

WFP LEBANON

FOOD SECURITY OUTCOME MONITORING

ROUND 5: JANUARY 2017



Highlights

- WFP assisted 656,651 displaced Syrians in January 2017, of which 22 percent were female-headed households and 29 percent of households had a high number of dependents;
- WFP assisted households showed better food security indicators compared to non-assisted households;
- Food consumption among assisted households improved significantly in 2016 and remained stable in the first quarter of 2017;
- All households significantly reduced their food related coping mechanisms during the past year;
- Food assistance remained the primary source of income for 62 percent of assisted households;
- Overall satisfaction with WFP assistance continued to increase. The satisfaction on how assistance was provided increased considerably in January 2017 following the introduction of the common murex card.

DISPLACED SYRIANS BENEFICIARIES

The World Food Programme (WFP) is the world's largest humanitarian agency fighting hunger worldwide. WFP's Regional Emergency Operation 200433 was launched in July 2012 to support food-insecure refugees in the countries neighbouring Syria that includes Lebanon. Within this framework, WFP provides food assistance to vulnerable UNHCR-registered displaced Syrians through an electronic food voucher (e-card) system. In 2016, WFP, LCC, UNHCR and UNICEF introduced the common murex card for providing cash based assistance to displaced Syrians. The Food Security Outcome Monitoring (FSOM), started in 2016, measuring food security outcome trends among beneficiaries and non-beneficiaries on a quarterly basis. The fifth round was conducted in January 2017.

In January 2017, WFP provided food assistance to 656,651 displaced Syrians through the electronic vouchers (e-cards). Of those, 22 percent were households headed by a female, and 29 percent had a high number of dependents (children below 15 and adults above 65).

	JAN 2016	APR 2016	NOV 2016	JAN 2017
BENEFICIARIES REACHED	588,431	584,072	606,019	656,651
HOUSEHOLDS REACHED	142,590	141,559	118,636	126,160
% REDEEMED VOUCHERS	99%	99%	93%	95%
% HOUSEHOLD HEADED BY FEMALE	26%	20%	20%	22%
% OF HOUSEHOLDS WITH HIGH NUMBER OF DEPENDENTS (>70%)	32%	29%	23%	29%

FOOD SECURITY OUTCOMES

WFP analyses three food security outcomes indicators to monitor the results of 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 more food secure compared to the non-assisted households.

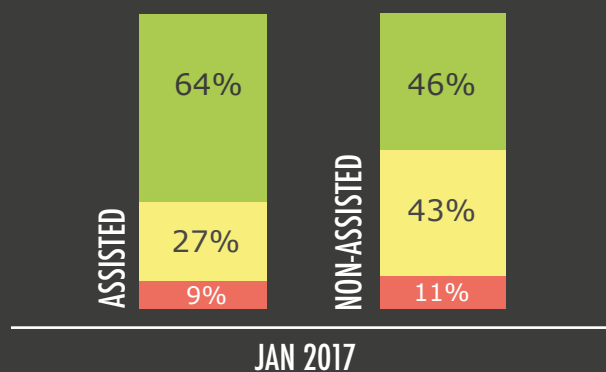


Figure 1: Food consumption groups by assisted and non-assisted households

As shown above, the percentage of households having an acceptable food consumption continues to be higher for WFP-assisted households than for non-assisted households (64 vs 46 percent). Food consumption in assisted households significantly improved in 2016 and remained stable in the first quarter of 2017.

FOOD CONSUMPTION ASSISTED

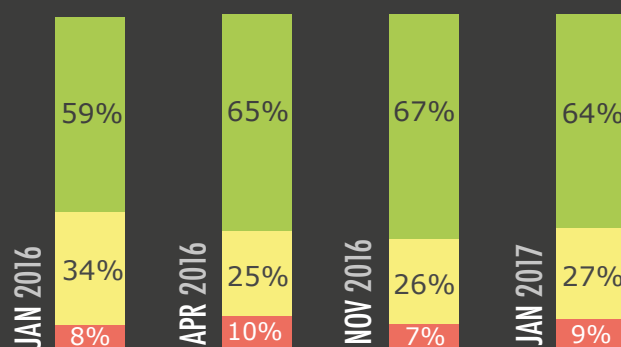


Figure 2: Food consumption trends for assisted households

Food consumption for non-assisted households remained stable since January 2017.

FOOD CONSUMPTION NON-ASSISTED

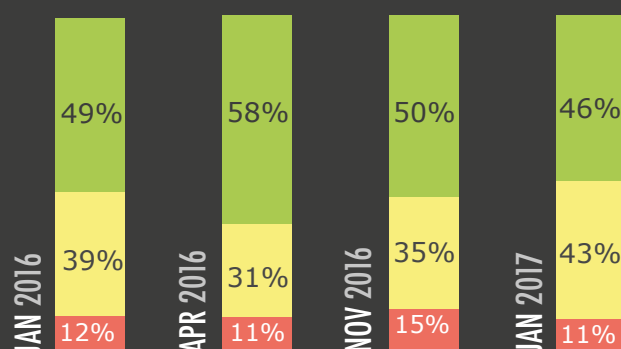


Figure 3: Food consumption trends for non-assisted households

Both assisted and non-assisted households have a diversified diet (5.7 and 5.4 respectively) and dietary diversity increased since January 2016 for both groups.

Assisted households adopted less coping strategies than non-assisted ones. Compared to January 2016 assisted households were persistently decreasing their coping strategies and the rCSI reached the lowest value of 13.5 points in January 2017 compared to figures in 2016.

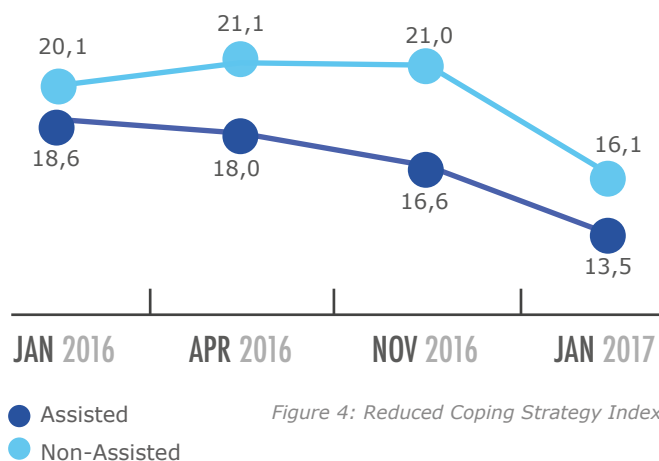


Figure 4: Reduced Coping Strategy Index

The most common coping strategies adopted by households remained unchanged compared to previous FSOM: borrowing money, buying food on credit and reducing health expenditure. Compared with 2016, households are borrowing less but still purchasing food on credit. More than half of the households are reducing health expenses to cope with food shortage and this is increasing for assisted households. In addition, the percent of assisted households withdrawing children from school (16 percent) has remained constant compared to 2016.

EXPENDITURES & DEBTS

On average, the total expenditure for assisted and non-assisted households remained stable compared to 2016. In January, assisted households spent on average USD 568 per month, per capita expenditure was USD 99. Among the non-assisted households, the estimated average monthly expenditure was USD 497 and USD 125 per capita. Households with acceptable food consumption spent on average USD 227 more per month than households with poor food consumption.

Food represented the largest expenditure share for both assisted and non-assisted groups (46 percent and 39 percent respectively) a minor decrease since 2016. Rent accounted for the second largest expenditure share followed by health.

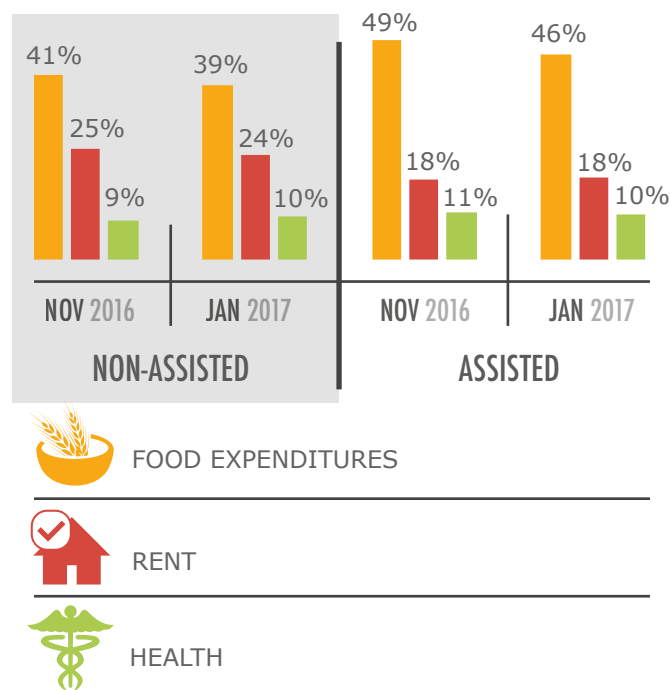


Figure 6: Expenditure share

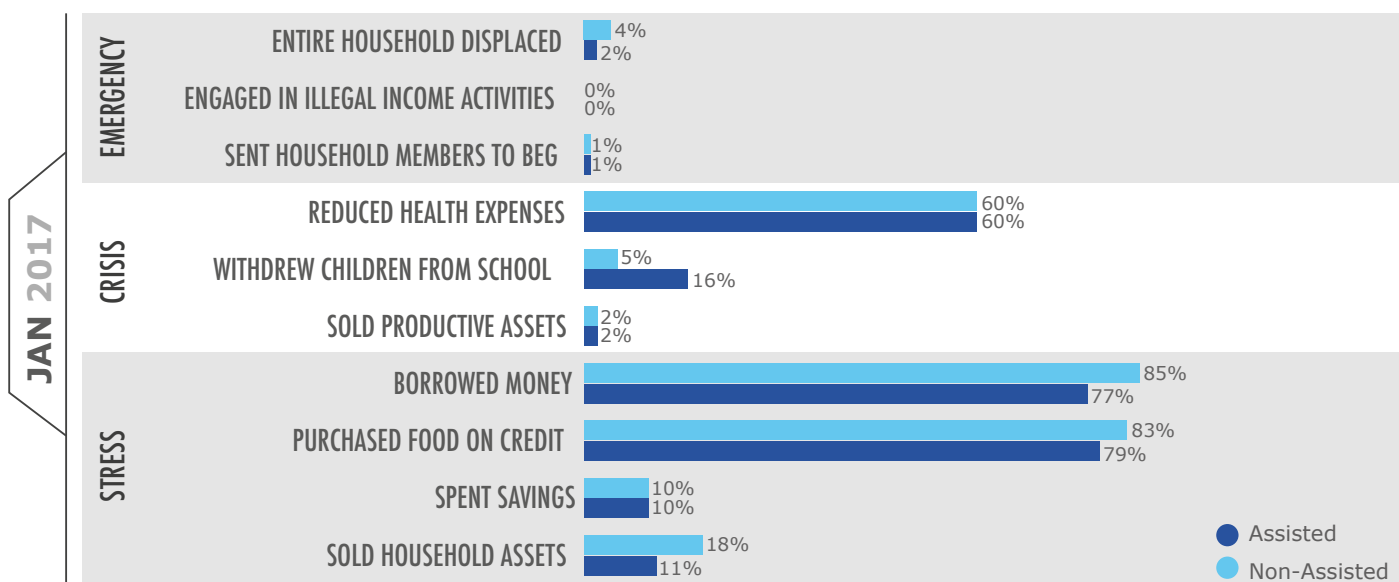
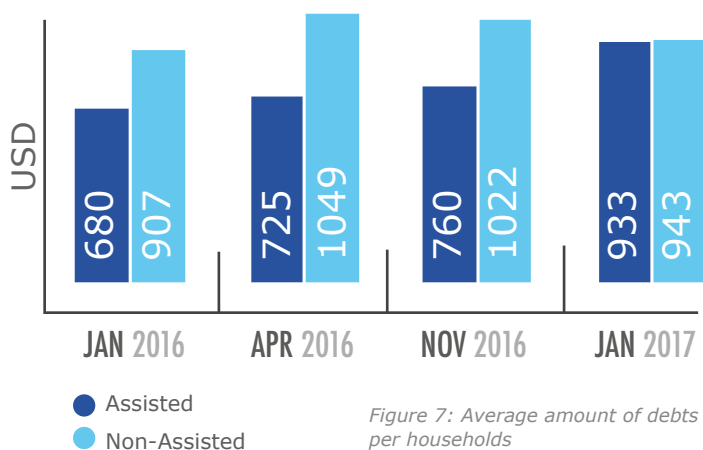


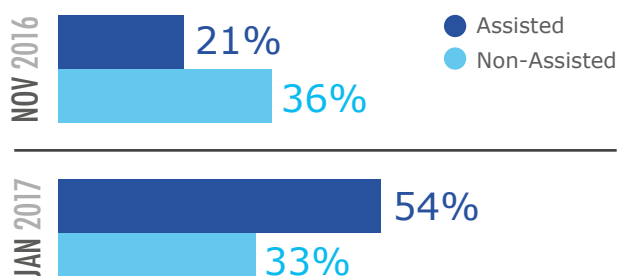
Figure 5: Adopted livelihood coping strategies

Debts remain a constant burden for displaced Syrians households. Assisted households increased their debts in January 2017 reaching on average of USD 933 per household compared to USD 760 in November. However, appears that non-assisted households are slightly decreasing their debts.



OTHER ASSISTANCE & INCOME

Seasonal winterization assistance from UNHCR and other agencies was provided to 168,686 Syrian displaced households. As a consequence, more than half of the WFP-assisted households reported having received other forms of assistance in January 2017. Multi-purpose cash is the most common assistance received followed by shelter and food.



E-cards remain the main source of income for 62 percent of the assisted households, followed by unskilled labour (14 percent) and other cash assistance (12 percent). The main source of income for non-assisted households remains unskilled labour, although the percentage

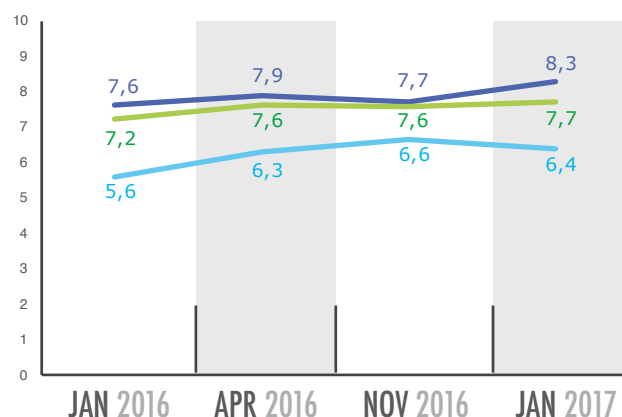
decreased in 2017 (36 percent in January 2017 compared with 50 percent in November 2016).

Additionally, 27 percent of non-assisted relied on credit or borrowing as a secondary income source. Households that relied on unskilled labor 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. In January 2017, overall satisfaction with WFP was rated 7.7/10, the highest value since the beginning of the monitoring. The satisfaction on the methods of WFP assistance increased considerably in January 2017 reaching 8.8/10 points compared to 2016. This is probably due to the distribution of the new common murex card distributed during the last quarter of 2016. The satisfaction with quantity of WFP assistance remained stable with a score of 6.4/10 in January 2017.

The WFP operating environment remains safe for those receiving food assistance with only one case of verbal harassment reported in January 2017.



SATISFACTION WITH **HOW** WFP ASSISTANCE WAS PROVIDED

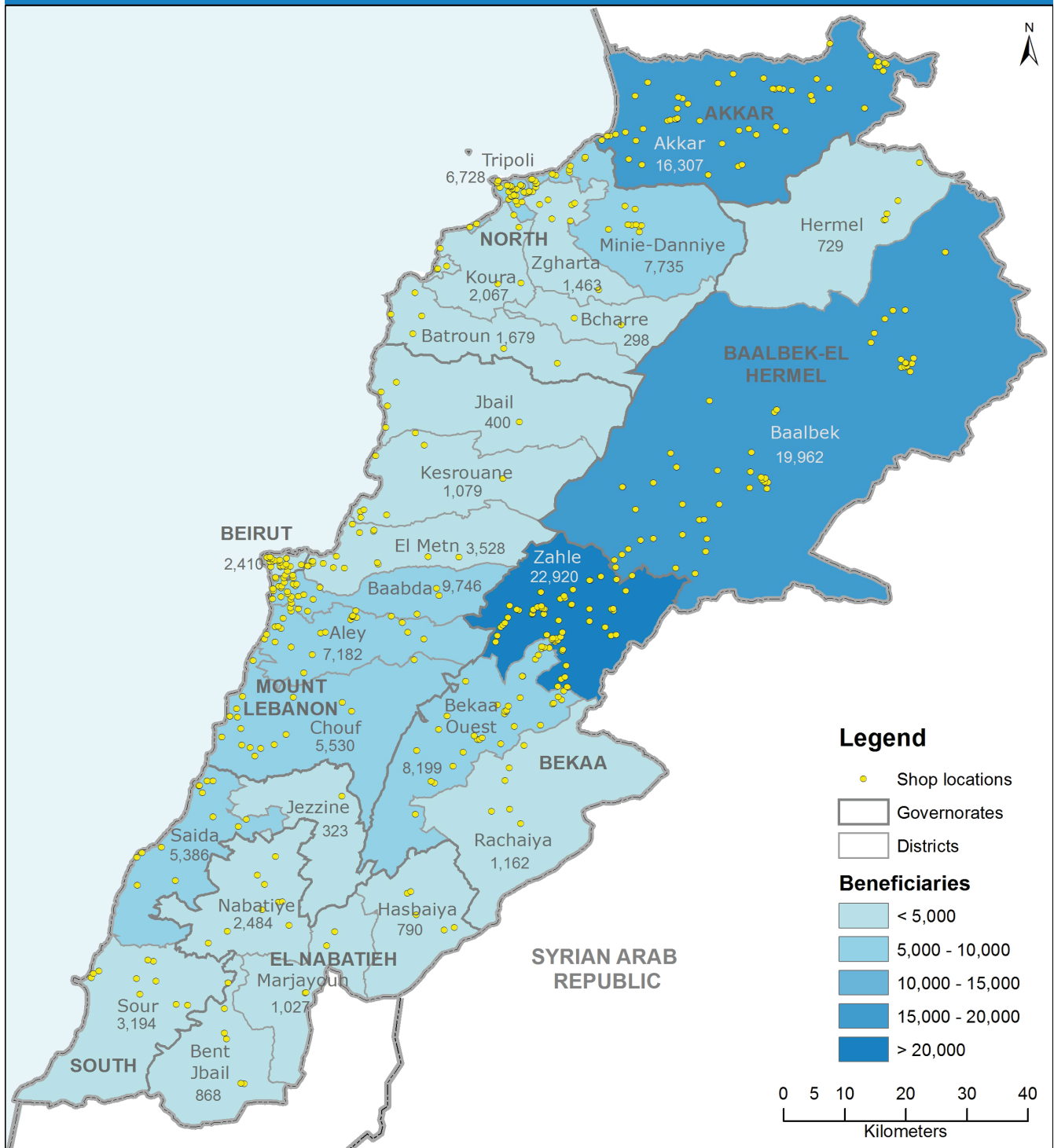


SATISFACTION WITH THE **QUANTITY** WFP ASSISTANCE WAS PROVIDED



OVERALL SATISFACTION WITH WFP ASSISTANCE

Figure 9: Beneficiary satisfaction



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 January 2017, 327 assisted and 256 non-assisted households were interviewed. Beneficiaries were contacted before the visit and informed of FSOM and its aim. The FSOM survey was coupled with a qualitative component of focus group discussions

(FGDs) conducted to triangulate quantitative FSOM findings. Twelve gender sensitive FGDs were conducted to understand the perspectives of beneficiaries by gender.

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