LIVELIHOODS

CHAPTER

METHODOLOGY

The sector chapters were predominantly designed to present the data that exists, and that was shared with the Multi Sector Needs Assessment (MSNA) team. Annex A provides a summary of the assessments and reports reviewed for the chapter. There is much that sector experts know from experience that is not captured in the assessment reports. To capture some of the expert views within the Sector Working Groups (SWGs), MSNA SWG workshops were facilitated by the MSNA team and sector experts. These views are taken into account throughout the document. However, due to the short notice, attendance was limited in some workshops and the views presented in the chapter cannot be considered as representative of all SWG members.

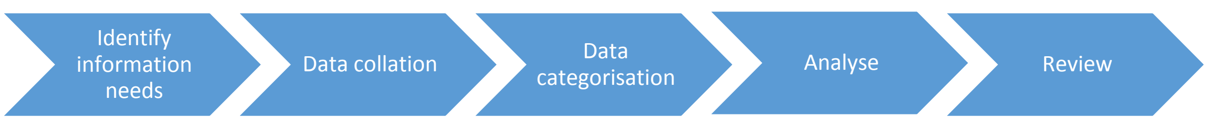
The MSNA team aimed to provide an objective overview of the available data and SWG views and therefore has not altered the data or language used in the reports and assessments.

The following target groups were used for the purposes of data analysis:

- Syrian refugees registered with UNHCR or awaiting registration
- Syrians living in Lebanon who have not been registered with UNHCR
- Palestinian refugees from Syria (PRS)
- Vulnerable local Communities including Host Communities and Palestinians (PRL)
- Lebanese returnees

Analysis was undertaken at the lowest possible geographic levels for the various target groups, depending on the type of information available. Where possible, information was aggregated to; Mount Lebanon and Beirut, South, Bekaa, Akkar, North/T+5, Palestinian Camps, and Outside Palestinian Camps.

Main Steps



- **Identifying information needs:** In order to identify the relevant research questions for collation, the Thematic Working Group (TWG) combined the indicators of the Syria Regional Response Plan (RRP6) with additional information needs from the SWG. These information needs were used to form the basis of the chapter themes.
- **Secondary data collation:** An assessment inventory was developed and shared for input from as many stakeholders as possible; to encourage sharing of assessment data. A sector focal point was assigned from the TWG and supported the MSNA team to collect data from the sectors. Within the team, analysts were assigned to sector chapters and a number of partners were approached including: INGOs, UN agencies, the Ministry of Social Affairs Lebanon (MoSA), the National NGO forum and the World Bank with requests for assessment reports.
- **Data categorisation:** To facilitate the data analysis component, all data was summarised and categorised into an excel spreadsheet.
- **Analysis and Writing:** The Sector Leads and respective analysts assessed the usefulness of the reports and used them accordingly. For example, a nationwide multi-sector report would have been used to develop broad conclusions, whilst an assessment with a small sample size in one particular location may have been used to provide examples to support/contradict the overall findings.
- **Review and Consultation:** The MSNA team reviewed a number of databases, assessments and reports that were provided by partner agencies. In order to obtain as comprehensive overview as possible a number of consultations were built in with the SWGs.

For more information on the methodology please refer to the main report.

CONTENTS

SECTION 1

1. KEY FINDINGS

Summary of Priorities

Based on the data review and inputs from the Sector Working Group we can provide the following preliminary conclusions:

The perceptions on priority needs as expressed by members of the sector working groups were in line with the findings of the assessments reviewed. The findings from the data and the MSNA SWG workshop both indicate that the priority needs are as follows; while a significant part of Syrian refugee households indicate that employment is their main source of income, the available employment opportunities are often temporary and refugees are vulnerable to exploitation by employers. Access to decent work opportunities is a priority need, which includes supporting different market sectors to enable expansion of the labour force and identifying alternative markets.

Participantsin the MSNA workshop confirmed the existing barriers to employment, including need for skill training and cultural and domestic obstacles for female participation in the labour market. However, during the workshop it was underlined that any interventions to overcome these barriers should directly relate to a demand from the labour market. In addition, the participants indicated that it is difficult to support and regulate employment, as much is taking place in the informal market.

In general, needs among target groups are similar. However, specifically for Syrian and Palestinian refugees, the need for a clear legal status providing protection from exploitation was highlighted. A specific need for Lebanese host communities is protection from “unfair” competition as a result of exploitation of Syrian employees in terms of low wages and overall working conditions. There is a widespread perception among Lebanese communities that the presence of Syrian refugees is resulting in unfair competition and this is a major source of tensions. As a result, access to income generating opportunities for Lebanese communities is a continued need.

Geographical priorities are determined by underlying vulnerabilities such as poverty and unemployment rates and the proportion of refugees compared the overall population. In addition, the security situation is a main factor affecting access to livelihoods. Border areas, which have been affected most by the disruption of trade due to border closures, were specifically highlighted as a geographical priority.

The available data does not provide an indication on response gaps. However, the SWG highlighted the lack of transition to sustainable programming in general, and the subsequent lack of large-scale livelihood programmes and related advocacy initiatives. In terms of the future, the participants in the MSNA SWG workshop highlighted an increase in tensions and further security incidents as a major factor that could affect livelihoods programming.

1.1 Priority Needs

Based on the data available, the MSNA team has found the following priority needs[1]:

- Improve access to more permanent income-generating opportunities for all target groups to improve living conditions and decrease tensions as a result of a deterioration of the economic situation
- Support the existing market to create additional livelihoods opportunities
- Support to women to overcome barriers to employment
- Provision of training and resources as required to those employed or actively searching for employment
- Encourage the provision of wages above minimum wage and decent work conditions for all target groups
- The data indicates that the large majority of households is in debt and as a result, there is a need to provide debt relief to the most vulnerable households.

The participants of the MSNA SWG workshop identified the following priority needs[2]:

- Access to minimum wage and social security
- Access to livelihoods opportunities, including land
- Access to more demand-driven vocational training
- Expansion of market-based home-based production
- More awareness on food hygiene and good processing practices
- Protection against exploitation by employers
- Protection against child labour

1.2 Priority Target Groups

Based on the available data it was not possible to identify priority target groups.

The participants in the MSNA SWG indicated that while exact needs differ among the target groups, in general, needs are similar. However, specifically for Syrian and Palestinian refugees, the need for a clear legal status providing protection from exploitation was highlighted. A specific need for Lebanese host communities is protection from “unfair” competition as a result of exploitation of Syrian employees in terms of low wages and overall working conditions.

1.3 Geographic Priorities

The only conclusion on geographic priorities that the MSNA team could draw from the available data is that those areas with the highest number of refugees face the highest competition over jobs, leading to higher figures of absolute unemployment and leaving people vulnerable to exploitation.

Similarly, the participants of the MSNA SWG workshop indicated that geographical priorities are determined by underlying vulnerabilities such as poverty and unemployment rates and the proportion of refugees compared the overall population. In addition, the security situation is a main factor affecting access to livelihoods. Border areas, which have been affected most by the disruption of trade due to border closures, were specifically highlighted as a geographical priority.

[1] It should be noted that the MSNA team’s analysis has been built from the data that was available and should not be viewed as representative of the overall situation

[2] The MSNA held a workshop discussion with 13 people from the Livelihoods Working Group with 13 representatives of 9 organisations who are appealing for funds through the RRP6. Although the full working group was invited to participate, short notice impacted attendance. Therefore, the results of this workshop can in no way be interpreted as a consensus of the views of the entire working group.

1.4 Response Gap Analysis

The available data does not provide an indication on response gaps.

During the MSNA workshop, the discussion on response gaps highlighted the following gaps:

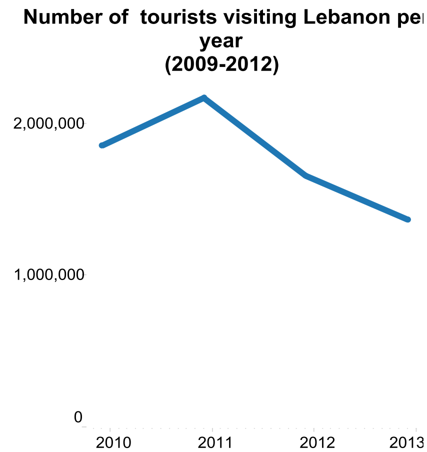
- While several initiatives are ongoing, there are currently no large-scale livelihoods interventions and as a result, there are large gaps. The current response has not yet completely transitioned to a more sustainable response.
- There is insufficient advocacy to highlight the importance of livelihoods interventions, which are often not seen as an emergency priority for intervention, while there is increasing evidence that livelihood opportunities are a driving force behind tensions.

2. CONTEXT

Employment and markets in Lebanon

The main employment sectors in Lebanon are: services; financial intermediation; insurance and trade. The informal economy, i.e. the segment of an economy that is not taxed, is estimated to contribute 30% of GDP. An International Labour Organization (ILO) study shows that an estimated 40% of employees work in the informal sector, which is characterised by low wages and weak social protection.

Women and youth are underrepresented in the labour market in Lebanon. In 2011, only 24% of women were economically active (against 70% of men). Some of the reasons behind women's low activity rates include child bearing, cultural practices and household responsibilities. Lebanese youth below the age of 25 years suffer from weak integration into the labour market. The ILO reports that in 2010, an estimated 23% of the youth was unemployed, compared to 9% of the total population.



A 2011, a Lebanese Central Administration of Statistics(CAS) Labour Market study among 4,000 households showed that the average monthly wage in the formal sector ranges from LBP 288,000 (USD 190) in the agriculture sector to LBP 965,000 (USD 640) in the transport, post and telecom sector. However, a large part of the economic activities take place in the informal sector, and as a result, these findings are not are not a reflection of all wages in Lebanon.

In a 2012 decree, the minimum monthly wage was set at LBP 675,000 (USD 450) and the minimum daily wage at LBP 30,000 (USD 20). However, not everyone is covered by this decree: migrant workers fall outside minimum wage regulations. Differences in salaries paid to men and women have been reported. During the 2011 CAS Labour Market study, the female median monthly salary was found to be LBP 50,000 below men's median salary. Regional disparities with regard to salaries were also noticed; Beirut was ranked with higher salaries in general for both women and men, while average salaries were generally lower in the South.

Palestinians face large-scale legal and socio-economic obstacles to working in Lebanon. By law, Palestinian refugees are not allowed to follow professions in over 30 syndicates and 72 un-syndicated professions, including medical doctors, engineers, nurses and taxi drivers. With a signed contract from a company, Palestinians are able to obtain a work permit free of charge. Most Palestinians, however, are engaged in occupations that do not need work permits and many remain unaware of the procedures for regularising their status. (AUB/UNRWA 2010, ILO 2012/11/20)

It is unknown how many Syrian workers were residing in Lebanon before the crisis, with estimates ranging between 300,000 and 600,000. Syrian migrants mostly worked in agriculture, construction, commercial establishments and handicrafts. In February 2013, a resolution by the Minister of Labour made some professions, previously confined to Lebanese, available to Syrian workers (such as construction, electricity, sales), in recognition that these workers had been engaged in these professions openly for many years. While a work permit is required for all Syrians in Lebanon in practice, significant number of Syrians worked without a permit.

The crisis in Syria and unrest in Lebanon has impacted economic productivity, including a deterioration of productivity in the service and agricultural sector:

- Between 2011 and 2013 the inflow of tourists, an important source of income, was adversely affected by regional turmoil, in particular, the events in Syria, heavily impacting the service sector.

- Agriculture provides around 5% of GDP and 6% of employment. The regions of Akkar and the Bekaa traditionally employ the largest number of paid seasonal agricultural workers in Lebanon, including a large number of Syrian migrants. The agriculture sector has been severely impacted by the crisis and the loss of overland export routes to the Gulf countries through Syria. In addition, farmers are struggling to compete with cheaper products from Syria. The costs of agricultural inputs have increased, as before the crisis a number of Lebanese farmers close to the borders benefited from lower priced imports or subsidised Syrian inputs through smuggling(FAO 2013/04/03, MoF 2013). FAO highlights that the influx of refugees in large numbers has result in accelerated degradation of forest and water resources, in particular for rural communities of northern Lebanon and irrigated farmers in Bekaa Valley in Lebanon.

To further address the impact of the crises in social cohesion and livelihoods, the Task Force on Support to Host Communities was launched, co-chaired by UNDP, UNHCR, the Office of the Prime Minister of Lebanon (PMO) and MoSA, facilitating part of the social cohesion and livelihood activities.

SECTION 3

3. DATA SOURCES

At the start of the process, SWGs developed a list of information needs (i.e. those themes that they required information on within their sector). These were built from RRP6 indicators and a consultation within the working group. For the purpose of Phase 1, MSNA analysts reviewed and examined the available data on each theme. See Section 4 for results.

The table below highlights the information needs and whether or not they were met by the available data.

Table [1]: Information needs and availability of existing data/information

Information Need
Types of income generation and employment
Labour market creation strategies and value chains per geographic area
What are the key barriers/constraints for women to increase their employability
Skills gaps for the various market sectors
Level of households indebtness
Livestock diseases transferred across borders and response
Market based renumeration rates
Types of income generation and employment
Labour market creation strategies and value chains per geographic area

Legend

No data available to the MSNA team at the time of writing

Some data available but may be outdated or lack methodological rigour

The available data addresses the information need

This section aims to highlight the data sources and limitations.

General

In 2013 and 2014, four specific livelihoods assessments were undertaken and 14 multi-sector assessments integrating the topic. These assessments do not cover all geographic areas or target groups. There is only one assessment on the situation of Palestinian refugees, focusing on Palestinians from Syria, while information on Lebanese communities is largely absent.

Where possible, we attempted to separate data regarding registered, awaiting registration, and unregistered Syrian refugees. However, because most data was collected at the household level, even surveys targeting Syria refugees registered and awaiting registration include unregistered refugees and therefore cannot be separated. Even though the data is presented for overall Syrian refugees regardless of registration status, we should assume there are differences between these groups.

The following is a breakdown of data available by theme during the MSNA Phase I process:

- **Sources of income**: There are seven main sets of data that provide information on the overall sources of income for Syrian refugees. While most of these assessments cover unregistered Syrians in Lebanon, assessment results have not been disaggregated as such, and conclusions on differences between those that have or have not been registered by UNHCR can therefore not be drawn. Only twosets of data allowed for disaggregation per type of settlement. However, neither of these assessments were intended to be representative for the geographic area nor for the type of settlements assessed. It was noticed in several assessments that sources of income are difficult to assess as respondents can be unwilling to reveal all their sources. During an Oxfam assessment in October, it was observed that it is likely that remittances from Syria were for instance underreported. There was only one assessment on the sources of income of Lebanese communities available.
- **Employment**: There are four main assessments on the proportion of the working age population who were employed. While there are other assessments covering employment, these assessments cover employment as a possible main source of income, rather than the proportion of assessed individuals employed. The findings between the two approaches are therefore not comparable. Permanent employment is very limited, with most employment being temporary and seasonal. As a result, the available assessments only show a snapshot of the situation, which is subject to change according to season. There is only one assessment available on the informal market, which is very small scale and not representative of the situation in the country. The International Organization for Migration's (IOM) returnee profiling exercise is used to provide information on employment of Lebanese returnees in June to October 2013. There is some information available on the impact of the Syrian crisis on Lebanese vulnerable communities and Palestinian refugees from Syria, albeit limited.

  In Lebanon, there is an overall lack of data on **employment per sector** and the capacity of the market to expand. The information on employment per sector within this chapter is mostly based on one ILO survey and three Emergency Market Mapping and Analysis (EMMA) assessments undertaken in April 2013. These later three assessments primarily looked at the capacity of the agriculture, construction and service sector to absorb additional labour. While these assessments provide a comprehensive picture of the situation at the time in the North and the Bekaa, these findings cannot be extrapolated to the rest of the country, neither to the current situation. Due to their different legal status, access to livelihoods for Palestinian refugees, including those from Syria, completely differs from that of Syrian refugees. However, no updated information on this topic is available.
- **Skills**: Only limited information is available on the exact skill sets of Syrian refugees. Only three assessments cover whether Syrians are employed on their skill levels. No information on these topics is available for Lebanese returnees, Lebanese vulnerable communities or Palestinian refugees, including those from Syria.
- **Wages**: As a large part of the Syrian population in Lebanon works in the informal market, information on wages earned per sector is patchy. The most comprehensive information available is derived from an ILO assessment in March and an EMMA assessment in Bekaa and the North of Lebanon in April 2013. One study provides information on the median wages earned by Lebanese per sector. However, as this study is from 2011, it does not take into account the impact of the Syrian crisis. No information was available on the wages of Palestinians at the time of publication of this report.
- **Level of household indebtedness:** There are multiple sources available on the level of household indebtedness, most of them covering the proportion of people in debt, the average debt and the reason for indebtedness. Recognising that there is a large variety between the level of debts, most assessments not only indicate the average, but also the median and amount of debts (e.g. 20% of assessed households have a debt higher than USD 600). However, the available assessments solely cover Syrian households, and data is not available on the other target groups.

SECTION 4

The following section provides an analysis of data according to theme, including a summary table of assessment coverage by target group and geographic region.

4. ANALYSIS PER THEME

4.1 Sources of Income

Summary of assessment findings: The available data shows that the main source of income for Syrian refugees is employment, ranging from 23% to 60% of households' income (depending on the assessment). Other sources of income include assistance, remittances, and savings. One source suggests that there remain income streams from Syria, although respondents have not explicitly indicated this. Female-headed households rely less on income in Lebanon from employment. One assessment in T+5 highlights that source of income differed per type of shelter. Lebanese returnees primarily rely on income from employment as well. There is no information available on the sources of income of Lebanese communities or Palestinian refugees.

The summary table below shows assessment coverage by geographic area and target group. It does not, however, show the quality of the assessments or the extent of the coverage.

Table [2]: Assessment coverage by geographic area and target population

	Vulnerable Local Communities (Lebanese and PRL)	Lebanese Returnees	PRS	Syrian refugees	
				Registered	Unregistered
National					
North/T+5					
Akkar					
Mt. Lebanon and Beirut					
Bekaa					
South					
Palestinian Camps					
Outside Palestinian Camps					
NB – Grey cells indicate that there is at least one assessment available on the specific area or target group. However, the data may not cover the situation for the entire geographic area or target group.					

<u>Syrian refugees registered, awaiting registration and unregistered</u>

National

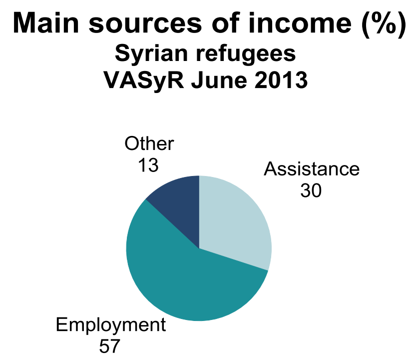
An Oxfam assessment in October 2013 among 260 households indicated that labour is the largest contributor to household income, covering almost 50% of actual expenditure. 43% of female-headed households covered by this assessment reported no income at all. Their average monthly income totalled USD 216, compared to USD 250 for all households assessed. However, female-headed households reported to be able to spend a similar amount to the average household. Within the assessment report it is therefore judged likely that female-headed households are receiving income streams from their male relatives in Syria, albeit in small quantities.

A monthly WFP post-distribution monitoring (PDM) exercise among around 700 beneficiary households between October 2013 to January 2014 showed that only 23% of assessed households relied on labour as one of the three main sources of income. When disaggregated by geographical area, it becomes apparent from the results that casual labour is a more import first source of income in the South (for 40% of families assessed), compared to Bekaa (14%) and the North (10%).

An ILO study in March 2013 in Akkar, Bekaa, Tripoli and South among over 400 Syrian refugees showed that 36% of respondents stated that they have sources of income other than wages, primarily from assistance, savings and remittances.

More than half of the over 1,400 households surveyed during the Vulnerability Assessment of Syrian Refugees in Lebanon (VASyR) in June 2013 relied on employment as their primary livelihood source, including 28% on non-agricultural casual labour and 25% on skilled work. Nearly 30% of the households surveyed depended on some type of assistance as their main livelihood source; mainly food vouchers.

Less than 1% of Syrian refugee households interviewed during the VASyR in June 2013 owned livestock or had access to land in order to cultivate their own produce. The main livestock consists of poultry.



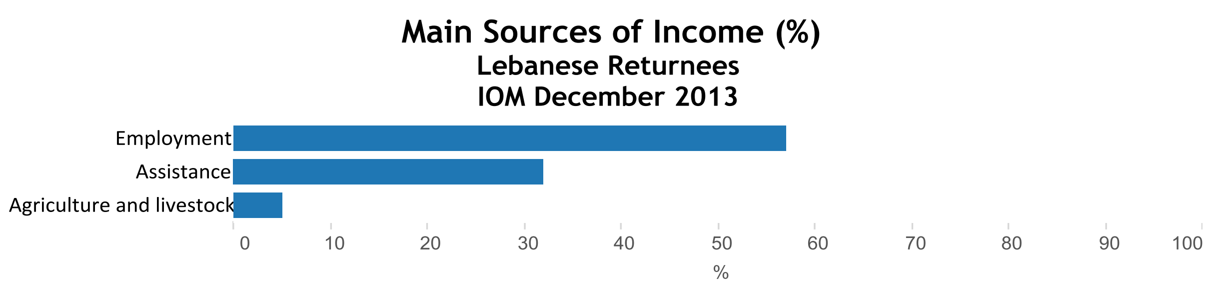
North/T+5

A Solidarités International assessment in May in Zgharta and Minieh-Danniyeh districts showed results similar to the VASyR – 60% of households relied on employment (mostly daily) as their main source of income, followed by assistance (20%), which includes humanitarian assistance and remittances.

A follow up assessment in August by Solidarités International, found that those assessed in informal tented settlements (ITS) more often rely on assistance (29%) compared to those in other shelters (14.5 %). The overall proportion of people relying on employment as their main source of income had decreased compared to the findings of a May Solidarités International assessment, which could be explained by increased competition for labour. In addition, the May assessment was undertaken during the peak of the agricultural season, during which the demand for labour is higher.

Lebanese returnees

An IOM assessment among 17,500 Lebanese returnees found that around 60% of Lebanese returnees rely on employment as their main source of income and over 30% on assistance.



There is no data available on PRS.

4.2 Employment

Summary of assessment findings: The proportion of refugees employed in Lebanon differs per assessment and ranges from 17% to 33% of the Syrian population depending on the assessment. As a significant part of employment is on a daily basis, temporary and subject to seasonal changes, this proportion varies significantly per region and time of year. The main constraints to employment reported are a lack of jobs, a lack of skills, unfair working conditions, prejudice against Syrians and limited freedom of movement.

The limited available information on the situation of vulnerable communities indicates that unemployment is increasing due to the influx of additional labour. However, without a comprehensive labour survey, this assumption cannot be confirmed. The crisis in Syria and the influx of refugees are perceived to have caused a decrease job opportunities and income, which is leading to increased hostility between the two communities.

A profiling exercise of Lebanese returnees showed that 56% of men and 8% of women were employed, mostly on a seasonal or a day-to-day basis. The one assessment available on PRS indicated that only 10% of assessed PRS households had access to employment, compared to 38% of Palestinian refugees in Lebanon. Among all target groups, women and youth were found to have more difficulties in finding employment..

Table [3]: Assessment coverage by geographic area and target population

	Vulnerable Local Communities (Lebanese and PRL)	**Lebanese Returnees**	**PRS**	**Syrian refugees**	
				Registered	**Unregistered**
National					
North/T+5					
Akkar					
Mt. Lebanon and Beirut					
Bekaa					
South					
Palestinian Camps					
Outside Palestinian Camps					

Legend

	Section not applicable		**Data available**

NB – Grey cells indicate that there is at least one assessment available on the specific area or target group. However, the data may not cover the situation for the entire geographic area or target group.

<u>Syrian refugees registered, awaiting registration and unregistered</u>

National

Proportion of people employed
An Oxfam assessment across the country in October 2013 on livelihoods showed that 32% of the working age population, 17% of the total population, had contributed income to the assessed households. However, for the most part their work has been sporadic and temporary. Illustratively, only 25% of those of working age who were actively seeking work earned an income in the month before the assessment.

A countrywide ILO assessment among 400 Syrian refugee households in March 2013 showed that 70% of Syrian refugees were employed of the economically active population (33% of total population). The ILO assessment shows as well that 11% of all surveyed refugees above 15 years of age were working in Lebanon before the crisis.

During the November Winterisation baseline survey, 22% of 735 households assessed reported that they were able to generate an income. Three months later, in February 2014, this proportion increased to 32% of the population assessed during the post-distribution monitoring assessment. The respondents to this assessment were all beneficiaries of the winterisation programme, and it is therefore likely that the sample is more vulnerable compared to the general population.

Mount Lebanon and Beirut

A small assessment in June by Amel in the southern areas of Beirut showed that over 30% of the 170 participants were employed. This figure was significantly higher among male participants (40%) compared to female participants (9%). Young people were also found as disadvantaged, with the employment rate among participants aged 29 or younger at 25%. The assessment's findings show that the proportion of men and women who were actively looking for work was similar at 40%, indicating that significantly lower levels of employment among female participants is a result of inability to secure work rather than "inactivity" in the employment market.

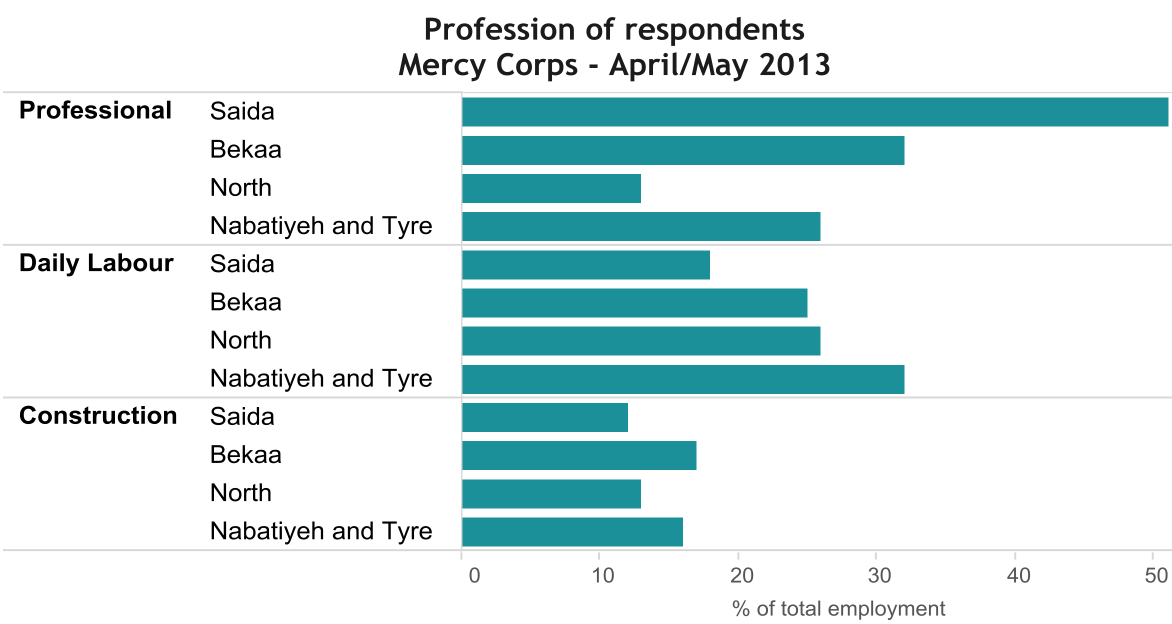
Type of work

Syrian refugees registered, awaiting registration and unregistered

All assessments available on the topic show that employment is mostly daily and temporary, in the construction, agriculture or service sectors:

National

Mercy Corps' assessment among 1,200 households in April/May 2013 showed that most of the Syrian respondents employed were working as a professional, in daily labour or construction.



An ILO assessment in March 2013 among Syrian refugees showed that 92% of those employed do not have a work contract. Only 23% of those employed were monthly wage earners, the remaining 72% are employed on hourly, daily, weekly or seasonal basis.

During the ILO study it was found that most Syrian refugees were employed in domestic/personal services such as drivers or housekeepers (27%) and as skilled agricultural workers (24%), followed by construction (12%). A low share of Syrian workers (4%) was found represented in occupations that require higher skill levels such as technicians and professionals.

Bekaa and North/T+5

A Handicap International assessment in the Bekaa and North among around 400 refugee households in August found that 64% of the Syrian refugees that worked in Lebanon were employed as daily workers on a temporary basis. Only 3% of those working were engaged in agriculture

During a Solidarités International assessment in January 2014 among 269 households in Tripoli+5, 46% of those assessed were not working, while 43% had a temporary job. Those employed were mostly working as daily labourers.

During a Solidarités International assessment in May 2013 in Zgharta and Minieh-Danniyeh districts, 60% of the 575 households assessed indicated that their main source of income was daily employment, while only 2% of the households assessed relied primarily on permanent employment. During a similar assessment in August 2013, 50% of households indicated that their main source of income was daily employment, and only 1% of households relied on permanent employment.

South

During a Swiss Solidar assessment in the South in August, most able-bodied male refugees were able to get casual labour work of about 15-20 days per month during the summer season.

Mount Lebanon and Beirut

The majority of the 200 people assessed by Global Communities in Mount Lebanon in October were working in the construction, agriculture or service sectors.

A small scale study by Amel in Ain El Remmeneh showed that some of the Syrian refugee women are self-employed and have remunerated activities inside their homes, such as food processing, hairdressing and selling of products.

In a Global Communities survey in Mount Lebanon in October 2013, almost all Syrian respondents reported that there was less work available since 2012. Several assessments, including an assessment in Mount Lebanon in August and the EMMA assessments in the North and Bekaa in April, highlighted that there were scarce opportunities in the construction and agricultural sectors in the winter.

Constraints
The main constraints to employment reported are a lack of jobs and a lack of freedom of movement:

- The main constraint identified by the respondents to an inter-agency Winterisation assessment among over 700 households was the lack of job opportunities (91% during a baseline assessment in November and 78% during a follow up assessment three months later).
- During an Oxfam survey in October, 85% of respondents indicated that a lack of jobs in the local market was the main constraint to accessing employment. Respondents considered additional factors such as their lack of skills (23.5%), unfair working conditions (16.5%), and prejudice against Syrians (22.7%).
- Most people with special needs assessed by The Movement for Peace (MPDL) in October were unemployed, mainly because they were unable to work because of their condition (55% of respondents) or because there were no appropriate jobs available (7.5% of respondents).
- North and Bekaa: A Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) assessment in Wadi Khaled and Aarsal found that individuals with limited legal status, as a result of irregular crossing into Lebanon or expired residency permits, reported being too scared or unable to cross checkpoints, and therefore faced difficulties in accessing income generating activities. Most of the interviewed refugees reported that they could not find jobs in Wadi Khaled due to the particularly difficult socio-economic situation. Hence, limited legal status can be a critical constraint to employment in areas with a high concentration of checkpoints.

Child labour
An ILO study undertaken in March 2013 indicates that child labour in Lebanon has traditionally been concentrated in the informal sector, street trade and family based agriculture. The study indicates that there are no reliable national estimates, but that recent findings from qualitative research and small-scale quantitative studies suggest that the phenomenon is on the rise. Findings from the study show that 8% of Syrian children in the age group 10-14 were economically active, mostly young boys. The main reasons reported for child labour were poverty, followed by the absence of a breadwinner. The study states that it is expected that the number of working children has been on the rise. For more information on child labour please see chapter 6.C. on child protection.

Vulnerable Lebanese communities

In September 2013, the World Bank projected that 1.3 million Syrian refugees would have entered Lebanon by end-2013. As a result of this influx, the World Bank expected a 30 to 50% increase in labour supply, which will particularly impact the employment opportunities of Lebanese women, youth and unskilled workers. The overall unemployment rate was projected to increase by up to 10 percentage points. An additional 220,000-324,000 Lebanese, primarily unskilled youth, were expected to become unemployed, thus doubling the unemployment rate to over 20%. An estimated USD 166-242 million was projected to be required to stabilise the situation.

An ILO assessment undertaken in March 2013 found that competition between Lebanese workers and Syrian workers is high, given that Syrians work for lower salaries, longer hours and without social security benefits. The crisis in Syria and the influx of refugees are perceived to have caused a decrease in income. This is leading to increased hostility between the two communities. During the ILO assessment, 90% of survey respondents in Bekaa reported a decline in income, mainly due to competition from Syrian workers, deteriorating security conditions and decreasing smuggling activities.

However, the assessment found that a part of the host communities, primarily landowners, owners of enterprises and other members of the Lebanese middle to upper class, are actually benefitting from the influx as Lebanese employers are able to hire low wage Syrian labour.

A Mercy Corps assessment in May/April 2013 highlighted the lack of work available and low wages as constraints for Lebanese men to find work.

During a study by Amel in August 2013 on the impact of the Lebanese crisis on gender dynamics in Lebanon, Lebanese men and women participating in the focus group discussions cited a lack of job opportunities as a major problem. They expressed resentment over the competition with Syrian refugees, who are accepting to work more hours for lower wages. Some of the participants who were employed declared that they were afraid of losing their jobs as a result.

The vast majority of over 800 Lebanese polled during a Fafo study in May believed that Syrian refugees were taking jobs away from Lebanese and that the Syrian crisis to a great extent was causing Lebanese wages to fall.

Several small-scale assessments highlight how the impact of the Syrian influx on the local economy differs significantly per area:

- An assessment in Zahle-Al Maalaqa in May found that the unemployment rate, is increasing as a result of the Syrian influx in the community, mainly due to the competition imposed by the Syrian labour force which provide services at lower costs. Many self-employed refugees have started up businesses in the community, in addition to the 215 industrial business and around 800 food and commerce business already in place in the area.
- However, at the time of an assessment in Quaa in May, the impact of the additional labour force was largely positive, as most of the 4,750 refugees already used to work in agriculture in the area before the start of the crisis. The owners of agricultural fields directly benefited from Syrian workers since they filled the gap created by the absence of a Lebanese labour force.

Lebanese returnees

Among the Lebanese returnees registered with IOM, 44% of men and 92% of women between 18 and 64 years old were unemployed. The overall unemployment rate was 69%. Of the 31% with jobs, the majority worked on either a seasonal or a day-to-day basis. Only 195 individuals aged between 18 and 64 had regular, full-time employment (2%). In 948 households (30%) there was no employed individual. A majority of those who were working (52%) were engaged in unskilled labour, regardless of their skills or area of work prior to fleeing Syria. A further 23% were working in agriculture. It was reported that daily workers usually worked for no more than two or three days per week, and that the wages for unskilled labour had fallen to USD 20 per day or less since the onset of the crisis.

Palestinian refugees

A 2011 labour force survey among 2,600 Palestinian refugees in Lebanon found that the employment rate among Palestinian refugees is 92% of the economically active population (38% of the total population). Similar to the situation among Lebanese communities, unemployment is high among youths, women and those with higher education.

An American Near East Refugee Aid (ANERA) assessment in Ein El Hilwe Camp and in Wadi Zeine gathering found however that the situation differs for Palestinian from Syria, with only 10% of the 2,385 PRS families assessed having access to employment. Of those that have access to employment, the maximum monthly income was USD 300 per month.

4.3 Employment per Sector

Summary of assessment findings: The main sources of income for Syrians in Lebanon are generated from the agriculture, business and services sectors. The ongoing impact of the Syrian crisis has affected the different economic activities through decreased trading, reduced tourism and weak local investments. The limited available information on the market capacity to host Syrian labour indicates that neither the agriculture, services nor construction market can sufficiently expand to absorb the additional supply of labour. However, the previous chapter showed that many Syrians continue to find employment, albeit mostly temporarily and on a daily basis.

Information from April indicates that overall, the number of Lebanese workers has remained the same in agriculture. However, as the number of Syrian refugees has increased significantly since April, competition with Syrian workers could have led to an increase in unemployment among Lebanese workers by now.

Table [4]: Assessment coverage by geographic area and target population

	Vulnerable Local Communities (Lebanese and PRL)	Lebanese Returnees	PRS	Syrian refugees	
				Registered	Unregistered
National					
North/T+5					
Akkar					
Mt. Lebanon and Beirut					
Bekaa					
South					
Palestinian Camps					
Outside Palestinian Camps					

Legend

	Section not applicable		**Data available**

NB – Grey cells indicate that there is at least one assessment available on the specific area or target group. However, the data may not cover the situation for the entire geographic area or target group.

Agriculture

<u>Syrian refugees registered, awaiting registration and unregistered</u>

National

Agriculture was one of the major livelihoods in Syria, with around 17% of Syrians engaged in agriculture before the crisis. According to April 2013 statistics on registered refugees, over 10% of refugees in Lebanon were involved in agriculture-related professions in Syria. Assuming this proportion has remained similar, currently at least 95,000 Syrians in Lebanon were engaged in agriculture in Syria.

Akkar and Bekaa

An ILO assessment in March 2013 showed that 24% of Syrian refugee employment is in agriculture. 70% of those working in agriculture work in Akkar (34%) and Bekaa (36%). 90% of those employed in agriculture worked in agriculture in Syria prior to the crisis.

Results of an EMMA assessment in April showed that the capacity of the agriculture sector to accommodate additional employees, without further reducing wages or working hours, was extremely limited. In addition, the assessment shows that agricultural wage labour can only contribute an average of 45% of the overall income needs identified by refugee households in Akkar and 30% in Bekaa, and only for those refugees who are able to find work in this sector. Please note that at the time of the assessment in April 2013, around 300,000 Syrian refugees were registered in the North and Akkar. At the start of 2014, this number had increased to 520,000.

During the EMMA assessment, the main reason that farmers gave for not looking to expand the workforce or invest in land or production systems was the decrease in revenue due to the impact of the crisis in Syria on Lebanese agriculture.

<u>Lebanese vulnerable communities</u>

National

An FAO/Ministry of Agriculture analysis of the situation shows that significant numbers of marginal and small-scale farmers and livestock breeders in affected areas of Lebanon have suffered significant losses in farm income because of forced abandonment of farmlands or limited/un-timely access to fields, loss of informal cross-border trading opportunities, reduced availability of irrigation water, increases in the price of agricultural inputs, reduced marketing opportunities for traditional export crops, and a corresponding 20 to 40% net decrease in farm-gate prices.

According to a situation report by the Global Information and Early Warning System on food and agriculture (GIEWS) in January 2014, Lebanese exporters of horticultural products, fruits in particular, are experiencing difficulties due to the continuing conflict in Syria that disrupted land routes with occasional border closing.

North/T+5 and Bekaa

The EMMA assessment in April found that agricultural work conditions were unattractive to unemployed Lebanese workers. Working hours are long and the wage, although higher than that for migrant workers, is still insufficient to cover a higher cost of living. Despite the increase in supply of labour, the assessment found that the number of Lebanese agricultural workers has remained roughly similar as before the start of the crisis. However, the number of UNHCR-registered refugees in the North and Bekaa almost doubled between April and the start of 2014. As a result, Lebanese workers might face more difficulties finding employment in the upcoming agricultural season.

According to the assessment, those working in agriculture have seen the following impact of the Syria crisis:

- Wages received by workers have decreased, and the overall number of workers has increased
- Working conditions for labourers deteriorated, with more farmers using different individuals for the same job, resulting in fewer hours worked per person

Although the price of labour has decreased, with increased competition from Syrian imports on domestic markets, increased costs of shipping to export markets and uncertainty about the future, the April assessment found that farm revenues have decreased significantly since the crisis started. During the assessment, farmers were found struggling to sell their production and cover their production costs. Profits have dropped by 50 to

80% due a decrease in sales. As a result, the crisis in Syria has squeezed the profits of large, medium and small landowners/operators by increasing production costs and costs for bringing produce to market.

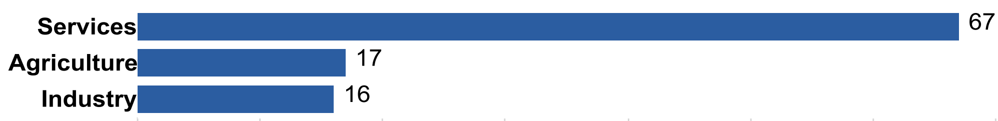
A rapid assessment by the World Bank in Zahle Al-Maalaqa in May showed that the agricultural sector had been affected by the leasing of agricultural land to accommodate the Syrian refugees. Profits from leasing are currently higher and more stable than profits generated from cultivating agricultural products.

Service

Syrian refugees registered, awaiting registration and unregistered

A 2003 Fafo labour market study shows prior to the crisis, the majority of the Syrian workforce (an estimated 67% in 2010) was employed in the services sector, including the public sector, tourism, financial services and transport.

Labour force in Syria per occupation pre-crisis (in % of total) – 2008



North/T+5 and Bekaa

The EMMA in April 2013 confirmed that in many locations, Syrians are opening their own businesses in Lebanon and especially in central Bekaa. The ILO assessment in March 2013 among 400 households showed that 50% of those working in the South are engaged in personal services, compared to 27% across all regions. In mid-2013, the Government of Lebanon shut down several unlicensed Syrian owned businesses, particularly in the Bekaa.

An EMMA assessment in April 2013 found that the Lebanese service sector in the North and Bekaa was over-saturated and heavily impacted by low tourism levels. The EMMA assessment also shows that service sector wage labour could only contribute about 30-60% of overall income needs identified by refugee households, and only for those refugees who are able to find work in this sector.

Lebanese vulnerable communities

National

Focus group discussions during an ILO assessment in March 2013 estimated that hundreds of small businesses, including restaurants and retails shops, were established in the Bekaa and the North by Syrians. Participants indicated that a number of businesses have been priced out of the market by Syrian-owned businesses that sell goods at lower prices.

North/T+5 and Bekaa

Some Lebanese business owners assessed during the EMMA in April 2013 were facing competition from the Syrian shops, coupled with an increase in the cost of rent due to a rise in demand for retail locations. However, at the same time, shops and fuel stations have seen their business improved due to participation in programmes by humanitarian agencies, e.g. through voucher programmes.

During the EMMA it was noted that in the Bekaa, Syrians are opening many shops in order to cater to the needs of the expanding Syrian population. Although many Lebanese perceive these shops as competitors, the number of potential customers and needs of that population are such that the pre-existing shops might not be able to cope with the increase in demand.

Construction

<u>Syrian refugees registered, awaiting registration and unregistered</u>

North/T+5 and Bekaa

During the EMMA assessment in April 2013, it was estimated that around 20,000 of the 210,000 Syrians registered in the North and Bekaa used to work in jobs related to the construction sector in Syria. UNHCR registration statistics show that by February 2014, this number has increased to over 50,000. However, the assessment in April 2013 found that income opportunities for refugees or host communities in construction are very limited, and the supply of labour (from refugees, Syrian migrants, and Lebanese workers) already exceeded the demand for workers.

Of the unskilled Syrian labour working on construction sites in early 2013, it was estimated in the April 2013 EMMA that approximately 40% worked in Lebanon prior to the crisis, whilst 60% arrived after the start of the crisis. During the assessment, it was found that Syrians employed in construction experienced a growing level of exploitation as working hours were increased, break times were shortened and discrimination is felt more strongly than before. They also feel as if they have no choice but to accept these conditions as the alternative would be unemployment.

<u>Lebanese host communities</u>

North/T+5 and Bekaa

The EMMA assessment in the North and the Bekaa found that unskilled and skilled labourers appear to be most affected by the increase in the supply of labour, while professionals appear relatively unaffected. The strongest changes were anticipated in the distribution between Lebanese and Syrian nationals for skilled labour jobs. Lebanese workers in Baalbek estimated up to an 80% reduction in jobs available to them in the coming year, while in the North the estimates ranged from a 10-15% decrease in available openings for skilled Lebanese.

<u>Palestinian refugees</u>

North/T+5 and Bekaa

The EMMA showed as well that the construction work force in Lebanon is predominantly made up of two nationalities, namely Lebanese and Syrians. Other migrant and refugee workers, particularly Palestinians, do form part of this labour force. In the North however, they are predominantly involved in the reconstruction efforts of Nahr Al Bared Camp.

4.4 Key Barriers for Women to Increase their Employability

Summary of assessment findings: Several assessments confirm that the proportion of Syrian and Palestinian women earning an income in Lebanon is far below their male counterparts. The main reasons reported are the lack of available jobs and household duties, including the need to take care of small children.

Table [5]: Assessment coverage by geographic area and target population

	Vulnerable Local Communities (Lebanese and PRL)	Lebanese Returnees	PRS	Syrian refugees	
				Registered	Unregistered
National					
North/T+5					
Akkar					
Mt. Lebanon and Beirut					
Bekaa					
South					
Palestinian Camps					
Outside Palestinian Camps					

Legend

	Section not applicable		**Data available**

NB – Grey cells indicate that there is at least one assessment available on the specific area or target group. However, the data may not cover the situation for the entire geographic area or target group.

<u>Syrian refugees registered, awaiting registration and unregistered</u>

National

An ILO assessment in March 2013 among 400 households showed high female unemployment rates of 68%. Only 6% of refugee women were working at the time of the assessment. The share of women working does not vary much across regions, from 4% in Tripoli to 8% in the South. Within the assessment, the low share of working Syrian women is attributed to housework obligations and childcare. During the assessment, 70% of women employed were found to work in agriculture or in domestic help. Women mostly do not work in construction, wholesale or retail trade.

A Mercy Corps assessment among 1,200 households in May/April 2013 indicated the following main constraints for women to find work:

- The need to take care of small children (63% of respondents)
- No desire to work outside of home (43%)
- No work available (23%)
- Security constraints (6%)

Mount Lebanon and Beirut

An assessment in February 2014 by Amel in Ain El Remmaneh highlighted that cultural/social barriers hinder access to better paid jobs. The situation is difficult for the female-head of households as they are having difficulties in providing for their families on their own without social support. During a small-scale assessment in Tyre in February 2014, it was found that refugee women are much more constrained in exercising an economic activity than their Lebanese counterparts. The assessment highlights that this is perhaps due to the more traditional countries they come from or to reinforced protection on the part of their male relatives.

An assessment by CARE in Mount Lebanon in October showed that very few families have women earning an income. Women who do earn an income are mainly working in agriculture and house cleaning.

PRL

An UNRWA assessment in 2011 showed that only around 12% of working-age Palestine refugee women in Lebanon are employed. A 2011 survey conducted by the ILO revealed that economic activity is lowest among widowed women (9%) and highest among divorced women (40%). Some major determinants of women's low participation in the labour force include constraints on their mobility, familial obligations (care giving), and social restrictions, while 20% of women attribute their unemployment to a lack of job opportunities or job restrictions in Lebanon.

There is no specific data available on the North/T+5, South, Bekaa and Akkar.

4.5 Skills and Resource Gaps

Summary of assessment findings: Although information on the topic is limited, the available assessments indicate that some Syrians are forced to seek less skilled work in Lebanon. Some respondents indicated a need for training to improve access to better employment opportunities.

Table [6]: Assessment coverage by geographic area and target population

	Vulnerable Local Communities (Lebanese and PRL)	Lebanese Returnees	PRS	Syrian refugees	
				Registered	Unregistered
National					
North/T+5					
Akkar					
Mt. Lebanon and Beirut					
Bekaa					
South					
Palestinian Camps					
Outside Palestinian Camps					

Legend

	Section not applicable		**Data available**

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<u>Syrian refugees registered, awaiting registration and unregistered</u>

National

A survey on the livelihoods of Syrian refugees in Lebanon in October found that a great majority of people have had to change career and seek less skilled work to find work in Lebanon. The same survey, which assessed 260 households across Lebanon, found that Syrian refugees feel that they are not maximising on their skills to find work, as more than half the jobs done by respondents were non-skilled. At the same time, some 23% of the assessed refugees admitted that they are not skilled enough to find jobs in Lebanon.

An ILO study in March 2013 showed that most Syrians employed in Lebanon continued to work in similar jobs to those they had in Syria. Unskilled workers constitute the highest share of Syrians working in Lebanon (45%), followed by semi-skilled labour (43% of those found working in Lebanon). Skilled professions such as teaching, financial management and trade, constitute the smallest share of Syrian refugee labour at 13%. Geographical variations were reported, with skilled labour constituting the highest proportion of employed Syrians in Tripoli (at 17%) and the lowest in the South (2%).

During the ILO study, only 16% of respondents who were working at the time of the assessment expressed a need for training, mostly on new agricultural methods, carpentry and sewing. 42% of working female respondents indicated a need for training to improve working conditions and access better employment opportunities. In general, younger workers (below the age of 30) expressed a higher demand for training.

The assessment also showed that economic activity rates increased with better education, from 41% activity for those illiterate to 66% for university graduates.

A November Winterisation study among vulnerable Syrian refugees found that education levels slightly contributed to the ability to generate income:

- 17% of those with no education were able to generate an income
- 28% of those with primary education levels
- 24% of those with for secondary education or higher
- However, those with higher levels of education were more likely to have permanent employment
- 20% of those with secondary education had permanent employment
- 10% of those with primary education
- 13% with no education

South

A Swiss Solidar assessment in Nabatieh and Jezzine Districts in Southern Lebanon in August among around 700 individuals showed that those employed in Lebanon were doing similar work to that in Syria, although there was a shift away from skilled work such as metalwork and carpentry towards more menial casual labour.

North and Bekaa

The EMMA assessment in April 2013 on construction showed that the construction market can better support the income needs of skilled workers compared to unskilled workers: from 30 to 60% of the overall income needs for unskilled construction workers and60-100% of the needs for skilled workers.

Beirut

A small-scale assessment by Amel in February 2014 in Beirut and Tyre found that women face challenges in securing higher incomes, related to a lack of capital, lack of equipment, and difficulty in obtaining a loan. Very few of them would launch a business independently and prefer to work collectively, in order to diminish risks and be able to rely on the others.

Palestinian refugees

A 2011 labour force survey among Palestinian refugees living in camps and gatherings showed that the Palestinian workforce is poorly educated, young and lacking in skills. Most are engaged in low-status jobs concentrated in commerce and construction.

4.6 Wages and Work Conditions

Summary of assessment findings: Wages differ per season, type of employee, type of sector and type of contract. The available information does not allow for generalised statements on the level of wages per geographic area or sector. The available information shows that the average income for Syrian refugees is below the minimum wage in Lebanon (LBP 675,000) and the UNDP 2007 poverty line. In addition, the data on work conditions highlights instances of exploitation, including a lack of social security and long working hours. Wages are higher for Lebanese workers compared to their Syrian counterparts and for men compared to women.

The most recent information on Palestinian workers, from 2011, indicates that the average monthly income is below the minimum wage, and many Palestinians are working without a written contract.

The limited available information on wages for Lebanese communities does not allow for conclusions on how Lebanese wages have changed as a result of the impact of the Syrian crisis.

There is no information available on Lebanese returnees' wages or work conditions.

Table [7]: Assessment coverage by geographic area and target population

	Vulnerable Local Communities (Lebanese and PRL)	Lebanese Returnees	PRS	Syrian refugees	
				Registered	Unregistered
National					
North/T+5					
Akkar					
Mt. Lebanon and Beirut					
Bekaa					
South					
Palestinian Camps					
Outside Palestinian Camps					
Legend					
	Section not applicable		Data available		
**NB – Grey cells indicate that there is at least one assessment available on the specific area or target group. However, the data may not cover the situation for the entire geographic area or target group.*					

Syrian refugees registered, awaiting registration and unregistered

National

An ILO assessment among 400 households in March 2013 showed that working Syrian refugees have an average monthly income of LBP 418,000 with a significant gender gap: the income of female Syrian refugees (LBP 248,000) is 40% less than Syrian males (LBP 432,000).

A Mercy Corps assessment in April/May 2013 highlighted the difference in wages between Syrian and Lebanese employees. While most Syrians assessed (67%) had an income between USD 301 and 600 per month, 74% of Lebanese earned an income between USD 601 to 1,700.

Wages can vary greatly per geographic area and type of work. One of the factors influencing wages is the level of competition:

- During an assessment by Solidarités International in May 2013 in Zgharta and Minieh-Denniyeh, it was found that in Zgharta, refugees tend to be working on average more days per month and for a better salary considering that there is less competition than in Minieh-Denniyeh.
- The agriculture EMMA showed that wages vary by region, by sex, by crop and by status of the employment (fixed or daily worker).

Bekaa and North

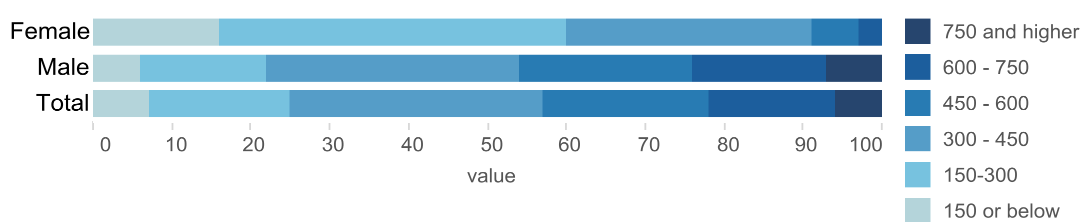
The EMMA assessments show the following wages for the construction and agriculture sector per geographic area. As can be seen in the below graphs, the wages for construction are overall higher than for agricultural work. Lebanese workers earn more on average than Syrians. Please note that these findings are from April 2013 and the situation is likely to have changed since.

Construction						
Region	Professional (LBP/month)		Skilled (LBP/month)		Unskilled (LBP/month)	
	Lebanese	**Syrians**	**Lebanese**	**Syrians**	**Lebanese**	**Syrians**
North	900,000 - 2,250,000	900,000-1,200,000	50,000 - 130,000	40,000-70,000	35,000-50,000	25,000 - 35,000
Bekaa	900,000 - 2,250,000	No info	50,000 - 100,000	50,000-60,000	No info	30,000-45,000

Agriculture			
	Type of worker	**April 2013**	
North		**Men**	**Women**
	Lebanese	25,000- 35,000 LBP/day	
	Syrian Migrant	3,000 LBP/hour	2,000 LBP/hour
	Syrian Refugee	2,000 LBP/hour	2,000 LBP/hour
Bekaa	Lebanese	25,000 LBP/day	
	Syrian Migrant	2,000 LBP/hour	1,500 LBP/hour
	Syrian Refugee	2,000 LBP/hour	1,500 LBP/hour

During the EMMAs in April 2013 and an Oxfam assessment in October it was found that work is not a reliable source of income. Employers often take people on a trial basis and respondents reported not receiving the full salary.

Monthly wage Syrian refugees by gender in % (thousands LPB)
ILO - March 2013



Two assessments highlighted that the lack of contracts between Syrian employees and their employer can be an issue and lead to exploitative situations. An NRC assessment in Wadi Khaled and Aarsal between June and

October 2013 showed that a significant number of refugees with limited legal status reported being subject to particular abuse in the context of their work due to their limited legal status.

Lebanese communities

A Mercy Corps assessment in April/May 2013 among 1,200 households highlighted that the monthly income of 74% of the Lebanese assessed was between USD 601 to 1,700. Around 40% of the Lebanese respondents indicated that they considered the wage fair for the type of work they were doing. Only 50% of households indicated that with this income, they were able to support household needs. There is no recent data on how incomes changed since the start of the crisis.

Palestinian Refugees

A 2011 labour force survey indicates that the average monthly income of Palestinian workers (LBP 537,000) is below the minimum wage of LBP 675,000. The discrepancy in wages between males and females is high among the Palestinian refugees; women earn almost 80% of men's income, with an average of LBP 100,000 difference between male and female wages. Average income is equally low across the different types of professions, with the lowest levels recorded among workers in agriculture, at LBP 365,000 a month.

The survey indicated that very few Palestinians work with a written contract, and a negligible share receive health coverage or paid holiday and sick leave. Few are entitled to a pension or end-of-service indemnity. A Palestinian works 47 hours a week on average. Those who work in commerce, construction and hotels and restaurants work the most.

The profile of Palestinian refugees in the different regions is more or less similar. However, the population in Bekaa – although very small – seems to enjoy relatively better conditions. On average, Bekaa refugees have greater educational attainment and the workforce is involved in more secure occupations and decent employment. The Palestinian workers in Tripoli and Tyre, on the other hand, are more disadvantaged.

4.7 Level of Household Indebtedness

Summary of assessment findings: The available data indicates that between 70% and 91% of Syrian refugee households are in debt, mostly to be able to buy food. The median debt for those families who have taken out loans ranges between USD 201 and 600 per household. Assessments show that the amount of debt is generally higher for those who have remained in Lebanon for a longer period of time and for larger households. The main sources of loans reported are friends or relatives inside and outside of Lebanon. There is no information available on households' indebtedness among other target groups.

Table [8]: Assessment coverage by geographic area and target population

	Vulnerable Local Communities (Lebanese and PRL)	Lebanese Returnees	PRS	Syrian refugees	
				Registered	Unregistered
National					
North/T+5					
Akkar					
Mt. Lebanon and Beirut					
Bekaa					
South					
Palestinian Camps					
Outside Palestinian Camps					

Legend

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<u>Syrian refugees registered, awaiting registration and unregistered</u>

National

There are several surveys that have been undertaken to highlighting the amount of debt:

WINTERISATION – November/February 2013

Assessment	Winterisation PDM and Baseline	
Sample	735 households (Baseline) 1222 households (PDM)	
	Baseline	PDM
	November 2013	February 2014
No debt (%)	14	9
< 200 USD (%)	28	20
201-600 USD (%)	30	40
>600 USD (%)	19	28
Total households in debt (%)	77	91

Borrowing was reported as the most common coping strategy across all regions. In November, 77% of households were in debt and by February this proportion increased to 91% of the households assessed. The respondents to these assessments were all beneficiaries of the winterisation programme, and it can therefore be assumed that they are more vulnerable than the overall population.

OXFAM – October 2013

Assessment	**Oxfam, October 2013, Lebanon**	
Sample	**260 households**	
	All households	Female-headed households
Percentage of household in debt (%)	77	77
Average debt of all households assessed (USD)	454	486
Average debt of households in debt (USD)	575	620
Median debt of all households assessed (USD)	300	

The assessment showed that the older the settlement of the community, the more likely it is to have accrued debt. The case of the Tripoli-Mina cluster is most indicative, with an average debt per household amounting to over USD 815 (the average residency of this cluster in Lebanon is over 15 months), while Beirut-Zarif represents the other end of the scale with an average debt of USD 153 per household and an average residency period of about seven months.

There is a direct correlation between the level of debt and the size of the household, and this constitutes the single most important factor in accruing debt. While, indebted families seem to earn slightly less income from their work than the average household, there seems to be little relation between the average borrowers and the heaviest ones.

Source of loans: main lenders are providing interest-free loans, and they are almost always family and friends, and to a much more limited level they include charitable NGOs and other charities. The focus groups pointed to an equal reliance on Syrian and Lebanese networks of friends and relatives for borrowing money. Most respondents say they have an idea of where to get a loan, but few have actually gone to financial institutions or micro-credit providers.

HANDICAP INTERNATIONAL – August 2013

Assessment	**Handicap International, August 2013**
Sample	**388 households**
Total households in debt (%)	75

The average debt is lower for the refugees who arrived at the start of 2013, due to a large coverage of assistance during this period.

40% of households are running into debt to buy food, 26% to pay rent, 15% for healthcare,11% to pay for transport, and 7% for household essential items (HEI).

In 80% of the cases, Syrian refugees are borrowing money from friends or relatives in Lebanon, 11% from friends or relatives outside of Lebanon, 8% from sellers (e.g. shop owners) and 1% from moneylenders.

65% of families are planning to reimburse debt by working, 16% by selling their vouchers cheaper than the amount they represent, 12% to reimburse when they will be back in Syria, 4% by using the vouchers to pay their debts to the sellers, and 3% are planning to sell HEI.

VASyR – June 2013

70% of households assessed reported borrowing money or receiving credit during the three months before the survey.The main reasons reported for borrowing money or obtaining credit were to buy food (81%), paying rent (52%) and to cover health expenses (25%). The main sources of loans or credits were friends or relatives outside of Lebanon.

Assessment	VASyR, June 2013
Sample	1,431 households
	(% of households)
No debt	24
< 200 USD	26
201-600 USD	27
>601 USD	21
Total households in debt	75

T+5

SOLIDARITES International – January 2014 (Tripoli +5)

Assessment	Solidarites, January 2014
Sample	269 households
No debt (%)	24
< 200 USD (%)	10.5
201-600 USD (%)	35
>601 USD (%)	30.5
Total households in debt (%)	76

The main reasons for accruing debt is for food and rent expenditures, and the debt was obtained mostly from friends and relatives in Lebanon (66% of households in debt), followed by shop owners (22% of households in debt). The main planned way of reimbursing the debt is through working.

5. PERSONS WITH SPECIFIC NEEDS (PwSN)

The available data shows the following groups as particularly vulnerable with regards to the livelihood sector:

- Female-headed households: women, both Lebanese and Syrians, face additional difficulties in accessing employment, and salaries are below those of men. As a result, women who live without a male are disadvantaged in accessing income from employment. 43% of female-headed households assessed by Oxfam in October 2013 for instance reported no income at all.
- During the MSNA SWG workshop, it was highlighted that children are a vulnerable group as they are particularly at risk of exploitative labour.
- Those with limited legal status: one assessment highlighted that those with limited legal status face difficulties in passing checkpoints and therefore have difficulties accessing income generating activities. In addition, they were found to be vulnerable to exploitation by employers.
- People with special needs: the limited information available shows that the majority of people with special needs are unemployed, mainly because they were unable to work because of their condition or because there were no appropriate jobs available.

6. INFORMATION GAPS

6.1 Target Groups

- Vulnerable Lebanese communities: there is no updated data on employment and other levels of income per geographic area.
- Unregistered refugees: there is no data available on the livelihood situation of those not registered with UNHCR.
- PRS and PRL: the livelihood situation of Palestinians is largely unknown, with only one assessment covering the situation.

6.2 Geographical Focus

- Disaggregation by geographic area: most data available covers multiple areas of Lebanon but does not capture the existing geographical diversities nor the situation in urban as compared to rural areas. Most assessments focusing on one geographic area focus on Bekaa and/or the North. There is a scarcity of information on the situation in other geographic areas.

6.3 Themes

- There is no quantitative information on how the crisis has impacted the labour market and its impact on unemployment rates among Lebanese communities.
- There is no updated information on the employment profile of Syrian refugees or Lebanese communities, which would include the type of work performed, working hours, skill levels, wages and working conditions.
- The main perception of the Lebanese community is that Syrians are lowering wages and increasing competition. These perceptions are not always informed by evidence, as there is little information on the impact of the crisis on livelihoods and the labour market. Related to that, there is no information on the positive impact of humanitarian and development interventions, include the impact of market-based assistance.
- There is a need for more information on how actors can make use of existing markets, including overseas markets, to create livelihood opportunities.
- There is a lack of information on trade flows for food and non-food commodities (and subsequent impact on livelihoods)
- There is a lack of quantitative data to assess the exact impact of the various facets of the unfolding Syrian crisis on the Lebanese agriculture and rural settings. In addition,the current use of natural resources in the affected areas is a large information gap.
- While Syrians reportedly work in the industry sector, there is a lack of information on the situation for Syrians in this sector.
- There is a lack of information on which skill gaps should be addressed to increase employability in the current Lebanese labour market.
- More information should be made available on best practices around cash-for-work projects in Lebanon.

6.4 Planned Assessments

Planned Assessment	**Date planned for**
Labour market assessment in South Lebanon (Tyre, Nabatieh and Jezzine), Mercy Corps	Will be finalised in May.
Urban livelihoods assessment in Beirut/Mount Lebanon, Save the Children	
Skills assessment for youth & women in Koura, Zgharta & Beddawi, Save the Children	
Medical situation for elderly in Lebanon, AMEL	
Market Needs Assessment, UNHCR	
Participatory assessment, UNHCR	
Livelihoods assessment for Lebanese Returnees from Syria North and the Bekaa, IOM	
Livelihood and market assessment in North/Bekaa to inform DRC programming, DRC	Mid 2014
Labour market assessment South among 100 business owners, Mercy Corps	End of April 2014
Village profiling Akkar, REACH	Findings by end April 2014
Value chain (agriculture) livelihoods assessment Bekaa, Mercy Corps	Results by mid 2014
Countrywide food security and livelihoods assessment among host communities, FAO	Start end April/May
Mapping of risks and resources in municipalities in the South, Wadi Khaled and Zahle, UNDP	April 2014

SECTION 7

7. RECOMMENDATIONS FOR DATA COLLECTION

Based on the data available and discussions with SWG members, the MSNA team recommends the following:

- Undertake a labour market assessment covering significant parts of Lebanon, highlighting current constraints and opportunities for expansion as well as trade flows, levels of wages and other key market indicators. This assessment should cover all target groups to enable cross-comparisons and highlight the impact of the crisis on Lebanese working conditions.

- In cooperation with protection actors, monitor exploitative work practices, including child labour, and where appropriate, capture these situations within upcoming assessments.

- As many actors are planning to focus on/expand existing livelihoods programming, it is recommended that best practices within Lebanon, the region or in other similar contexts are collected and shared.

- Establish a list of key definitions to harmonise their use across the sector.

ANNEX A

ASSESSMENTS/REPORTS CONSULTED AND REVIEWED

Organisation	Name of Report	Data Collection Date	Area	Methodology
Oxfam	Survey on the livelihoods of Syrian refugees in Lebanon	Oct-13	Countrywide	KI interviews with Lebanese officials; FGDs; detailed survey among 260 households, representing 1,591 individuals, cluster sampling.
WFP	PDM exercise	Monthly	Countrywide	PDM among 800 HH receiving WFP support on a monthly basis.
ILO	Assessment of the impact of Syrian refugees in Lebanon and their employment profile	Mar-13	Akkar, Bekaa, Tripoli and South Lebanon	Field survey covering 400 Syrian refugee households. Convenience sampling technique was adopted whereby probable Syrian congregation in the targeted geographical areas - using a snowball approach - was identified.
WFP, UNICEF, UNHCR, GoL	VASyR	May-June 2013	Countrywide	Representative random sample stratified by registration date (and pending registration). Over 1,400 households interviewed.
AMEL	Rapid needs assessments	January and June 2013	Beirut	FGDs – Qualitative, covering refugees accessing Amel services.
Mercy Corps	Things fall apart	Apr-13	North, Bekaa, Nabatiyeh and South	1,200 Syrian and Lebanese household survey and 33 focus group discussions.

Handicap International/Help Age (in process of publication)	Situation of vulnerable refugees in Jordan and Lebanon	Oct-13	North, Bekaa, Beirut City and Mount Lebanon	1,914 individuals were interviewed. Random cluster sampling for registered refugees. snowball sampling approach to identify and interview non-registered refugees.
Solidarité Swiss	Needs Assessment Report South	Aug-13	South: Nabatieh and Jezzine	KII, HH questionnaire, FGD.
Global Communities	Rapid Needs Assessment Mount Lebanon	Oct-13	Mount Lebanon: Chouf, Baabda and Aley	FGDs & HH assessments.
MPDL	Assessment on Persons with Specific Needs and Their Households	October – November 2013	Beirut/Mount Lebanon, South	465 household interviews, 45 focus group discussions, 20 key informant interviews.
World Bank	Socio-Economic impact of the Syrian crisis	Sep-13	Countrywide	Desk review, KI.
FAFO	Ambivalent Hospitality Coping Strategies and Local Responses to Syrian refugees in Lebanon	May-13	Countrywide	900 individuals, random sampling. 40 in-depth interviews and 17 KI in Bebnine and 29 KI in Beirut, Tripoli and Akkar.
IOM	The Situation and Needs of Lebanese Returnees from Syria	Jul-13	Countrywide	Data from registration and profiling exercise conducted across all six governorates by HRC with technical support from IOM. Outreach conducted through municipalities. Questionnaire designed by HRC and IOM.
ANERA	Palestinian Refugees from Syria in Lebanon -A Needs Assessment	Jan-13	Within and outside nine Palestinian refugee camps across Lebanon.	HH surveys, 669 households of Palestinian refugees from Syria (PRS) within and outside nine Palestinian refugee camps across Lebanon.

ILO	Labour force survey among Palestinian refugees living in camps and gatherings	September 2011 to March 2012	All Palestinian camps and gatherings	The survey was based on a sampling frame that consisted of 1,430 clusters. The clusters were the primary sampling units in the sampling design. The total sample size was approximately 2,600 households comprising 7,212 individuals.
EMMA	Agricultural, Construction and Service Market	Apr-13	North and Bekaa	EMMA methodology.
FAO	Agricultural Livelihoods and Food Security Impact Assessment and Response Plan for the Syria Crisis in the Neighbouring Countries of Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon and Turkey	Mar-13	Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon and Turkey	Desk Review and KI.
Inter-Agency	Baseline survey and PDM	November – February	Countrywide	Household survey of winterisation beneficiaries. 773 households.