HHs that had 250+ JD income prior to Covid-19 at 22 per cent compared to host HHs at 64 per cent.
- The decrease in household income has been larger for Syrian households at 7 p.p. compared to Jordanians at 6 p.p. for households that used to earn more than 250 JOD per month, even considering that there were relatively fewer Syrian households that had a monthly income above 250 JOD before the pandemic (42 per cent against Jordanians at 73 per cent).

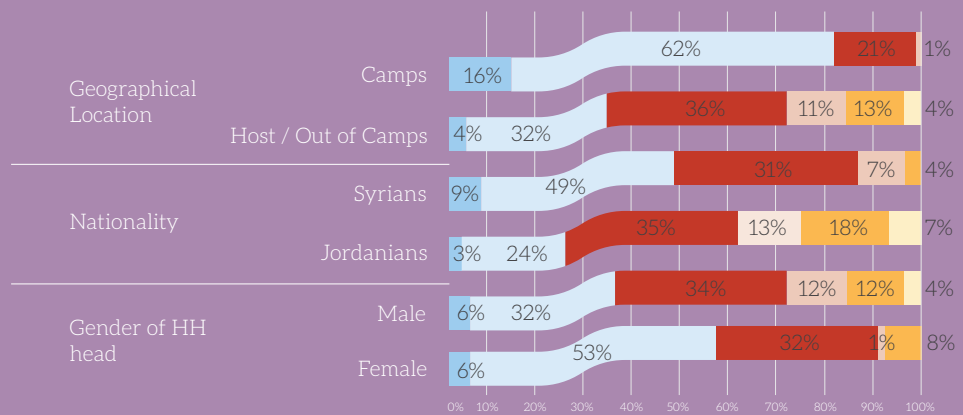
Household's Monthly Income Before and After the Onset of the Covid-19 Pandemic

● Before Covid-19 ● Now (July 2020)

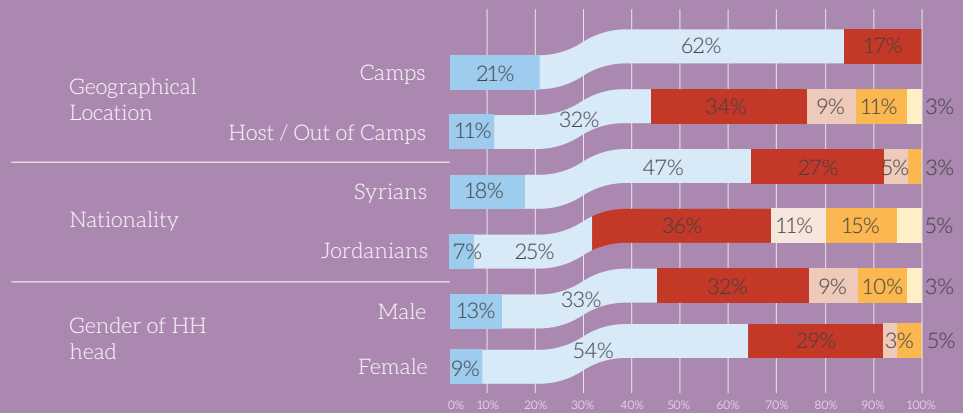


● 0-100 JD ● 101-250 JD ● 251-400 JD ● 401-500 JD ● 501-1000 JD ● 1000+ JD

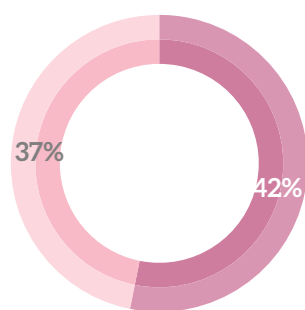
Monthly Household Income- Before Covid-19 Pandemic



Monthly Household Income- After Covid-19 (July 2020)



Head of Household Working or Engaged in Economic Activity Before and After Onset of Covid-19 Pandemic



● Before Covid-19
● Now (July 2020)

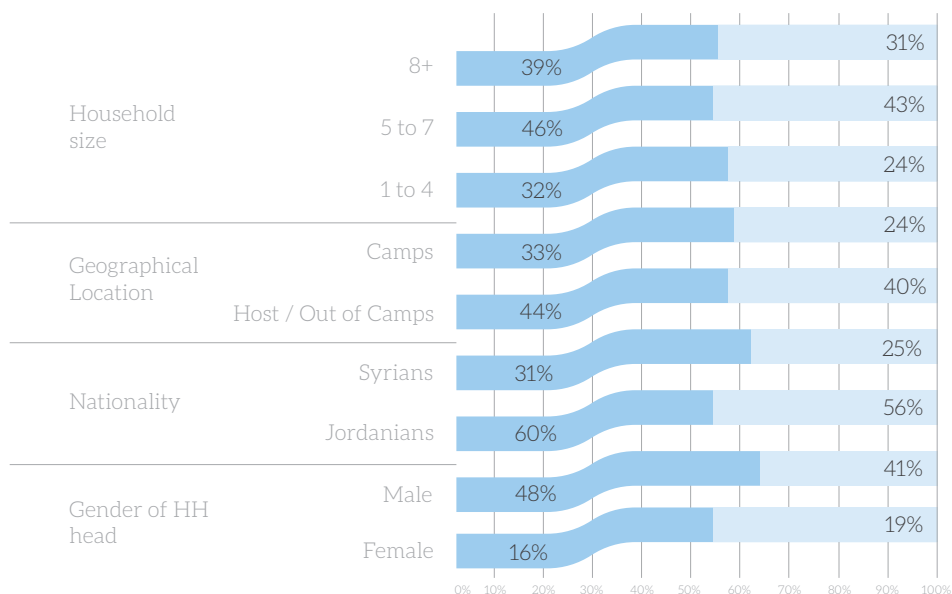
Livelihoods – Work Opportunities

Before the onset of the Covid-19 pandemic, 42 per cent of household heads reported working or being engaged in economic activity, while this dropped by 5 p.p. to 37 per cent at the time of the survey (July 2020). This trend is the same across almost all the different cohorts, with reductions ranging from 3 to 9 p.p., except for female-headed households, where only 16 per cent of the heads were working prior to the pandemic. The largest reduction in regards to engagement in

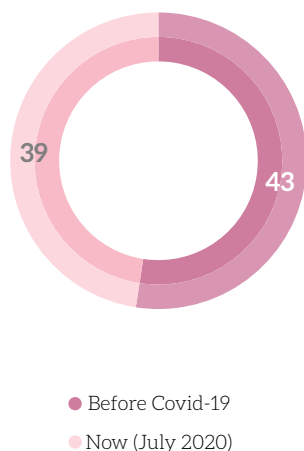
economic activity, in percentage points, is among household heads in camps at 9 p.p. Among Syrians, 6 p.p. fewer household heads are working now compared to prior to Covid-19, in contrast to a reduction of 4.p.p. for Jordanian households. In terms of percentage, however, the difference is relatively higher with a 19 per cent reduction for Syrian household heads engaging in economic activity compared to 7 per cent among Jordanians.

Head of Household Working or Engaged in Economic Activity by Household Size, Geographical Location, Nationality, and Gender of Head of Household

● Before Covid-19 ● Now (July 2020)



Average Working Hours per Week for Head of Household



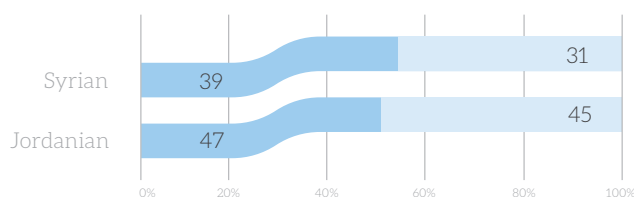
Livelihoods – Average Working Hours

In addition to fewer household heads working, there has also been, on average, a reduction of 4 working hours per week for household heads that are still engaged in economic activity, from before to after the onset of the Covid-19 pandemic. Prior to Covid-19, on average, household heads worked 43 hours a week, while this has decreased to 39 hours/week on average among household heads that are still engaged in economic activity at the time of the survey (July 2020).

Disaggregated by nationality, the results show that the reduction in average working hours per work has been larger for Syrian household heads (-8 hours), from before to after the onset of the Covid-19 pandemic, compared to Jordanian households (-2 hours). In terms of percentage, the reduction of average working hours per week for Syrian households is 21 per cent to 4 per cent for Jordanian household heads, which is affected by the fact that Jordanian heads of household worked more hours a week on average prior to the pandemic (47 hours) compared to Syrian heads of household (39 hours).

Average Working Hours per Week for Head of Household by Nationality

● Before Covid-19 ● Now (July 2020)



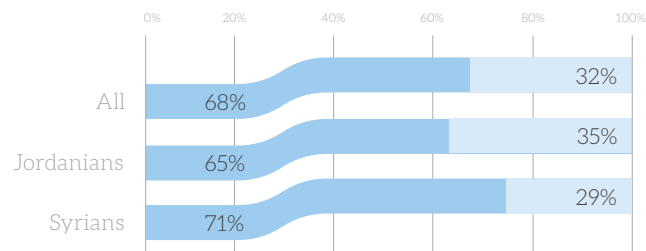
Livelihoods – Disruption of Work

Among household heads that are currently engaged in economic activity, 68 per cent reported that the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic has affected or disrupted their work. There is some difference based on nationality, as the rate of disruption is slightly higher for Syrian household heads at 71 per cent compared to Jordanian households at 65 per cent. Asked about

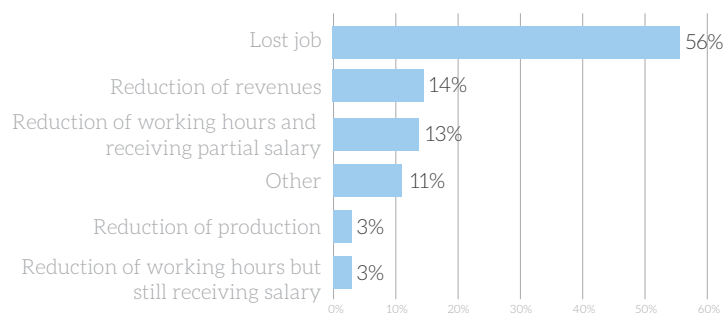
how Covid-19 has disrupted the work of the household head, the most frequent answer was that they lost their job (56 per cent), which could imply that the head of household had a job prior to Covid-19, lost it after the onset of the pandemic, and was then able to secure another job or engage in another economic activity.

Proportion of Household Heads that Have Experienced Disruption in their Work Due to Covid-19, by Nationality

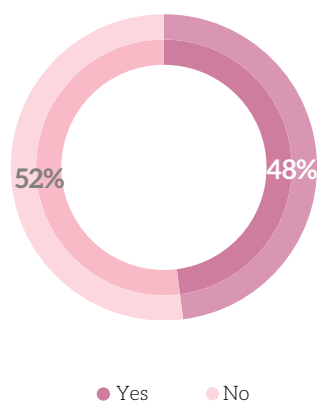
● Yes ● No



How has the Covid-19 Pandemic Disrupted the Work of the Household Head



Proportion of Household Heads that Have Been Seeking Work During the Past Week

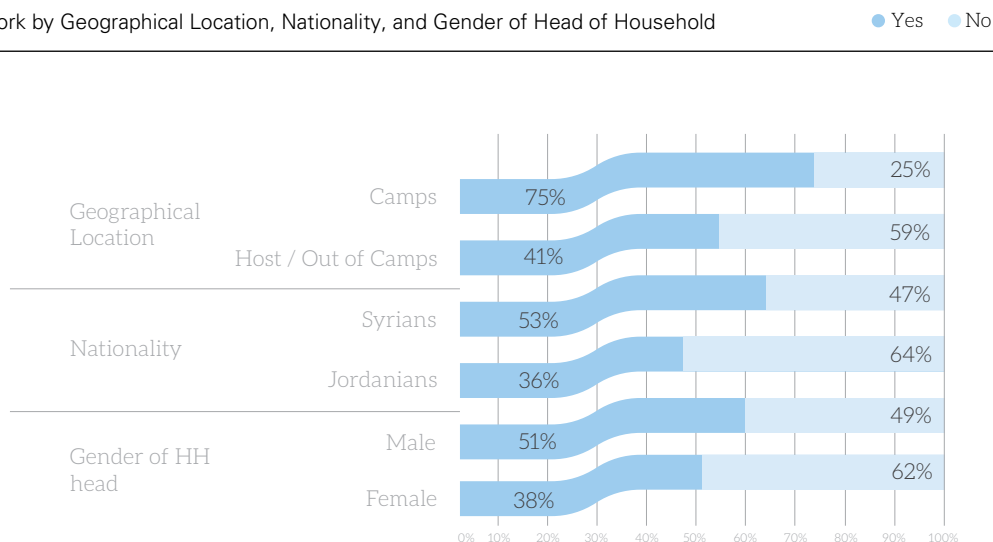


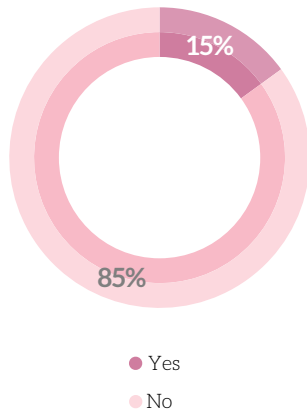
Livelihoods – Head of Household Seeking Work Opportunities

Among the household heads that are not currently engaged in economic activity, almost half (48 per cent) reported that they were seeking work during the past week. This differed substantially based on nationality, as 53 per cent of Syrian household heads were seeking work compared to 36 per cent among Jordanians. Similarly, male-headed households were relatively more likely to have been seeking work (51 per cent) compared to female-headed households (38 per cent). In the camps, while 3 out of 4 household heads were seeking work during the past week, this was only the case for 41 per cent of households in host

communities. The most frequent reason among the household heads that were not seeking work was that they were unable to work due to illness or disability (59 per cent), followed by being engaged in household chores (10 per cent), retired (10 per cent), other (10 per cent), or tired of looking for work (6 per cent). The majority of the household heads who are currently out of and seeking work – 58 per cent – have been out of work and seeking work since before the onset of the Covid-19 pandemic, while the remaining 42 per cent have been out of and seeking work during past 2 months.

Household Heads Seeking Work by Geographical Location, Nationality, and Gender of Head of Household

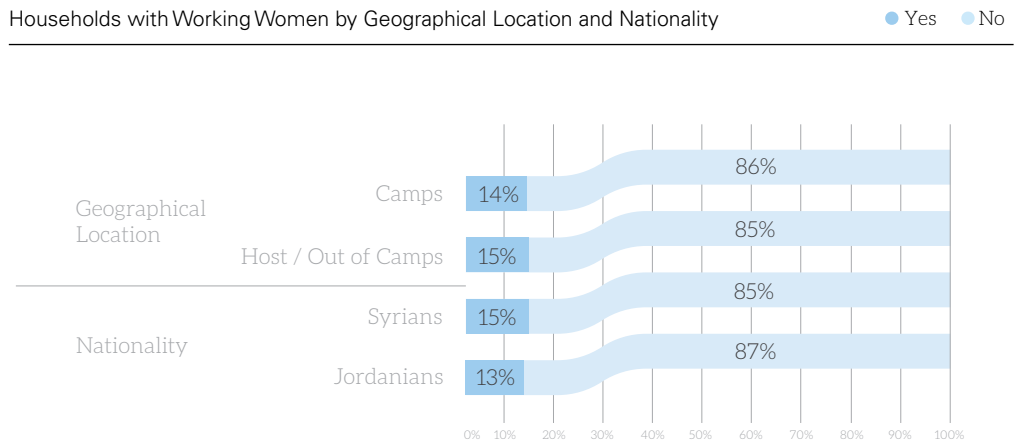


Proportion of Households with Working Women

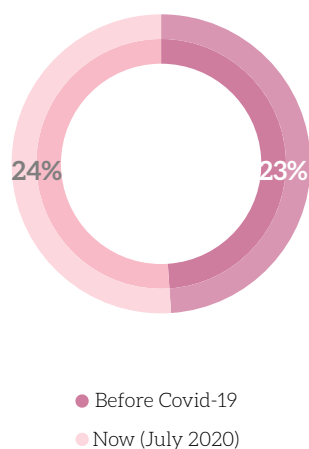
Livelihoods – Working Women in the Household

Only 15 per cent of the households reported that there was a working woman in the household. This is in line with the national trend, as Jordan has one of the lowest female labour force participation rates in the world at 13.5 per cent, with 80.2 per cent of women with tertiary education not in employment (Department of Statistics. Quarterly Report on the Unemployment Rate, 4th Quarter 2019).

There are no significant differences based on nationality or geographical location, as it ranges from 13-15 per cent. The rate of working women in the household is 2 p.p. less for Jordanians at 13 per cent compared to Syrian households at 15 per cent, while it is 1 p.p. higher for households in host communities (15 per cent) compared to households in the camps (14 per cent).

Households with Working Women by Geographical Location and Nationality

Youth Working or Engaged in Economic Activity Before and After Onset of Covid-19 Pandemic

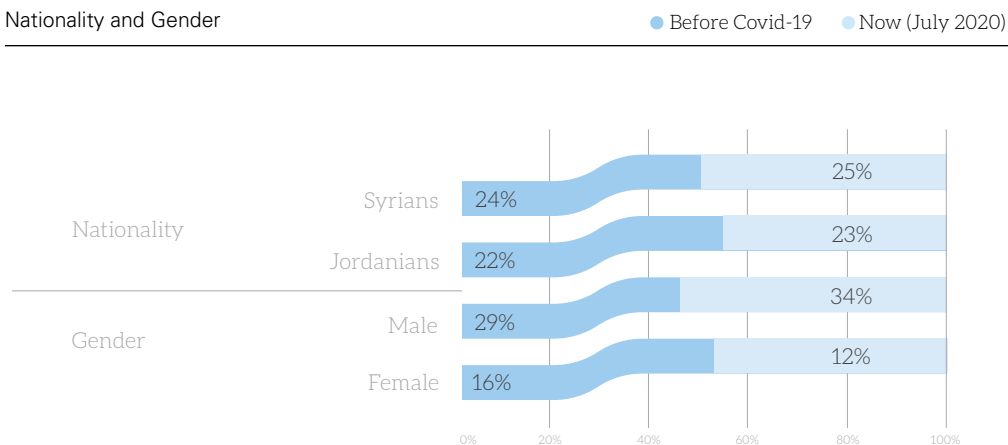


Livelihoods Youth – Work Engagement Before and During Covid-19

Before the onset of the pandemic, 23 per cent of youth interviewed were working or engaged in economic activity, while this increased by 1 p.p. to 24 per cent at the time of the survey (July 2020). Due to the secondary impacts of Covid-19, youth might have increased pressure to work in order to support their families. There is no significant difference based on nationality, as there has been a 1 p.p. increase for both Jordanian and Syrian youth working

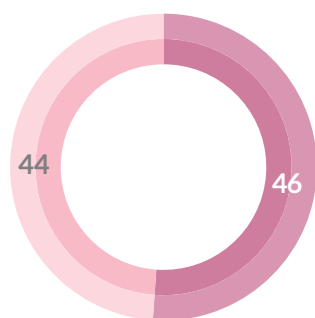
from before to after the onset of Covid-19. There is, however, a difference based on gender. There were fewer female youth working prior to the pandemic (16 per cent) compared to male youth (29 per cent), and while engagement in economic activity has decreased by 4 p.p. (or 25 per cent) among female youth after the onset of Covid-19, it has increased by 5 p.p. (or 17 per cent) for male youth.

Youth Working or Engaged in Economic Activity by Nationality and Gender



*Youth refers to individuals between 16 to 24 years.

Average Working Hours per Week for Youth



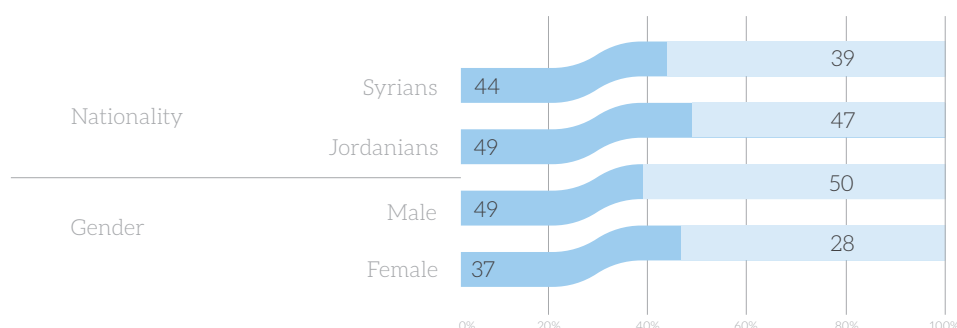
● Before Covid-19
● Now (July 2020)

Livelihoods Youth – Average Working Hours

Among youth that are currently working, there has been a reduction, on average, of 2 working hours from 46 to 44 since before to after the onset of the Covid-19 pandemic. This differs based on nationality, as there has been a larger decrease in average working hours per week for Syrian youth (-5) from 44 to 39 (or 11 per cent) compared to youth in Jordanian households (-2) from 49 to 47 (or 4 per cent). In addition to relatively fewer female

youth working prior to and after the onset of Covid-19, among female youth that are currently engaged in economic activity, there has been a significant decrease in the average working hours per week (-9) from 37 to 28 (or 24 per cent), while it has increased by, on average, 1 working hour per week for male youth from 49 to 50 hours (or 2 per cent).

Average Working Hours per Week for Youth by Nationality and Gender ● Before Covid-19 ● Now (July 2020)



Livelihoods Youth – Seeking Work Opportunities

Among the youth that are not currently working or engaged in economic activity, 44 per cent were seeking work during the past week. This differed substantially based on nationality, as 54 per cent of Syrian youth were seeking work compared to 37 per cent for Jordanian youth. Similarly, male youth were relatively more

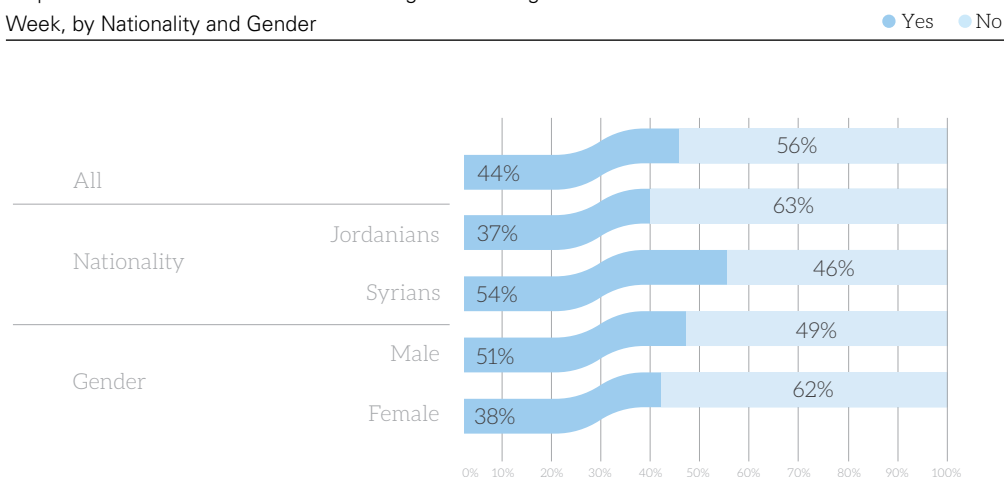
likely to have been seeking work (51 per cent) during the past week compared to female youth (38 per cent).

The most important and frequent reason cited among youth who are currently out of and seeking work was that they were studying (70 per cent). Education

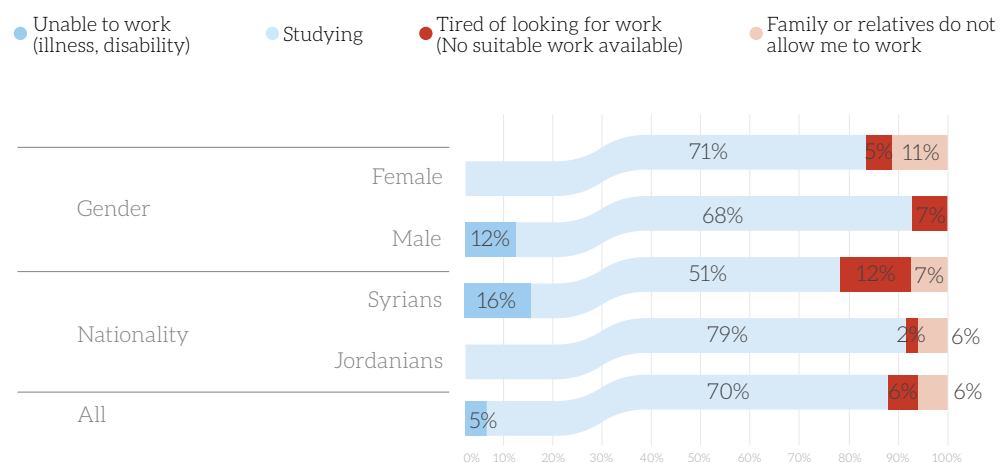
was the most common reason across the different cohorts. However, there are some differences based on nationality and gender. While 79 per cent of Jordanian youth cited studies as the most important reason for currently not seeking work, this was only the case for 51 per cent of youth in Syrian households. The second most important reason among Syrian youth, at 16 per cent, was that they were unable to work due to illness or disability,

followed by being tired of looking for work (12 per cent) and family or relatives not allowing them to work (7 per cent). Family or relatives not allowing them to work was the second most important reason for female youth at 11 per cent, behind studying at 71 per cent. The second most frequent reason for not seeking work among male youth was that they were unable to work due to illness or disability (12 per cent).

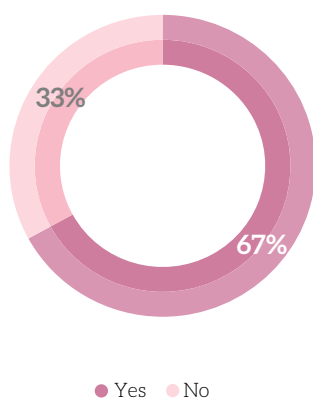
Proportion of Youth that Have Been Seeking Work During the Past Week, by Nationality and Gender



Four Most Important Reasons for Youth Not Seeking Work, by Nationality and Gender



Proportion of Youth that Performed Domestic Work or Household Tasks in Week Prior to Survey

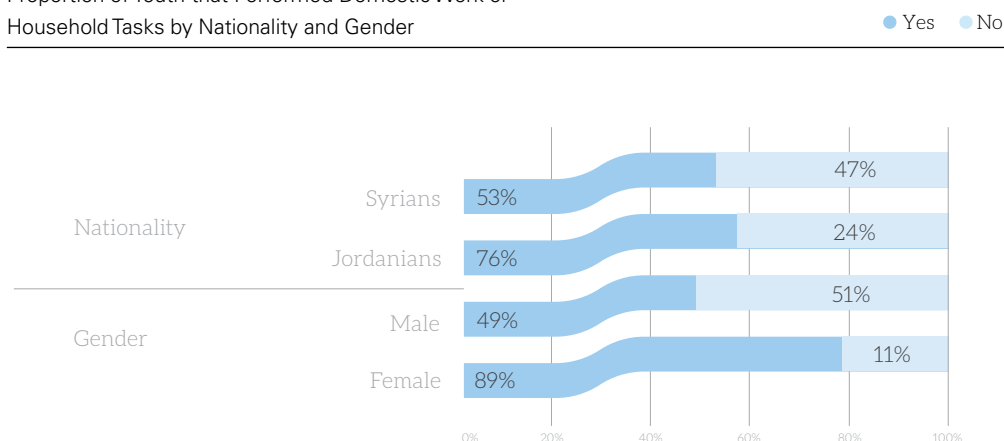


Livelihoods Youth – Domestic Work Inside Household

Almost seven out of ten – 67 per cent – youth perform domestic work inside the household. There are considerable differences based on gender and nationality. While eighty-nine per cent of female youth work on household tasks, such as shopping, cooking, cleaning, washing clothes, repairing household equipment, caring for other household

members, or any other household task, in the week prior to the survey, this is 40 p.p. lower for male youth at 49 per cent. Similarly, Jordanian youth also performed domestic work at a much higher rate at 76 per cent, compared to youth in Syrian households at 53 per cent.

Proportion of Youth that Performed Domestic Work or Household Tasks by Nationality and Gender



Average Hours Spent on Domestic Work Inside Household per Week for Youth

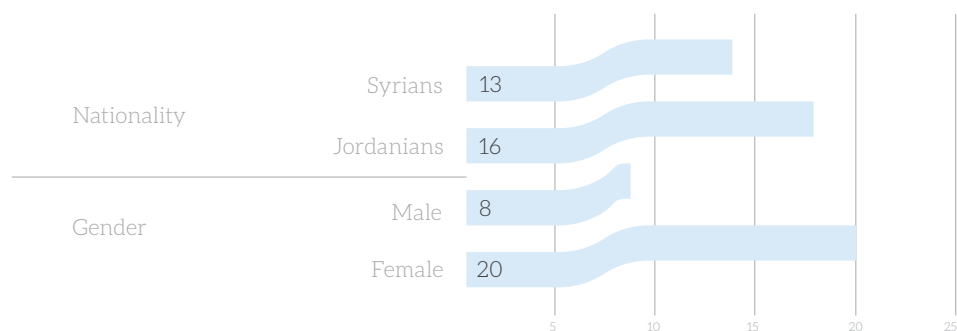


Livelihoods Youth – Average Number of Hours Spent on Domestic Work

Among youth that did domestic work inside the household, on average, the youth spent 15 hours per week on household tasks. This differs significantly based on gender. In addition to a higher share of female youth doing domestic work inside the household relative to male youth, female youth also, on average, work 2.5 times as much on household tasks at

20 hours a week, compared to male youth at 8 hours per week. Disaggregated by nationality, the results show that Jordanian youth perform, on average, 16 hours a week on domestic work, which is 3 more hours per week than youth in Syrian households at 13 hours/week.

Average Hours Performed on Domestic Work Inside Household per Week for Youth by Nationality and Gender



Conclusion and Recommendations

Health and Nutrition

- Jordan, though, made significant strides to achieve the current status of low-risk COVID-19 country, but still, the risk stays at large because of the possibility of second wave of infection around the world and in the neighbouring countries. The risk of COVID-19, especially for vulnerable populations, is high because their social interactions, the proximity of homes, large household size, the inability to buy hygiene products and masks, and 16 per cent still do not know where to consult in case of contracting the virus. Government and civil society should participate in efforts by leading organizations to raise awareness on preventive measures and also learning material (either through TV, radio, or printed copies) on the symptoms, risks, and nearby government health facilities and testing centers.
- COVID-19 pandemic disrupted the vaccination routine around the country, especially in the months of lockdown. Children living in ITS, and Syrian households were not fully covered for basic vaccination even before the COVID-19 crisis. While the routine vaccination services for children are restored, there is a need to expand routine services to reach missed communities, where some of the most vulnerable children live.
- Food security concerns for the children have also been highlighted by parents and caregivers where children have to sleep hungry multiple times over the last few months. When the schools open, expanding the school feeding programs that will help in reaching out to extremely vulnerable groups. Child cash grants and NAF targeting formula incorporating more child sensitive variables that can assist in better long-term food security outcomes for the children. Further evidence is needed to understand food insecurity among the children after the COVID-19 pandemic and to inform the policy-makers and harmful consequences to child health and well-being.

Education

- The assessment finds that one-fourth of the households with children never accessed Darsak in the time of school closure, due to multiple reasons. This also reflects on the unequal access to digital services and an increased digital divide, especially for the Syrian children. Ministry of Education has decided to open schools in September 2020, which might lead to the learning gap among the children who did not access the online and TV sessions during the COVID-19 lockdown. There is a need to put a strategy in place for those children who missed classes, which also provide detailed guidelines for schools and teachers.

Child Protection

- COVID-19 lockdown in the country, leading to school closures, limited access to extra-curricular, and restriction on movements disrupted children's routine and social support, while also placing new stress on parents and caregivers. Children and families who are already vulnerable due to socio-economic exclusion or those who live in overcrowded settings are, particularly at risk. There is a need for identifying new awareness-raising campaigns to highlight the importance of responsive parent-child relationships.
- In order to curb the risk of violence against children, there is a need to develop an inter-agency plan, in collaboration with relevant authorities to strengthen the care of vulnerable children and raise awareness among the parents for better child-care and protection.

Social Protection

- Almost 6 out of 10 households reported receiving assistance or subsidies after the onset of the Covid-19 pandemic. However, 88 per cent of Syrian households interviewed received social assistance compared to only 35 per cent among Jordanians. Syrians were most likely to receive assistance from the UN, while the most frequent source of social assistance for Jordanians was the National Aid Fund (NAF).
- The Government of Jordan is so far assisting 230,000 daily wage workers with emergency cash assistance as part of the Covid-19 response, along with more than 150,000 Jordanian households through NAF's regular cash transfer and Takaful programmes. It should continue to expand and enhance its social protection coverage to mitigate the secondary impacts of the pandemic on poor and vulnerable households, and also to put in place a mechanism to provide support to excluded groups such as migrant workers.

Livelihoods

- Engagement in economic activity for household heads has decreased as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic,

with Syrians and households in camps the most affected, along with a reduction in the number of average working hours. Among household heads that are currently working, two-thirds reported that the outbreak of Covid-19 had disrupted their work. Overall, only 28 per cent stated that they have enough money to sustain the household through another two weeks (Jordanians, 41 per cent; Syrians, 13 per cent).

- Social assistance, wage protection, and support to small and medium enterprises are important measures to assist the basic consumption of poor and vulnerable households, and should be continued and expanded. Amid the uncertainty and duration of the Covid-19 pandemic, programmes that seek to increase and strengthen livelihood opportunities for affected populations across communities should be a point of emphasis, also coordination and synergies between different implementers of social protection programs should be enhanced as a way to facilitate access to some form of support to those groups who have fell through the cracks.

Youth Livelihood

- Only 15 per cent have a working woman in the household. The findings show that female youth were less likely to be working prior to Covid-19 compared to male youth, and the gap has increased after the onset of the pandemic. Female youth also work, on average, relatively fewer hours than male youth, and this gap has also increased. Additionally, while 89 per cent of female youth perform domestic work inside the household, this is 40 p.p. lower for male youth at 49 per cent. Female youth also, on average, work 20 hours a week on household tasks, compared to 8 hours per week for male youth.
- Now more than ever, Jordan needs to increase its rate of female labour force participation, which will help to mitigate the secondary impacts of Covid-19 through increased productivity and economic growth. Furthermore, humanitarian and development programmes should enhance its inclusion criteria for different programming components to make them more gender-sensitive.



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