UNHCR
The UN Refugee Agency

Situation of refugees in Jordan

QUARTERLY ANALYSIS
Q1 2022

Key findings

Refugee households lost about 10% of their income in Q1 2022 compared to Q3 2021. Work income was the main source of income for Syrian and non-Syrian households, but non-Syrians had a higher dependence on humanitarian assistance.

On average, expenditure exceeded income in Q1 2022. The average household expenditure of refugees exceeded their income by 67 JOD, this means that **refugee reliance on debt increased.** Over 45% of total household expenditure was spent on food and rent.

Nearly nine out of 10 households were in debt in Q1 2022, with most of households borrowing money from friends and neighbours in Jordan to cover their basic needs (food, rent and health).

Less refugees worked in Q1 2022. The proportion of registered refugees aged 18+ working declined from 28% in 2021 to 23% in Q1 2022.

More households resorted to negative coping strategies compared to Q3 2021. Three in five households bought food on credit and reduced non-food essentials in Q1 2022, while one in five households accepted high risks jobs.

More than half of households resorted to a lower quality and quantity of food in Q1 2022 to make ends meet. Four in five households relied on less preferred and less expensive food, echoing results in Q3 2021.

One in three households were living in sub-standard or informal settlements in Q1 2022, recording an increase from 11% in 2021 to 34% in Q1 2022.

Two out of ten households were not able to access health services in Q1 2022. About 17% of households reported not being to access health services in Q1 2022.

Introduction

In 2022, UNHCR Jordan initiated a quarterly analysis of the situation facing refugees in Jordan, with the main purpose to monitor changes in refugee vulnerability in Jordan over time. Using the results of the 2022 Vulnerability Assessment Framework (VAF) study as a baseline, this series of analysis will collect information repeatedly from the same refugee families on a quarterly basis in order to examine variations at the household level for the following sectors: economic vulnerability (including livelihoods), food security, shelter, WASH, and health.

As part of the Q1 2022 analysis, extra focus was given to economic vulnerability investigating changes in employment status, income, expediture and debt which have taken place since the VAF data collection was carried out in October 2021.

The key findings highlighted that overall refugees are finding themselves in an increasingly precarious and vulnerable situation in many different aspects of their lives.

The Vulnerability Assessment Framework (VAF) is a bi-annual survey assessing vulnerability of refugees registered in Jordan across multiple sectors.

For this analysis, we compare the results collected in Q1 2022 with the findings of the most recent VAF data collection that took place in 2021, which report was published in 2022.

The VAF 2021 study was conducted via face-to-face visits, while the 2022 quarterly study was conducted via phone calls.

Methodology

A random sampling approach was used to analyse the situation facing refugees who are registered with UNHCR across Jordan. Three strata according to cash eligibility status: households receiving UNHCR Basic Needs Cash Assistance, households phased out from UNHCR Basic Needs Cash Assistance and other households (neither receiving UNHCR Basic Needs Cash Assistance nor phased out) were used to determine the sample.

The total sample size, drawn from UNHCR proGres registration database, consisted of 3,098 households. The data were analyzed per strata, as well as according nationality and governate.

In this report, the data are presented per nationality (grouped by Syrian and non-Syrians). The assessment also examined the overall well-being of households phased out from UNHCR Basic Needs Cash Assistance, and in case of substantial differences the results are presented highlighted.

Sample Size

3,098 Households		
4,149 Total families		
14,035 Individuals		

Average number of members per household:
- Syrian: 5
- Non-Syrian: 4

Average family size
- Syrian: 3.8
- Non-Syrian: 2.8

For definitions on household vs family units, please refer to the VAF, pg. 33

In Amman

Nationality	Syrian	Non-Syrian
Receiving	276	227
Phased out	361	159
Other	250	249
Total	**887**	**635**

Outside Amman

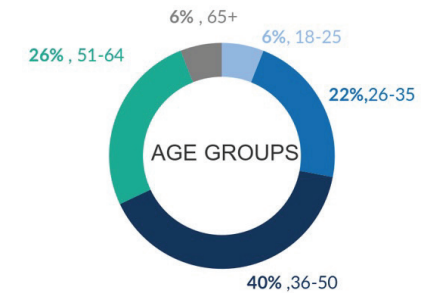| Nationality	Syrian	Non-Syrian
Receiving	318	193
Phased out	442	61
Other	310	252
Total	**1,070**	**505**

Demographics

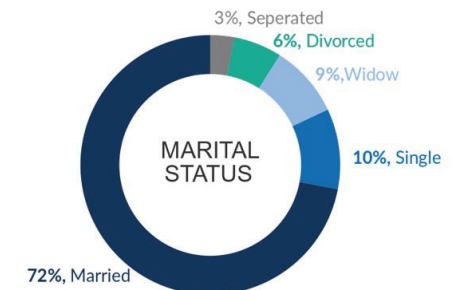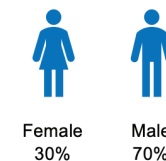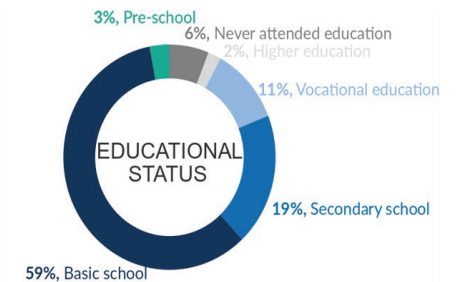**Based on head of household characteristics**

WORKING STATUS

35% of the households had a head of household working

92% of head of households working had a temporary job

DISABILITY STATUS

16% Walking	**7%** Seeing
6% Remembering	**5%** Self-care
4% Hearing	**3%** Communicating

7% of the households had a head of household with a disability or chronic illness that impacts daily life

Female 30%   **Male 70%**

AGE GROUPS
- 6%, 65+
- 6%, 18-25
- 26%, 51-64
- 22%, 26-35
- 40%, 36-50

EDUCATIONAL STATUS
- 3%, Pre-school
- 6%, Never attended education
- 2%, Higher education
- 11%, Vocational education
- 19%, Secondary school
- 59%, Basic school

MARITAL STATUS
- 3%, Seperated
- 6%, Divorced
- 9%, Widow
- 10%, Single
- 72%, Married

Economic Vulnerability

- Economic conditions have worsened for many Syrians and non-Syrians in Q1 2022. **Households lost almost one-tenth of their income,** while more Syrians and non-Syrians reported being in deb. **Similarly fewer refugees reported working.**

- As a result of the decreasing household income, a significant proportion of households adopted various negative coping strategies, either to generate additional income or to reduce expenditure, such as buying food on credit and selling productive assets.
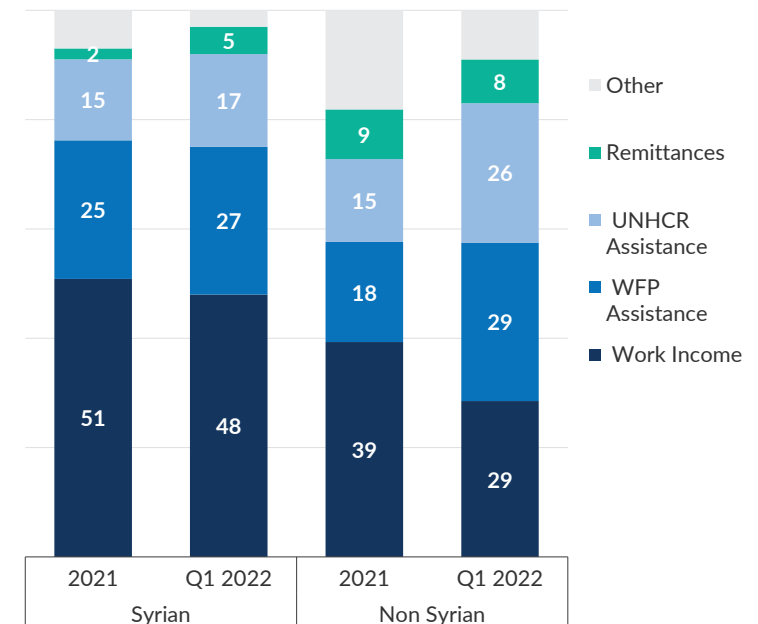
Income

- From 2021 (as reported in the VAF study) to Q1 2022, **the average monthly income decreased by -7%** for Syrian households and by -12% for non-Syrian households.

- Work income was the main source of income for Syrian households in Q1 2022. Non-Syrians also reported income from work, but they had a higher dependence on humanitarian assistance. Overall, the average income of Syrian households reporting work was 198 JOD and of non-Syrian households 182 JOD.

- Despite this, income received from work decreased for both Syrian and non-Syrian households. From 51% in 2021 to 48% in Q1 2022 for Syrians and from 39% to 29% for non-Syrians.

Total average monthly income per household (JOD)

Nationality	2021	Q1 2022	Change	
Syrians	283 JOD	250 JOD	-7%	▼
Non-Syrians	241 JOD	225 JOD	-12%	▼

Main source of income | 2021, Q1 2022
% of households income

Legend:
- Other
- Remittances
- UNHCR Assistance
- WFP Assistance
- Work Income

Syrian 2021: Work Income 51, WFP Assistance 25, UNHCR Assistance 15, Remittances 2
Syrian Q1 2022: Work Income 48, WFP Assistance 27, UNHCR Assistance 17, Remittances 5
Non Syrian 2021: Work Income 39, WFP Assistance 18, UNHCR Assistance 15, Remittances 9
Non Syrian Q1 2022: Work Income 29, WFP Assistance 29, UNHCR Assistance 26, Remittances 8
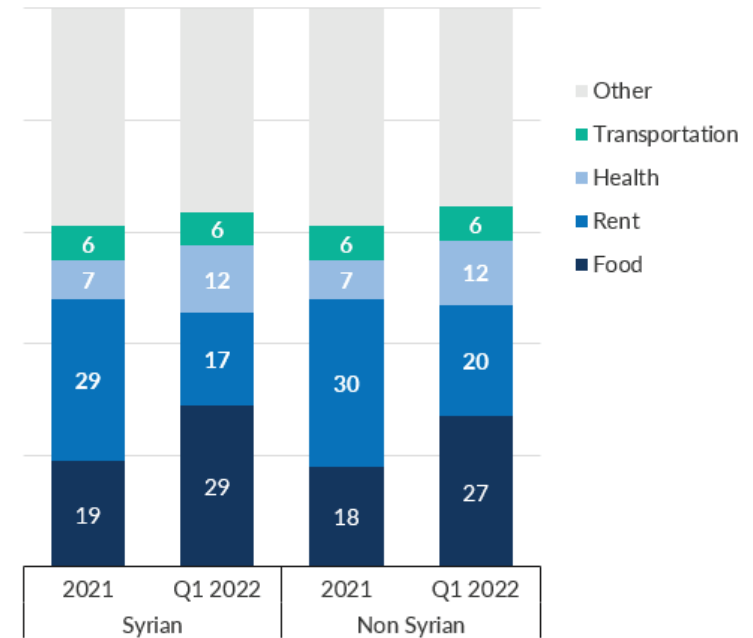
Expenditure

- **Food was the largest expense for refugee families** in Q1 2022, followed by rent. When compared to 2021, the **average monthly expenditure declined by more than 10%** for both Syrian and non-Syrian households.

- **Food as a total share of monthly expenditure increased** from 19% in 2021 to 29% in Q1 2022 for Syrian households and from 18% to 27% for non-Syrian households.

Top monthly expenditure | 2021, Q1 2022
% of households expenditure

Legend:
- Other
- Transportation
- Health
- Rent
- Food

Values (Syrian 2021 / Syrian Q1 2022 / Non Syrian 2021 / Non Syrian Q1 2022):
- Transportation: 6 / 6 / 6 / 6
- Health: 7 / 12 / 7 / 12
- Rent: 29 / 17 / 30 / 20
- Food: 19 / 29 / 18 / 27

Other includes expenditure on education, tobacco, electricity, hygiene items and other monthly household needs.

Total average monthly expenditure per household (JOD)

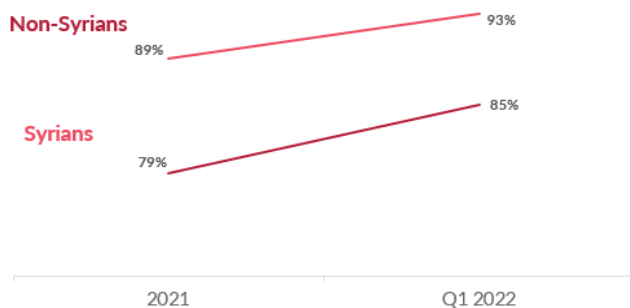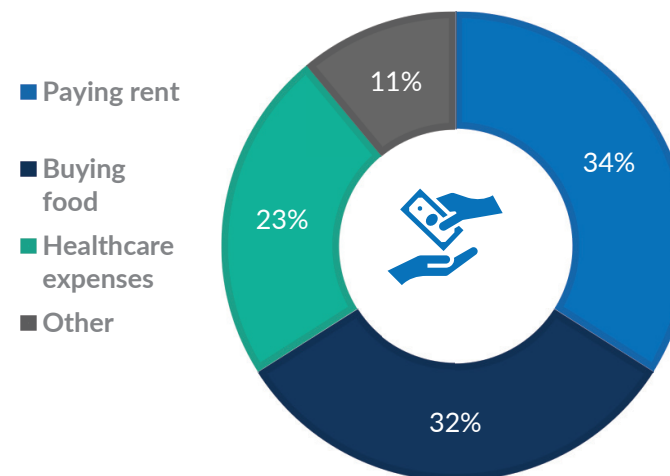| Nationality	2021	Q1 2022	Change	
Syrians	398 JOD	326 JOD	-18%	▼
Non-Syrians	351 JOD	307 JOD	-13%	▼

Debt

- **Debt has increased in Q1 2022**. The proportion of households holding debt increased from 89% in 2021 to 93% in Q1 2022 for Syrian households and from 79% to 85% for non-Syrian households.

- In Q1 2022, households had a total average debt about 970 JOD with debt per capita at 262 JOD. At debt per capita levels, almost two thirds of households had over 100 JOD per capita of debt.

- **Most borrowed money came from informal sources,** with both Syrians and non-Syrians mostly borrowing from friends and neighbours in Jordan. **Paying rent, buying food and healthcare expenses were the main reasons for borrowing money** for both Syrian and non-Syrian households.

Reasons for borrowing money | Q1 2022
% of households

- Paying rent — 34%
- Buying food — 32%
- Healthcare expenses — 23%
- Other — 11%

Refugees households holding debt | 2021, Q1 2022
% households

Non-Syrians: 89% (2021) → 93% (Q1 2022)
Syrians: 79% (2021) → 85% (Q1 2022)

Sources of borrowed money | Q1 2022
% of households

- Friends or neighbours in Jordan, 32%
- Shop keepers (food), 23%
- Landlord , 22%
- Relatives in Jordan, 10%
- Relatives or friends in country of origin, 6%
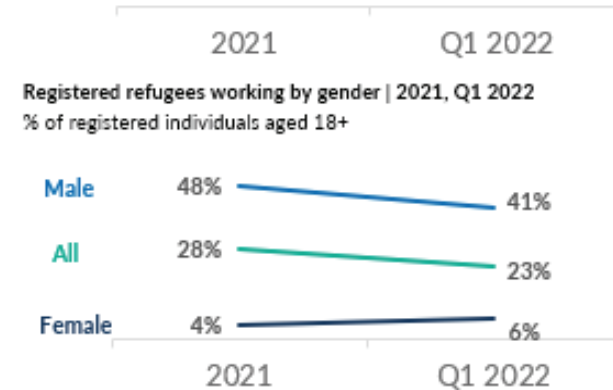- Shop keepers (NON-food), 3%
- Other, 4%

Livelihoods

- In Q1 2022, **23% of refugees aged 18+ were working**, representing a 5 percentage point decrease compared to 2021. Despite this there was a slight **increase in employment for refugee women.**

- There were on average 1.2 working members for Syrian households and 1.1 working members for non-Syrian households.

- **More than 90% of working individuals were in temporary jobs** (91% of Syrian and 96% of non-Syrian working refugees). Overall, most individuals with permanent contracts were working in the sector of 'food and beverage', while most individuals with temporary contracts were working in the 'services' sector.

- Over 70% of refugee women were working in sectors (home-based businesses and services) which are not impacted by seasonality, hence the minimal change from 2021. In comparison some of the **decline in male refugee employment status could be driven by seasonal work** (agriculture and construction).

Registered refugees working by nationality | 2021, Q1 2022
% of registered individuals aged 18+

Syrians 31% → 27%
Non-Syrians 26% → 14%

2021   Q1 2022

Registered refugees working by gender | 2021, Q1 2022
% of registered individuals aged 18+

Male 48% → 41%
All 28% → 23%
Female 4% → 6%

2021   Q1 2022

Refugees working by type of contract, nationality and sector | Q1 2022
% of registered individuals aged +18

Permanent contracts: 9% of Syrians | 4% of non-Syrians

Syrians	37% Food and beverage	23% Services	15% Manufacturing	25% Other
Non-Syrians	67% Food and beverage	33% Services		

Temporary contracts: 91% of Syrians | 96% of non-Syrians

Syrians	22% Food and beverage	23% Services	18% Construction	12% Agriculture	25% Other
Non-Syrians	14% Food and beverage	44% Services	11% Home based business	8% Agriculture	23% Other

Other" includes agriculture, construction, mining and home-based business

Coping strategies

- More households resorted to negative coping strategies to make ends meet. About 91% of Syrian and 90% of non-Syrian households used at least one coping mechanism in Q1 2022, up from 86% and 85% in 2021.

- There has been a dramatic increase in the number of households adopting emergency and crisis coping strategies. The proportion of households resorting to crisis coping mechanisms increased by about 10 percentage points since 2021, while households adopting any emergency coping strategy recorded a similar increase of 8 percentage points for Syrian households and 2 percentage points for non-Syrian households.
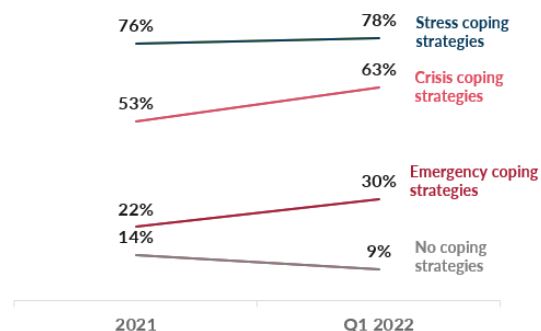
The Livelihood Coping Strategy Index (LCSI) is a global indicator that measures longer-term household behaviours used to deal with economic stress. Families are asked how often they had used certain coping strategies, such as asset depletion, debt, and accepting exploitative work within the past 30 days to meet their basic needs. In LCSI, coping strategies (CS) fall into three categories:

- Stress (Spent savings, took loan for non-food essentials, bought food on credit, Sold household goods/assets)

- Crisis (Sold productive assets, Reduced non-food expenses, Withdrew children from school)

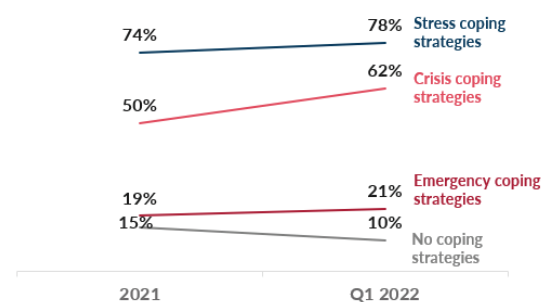- Emergency (Accepted high-risk job, adult begging, Child begging, Child working, Child marriage)

Livelihoods coping strategies | 2021 vs Q1 2022
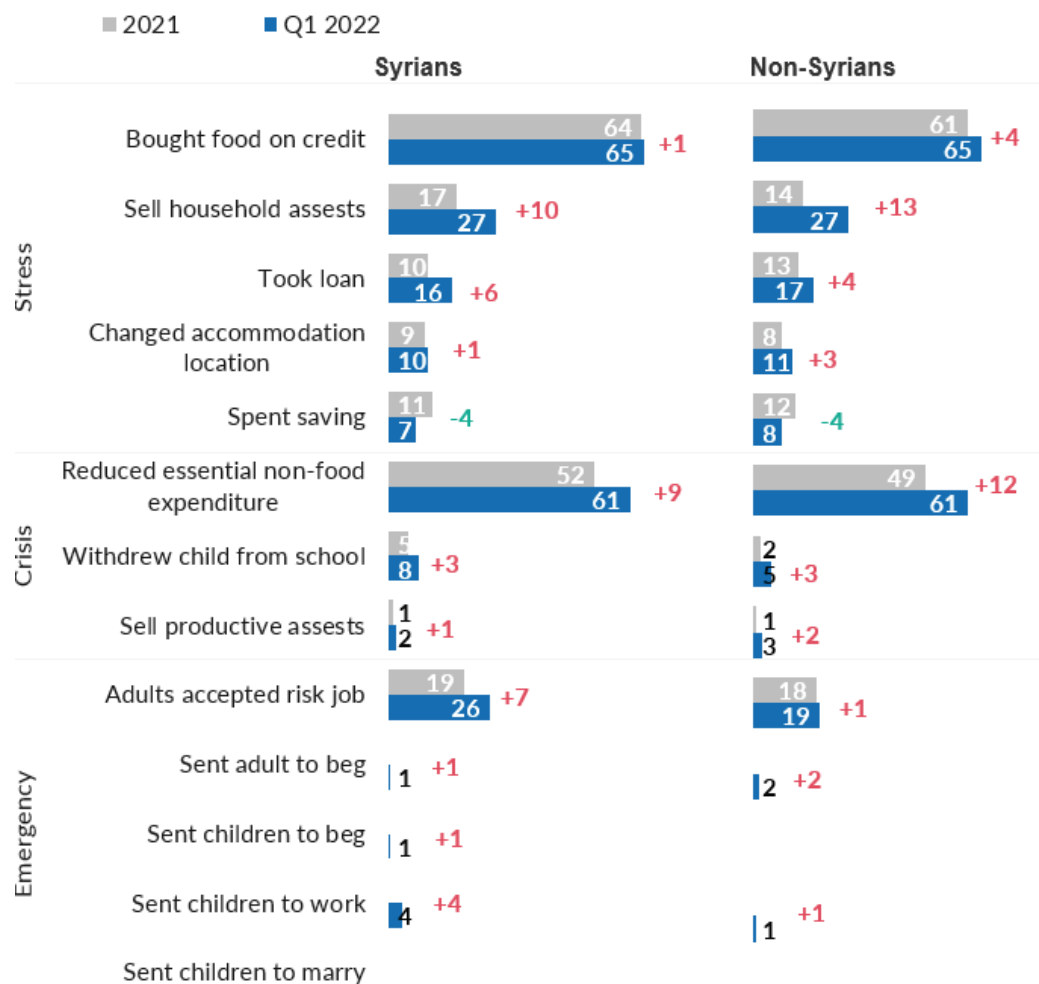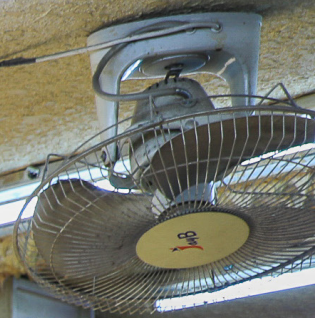% of households

Syrians

	2021	Q1 2022	
Stress coping strategies	76%	78%	
Crisis coping strategies	53%	63%	
Emergency coping strategies	22%	30%	
No coping strategies	14%	9%	

Non-Syrians

	2021	Q1 2022	
Stress coping strategies	74%	78%	
Crisis coping strategies	50%	62%	
Emergency coping strategies	19%	21%	
No coping strategies	15%	10%	

Livelihoods coping strategies | 2021,Q1 2022

% of households

■ 2021   ■ Q1 2022

	Syrians	Non-Syrians
Stress		
Bought food on credit	64 / 65 +1	61 / 65 +4
Sell household assests	17 / 27 +10	14 / 27 +13
Took loan	10 / 16 +6	13 / 17 +4
Changed accommodation location	9 / 10 +1	8 / 11 +3
Spent saving	11 / 7 -4	12 / 8 -4
Crisis		
Reduced essential non-food expenditure	52 / 61 +9	49 / 61 +12
Withdrew child from school	5 / 8 +3	2 / 5 +3
Sell productive assests	1 / 2 +1	1 / 3 +2
Emergency		
Adults accepted risk job	19 / 26 +7	18 / 19 +1
Sent adult to beg	1 +1	2 +2
Sent children to beg	1 +1	
Sent children to work	4 +4	1 +1
Sent children to marry		

- In Q1 2022, the most common stress level coping strategy was **buying food on credit with two thirds of households using this coping strategy.** In addition, 61% of both Syrian and non-Syrian households reduced non-food expenses (crisis coping strategy). The most common emergency level coping mechanism for all refugees was accepting a high-risk job. While, emergency coping mechanisms remained low, refugees residing outside of Amman were more likely to resort to them.

- In comparison with 2021, the proportion of refugee households employing **negative livelihood coping strategies increased in Q1 2022**; substantial increases were observed in the proportion of households selling households assets and reducing essential non-food expenditure. **The only coping mechanism which decreased since 2021 was spending savings,** likely due to having previously exhausted any existing financial reserves.
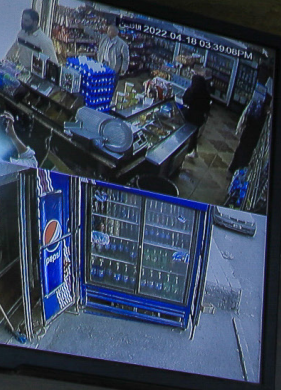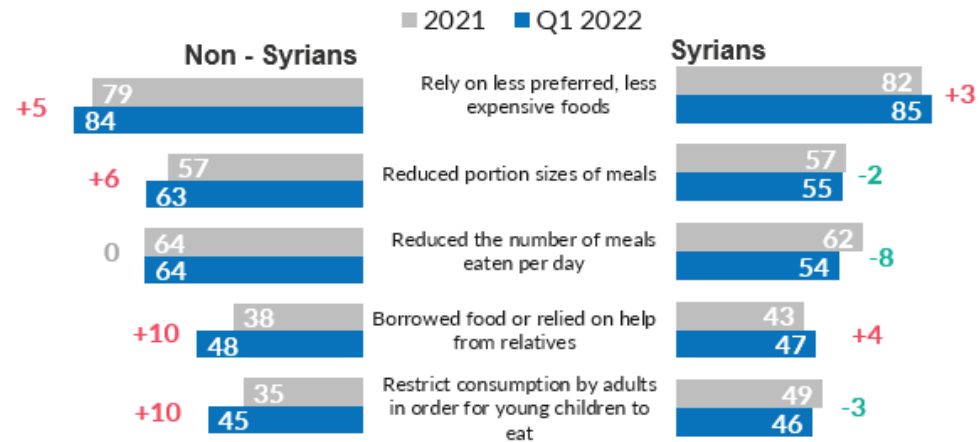
Food Security

- In Q1 2022, refugees cited the **most common negative food-based coping strategy as 'relying on less preferred, less expensive food' with 85% of Syrian and 84% of non-Syrian households employing this strategy.** In addition, 55% of Syrian and 63% of non-Syrian households reduced the portion sizes of meals. While 54% of Syrian and 64% of non-Syrian households reduced the number of meals eaten per day.

- When compared with 2021, less Syrian but more non-Syrian households adopted negative food-based coping strategies in Q1 2022. The largest increase for Syrian households was observed in the proportion of households employing the strategy 'borrowing food or relied on help from relatives' (+4 percentage points). For non-Syrian households, the largest increases were observed for the coping strategies 'Borrowed food or relied on help from relatives' and 'Restrict consumption by adults for young children to eat' (+10 percentage points both).

The reduced Coping Strategies Index (rCSI) is a consumption-based coping strategy index that measures the adoption of consumption-based coping strategies frequently employed by households exposed to food shortages over a 7-day recall period. The rCSI assesses an individual's food security according to how many times an individual's family had to enact certain food coping strategies in the past week.

2021 **Q1 2022**

Non - Syrians		Syrians	
+5	79 / 84	Rely on less preferred, less expensive foods	82 / 85 +3
+6	57 / 63	Reduced portion sizes of meals	57 / 55 -2
0	64 / 64	Reduced the number of meals eaten per day	62 / 54 -8
+10	38 / 48	Borrowed food or relied on help from relatives	43 / 47 +4
+10	35 / 45	Restrict consumption by adults in order for young children to eat	49 / 46 -3

Food base coping strategies | 2021 vs Q1 2022
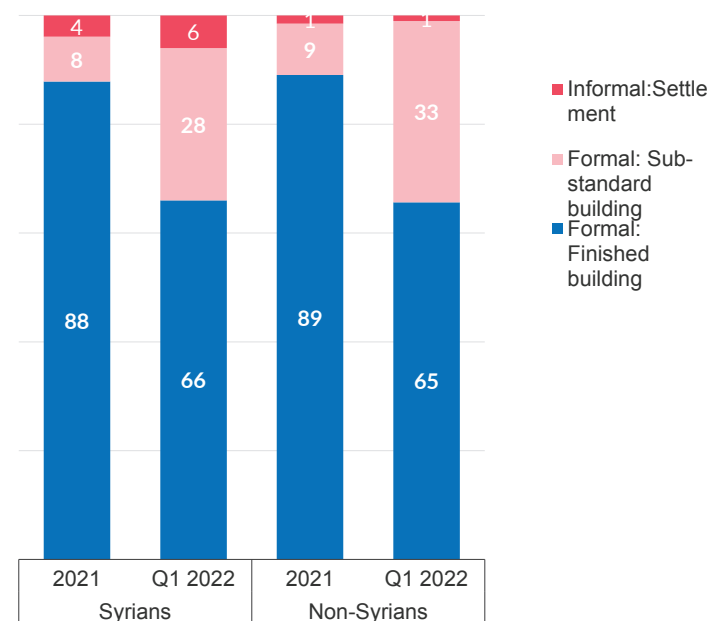% of households

Shelter

- **More refugee households were living in sub-standard or informal settlements in Q1 2022.** Overall, the proportion of Syrian and non-Syrian households living in these settlements increased to 34% in Q1 2022 compared to 12% of Syrian and 10% of non-Syrian households in 2021.

- In Q1 2022, nearly all refugee households were living in shelters with electricity across Jordan, with **only 3% of households being in shelters without electricity.** This represents a slight improvement compared with 2021, when 5% of households reported living in shelters without electricity.

Analysis at cash eligibility level:

- The proportion of households not being able to pay rent is considerably higher when looking at if the family is eligible for cash assistance. **52% of non-Syrian families who had been phased out from UNHCR Basic Needs Cash Assistance and were living outside of Amman were not able to pay rent.**

- On average, households phased out from UNHCR Basic Needs Cash Assistance were more likely to receive eviction threats (36%).

- **One-third of households had to change resident location since they were phased out UNHCR Basic Needs Cash Assistance.** Two were the most common reasons for changing accommodation: 'move to a cheaper house' (51% of Syrian households and 44% of non-Syrian households), followed by 'eviction' (19% of Syrian households and 29% of non-Syrian households).

Type of shelters | 2021, Q1 2022
% of households

Legend:
- Informal:Settlement
- Formal: Sub-standard building
- Formal: Finished building

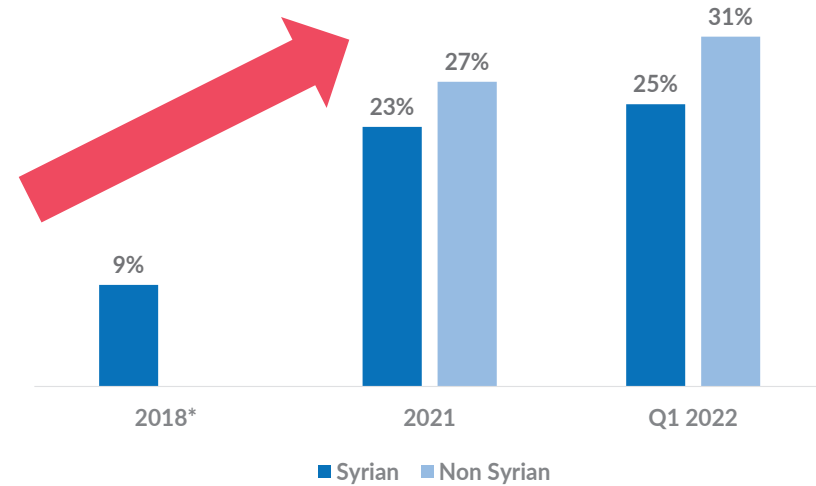|	Syrians		Non-Syrians	
	2021	Q1 2022	2021	Q1 2022
Informal:Settlement	4	6	1	1
Formal: Sub-standard building	8	28	9	33
Formal: Finished building	88	66	89	65

Eviction

- In Q1 2022, most of both Syrian and non-Syrian households were living in rented accommodation. One-third of both Syrian and non-Syrian households were not able to pay rent in the three months (30%) prior to the interview.

- More households received threat of eviction in Q1 2022 as compared to 2021. However, while 25% of Syrian and 31% of non-Syrian households received a current threat of eviction, only 3% finally changed their accommodation.

- For Syrian families, income from work is top source of paying for rent. On the other hand, non-Syrians rely more on UNHCR Basic Needs Cash Assistance to pay for rent.

**Households receiving a threat of eviction| 2021, Q1 2022**
% of households

2018*: Data for non-Syrians not available

Health

- In Q1 2022, **14% of Syrian and 20% of non-Syrian households were not able to access health services.** Lack of money was the main reason cited by refugees as to why they weren't able to get the health care they needed.

- In Q1 2022, **most Syrian refugees said they usedd Ministry of Health facillities in Amman as the main health facility type.** This is in comparison to the majority using private clinics as was reported in UNHCR's 2021 HAUS results. Non-Syrians, however, were more likely to access NGO health clinics inside Amman although non-Syrian refugee populations in the rest of Jordan did use Ministry of Health facilities.

- It is interesting to note that one-third of non-Syrian families who were phased out from UNHCR Basic Needs Cash Assistance were not able to access health care facilities in Q1 2022.

Households with no access to health care | Q1 2022
% of households

No need to access

No access:
Syrians: 14%

Non- Syrians: 20%

Access:
Syrians: 74%
Non Syrians: 68%
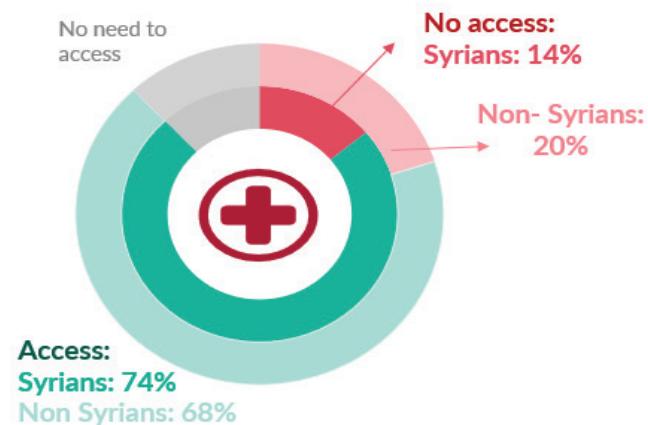
*Due to differences in methodology, this indicator is not comparable to VAF data collected in 2021

Type of health clinic | Q1 2022
% of households

	Ministry of Health Facility	NGO Clinics	Drug shop/ own remedies	Private health facility	Other
Syrians	44%	20%	17%	17%	2%
Non-Syrians	38%	28%	17%	13%	5%

Analysis by location: Type of health clinic (Top 2)

Amman:
Syrians:
1. Ministry of health facility: 47%
2. Private health facility: 21%
Non-Syrians:
1. NGO clinics: 35%
2. Ministry of health facility: 33%

Outisde of Amman:
Syrians:
1. Ministry of health facility: 42%
2. NGO clinics: 27%
Non-Syrians:
1. Ministry of health facility: 44%
2. NGO clinics: 19%

Water & Sanitation

- The proportion of households with **insufficient water storage** to cover for all family needs (hygiene, cooking, cleaning) decreased to 23% in Q1 2022 as compared to 32% in 2021.

- The indicator of 'Disease Vector Evidence Solid Waste' assesses how frequently households have seen evidence of parasites, rats, rodents, or insects in the households' water supply, drainage, or solid waste system. **Solid waste-related vector evidence remains the biggest issue in sanitation systems.** The proportion of households reporting vector evidence more than twice a year increased to 52% in Q1 2022 as compared to 44% in 2021.

Households water without sufficient storage capacity | 2021, Q1 2022
% of households

2021

32%

Q1 2022

23%
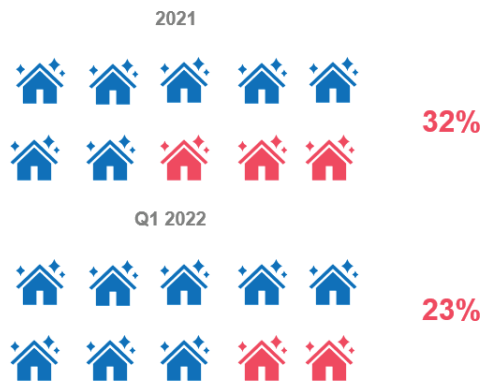
Households with sufficient water storage capacity
Households without sufficient water storage capacity

Frequency of solid waste related vector evidence | 2021, Q1 2022
% of households
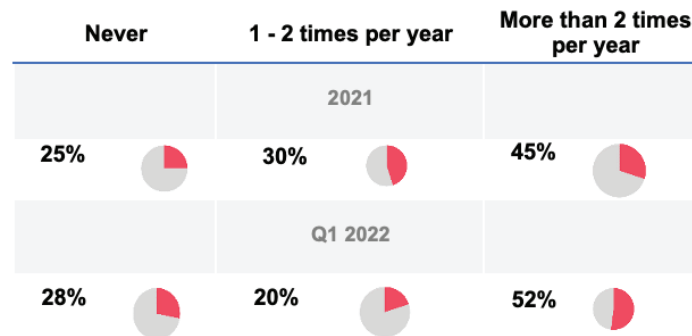
Never	1 - 2 times per year	More than 2 times per year
	2021	
25%	30%	45%
	Q1 2022	
28%	20%	52%

UNHCR, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (or the UN Refugee Agency), is a global organization dedicated to saving lives, protecting rights and building a better future for refugees, forcibly displaced communities and stateless people.

We work to ensure that everybody has the right to seek asylum and find safe refuge, having fled violence, persecution, war or disaster at home.

For more details please contact:
Maria Lagourou
Vulnerability Assessment Framework (VAF) Coordinator
lagourou@unhcr.org

Zoi Diamantakou
Associate Statistics and Data Analysis Officer
diamanta@unhcr.org

UNHCR Jordan VAF Portal
https://data.unhcr.org/en/working-group/54

UNHCR Jordan
P.O. Box 17101
Amman 11195
Jordan
www.unhcr.org/jo
Facebook: @UNHCRJordan | Twitter:
@UNHCRJordan | Instagram: @UNHCRJordan