

# WFP LEBANON

## FOOD SECURITY OUTCOME MONITORING

ROUND 6: APRIL 2017



### Highlights

- WFP assisted 673,038 displaced Syrians in April 2017, of which 23 percent were female-headed and 66 percent were households with children under the age of five;
- WFP assisted households showed better food security indicators compared to non-assisted households;
- Food consumption for assisted households improved significantly in 2016 and remained stable until April 2017 with 64 percent of households having an acceptable food consumption. The percentage of households with poor food consumption reached the lowest level (4 percent) since the beginning of the FSOM;
- Non-assisted households showed a worsening of monitoring outcomes and they increased coping strategies and debts;
- More than half of the interviewed displaced Syrians perceived that food security among their community improved compared to last year, around 32 percent considered that it remained the same and 13 percent thought it had worsened;
- Overall satisfaction about WFP assistance continued to increase. The satisfaction on how assistance was provided reached the highest value since January 2016 showing programme quality improvements in addressing beneficiaries' needs.

## DISPLACED SYRIANS

The World Food Programme (WFP) is the world's largest humanitarian agency fighting hunger worldwide. As part of the regional Protracted Relief and Recovery Operation (PRRO) 200987, WFP Lebanon is providing lifesaving food assistance to vulnerable UNHCR-registered displaced Syrians through an electronic food voucher (e-card) system. The Food Security Outcome Monitoring (FSOM), which started in 2016, measures food security outcome trends among beneficiaries and non-beneficiaries households on a quarterly basis to inform WFP programme.

The sixth FSOM round was conducted in April 2017 when WFP provided food assistance to 673,038 displaced Syrians (128,255 households). Of those, 23 percent were households headed by a female, and 66 percent were households with children under the age of five. The programme ability to reach beneficiaries remained high with 97 percent of food vouchers redeemed.

|  | APR 2016 | NOV 2016 | JAN 2017 | APR 2017 |
|--|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| <b>BENEFICIARIES REACHED</b>                 | 584,072  | 606,019  | 656,651  | 673,038  |
| <b>HOUSEHOLDS REACHED</b>                    | 141,559  | 118,636  | 126,160  | 128,255  |
| <b>% REDEEMED VOUCHERS</b>                   | 99%      | 93%      | 95%      | 97%      |
| <b>% HOUSEHOLD HEADED BY FEMALE</b>          | 20%      | 20%      | 22%      | 23%      |
| <b>% OF HOUSEHOLDS WITH CHILDREN BELOW 5</b> | 70%      | 67%      | 65%      | 66%      |

## OUTCOME RESULTS

WFP analyses three food security outcome indicators to monitor food security: the Food Consumption Score (FCS), the Household Dietary Diversity Score (HDDS) and the Reduced Coping Strategy Index (rCSI).

All outcome indicators showed that assisted households are more likely to be food secure compared to the non-assisted households.

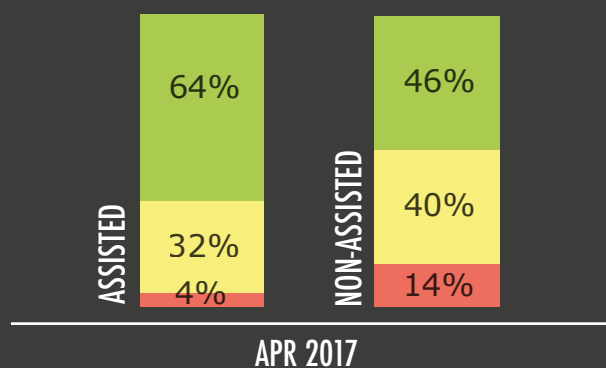


Figure 1: Food consumption groups by assisted and non-assisted households

The percentage of households having an acceptable food consumption continued to be higher for WFP-assisted households than for non-assisted households (64 vs 46 percent). Food consumption in assisted households significantly improved since 2016 and the percentage of households with poor food consumption reached the lowest level (4 percent) since the beginning of the FSOM.

## FOOD CONSUMPTION ASSISTED

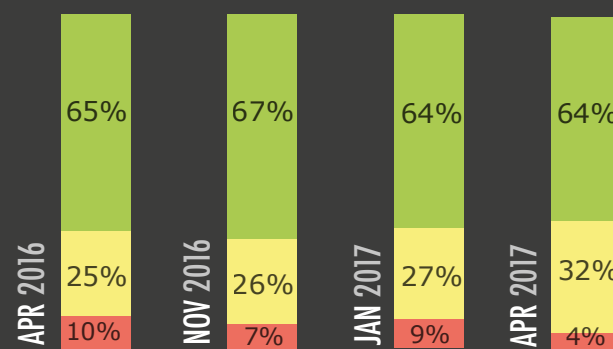


Figure 2: Food consumption trends for assisted households

In April 2017 food consumption for non-assisted households remained stable with a slightly increase of households with poor food consumption (14 percent).

## FOOD CONSUMPTION NON-ASSISTED

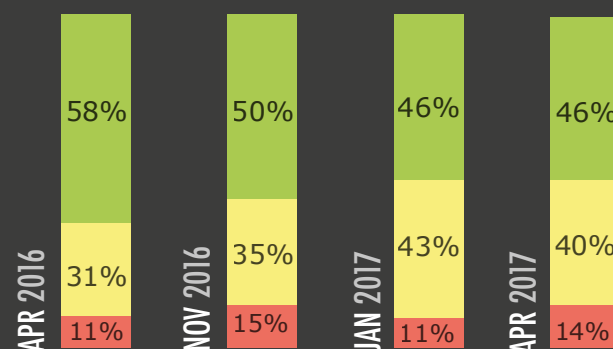


Figure 3: Food consumption trends for non-assisted households

Households were asked to express their perception on the food security status of other displaced Syrians living in their community compared with the year before. Most households reported that food security improved, a lower percentage reported that it remained the same and a small percentage reported that food security worsened for their neighbours and community in the past year.

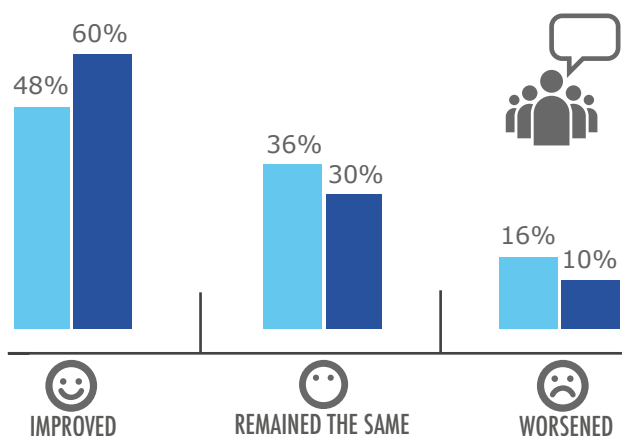


Figure 4: Perception of food security as compared to last year

Both assisted and non-assisted households had a **diversified diet** (5.6 and 5.2 respectively) even if dietary diversity slightly decreased since January 2017 for non-assisted households.

Assisted households adopted less **copings strategies** than non-assisted ones. Compared to April 2016 assisted households are adopting less food related coping strategies while for non-assisted households the rCSI rose to 16.6 points during the past 3 months.

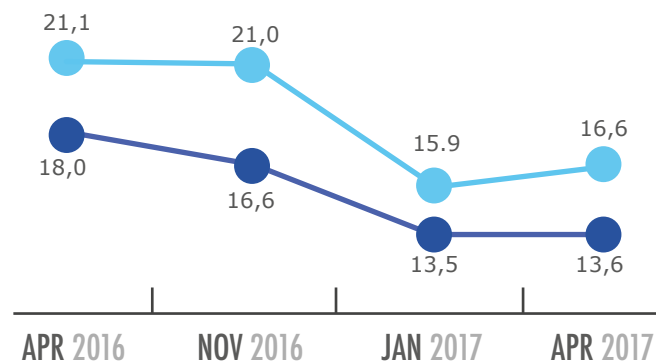


Figure 5: Reduced Coping Strategy Index

The most common coping strategies adopted by households remained unchanged compared to previous FSOM: borrowing money, buying food on credit and reducing health expenditure. Borrowing and purchasing food on credit remain a common practice for both groups but higher for non-assisted households. The percentage of non-assisted households that reduced their health expenses to cope with food shortage increased since January 2017 reaching 70 percent of this group. Data show that a lower percentage of assisted households withdrew children from school to cope with food shortage (from 16 to 10 percent) and on the contrary, non-assisted households slightly increased this coping strategy (from 5 to 9 percent).

● Assisted  
● Non-Assisted

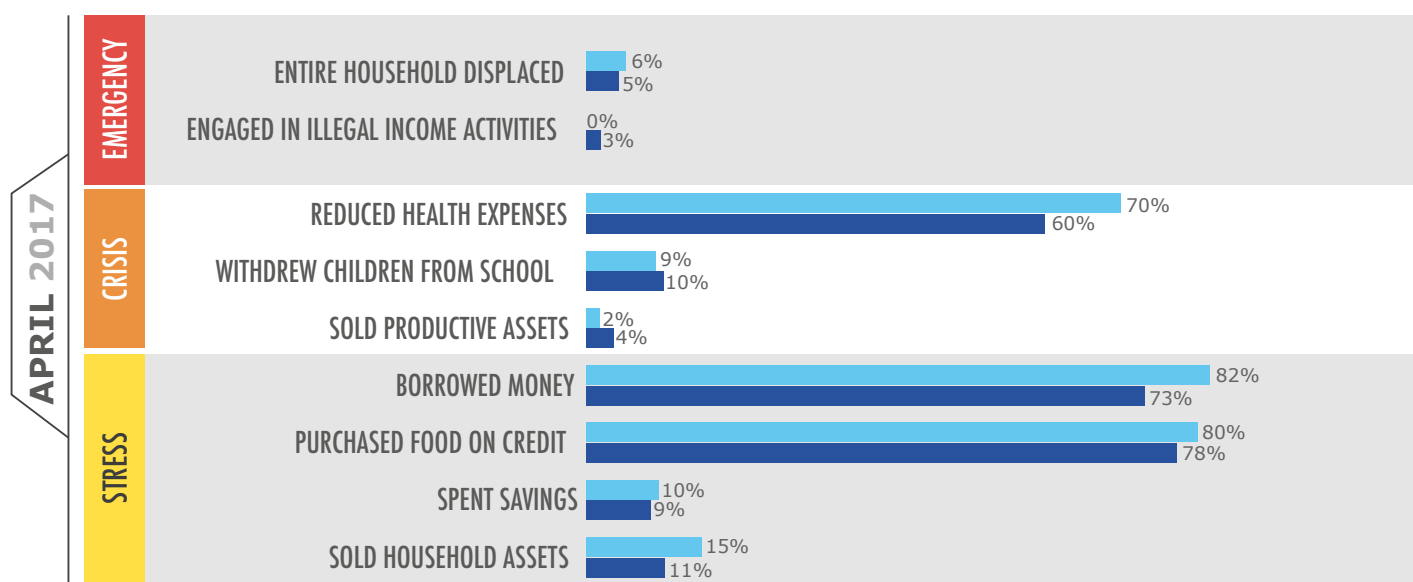


Figure 6: Adopted livelihood coping strategies

## EXPENDITURES & DEBTS

On average, the total household **expenditure** for assisted and non-assisted households decreased compared to January 2017. In April, assisted households spent on average USD 533 per month, per capita expenditure was USD 91. Among the non-assisted households, the estimated average monthly expenditure was USD 427 and USD 113 per capita. Households with acceptable food consumption spent on average USD 274 more per month to cover for all expenses than households with poor food consumption.

Food represented the largest expenditure share for both assisted and non-assisted groups (50 percent and 39 percent respectively) and slightly increased since January 2017. Rent accounted for the second largest expenditure share followed by health, and both remained stable. Non-assisted households allocate almost a quarter of their resources to pay rent and on average they are 2.9 months behind rent payment.

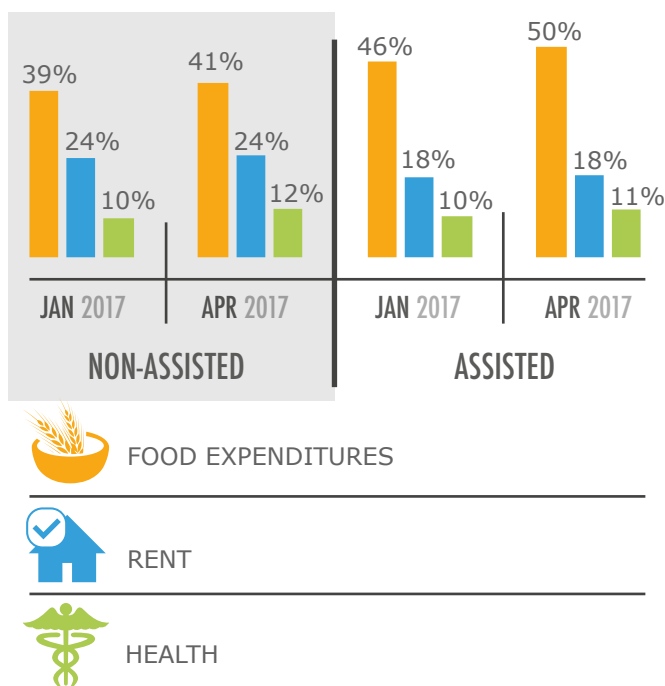


Figure 7: Expenditure share

**Debts** remain a constant burden for displaced Syrian households. Assisted households decreased their debts in April 2017 reaching on average of USD 857 per household (USD 76 less compared to January). On the contrary, debts for non-assisted households reached the highest value with an average of USD 1,079 per household.

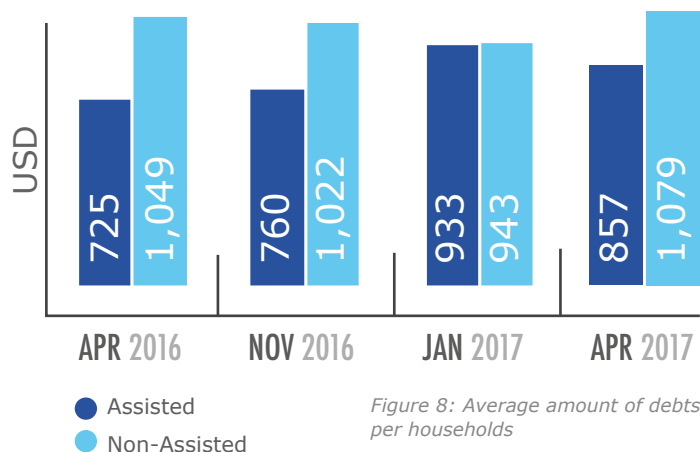


Figure 8: Average amount of debts per households

## OTHER ASSISTANCE & INCOME

Seasonal winterisation assistance from UNHCR and UNICEF stopped in March 2017. As a consequence, the percentage of household receiving other assistance dropped considerably for both assisted and non-assisted households.

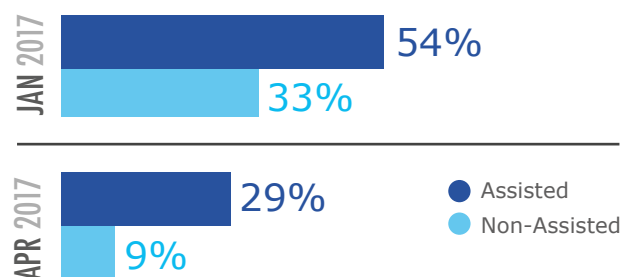


Figure 9: Households receiving non-WFP assistance

E-cards remained the main source of **income** for 72 percent of the assisted households, followed by unskilled labour (15 percent) and skilled labour (6.5 percent). The main source of income for non-assisted households was stable with unskilled labour (38 percent) followed by skilled labour (19.5 percent). As before, 28 percent of non-assisted used credit and borrowing as main source of income and 6 percent relied on gifts and/or family support. Households that relied on unskilled and skilled labour as main income source reported a better food consumption.

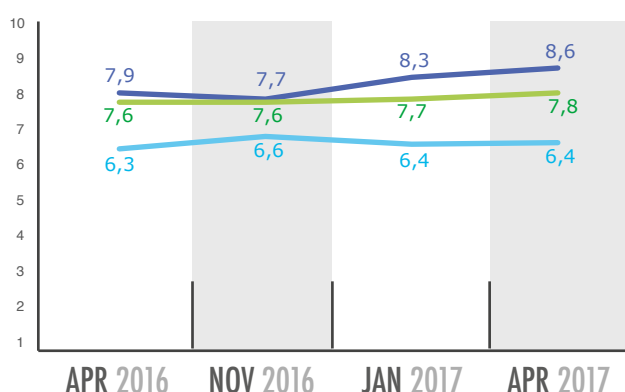


## CROSS-CUTTING THEMES & SATISFACTION

Beneficiaries provided feedback rating their satisfaction with WFP assistance on a scale of 1-10. Satisfaction with WFP assistance is steadily increasing and in April 2017, overall satisfaction was rated 7.8/10, the highest value since the beginning of the monitoring. The satisfaction on the methods of WFP assistance increased in April reaching 8.6/10 points. The quality of WFP assistance remained stable with a score of 6.4/10.

The WFP operating environment remains safe for those receiving food assistance with only two incidents reported in April 2017.

Around 81 percent of beneficiaries knew what they were entitled to receive while the same percentage was not aware about the criteria used for their selection. The majority (74 percent) of beneficiary know how to contact WFP or partners in case of need.



**SATISFACTION WITH HOW**  
WFP ASSISTANCE WAS PROVIDED



**SATISFACTION WITH THE QUANTITY**  
WFP ASSISTANCE WAS PROVIDED



**OVERALL SATISFACTION WITH**  
WFP ASSISTANCE

Figure 9: Beneficiary satisfaction

**Shop monitoring** is conducted by WFP teams to a selected sample of the contracted shops every month. Every four months all the 482 shops are monitored. Monitor includes: checking the cleanliness of shops, identifying difficulties faced by the shopkeepers, compliance with WFP rules and prices, as well as receiving feedback from beneficiaries when applicable.

Since the beginning of 2017 WFP monitored all 482 shops and conducted an additional 400 ad-hoc shops visits for retail capacity building and follow up.



### FSOM METHODOLOGY

FSOM allows for comparisons between beneficiaries and non-beneficiaries to inform programme adjustments and decision-making. The questionnaire included close-ended questions to evaluate food security, expenditure and processes. A random sampling approach was used to select a representative sample of assisted and non-assisted households. In April 2017, 325 assisted and 261 non-assisted households were interviewed. Beneficiaries were contacted before the visit and informed of FSOM and its aim. The FSOM survey is coupled with a qualitative component of focus group discussions (FGDs) twice a year to triangulate quantitative FSOM findings.

### DEFINITIONS:

#### Assisted Households:

Displaced Syrian households registered with UNHCR and assisted by WFP

#### Non-assisted Households:

Syrian refugee households that are registered with UNHCR but not receiving WFP assistance