



# DEMOGRAPHICS

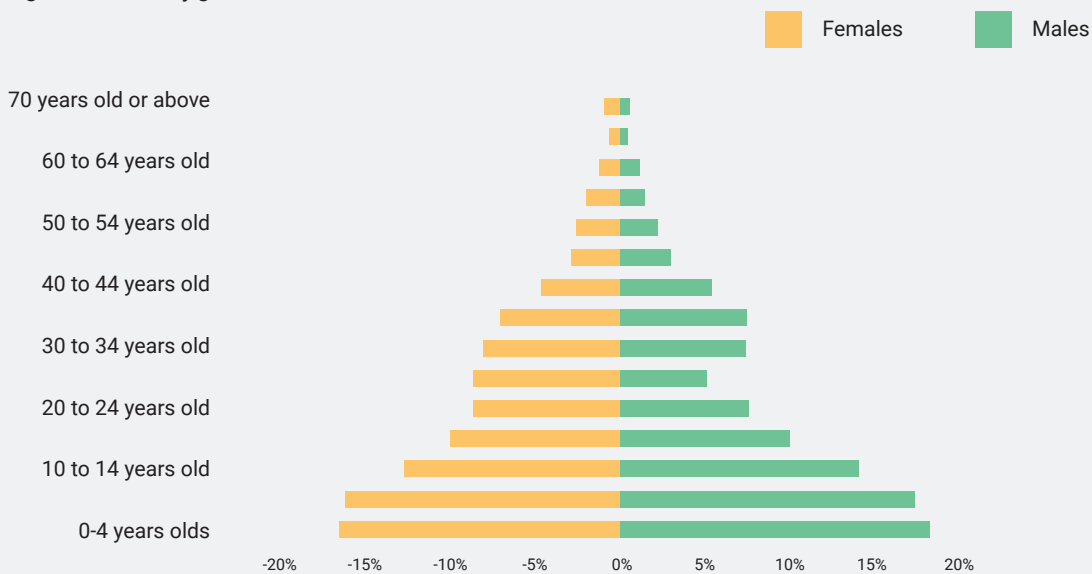
The VASyR tracks key demographic indicators over time to better understand the population of Syrian refugees in Lebanon. This includes household composition, profile of the head of household, dependency and prevalence of disabilities and other specific needs. A household is defined as a group of people that live under the same roof, share the same expenses and eat from the same pot. The head of household is the main decision maker.

## KEY FINDINGS

- Household size remained stable with, on average, five individuals in a typical Syrian refugee household in Lebanon.
- The share of female-headed households remained similar to 2019 at 19%.
- There were no major shifts noted in the overall population composition, with an even split between males and females. More than half of the population was under the age of 18.
- Among the population, 9% of individuals were found to have a disability. At the household level, one third (33%) of households had at least one member with a disability.

# POPULATION PROFILE

Figure 1: Age distribution by gender



Examining the distribution of the population by age and gender, there was an overall even split between males and females in the population. The exception was in the age group between 25-29 years where there was a notable gender gap, with a smaller proportion of men than women. Over half (54%) of the Syrian refugee population in Lebanon was below the age of 18 years.

# REFUGEE HOUSEHOLDS

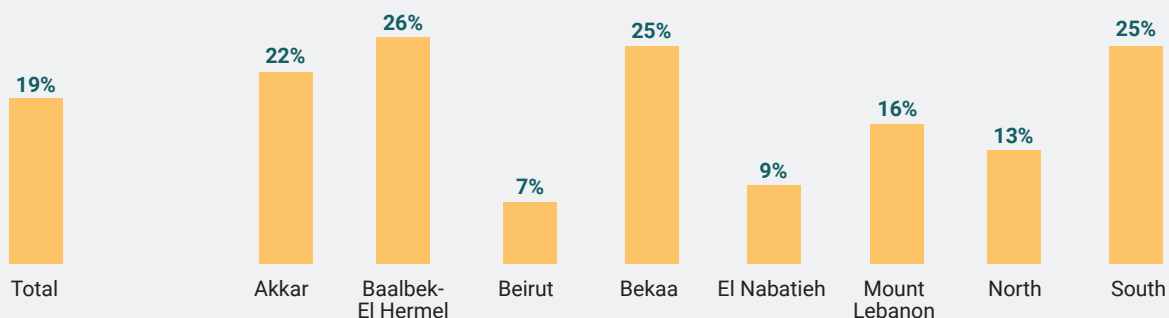
The average Syrian refugee household size has remained stable at five individuals per household. On average, households were composed of two adults (18-59 years), 1.8 children aged between 6 and 17 years, and one child aged five years or younger.

Most commonly, households had between one and four household members (42%), 36% had five to six members and 23% had seven household members or more. Eighty-six per cent of households had at least one member under the age of 18, and 60% had at least one child under the age

of five. Ten percent of households had an elderly member aged 60 years or above.

The share of female-headed households has remained stable over the years, at 19% in 2020 compared to 18% in 2019. Beirut and Mount Lebanon had the lowest share of female-headed households at 7% and 15% respectively, while Baalbek- El Hermel, Bekaa and the South had the highest rate, with one quarter of families in these governorates being headed by a female.

Figure 2: Share of female-headed households in the population by governorate

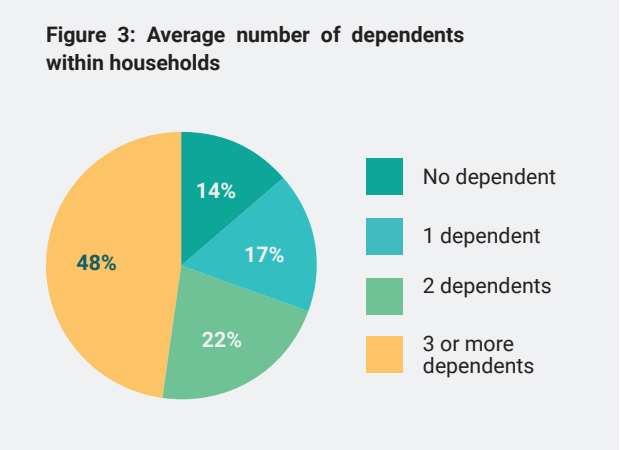


# DEPENDENCY

*Dependents: Household members aged 14 or younger or 60 years or above.*

*Dependency ratio: Number of dependents in the household divided by the number of non-dependents in the household.*

The average dependency ratio in Syrian refugee households remained stable at 1 in 2020, compared to 1.2 in 2019 and 1 in 2018, indicating an almost equal distribution of dependents and non-dependents. Almost half of the households (48%) had at least three dependents, 22% had two dependents, 17% had one dependent, and 14% had no dependents at all.

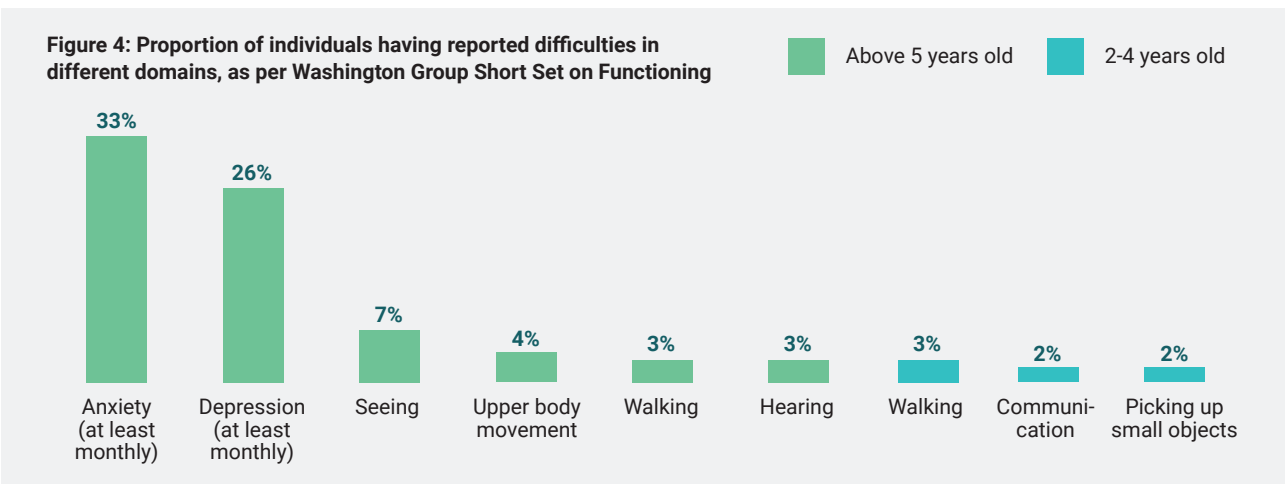


# SPECIFIC NEEDS

Disability was measured using the “Washington Group Short Set on Functioning” questionnaire<sup>1</sup>. This set of questions focused on measuring difficulty in functioning in six basic actions (capabilities) to determine the presence of a disability. Nine per cent of the population were found to have such difficulties, i.e. a disability. At the household level, one third (33%) of households had at least one member with a disability.

Examining specific domains of difficulty, among individuals above the age of two, 7% reported some level of difficulty seeing and 3% reported some difficulty hearing. Among individuals aged five or above, 8% reported that they had a lot of difficulty walking or climbing stairs, or were unable to do so at all.

Among those aged 5 or above, 17% reported feeling worried, anxious, or nervous on a daily basis and 14% reported feeling depressed on a daily basis.

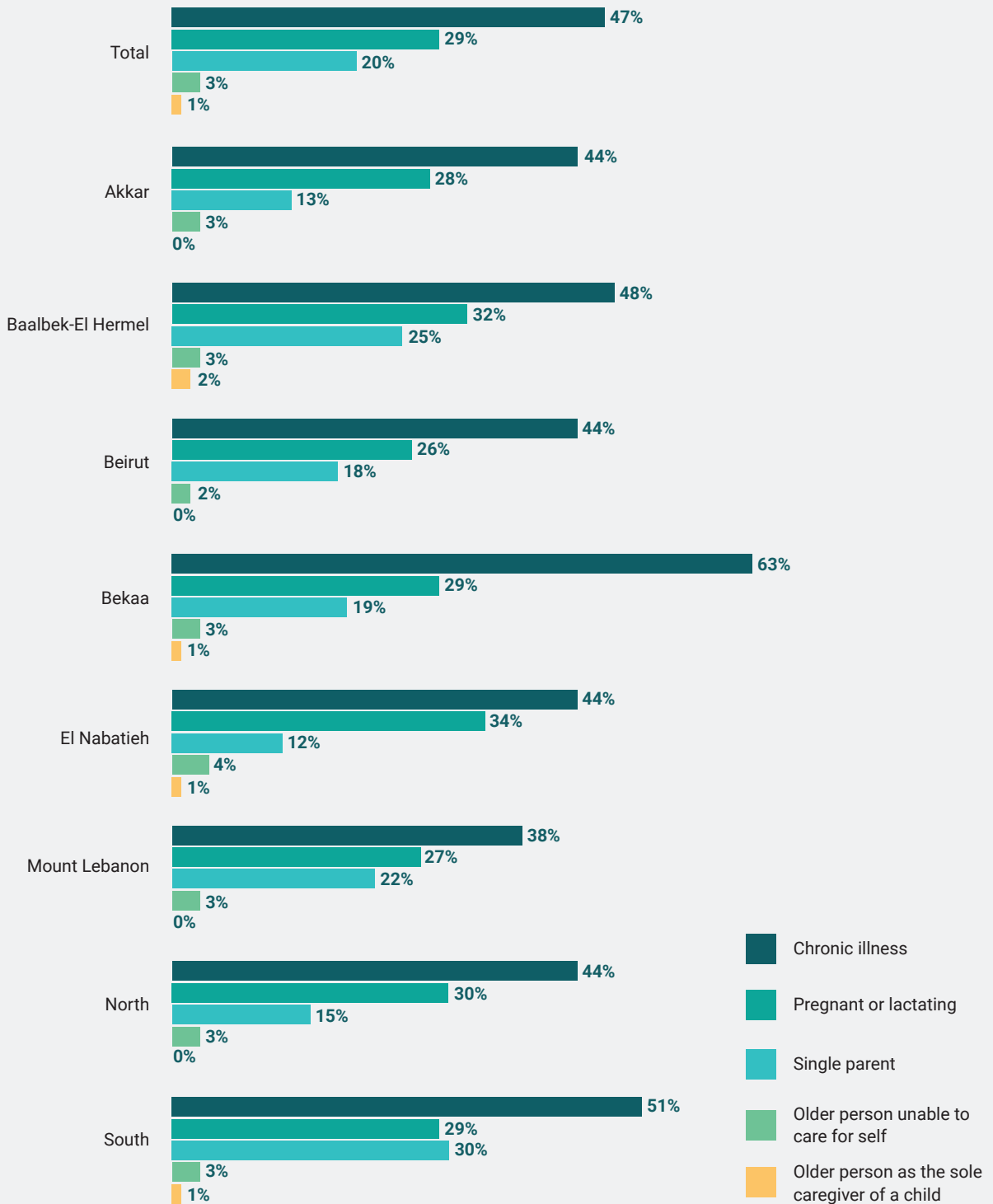


Looking at other specific needs within households, less than half (47%) reported that at least one household member had a chronic illness, 20% had at least one member pregnant or lactating, 20% had at least one single parent, 3% had at least one older person unable to care for him/herself and 1% had at least one member aged 60 years or

above as the sole caregiver for children. At the governorate level, Bekaa had the highest rate of households with at least one member having a chronic illness (63%) and the South had the highest proportion of families with at least one single parent (31%).

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.washingtongroup-disability.com/question-sets/wg-short-set-on-functioning-wg-ss/>

Figure 5: Proportion of households with at least one household member with a specific need, by governorate



Annex 1: Gender and share of household members

	Gender		Gender of the head of household		Share of households by number of members				Average dependency ratio	Number of dependents in the household			
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Average household size	4 or less members	5-6 members	7 or more members		No dependent	1 or more dependents	2 or more dependents	3 or more dependents
Total	50%	50%	81%	19%	5	42%	36%	23%	.93	15%	17%	21%	46%
<b>Governorate</b>													
Akkar	50%	50%	78%	22%	5	46%	30%	23%	.95	18%	17%	20%	45%
Baalbek-El Hermel	48%	52%	74%	26%	5	40%	35%	25%	.99	11%	18%	23%	48%
Beirut	53%	47%	93%	7%	5	45%	36%	19%	.83	23%	15%	20%	41%
Bekaa	47%	53%	75%	25%	5	41%	35%	24%	.95	15%	19%	19%	48%
El Nabatieh	48%	52%	91%	9%	6	30%	37%	33%	.97	11%	11%	21%	57%
Mount Lebanon	52%	48%	84%	16%	5	42%	38%	20%	.89	16%	17%	22%	45%
North	50%	50%	87%	13%	5	46%	36%	18%	1.01	13%	19%	25%	43%
South	49%	51%	75%	25%	5	38%	34%	29%	1.01	13%	15%	21%	51%
<b>Gender</b>					<b>Gender of the head of household</b>								
Female	-	-	-	-	4	60%	29%	11%	.92	23%	26%	18%	34%
Male	-	-	-	-	5	37%	37%	26%	1.00	13%	15%	22%	49%
<b>Shelter type</b>													
Residential	50%	50%	82%	18%	5	43%	37%	20%	.92	15%	17%	23%	45%
Non-residential	52%	48%	84%	16%	5	43%	33%	24%	1.02	16%	17%	23%	43%
Non-permanent	47%	53%	74%	26%	5	38%	32%	31%	1.07	13%	17%	16%	54%