

Food Security & Agriculture Sector

National Level Meeting

February 13, 2023

AGENDA

- Updates from the sector
- Update on the 2022 revision of the food MEB – WFP/RAM
- Update on the Economic Capacity to Meet Essential Needs and Gap analysis of Syrian refugees living in Lebanon– WFP/RAM
- Data in Emergencies/ Food Security Monitoring – FAO
- Partners' reporting updates
- AOB

Updates from the sector

Mailing list

- ERP
- Mailing list reminder (200 down from 1,400)
- Activity info
- Deduplication for Lebanese – BUILDING BLOCKS
- SOPs
 - In-kind (“ideal” – minimum package – mapping of existing packaged – linkages to local producers) – joint with the Nutrition sector - February 24?
 - Food safety during handling and storage – joint with the Nutrition sector - TBD
 - Designing a balanced diet on a budget – joint with the Nutrition sector - TBD
 - Minimum standards for school meals and snacks – joint with the Nutrition & Education sectors - TBD

Update on the 2022 revision of the food MEB – WFP/RAM



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Revision of the Minimum Expenditure Basket (MEB)

18 January 2023

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Minimum Expenditure Basket (MEB)

- What a household requires in order to meet basic needs, on a regular or seasonal basis, and its average cost
- Minimum living standards without resorting to negative coping mechanisms or compromising their health, dignity and essential livelihoods assets
- Food component: 2,100 Kcal per day

Rational for revising the MEB

- Better reflects the current needs of people residing in Lebanon
- Intake of fruits and vegetables are essential for achieving a balanced and healthy diet that prevents chronic diseases later in life
- Optimize the nutritional content of the MEB to help people meet most of their nutritional needs at a low budget

Commodity	Current MEB (KG)	NEW MEB (KG)	Change
Bread	33	27	↓
Pasta	9.75	6	↓
Brown Bulgur	9	6	↓
Rice	13.5	10.5	↓
Lentils	4.5	3.75	↓
Cabbage	15	12	↓

Commodity	Current MEB (KG)	NEW MEB (KG)	Change
Potatoes	9	10.5	↑
Beans	1.5	2	↑
Chickpeas	3	4.5	↑
Powdered Milk	1.5	2	↑
Sunflower Oil	2.55	3	↑
Sugar	3	3.75	↑
Tomato Paste	3	3.75	↑
Eggs	1.5	3	↑
Fresh Chicken	1.5	3.75	↑
Oranges	3	9	↑
Apples	6	9	↑
Carrots	3	5.25	↑
Sardine	1.5	3	↑

Commodity	Current MEB (KG)	NEW MEB (KG)	Change
Salt	0.75	0.75	=
Tea	0.75	0.75	=
Canned Cheese	1.5		Removed
Canned Beef	1.5		Removed
Canned Green Peas	1.5		Removed

Commodity	Current MEB (KG)	NEW MEB (KG)	Change
Tomato		7.5	Introduced
Onion		3	Introduced
Tahini		0.75	Introduced
Yogurt		6	Introduced
Thyme		1.5	Introduced
Garlic		1.5	Introduced
Cucumber		6	Introduced
Zucchini		4.5	Introduced
Dark green leafy vegetables		4.5	Introduced
Banana		9	Introduced

	Vitamin A	Thiamine Vitamin B1	Riboflavin Vitamin B2	Niacin Vitamin B3	Pantothenate Vitamin B5	Pyridoxine Vitamin B6	Folate Vitamin B9	Cobalamin Vitamin B12	Vitamin C	Vitamin D	Vitamin E
Current MEB	45%	178%	111%	169%	131%	125%	171%	60%	184%	12%	118%
NEW MEB	113%	190%	143%	183%	163%	174%	210%	119%	304%	25%	155%
Change	68%	12%	32%	15%	32%	50%	40%	59%	120%	13%	37%

	Energy	Protein	Fat	Calcium	Copper	Iodine	Iron	Magnesium	Selenium	Zinc
Current MEB	99%	142%	98%	68%	134%	146%	55%	197%	446%	76%
NEW MEB	100%	143%	118%	100%	161%	145%	97%	220%	411%	86%
Change	1%	1%	20%	32%	27%	-1%	42%	23%	-35%	10%

	Oct (Current MEB)	Oct (New MEB)	Nov (New MEB)	Dec (New MEB)
Sum (Food Basket per HH)	5,861,439	6,731,904	7,257,625	7,722,008
Sum (NFI commodities)	2,008,268	2,008,268	2,075,858	2,265,318
Sum (Other NFI)	3,703,005	3,703,005	4,135,507	5,045,976
Total MEB	11,572,713	12,443,178	13,468,989	15,033,302

Update on the Economic Capacity to Meet Essential Needs and Gap analysis of Syrian refugees living in Lebanon– WFP/RAM

Gap Analysis of Syrian Refugees in Lebanon

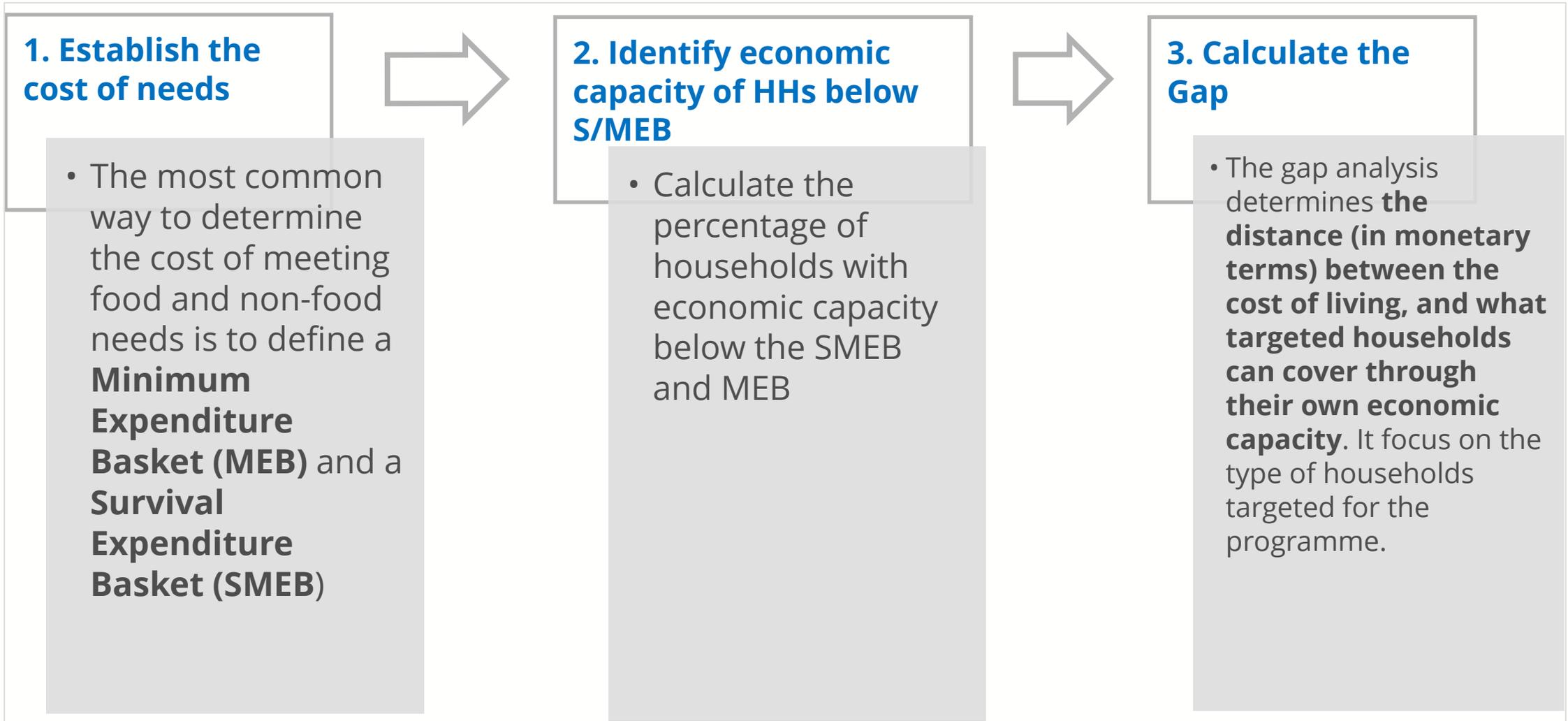
*Food Security and Agriculture Sector
Beirut, 13 February 2023*



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Gap analysis helps to define the optimal transfer value



Data

- **VASYR (June 2022)** – Expenditure and consumption data (June)
- **RAIS (June 2022)** – Assistance data
- **WFP BNOM** – Expenditure and consumption data (July-November)
- **WFP Market Monitor** – SMEB items prices
- **UNHCR Protection Monitoring** – Cost of rent

The Minimum Expenditure Basket (MEB) and the Survival Minimum Expenditure Basket (SMEB)

- **MEB and SMEB** were first introduced in 2014 and reviewed in 2020 and serve as a benchmark to estimate the cost of food and other basic needs of a Syrian refugee family in Lebanon.
 - **MEB:** reflects the cost of essential needs, on a regular or seasonal basis
 - **SMEB:** absolute minimum amount required to cover lifesaving needs.
- **Both MEB and SMEB baskets** include i) food, ii) non-food items and iii) non-food services
- The **MEB** composition was updated in December 2022 to optimize the nutritional content of the MEB and to meet most of the nutritional needs at a low budget.

Sources:

- [WFP. Review of the Survival and Minimum Expenditure Baskets in Lebanon;](#)
- [Inter- Agency Lebanon - Basic Assistance Non-Food SMEB Update Summary – 2022;](#)
- [WFP. Minimum Expenditure Baskets: Guidance Note, December 2020](#)
- [Sphere Association. The Sphere Handbook: Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Humanitarian Response](#)

		MEB	SMEB
Food <i>Right based*</i>	Composition	30 food products providing 2,100 Kcal higher in vitamins and macronutrient	19 food products providing 2,100 Kcal minimum intake of vitamins and macronutrient
	Price monitor	Prices of food items are tracked on a monthly basis through WFP Market monitor	
Non-food Items <i>Right based*</i>	Composition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hygiene items based on SPHERE standards • Diapers • Mattress • Cooking gas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hygiene items based on SPHERE standards • Diapers • Cooking gas
	Price monitor	Prices for hygiene items are tracked on a monthly basis through WFP market monitor and official prices from CAS	
Non-food Services <i>Expenditure** and Right Based*</i>	Composition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clothes, rent communication, water, electricity, health, education, legal residency 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clothes, rent communication, water, electricity, health, education,
	Price monitor	Expenditure data from VASyR updated monthly using the Consumer Price Index (CPI), official prices and UNHCR protection monitoring	

*The right based approach entails defining a detailed list of the food and non-food items that make up the MEB reference basket and pricing them using market prices.

** The expenditure based approach household-level expenditure data to examine the consumption behaviour of households who are just able to meet their essential needs.

Economic Capacity To Meet Essential Needs (ECMEN)

Definition

- Percentage of households with economic capacity below the survival minimum expenditure basket (SMEB) threshold and the Minimum Expenditure Basket (MEB) threshold

What Does it Measure?

- ECMEN measures households' economic capacity to meet survival needs, including food and non-food. Households with economic capacity below the SMEB are likely unable to access the bare minimum required to survive. Households with economic capacity below the MEB are unable to access all the essential needs they need to live a dignified life. Economic capacity is calculated by aggregating expenditures based on ECMEN methodology

Applicability

- This indicator is used for the monitoring of multisector interventions including multipurpose or unrestricted cash programmes, for which outcomes beyond food security are to be achieved.
- When the objective of the analysis is to understand and estimate humanitarian needs and optima; transfer values, ECMEN can be calculated excluding assistance, as done for Essential Needs Assessments. It should be clearly marked if assistance is included or excluded.
- ECMEN can also be used to identify the gap between households' economic capacity and the amount needed to fulfil their essential needs

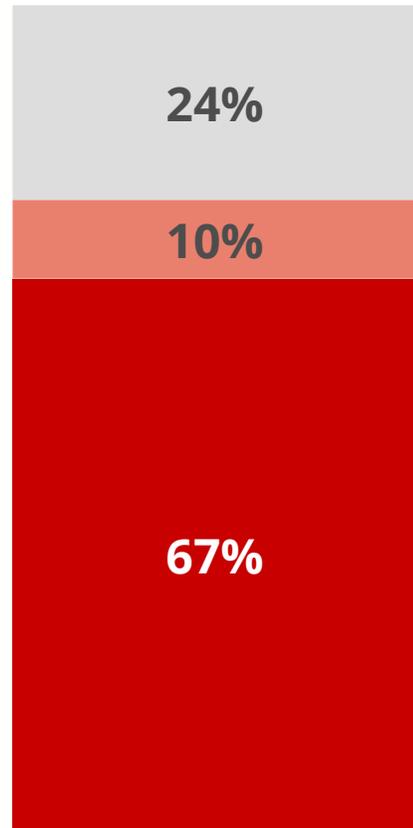
How are expenditures Aggregated for the ECMEN?

Consumption Type	ECMEN (Consumption based)	ECMEN* (Without credit and Assistance)
Cash Expenditures (<i>food and non-food</i>)	Yes	Yes
Credit Expenditures (<i>food and non-food</i>)	Yes	No
Own Production and Labour Exchange (<i>food</i>)	Yes	Yes
Gifts/ In-Kind assistance (<i>food</i>)	Yes	No
Value of cash assistance (<i>from RAIS</i>)	Yes	No
Debt repayment	Yes	Yes
Savings	Yes	Yes

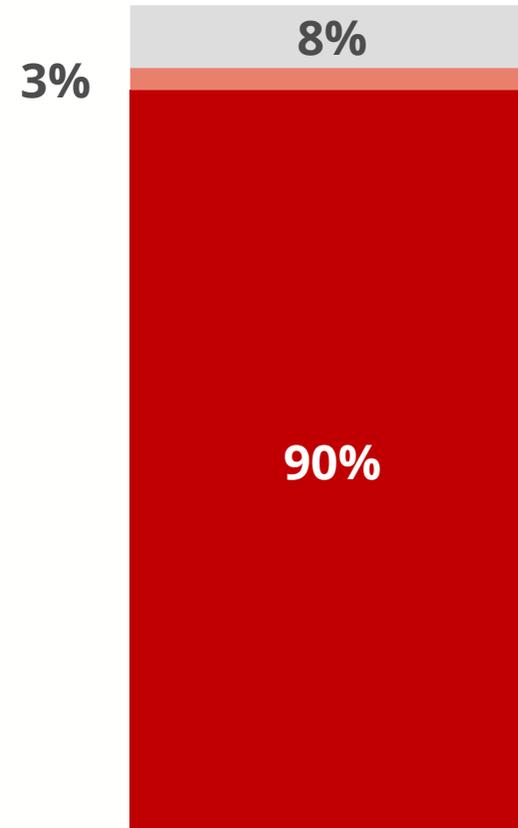
* Used to define needs and establish the recommended TV

ECONOMIC CAPACITY TO MEET ESSENTIAL NEEDS (VASYR 2022)

■ Below SMEB ■ Between SMEB and MEB ■ Above MEB

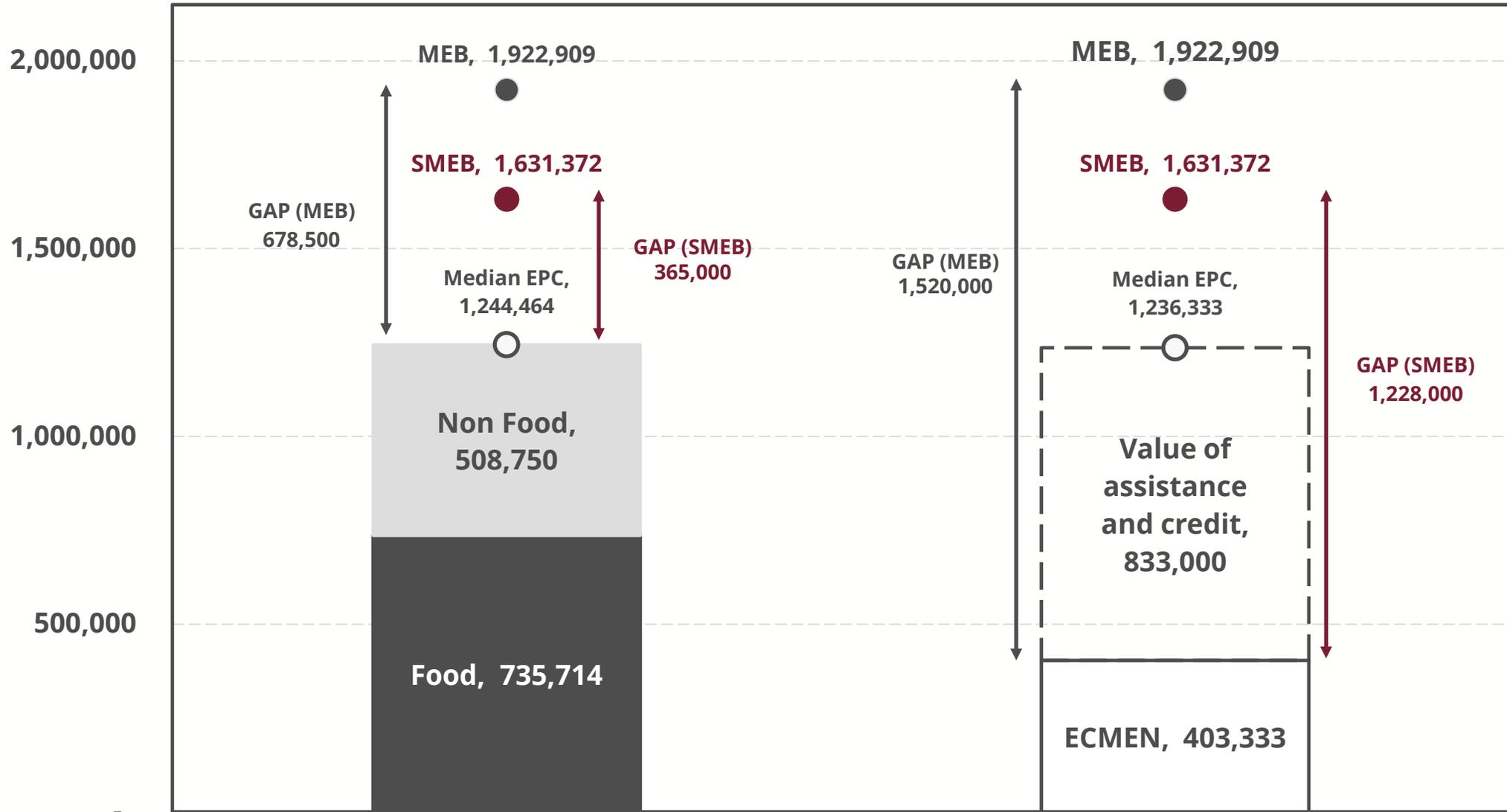


Including the value of assistance,
gifts and credit expenditures



Excluding the value of assistance,
gifts and credit expenditures

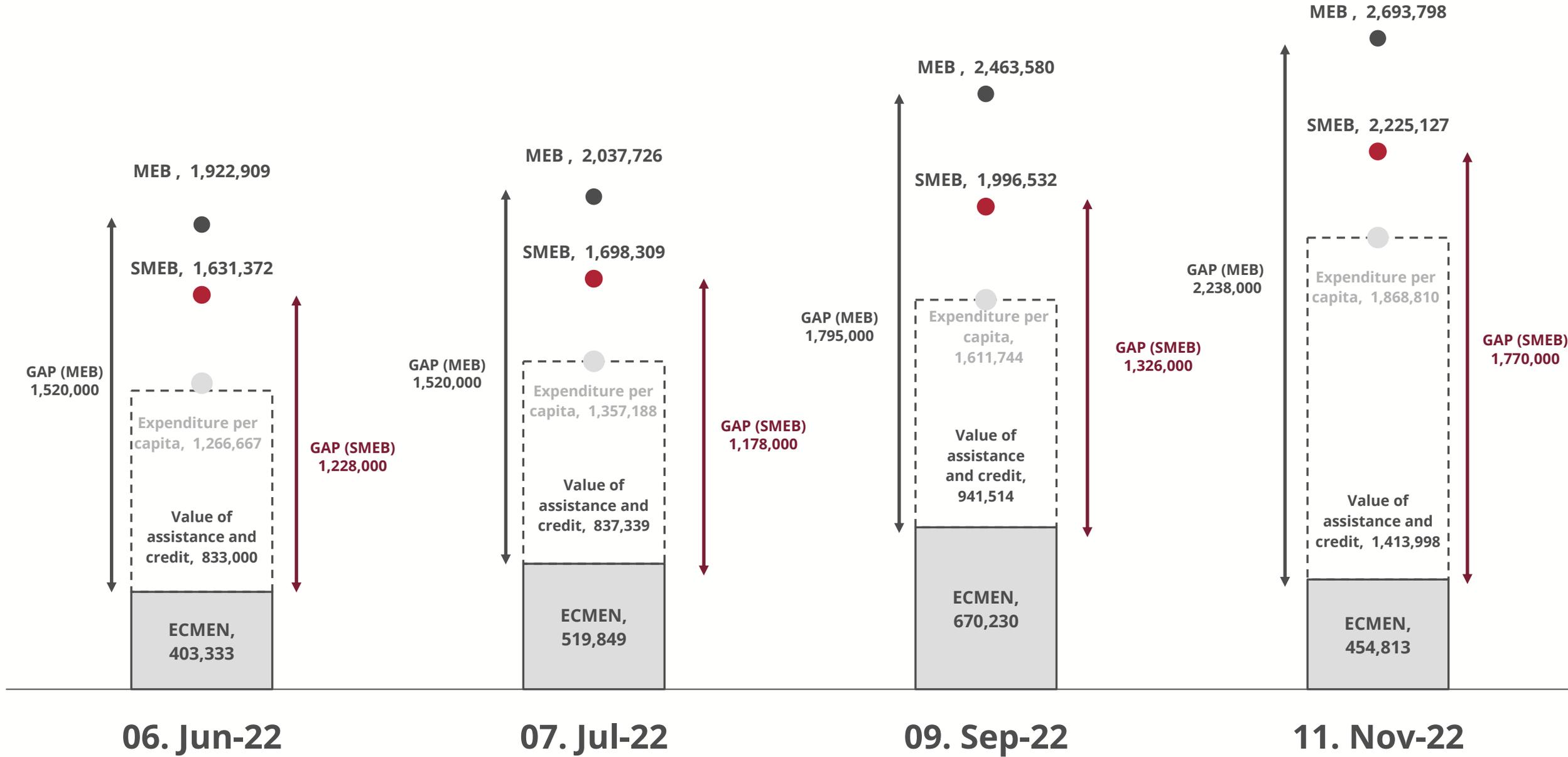
■ Food ■ Non Food □ ECMEN ▨ Value of assistance and credit ● MEB ● SMEB ○ Median EPC



Houehsold expenditures including the value of assistance and credit

Economic capacity to meet essential needs

ECMEN
 Value of assistance and credit
 MEB
 Expenditure per capita
 SMEB



Recommended transfer values

	MEB					SMEB				
	Gap per capita*	Recommended food transfer value**		Recommended non-food transfer value***		GAP per capita*	Recommended food transfer value**		Recommended non-food transfer value***	
	<i>LBP</i> s	<i>LBP</i> s	<i>USD</i>	<i>LBP</i> s	<i>USD</i>	<i>LBP</i> s	<i>LBP</i> s	<i>USD</i>	<i>LBP</i> s	<i>USD</i>
June-22 (VASyR)	1,520,000	836,000	29	3,420,000	120	1,228,000	676,000	24	2,763,000	97
July-22 (BNOM)	1,520,000	836,000	28	3,420,000	116	1,179,000	648,000	22	2,652,000	90
September-22 (BNOM)	1,795,000	987,000	27	4,030,000	110	1,326,000	730,000	20	2,984,000	80
November-22 (BNOM)	2,238,000	1,230,000	31	5,035,000	127	1,770,000	973,000	25	3,982,000	101

*The Gap is the difference between the MEB and what targeted households can cover through their own economic capacity

** Per capita recommended food transfer value is derived as 55 percent of the gap per capita. Food accounted for 55 percent of the SMEB cost in the last 12 months

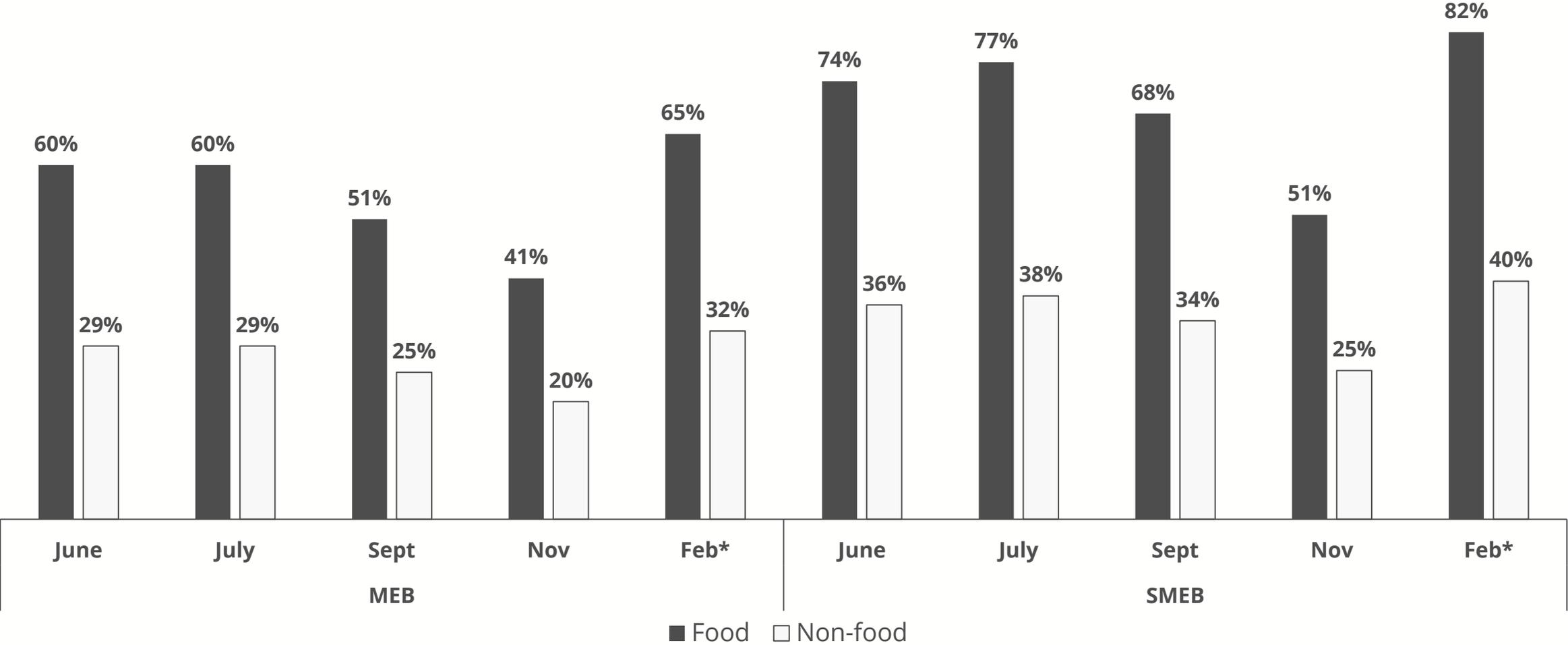
***Flat transfer based on the average household size. Calculated as 45 percent of the gap per capita multiplied by 5 non food items and services were on average 45 percent of the SMEB in the last 12 months

From the Gap Analysis to the Transfer Value....

To set the Transfer Value there are other parameters to consider in addition to the gap analysis:

- Available resources
- Delivery mechanism
- Economies of scale
- Alignment with other stakeholders
- Social stability

Transfer values as a percentage of the recommended TV



Data in Emergencies/ Food Security Monitoring – FAO



Food and Agriculture Organization
of the United Nations

Data in Emergencies Information System DIEM-Monitoring | LEBANON

ROUND 4 Findings

Monitoring the Impacts of Shocks to Agriculture Livelihoods and Food Security

February 2023

DESIGN & METHODOLOGY

The data collection started on the 24th of October and completed on the 19th of November 2022. As part of FAO's global initiative and DIEM project, **funded by USAID, FAO Lebanon** in partnership with **the Ministry of Agriculture in Lebanon** conducted a Computer-Assisted Telephone Survey to monitor the impacts of shocks on the agricultural household livelihoods and food security. Respondents were randomly selected using a sampling frame derived from the Lebanon Agricultural Production Survey. We have been interviewing the same cohort of 1050 agricultural households since the first round of DIEM monitoring surveys, doing households substitutions only when necessary.

Household per
governorate
150

Household Surveyed
1050

Governorates
7 (excluding Beirut)

Governorate	# of questionnaires
Bekaa	150
Mount Lebanon	150
El Nabatieh	150
North	150
South	150
Akkar	150
Baalbeck El Hermel	150
Total	1050

Objectives of the assessment:

- Monitor the impacts of multiple shocks including COVID-19 pandemic, economic shocks and others that may affect the food security and agricultural livelihoods of the farmers.
- Provide early-warning information to support decision-making processes.

Thematic area:

- 1 INCOME & SHOCKS**
- 2 CROP PRODUCTION AND MARKETING**
- 3 LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION AND MARKETING**
- 4 FOOD SECURITY INDICATORS**
- 5 ASSISTANCE NEEDS**
- 6 RECOMMENDATIONS**

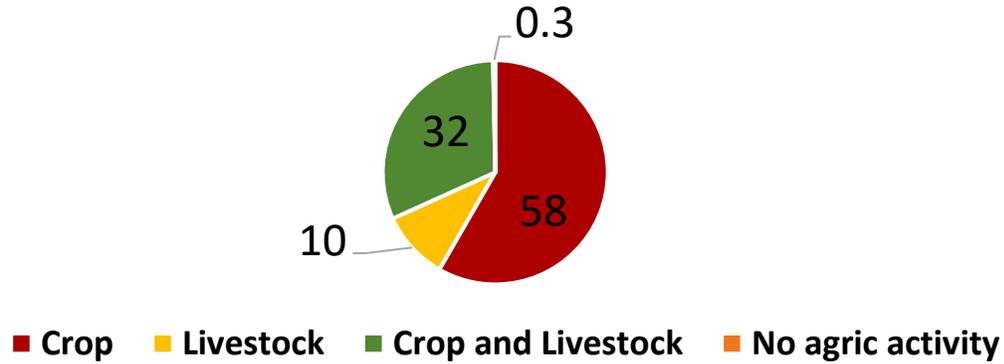
INCOME AND SHOCKS

- Various types of shocks
- Income changes



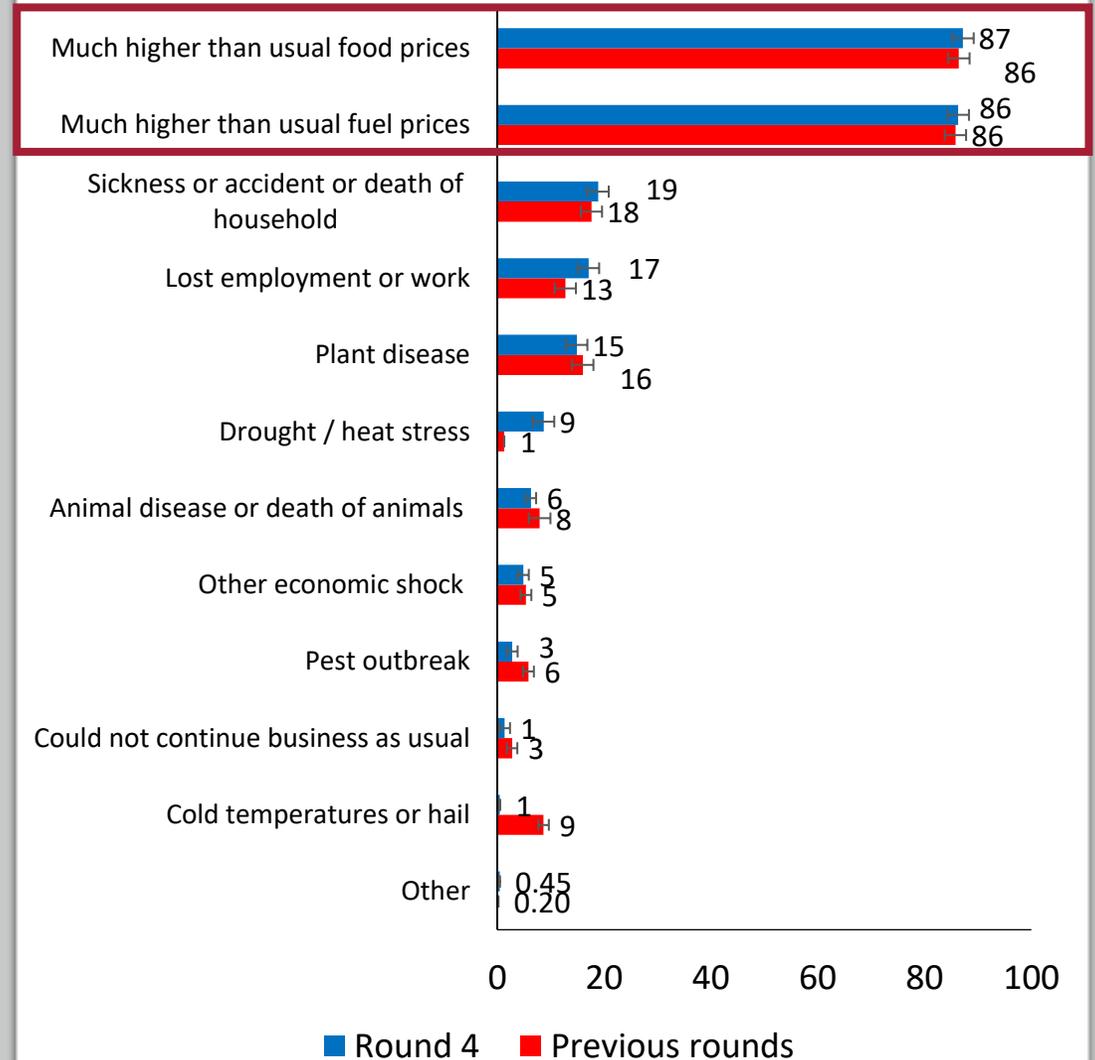
Shocks

Agricultural activity % of surveyed household



- 91% of HHs experienced shocks in the last 3 months.
- Most reported shocks were economic shocks::
- High food prices (87%)
- High fuel prices (86%)
- Data is showing an increase in the prices of food and fuel, however, no statistical differences were reported between round 4 and the previous rounds.
- Round 4 showed a significant increase in loss of employment or work compared to the previous rounds, showing the exacerbation of the economic situation in Lebanon
- Drought also increased significantly, in comparison with the previous rounds with $p \text{ value} < 0.05$. This might be due to the decrease in the annual precipitation during the winter of 2022 and water scarcity that Lebanon has been facing during the previous months.

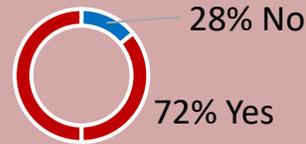
% of household experiencing shocks



INCOME CHANGES OF AFFECTED HOUSEHOLDS

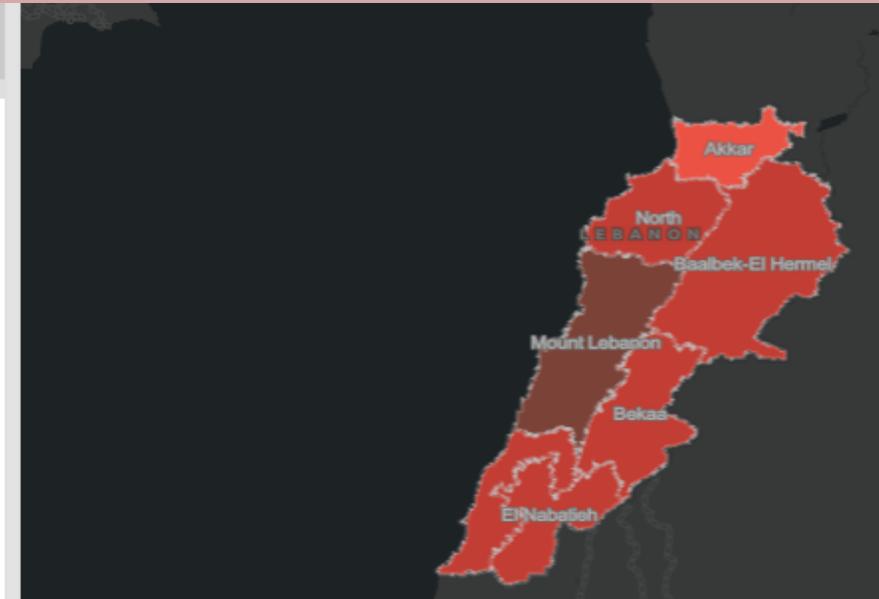
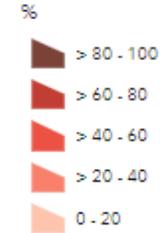
Households reported a decline in primary sources of income

Round 4 - November 2022

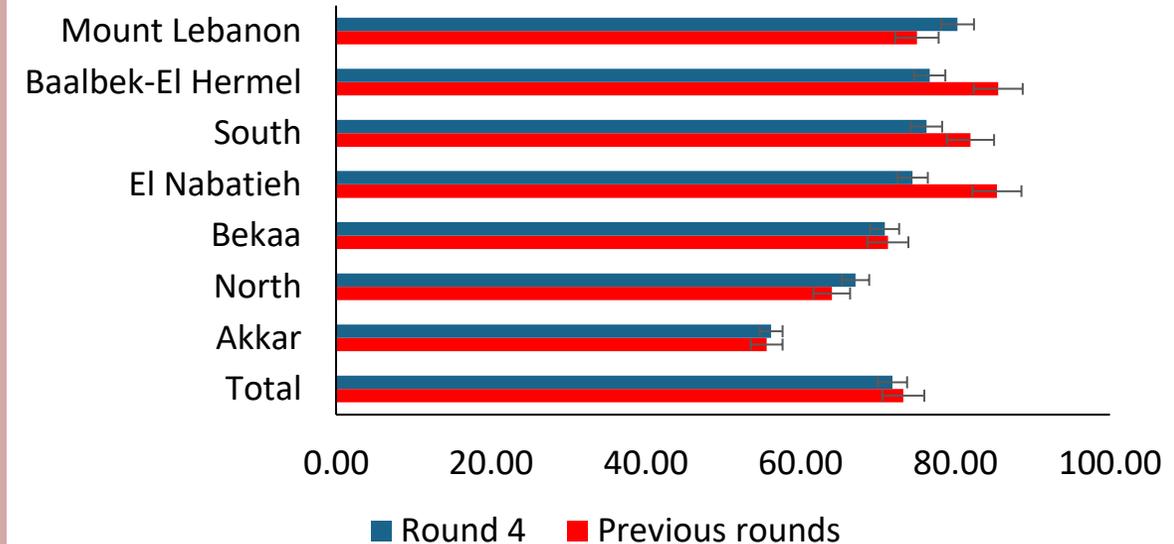


Round 04 data collection for Lebanon started on 24 October 2022 and ended on 18 November 2022.

Households reporting a drop in main source of income



Income decrease varying by location %



- Almost all regions reported a decrease of income with Mount Lebanon (80%) having the highest number of HHs reporting a decrease in income.
- The decrease in all 7 governorates is due to high cost of agricultural production inputs due to the import of these inputs, and lower selling prices.
- HHs in Akkar remained the least affected governorate by the changes of income and this is in line with results from the previous rounds.
- This is due to farmers getting same or higher prices for olive oil they are selling, and due to cultivating and harvesting early and putting their products early in the market.
- Less HHs in Baalbeck el Hermel and Nabatieh are reporting a decrease in income as compared to the previous rounds this might be due to October/November post-harvest period where many profitable crops are sold, resulting in higher incomes.
- 65% of female heads are declaring a decrease in their main income sources.
- It is obvious that the decrease in the main income affects the household's affordability and overall poses risk to the well-being.
- It is to be noted that sickness in the household, drought, high fuel and food prices were associated with a decrease in income (using chi-square test with a p-value<0.05).

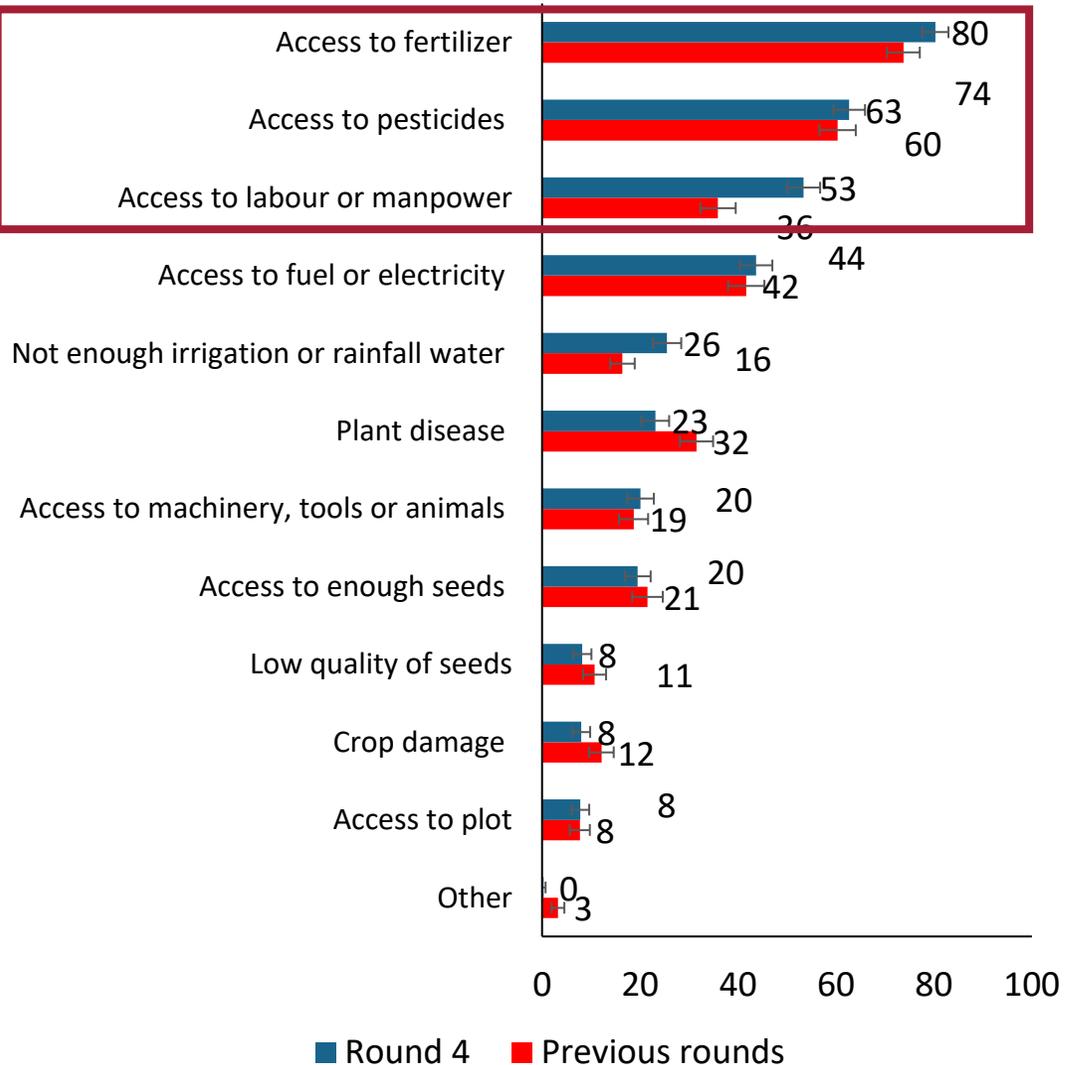
CROP PRODUCTION AND MARKETING

- Crop production difficulties
- Harvest of crops
- Marketing difficulties

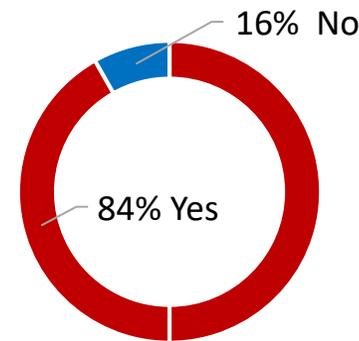


CROP PRODUCTION DIFFICULTIES

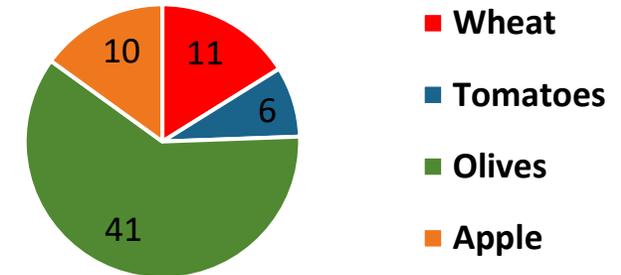
% of crop production difficulties



Crops producers reporting difficulties %



Main crops grown by agricultural household %



84% of crop producers reported a significant increase in crop difficulties compared to 77% during the previous rounds.

Most common cited difficulties were:

- Access to fertilizers (80%)
- Access to pesticides (63%), since both fertilizers and pesticides were imported and sold in USD.
- Difficulty to access to labour or manpower (53%) where this difficulty increased significantly during this round compared to the previous rounds due to shortage of agriculture farm labor and/or labor requesting higher daily wages.

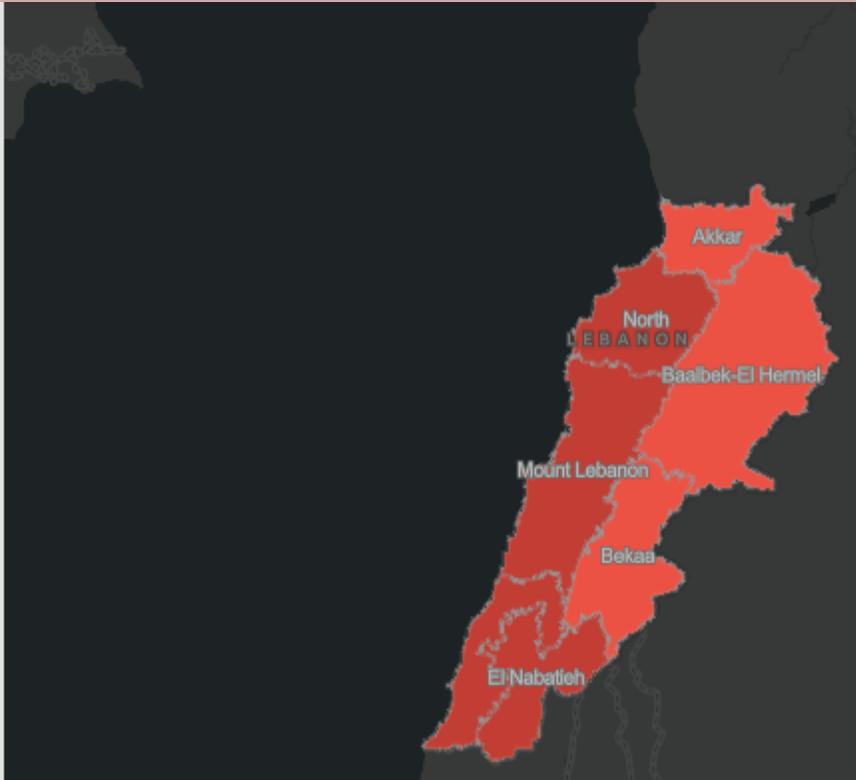
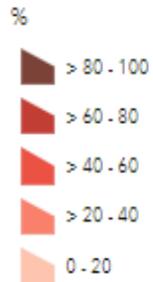
Another important crop difficulty reported significantly by HHs during this round compared to the previous ones was the "not enough irrigation or rainfall water" due to irrigation water shortages and high irrigation costs.

CROP SALES DIFFICULTIES

Round 04 data collection for Lebanon started on 24 October 2022 and ended on 18 November 2022.

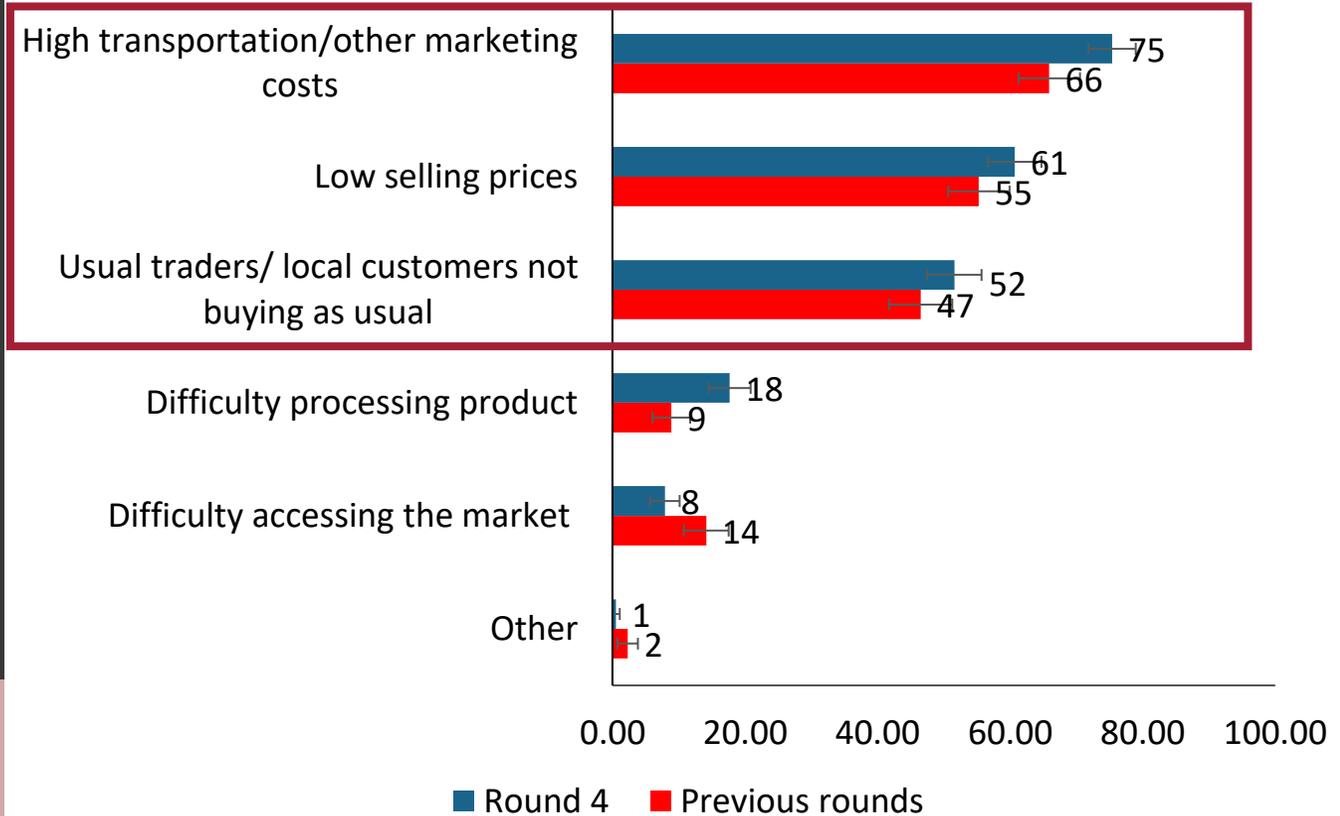
Crop selling difficulties. (Click to expand the group)

Crop producers reporting difficulties in selling crops



South, El Nabatieh, North and Mount Lebanon showed the highest rates of respondents reporting difficulties in selling crops.

Reasons for crop sales difficulties %

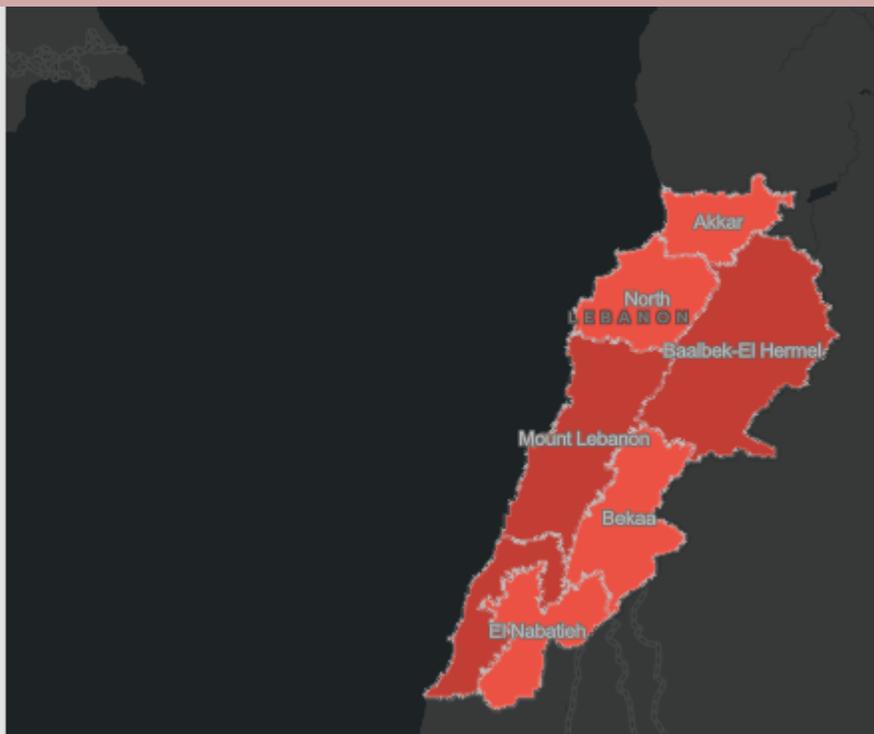
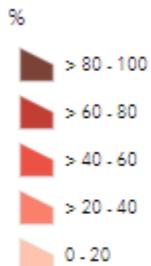


- 65% of crop producers reported significant increase in the difficulty of selling their product compared to 53% during the previous rounds. Main reasons were increased marketing costs and higher transportation costs (75%), lower selling prices (61%) and lower demand (52%).
- These reasons were not statistically different than the previous rounds, however, an increase in HHs reported crop difficulties in selling their produce in round 4 compared to the other rounds due to the slight increase of agricultural supply in this round compared to the Summer.

CROP SALES PRICES AND CHANGES IN AREA PLANTED

Round 04 data collection for Lebanon started on 24 October 2022 and ended on 18 November 2022.

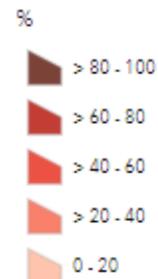
Crop producers reporting a drop in main crop price



Overall, about 58% reported a decrease in selling prices compared to 57% during the previous round, which is not statistically different than R4, and around 26% reported an increase. The highest number of HHs reporting a decrease in crop sales prices is in ML (73%) (mainly due to the low prices of apples) whereas the lowest number of HHs reporting decrease in crop sales was in Akkar and Nabatiyeh (47% and 48% respectively).

Round 04 data collection for Lebanon started on 24 October 2022 and ended on 18 November 2022.

Crop producers reporting a drop in the area planted



All crop producers reported no change in the area planted as shown on the map where changes in crop area remained the same for 84% of agricultural HH compared to a normal year. These findings were slightly higher than the previous rounds (72%).

LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION AND MARKETING

- Livestock production difficulties
- Livestock sales difficulties
- Livestock sales prices



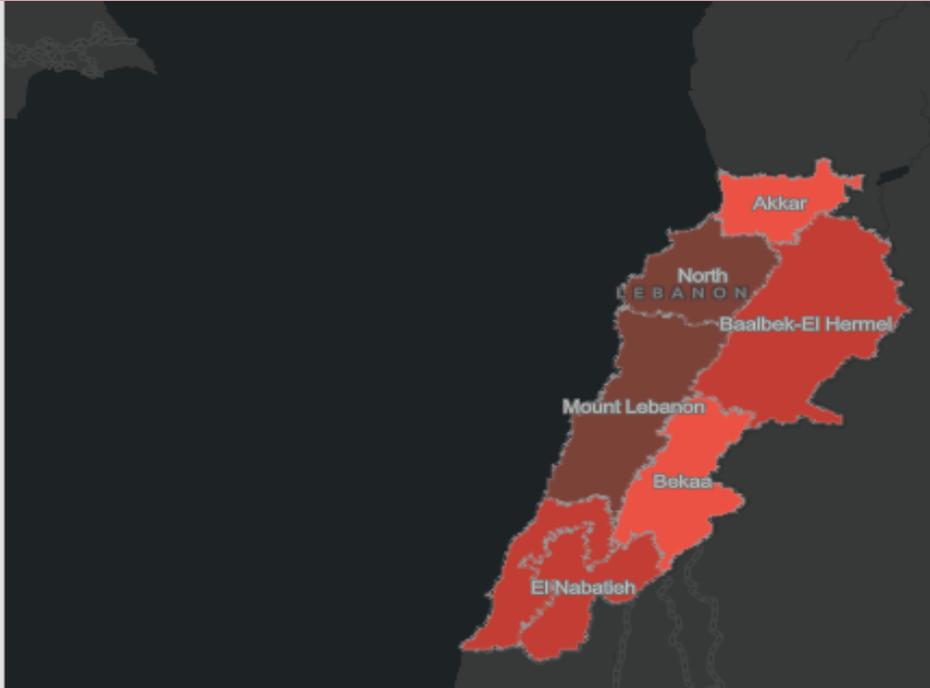
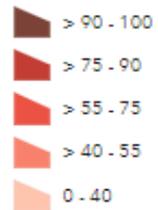
LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION DIFFICULTIES

Round 04 data collection for Lebanon started on 24 October 2022 and ended on 18 November 2022.

Livestock production difficulties. (Click to expand the group)

Livestock producers reporting difficulties in livestock production

%



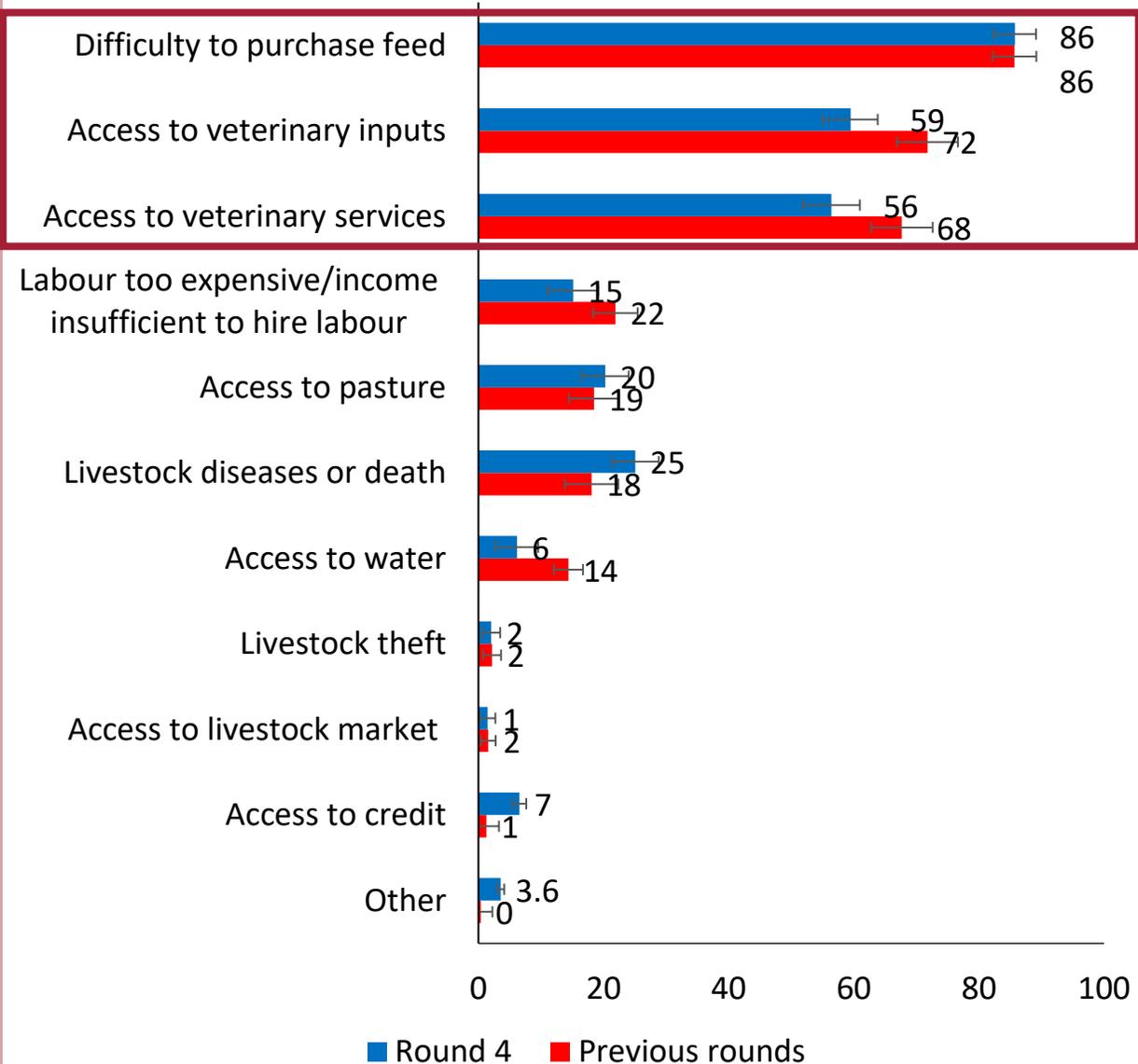
85% of livestock producers reported difficulties, with Mount Lebanon and North facing the highest production difficulties. Most common were:

- Feed purchase (86%)
- Access to veterinary inputs (59%)
- Access to veterinary services (56%)

This is due to the increase in costs of veterinary inputs and feed as these are largely imported and sold in USD.

Round 4 showed a decrease in the most common difficulties faced compared to the previous rounds. However, veterinary inputs and services decreased significantly compared to previous rounds due to the fact that these input and services are made available in market.

Livestock production difficulties %

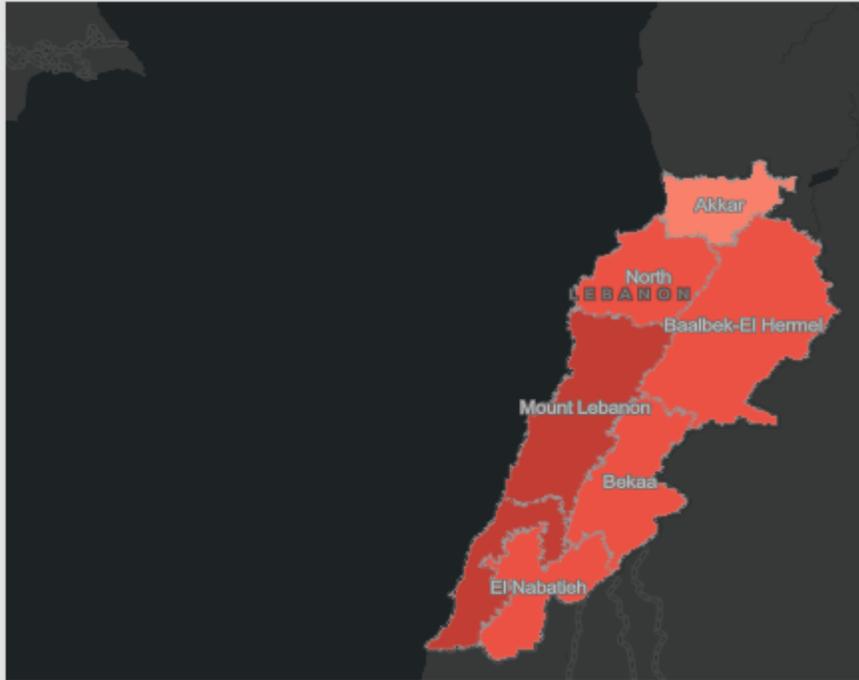
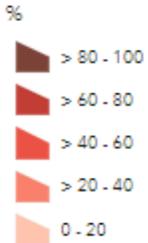


Livestock sales difficulty

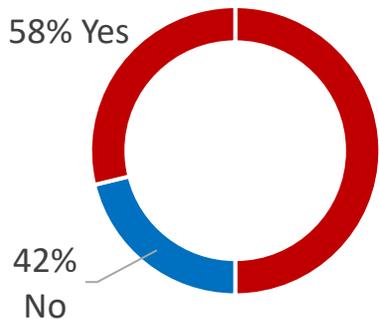
Round 04 data collection for Lebanon started on 24 October 2022 and ended on 18 November 2022.

Livestock selling difficulties. (Click to expand the group)

Livestock producers reporting difficulties in selling livestock

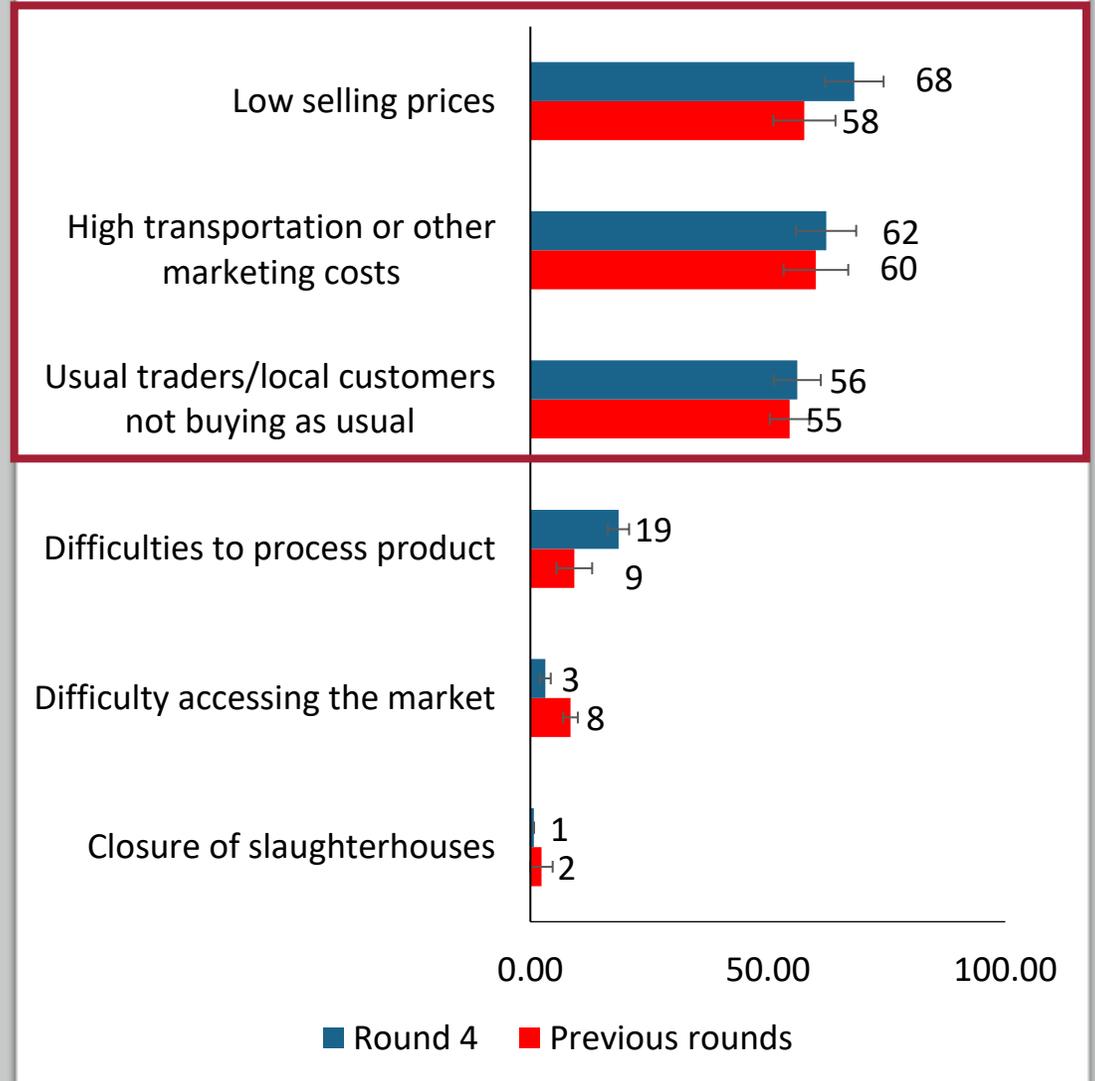


% of livestock producers reporting difficulty in selling their product



- 58% of livestock producers reported difficulty in selling their product compared to 55% during the previous rounds. Main reasons were lower price (68%), smaller profits (62%) caused by the increased prices of input, low demand (56%) due to the decrease of purchasing power of consumers. These reasons were not significantly different than the previous rounds, showing similar trend.
- HHs in Mount Lebanon and South were mostly reporting difficulties in selling their livestock.

Livestock sales difficulties %

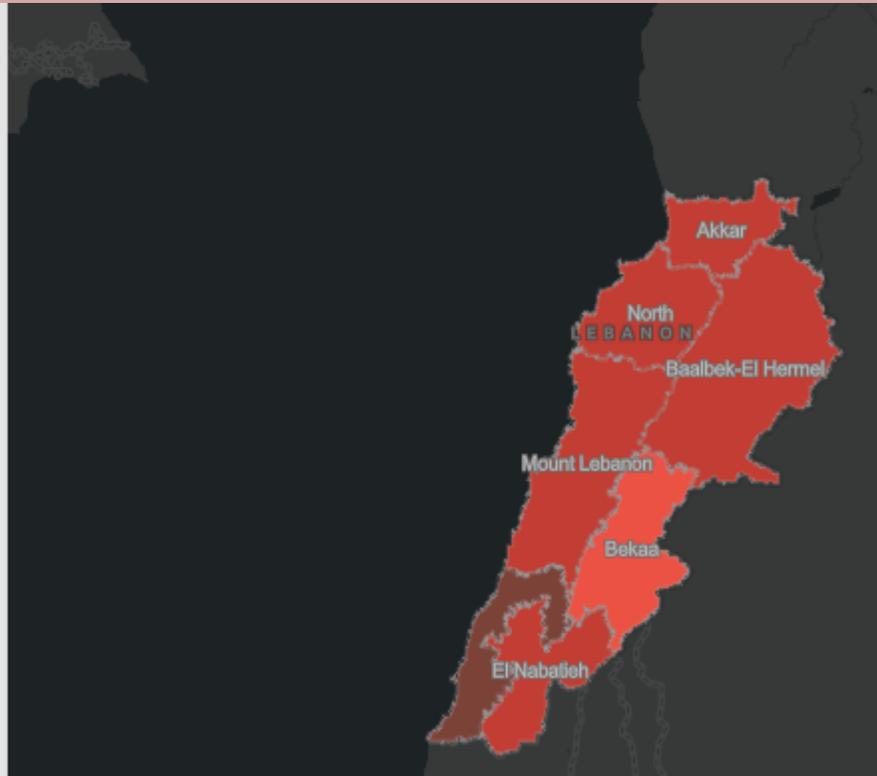
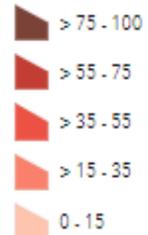


SALE PRICE CHANGES IN LIVESTOCK

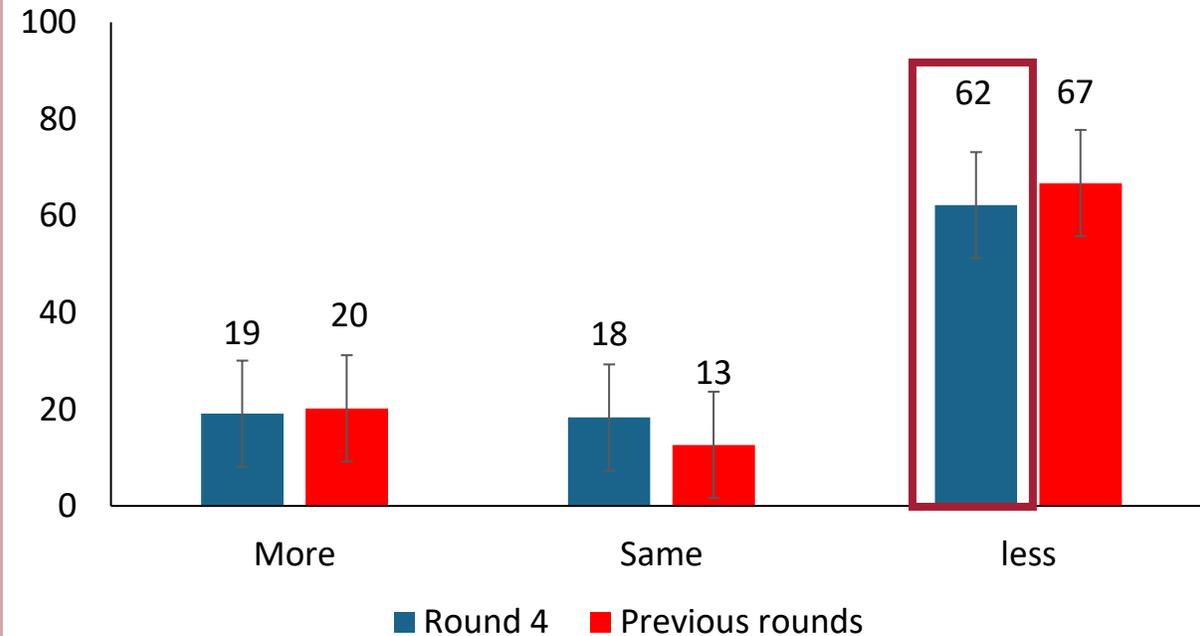
Round 04 data collection for Lebanon started on 24 October 2022 and ended on 18 November 2022.

Livestock producers reporting a drop in livestock price

%



Sale price change in the past 3 months %



- Overall, about 62% of surveyed HHs reported a decrease in selling prices whereas 67% was reported in the previous rounds and is not significant than R4. This highlights no significant changes and showing a similar increase in the cost of production due to the further devaluation of LBP and the increase in cost of the imported inputs.
- South (76%), North(75%) and Mount Lebanon(70%) reported the highest number of HHs who reported a decrease in sale price in livestock/livestock products. These findings were similar to the previous round.
- However, the increase in prices during the last round might be due to lower supply due to seasonality of sheep and goat milking.

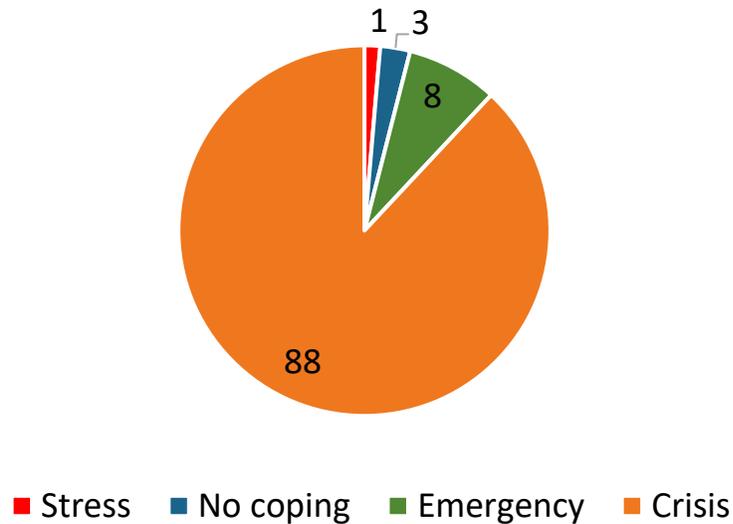
FOOD SECURITY

- Food Insecurity Experience Scale (FIES)
- Household Hunger Score (HHS)
- Livelihood-based Coping Strategy Index (LCSI)
- Household Dietary Diversity Score (HDDS)

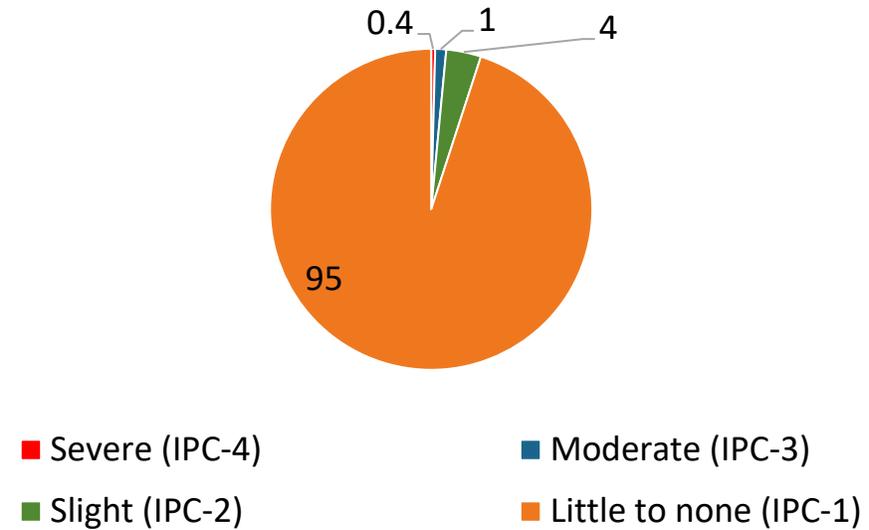


FOOD SECURITY

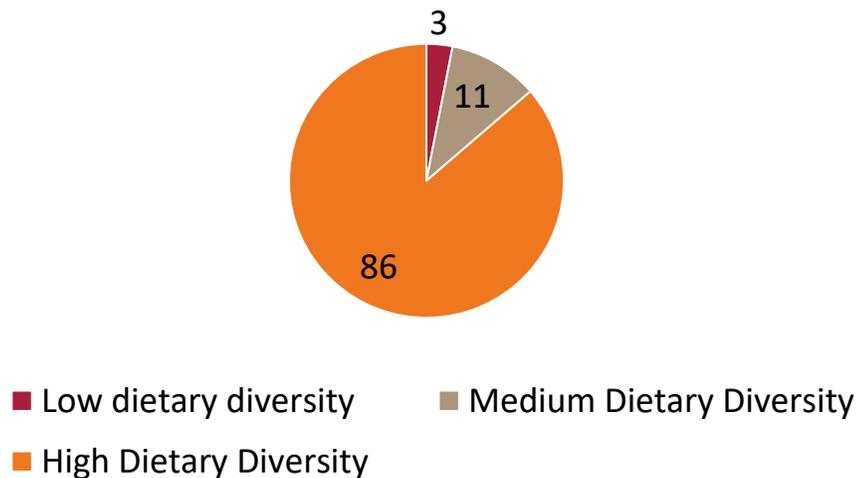
Livelihood Coping Strategy Index



Household Hunger Scale %



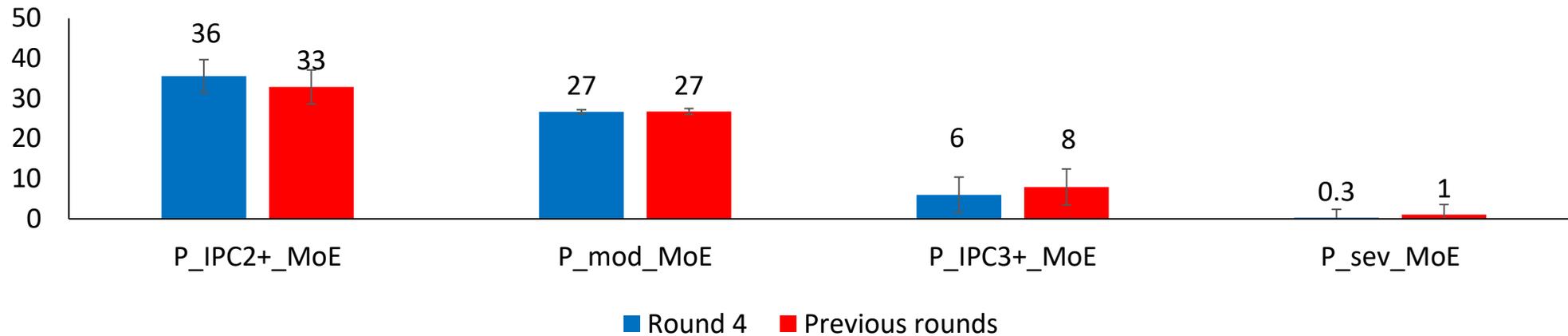
Household Dietary Diversity Score (HDDS) %



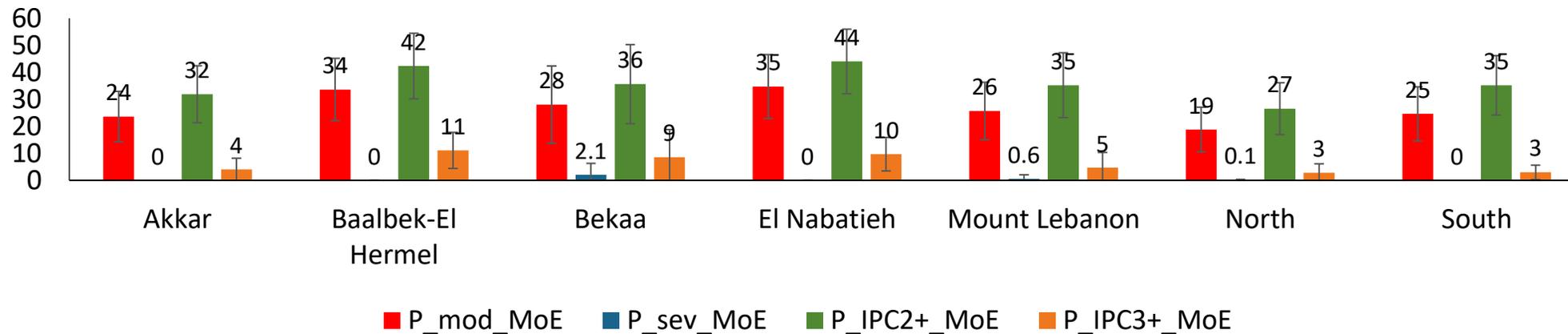
The household hunger scale (HHS) showed little to no hunger to most of the surveyed respondents (95%). Similarly, the household dietary diversity score (HDDS) showed a high rate of respondents having a high Dietary diversity (86%) and showing no food consumption gaps.

However, this was not the case in LCS, as a high rate of agricultural household claimed in adopting coping strategies and 89% were found under crisis, 8% were in emergency and only 3% did not refer to any coping strategies.

% of Household food insecurity experienced scale FIES Round 4 VS previous rounds

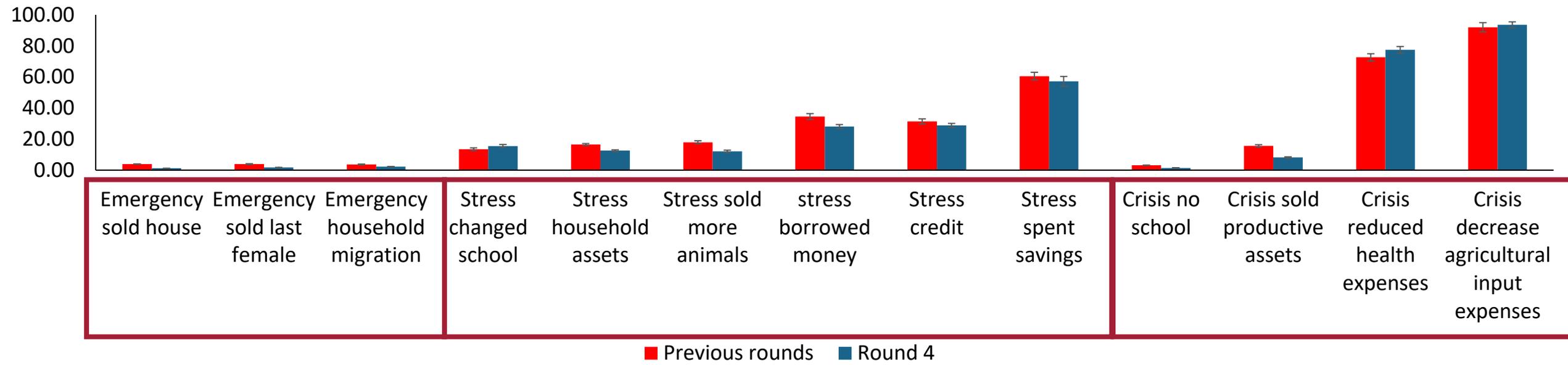


Household food insecurity experienced scale FIES by governorate %

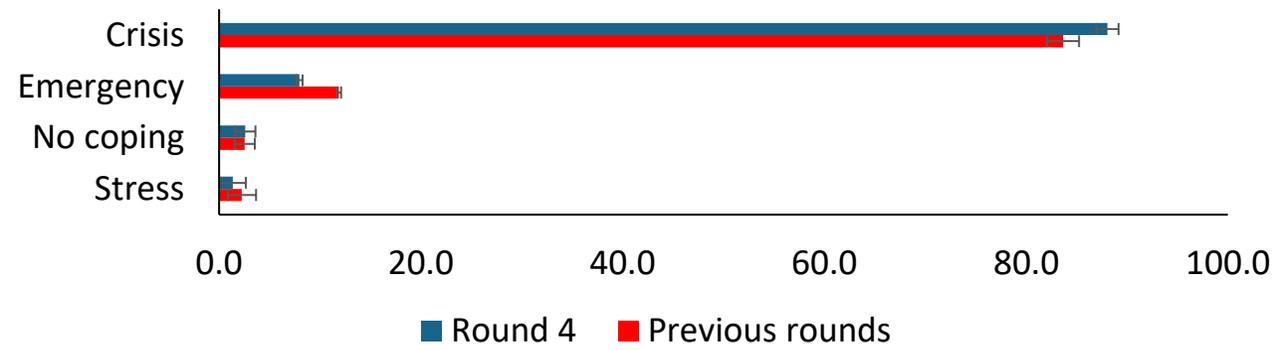


FOOD SECURITY- LCS

Coping strategies adopted %



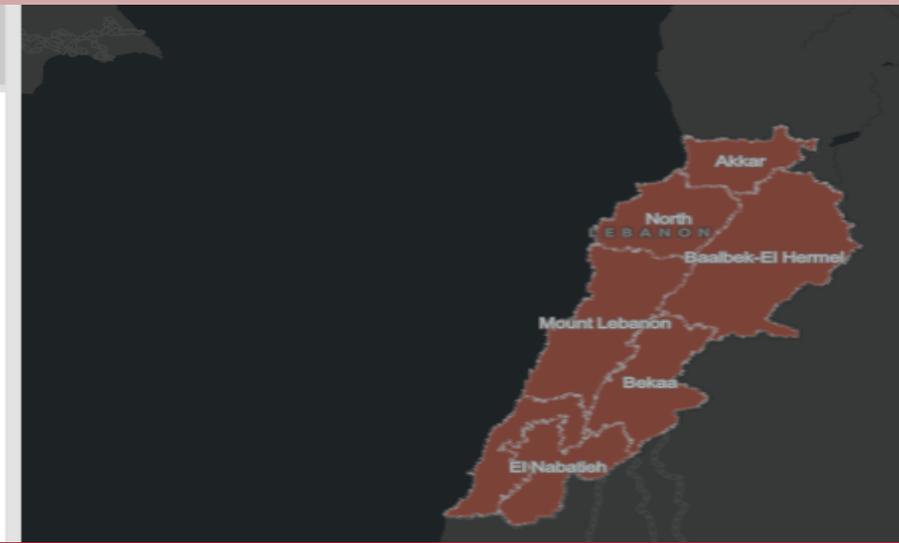
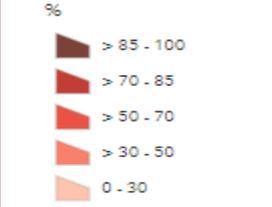
Livelihood coping strategies % Round 4 VS previous rounds



Round 04 data collection for Lebanon started on 24 October 2022 and ended on 18 November 2022.

Livelihood Coping Strategies (LCS). (Click to expand the group)

Households adopting crisis or emergency coping strategies (LCS)



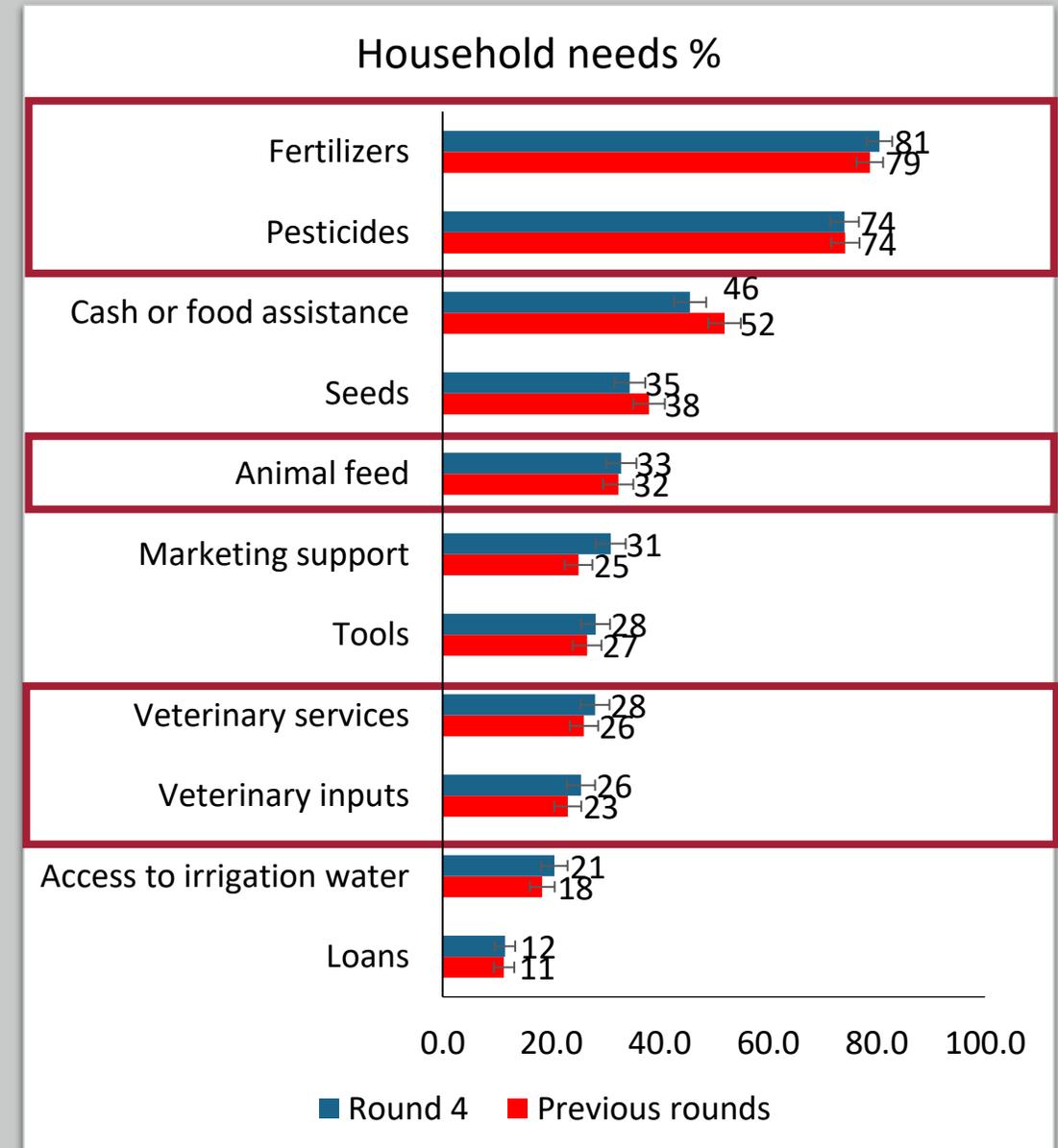
NEEDS FOR ASSISTANCE

- Greatest needs for crop producing households
- Greatest needs for livestock producing household
- Greatest needs for female/male household



Needs of livestock and crop producers

- Nearly 94% of the agricultural households surveyed indicated a need for assistance in the coming 3-6 months. Overall, 46% of respondents expressed a need for cash support.
- 81% and 74% of crop producers reported a top need for fertilizers and pesticides respectively.
- 33%, 28% and 26% of livestock producers reported a top need for animal feed, veterinary services and veterinary inputs respectively. These needs did not show any significant changes compared to previous rounds.
- About 8% of households received assistance in the three months preceding the survey compared to 16% in the previous rounds.



RECOMMENDATIONS

- Discuss together how our recommendations can be put into practices
- Our aim is to make our data used in proposals, research ...etc. and to be also used by donors, decision-makers



RECOMMENDATIONS

Short-term recommendations

- Provide and support crop producers with fertilizer, pesticides and seeds resistant to drought and disease.
- Provide veterinary services and support the implementation of vaccination programmes to prevent and control animal pests and diseases.
- Provide fodder (alfalfa, maize, etc.) and veterinary inputs to livestock producers.
- Support vulnerable agricultural households with food and cash support in collaboration with ongoing assistance programmes.

Medium and long-term recommendations

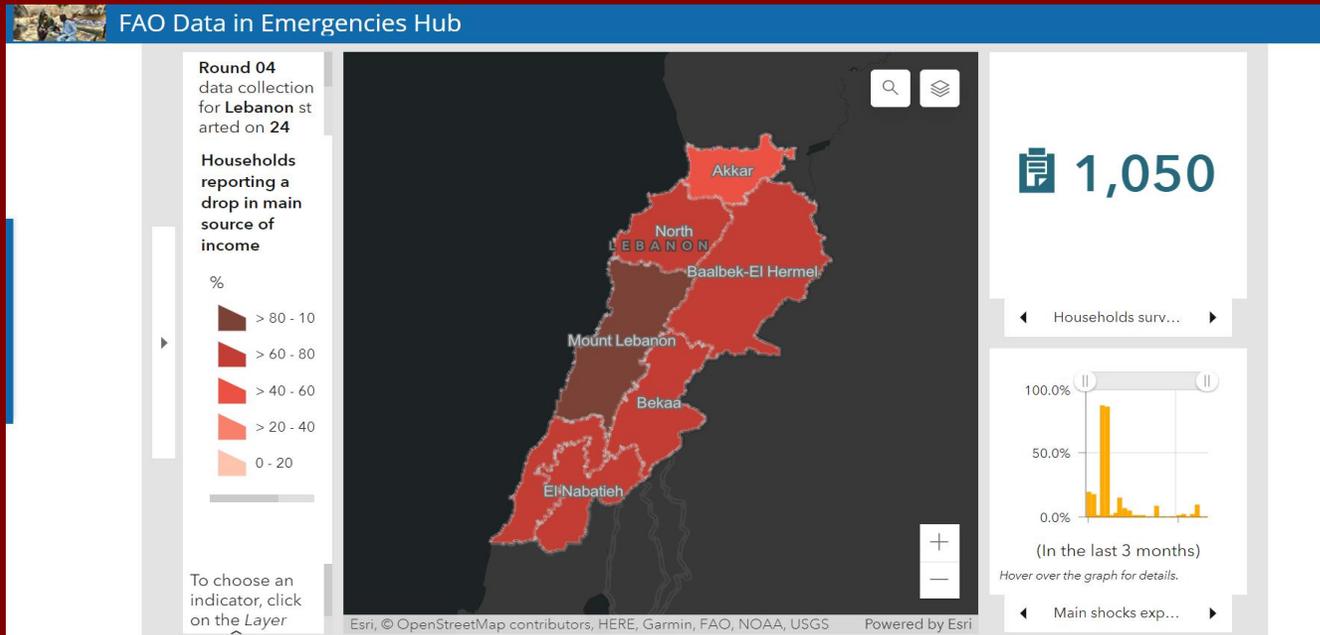
- Provide technical and financial assistance to promote good agricultural practices to increase agricultural productivity and improve food availability. This can include training farmers on the importance of crop rotation and climate-smart agriculture, on biogas production (transforming waste from the farm to heat), on-farm composting methods, and using cost effective and environmentally friendly agricultural practices.
- Support the construction of small and medium-sized hill lakes to increase the availability of irrigation water and support the adoption of modern irrigation systems to increase the efficiency of water use and reduce the water scarcity faced by farmers.
- Encourage and support the adoption of solar power systems instead of fossil fuels for irrigation



Thank You for your attention

Findings and data are publicly available on the FAO Data Hub.
Dashboards and Country Brief were developed.

The Analytical Products and Data are available at:
<https://data-in-emergencies.fao.org/>



Action Points

- ERP – FSAS will not be appearing under the ERP for partners to appeal, given the joint framework of the sector and in order to avoid duplication of financial requirements. Partners who have not appealed under the LCRP to reach out to the sector coordination.
- Mailing list reminder to subscribe to the mailing list – identify FS focal point and reporting focal point [here](#)
- Activity info reporting open for January 2023 progress reporting until Friday 17 February [Link](#)
- Deduplication for Lebanese – BUILDING BLOCKS
 - Partners to fill the excel sheet shared with the presentation. For reference, accessible here but not editable. Deadline February 24. Without the required information, we will not be able to assess the feasibility and added value of the system.

Action Points

- SOPs
 - In-kind (“ideal” – minimum package – mapping of existing packaged – linkages to local producers) – with the technical support of the Nutrition sector - February 24 at 9:30 – invitation to follow
 - Food safety during handling and storage – with the technical support of the Nutrition sector – TBD
 - Designing a balanced diet on a budget – joint with the Nutrition sector – TBD
 - Minimum standards for school meals and snacks – joint with the Nutrition & Education sectors - TBD

- **Recommended transfer value**

The sector will launch on a quarterly basis the recommended Transfer Value for Food Assistance based on the Economic Capacity To Meet Essential Needs (ECMEN) conducted by WFP