LEBANON
FOOD SECURITY & AGRICULTURE
SECTOR

Food Security & Agriculture Sector

National Level Meeting

March 14, 2023

AGENDA

- Food Security and Market Situation Analysis – WFP/RAM updates
- Territorial Market Mapping: Understanding its potential in promoting healthy diets – FAO/MOA
- Presentation on Caritas Lebanon - Overview and Services
- Updates from the sector and Partners’ reporting – 2023 dashboard
-
- AOB

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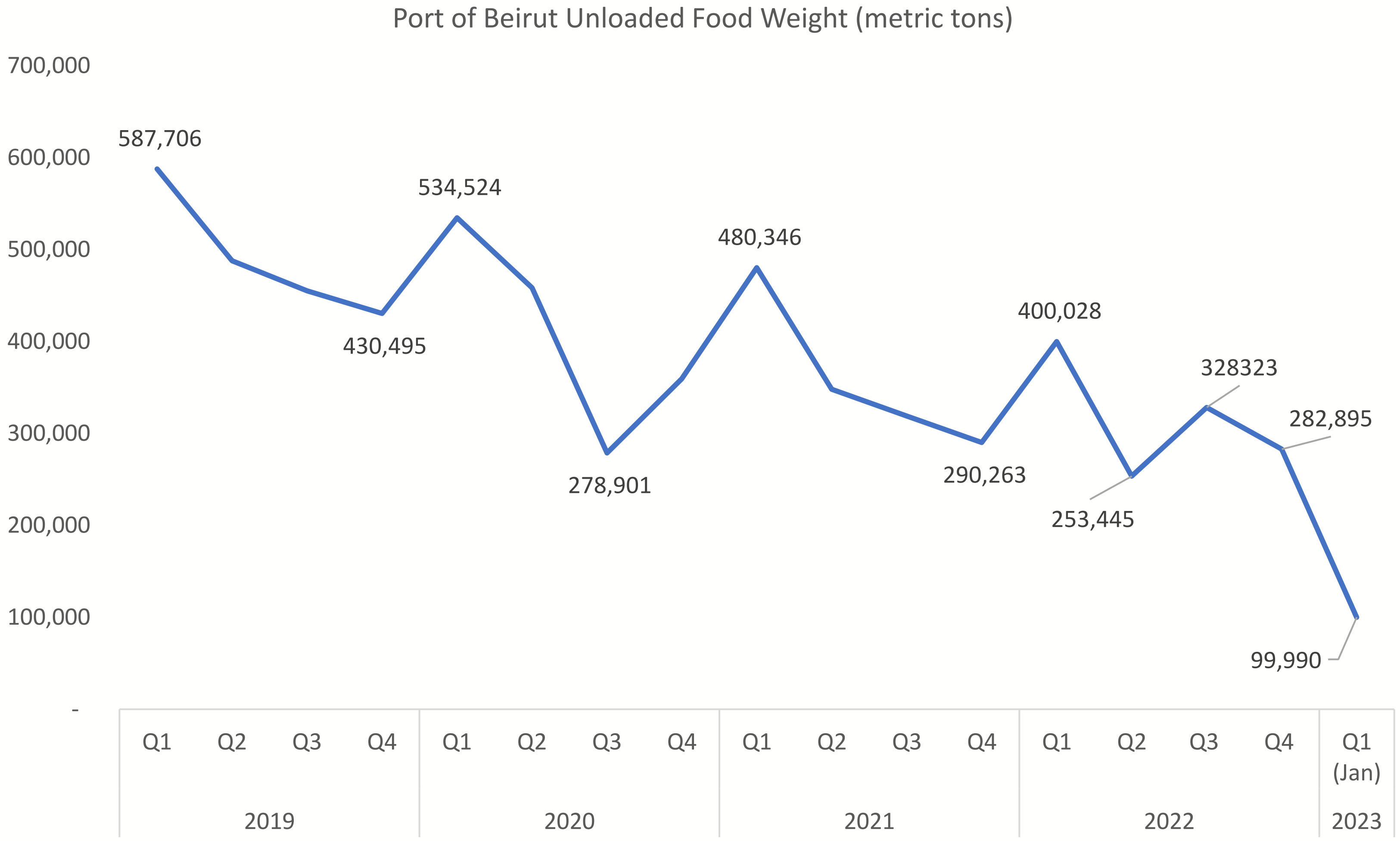
WFP Lebanon
Research, Assessment & Monitoring Unit

Food Security and Markets Situation Analysis

March 2023

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

Decreasing trend (- 29 percent) in food imports Between Jan 2022 and Jan 2023



- Decrease in Jan 2023 versus Jan 2022 led by the following imports categories decreases:
  - 64 percent in coffee, tea, matte and spices;
  - 59 percent in cereals;
- A decrease of 12 percent is registered when comparing the 2022 to 2021, 22 percent to 2020, and 36 percent to 2019;
- The first shipment of 33,000 tons of wheat, financed under the Lebanon Wheat Supply Emergency Project, has arrived at the Port of Beirut on the 11th of February 2023

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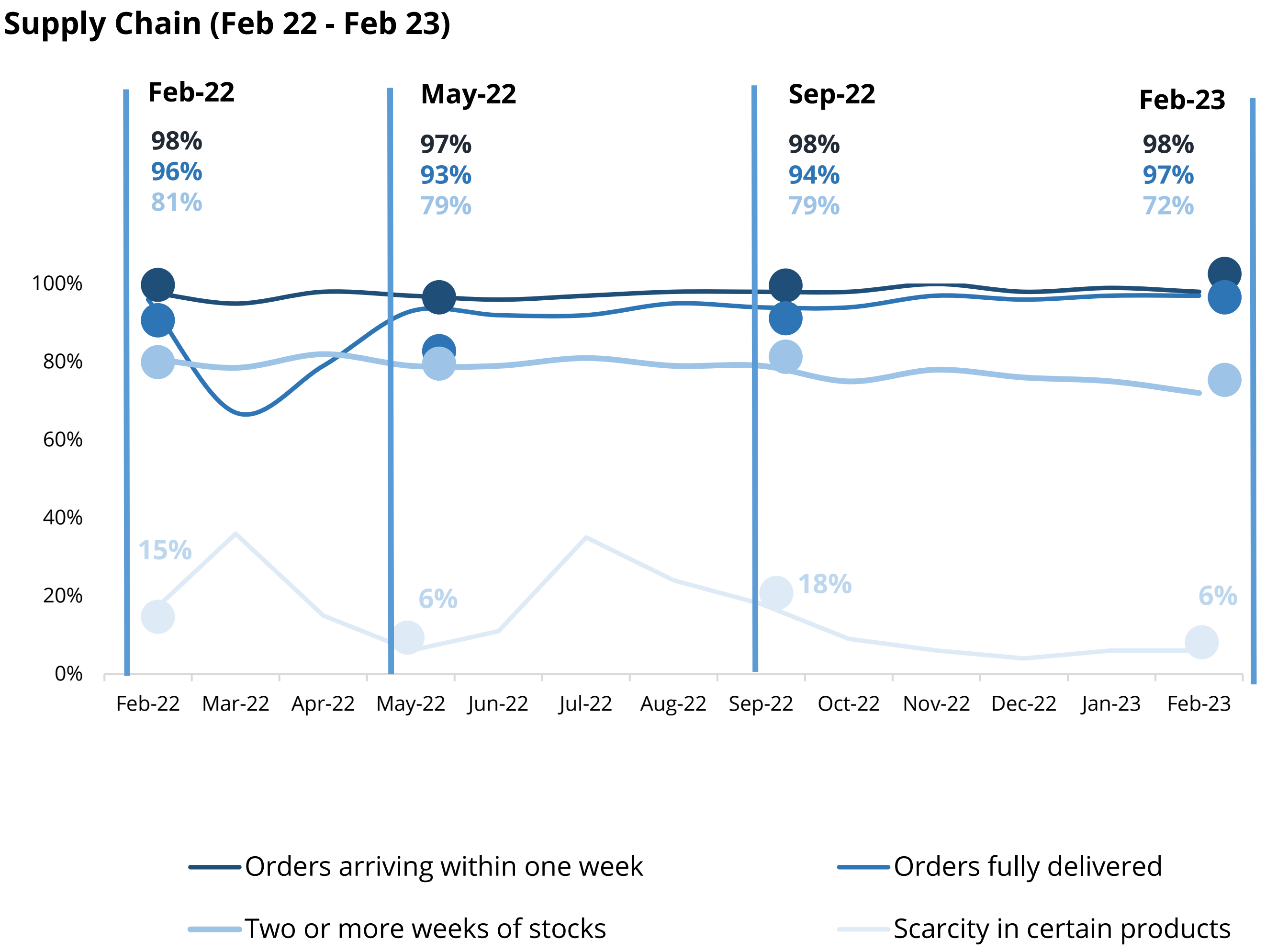
Source: Port of Beirut data, 2019-2022 as of February 17, 2023, subject to change as more data is released.

Supply chain delivery system levels similar to previous months



- All shops were functional in February 2023;
- Stock levels in February 2023 remain stable;
- Shops with more than 2 weeks of stock coverage at 72 percent;
- Scarcity in products 6 percent, compared to 4 percent in December 2022, 24 percent in August and 35 percent in July 2022, due to bread availability issues;
- Delivery of products within one week affected mainly by fuel availability. Continue to register high levels, at 98 percent in February 2023;
- Suppliers delivering full ordered quantities remains high at 97 percent.

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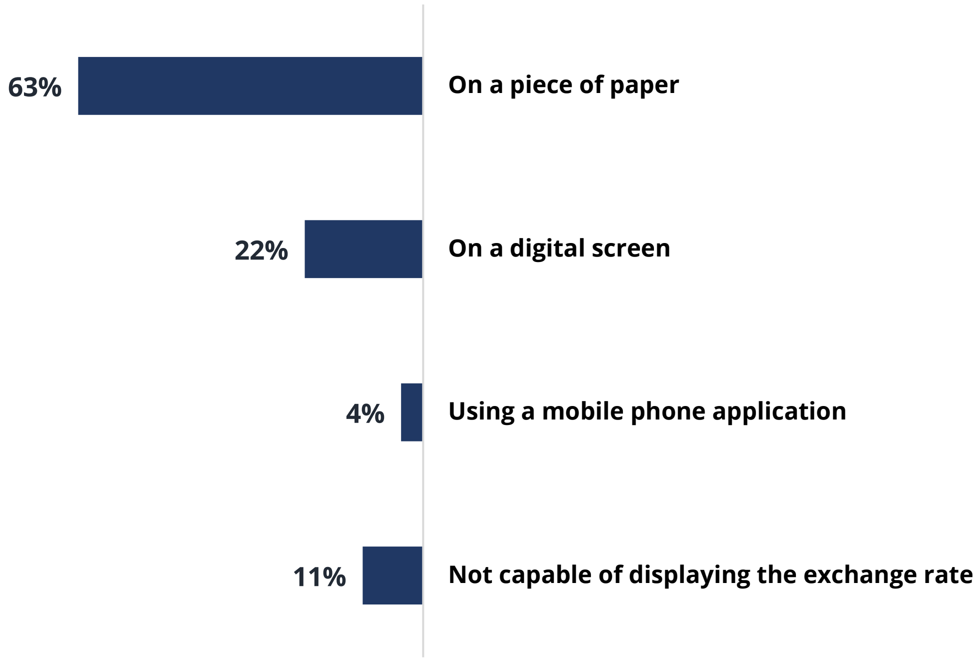
Sources: WFP Retail Unit Shop Phone Survey – as of 28 February 2023

USD Pricing at retail shops

WFP-contracted shops displaying the exchange rate



- In February 2023, the Lebanese Ministry of Economy announced that supermarkets in Lebanon would price items in USD
- Prices of imported products as well as products charged to supermarkets in USD, will be displayed in USD.
- Prices of products that are locally produced (such as cigarettes, bread, or fruits and vegetables) will remain displayed in Lebanese pounds.
- The exchange rate used by supermarkets will be visibly displayed at store entrances, cash registers and on receipts
- customers can pay in the currency of their choice; if paid in Lebanese pound, the bill is to be calculated according to the rate displayed at the store

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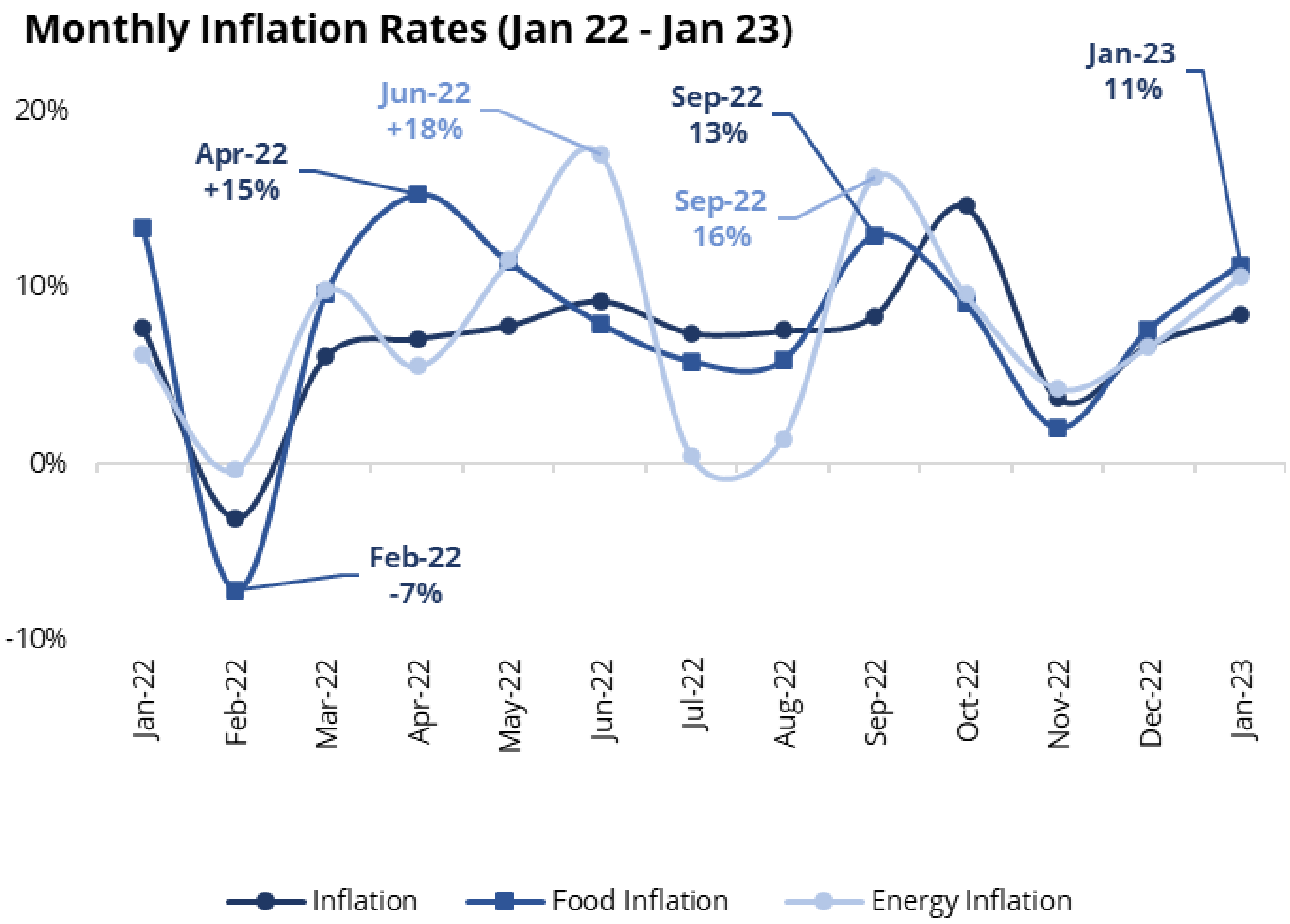
Sources: WFP Retail Unit Rapid Shop Assessment– as of 28 February 2023

Monthly Inflation



- **Monthly:**

  The consumer price index increased by 8 percent between December-22 and January-23, while energy and food prices increased by 11 percent for the same time period;

- **Yearly:**

  The consumer price index increased by 124 percent between January-22 and January-23, while energy prices increased by 142 percent and the food prices increased by 138 percent for the same time period;

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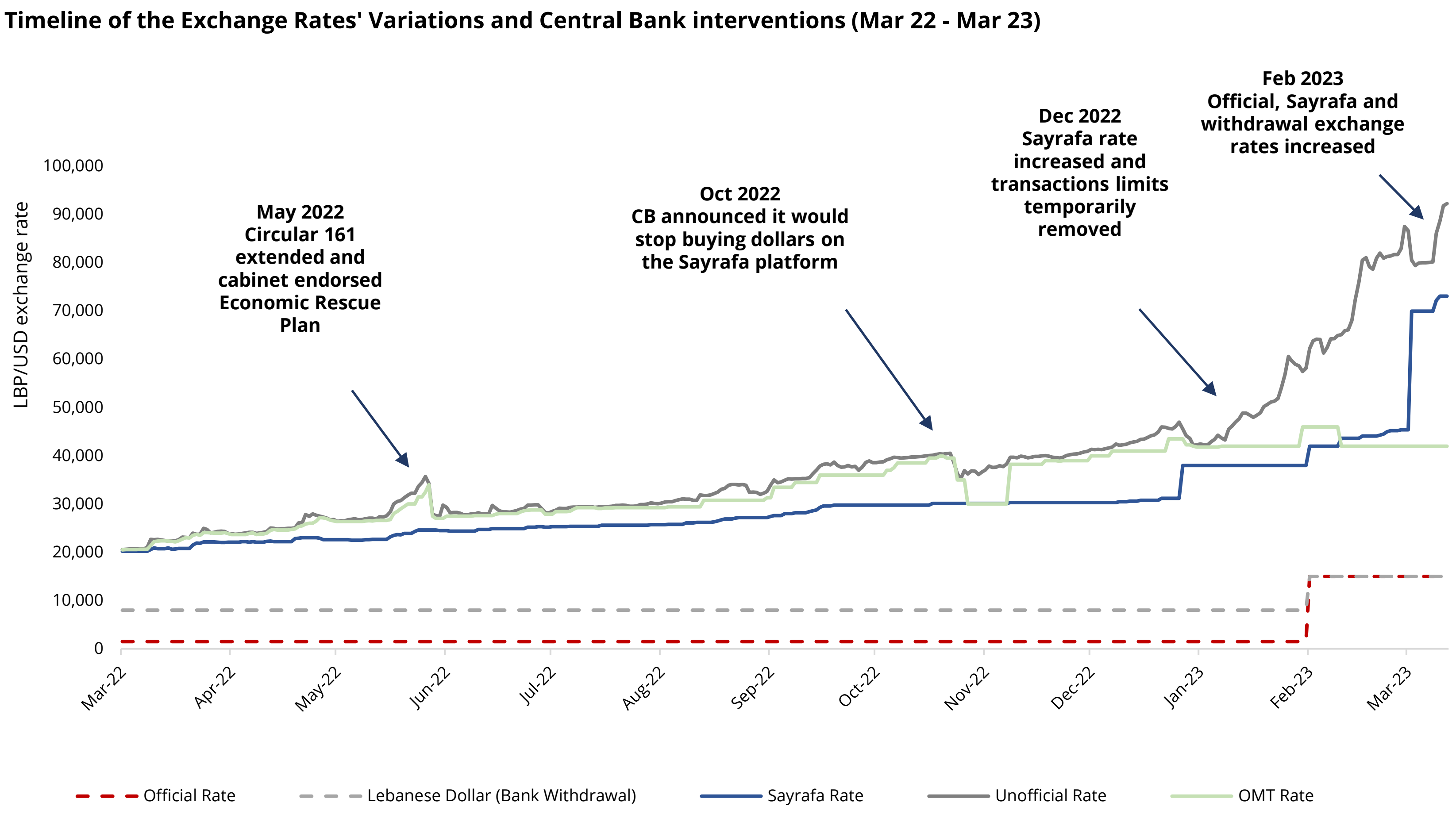
Source: Central Administration of Statistics

Informal market rate broke the 90,000 level



- The Association of Banks in Lebanon (ABL) called for a strike beginning February 6, which was suspended on February 24, so depositors would be able to access banking services.
- During February, protesters attacked banks while blocking roads, protesting against informal restrictions on cash withdrawals and the rapid deterioration of the economic situation.
- The informal market rate hit a new record low reaching LBP80,000/USD on 16th of February and reached LBP90,000USD on the 11th of March
- Central Bank continues intervention through circular 161 (extended till end of March 2023);
- Sayrafa rate was increased to LBP70,000/USD on March 2nd with the latest increase on March 10 (LBP73,100/USD).

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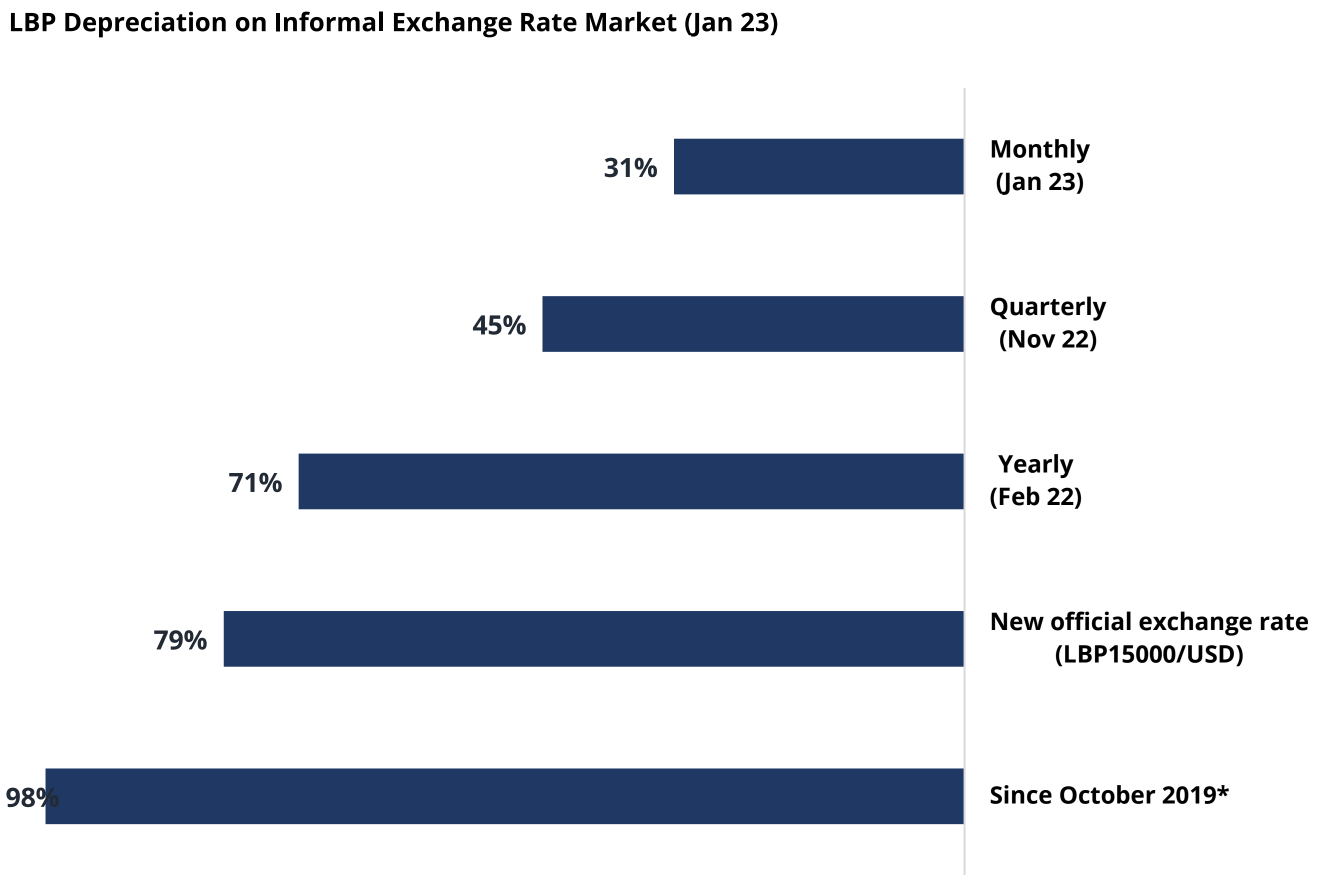
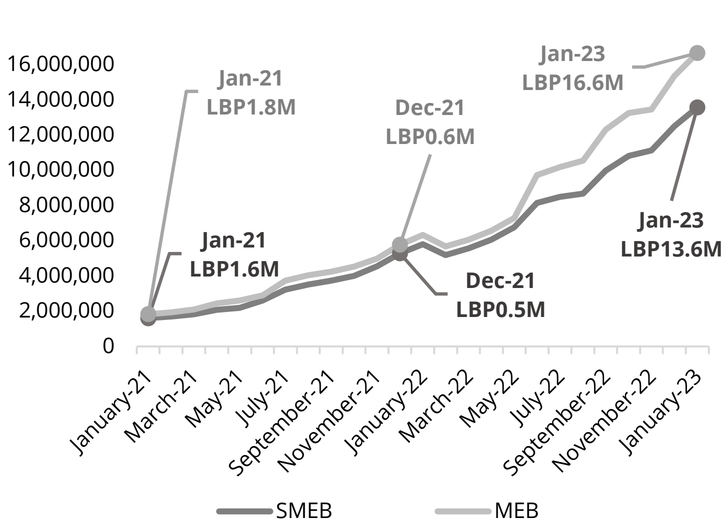
Source: http://lebaneselira.org & https://lirarate.com – reported rates for black market and syndicate are the average of the buy and sell rates

Currency Depreciation

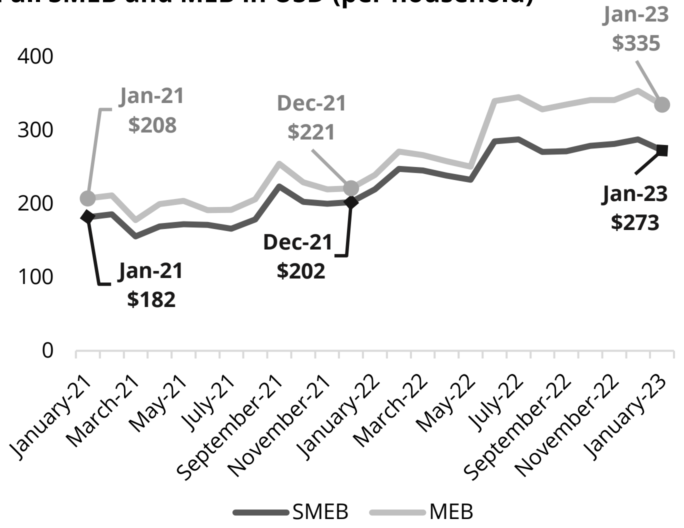


- The national currency depreciated by 31 percent between January and February 2023
- The national currency has now lost 98 percent of its value on the informal exchange rate market compared to the former official rate of LBP1,507 to the dollar.

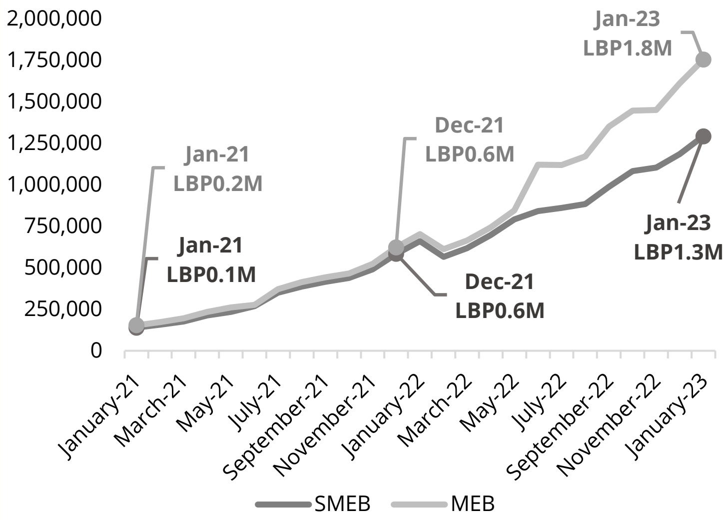
Full SMEB and MEB in LBP (per household)



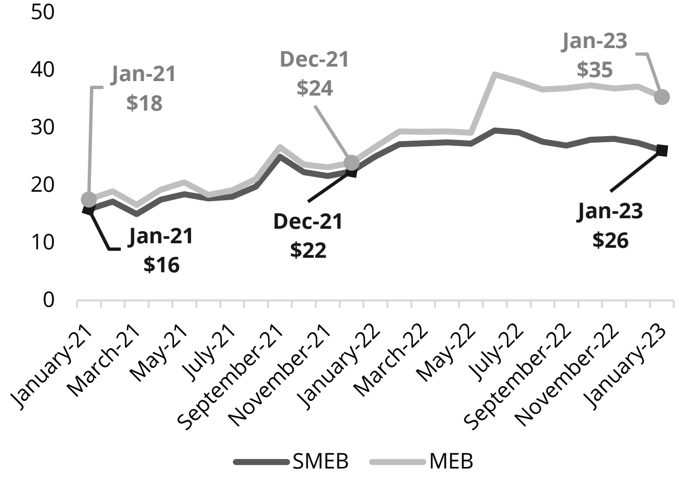
Full SMEB and MEB in USD (per household)



Food SMEB and MEB in LBP (per person)



Food SMEB and MEB in USD (per person)



- **Food and non-food**
  - **SMEB: LBP13.6M or USD273** for a family of five (+9 percent since Dec-22)
  - **MEB: LBP16.6M or USD335** for a family of five (+8 percent since Dec-22)
- **Food**
  - **SMEB: LBP1.3M or USD26** per person (+9 percent since Dec-22)
  - **MEB: LBP1.75M or USD35** per person (+9 percent since Dec-22)
- Food SMEB reached LBP1.3M by person in January 2023

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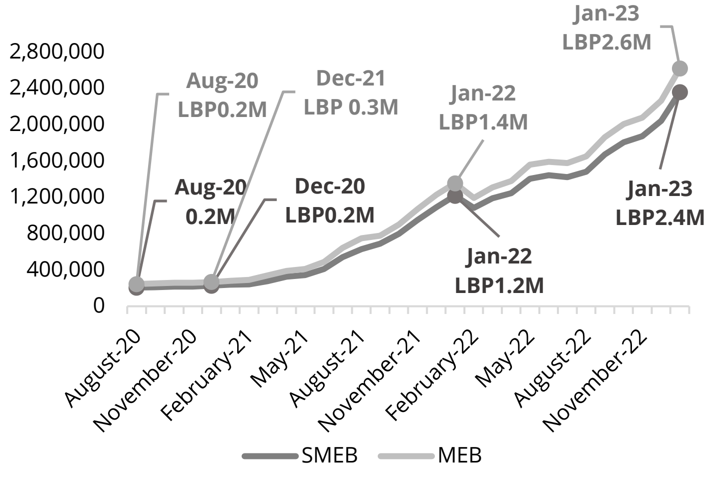
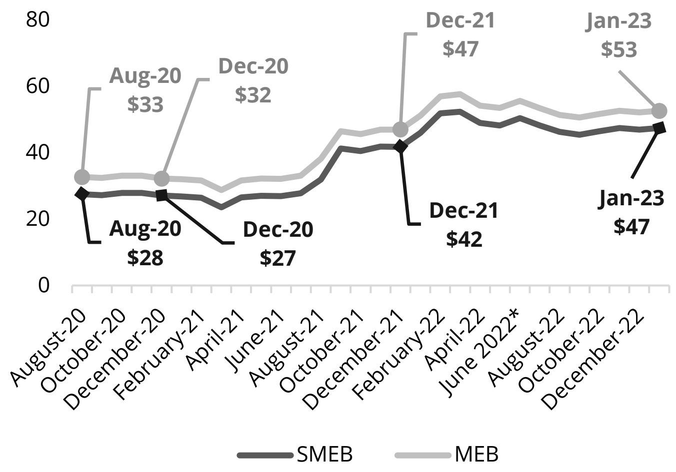
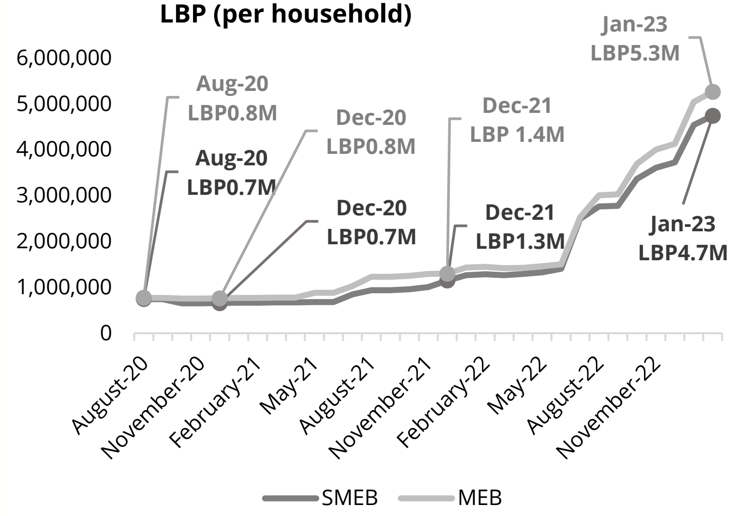
Non-Food Items (NFI) SMEB and MEB in LBP (per household)



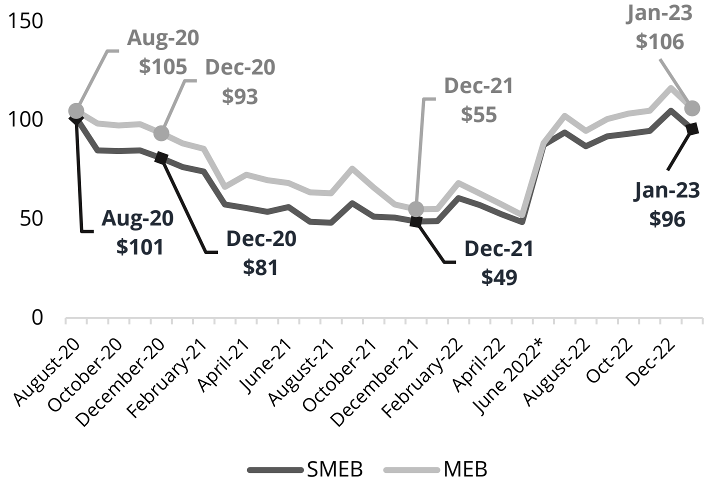
Non-Food Items (NFI) SMEB and MEB in USD (per household)



Non-Food Services (NFS) SMEB and MEB in LBP (per household)



Non-Food Services (NFS) SMEB and MEB in USD (per household)



- **Non-Food Items**
  - **SMEB: LBP2.4M or USD47**for a family of five (+16 percent since Dec-22)
  - **MEB: LBP2.6M or USD53** for a family of five (+15 percent since Dec-22)

- **Non-Food Services**
  - **SMEB: LBP4.7M or USD96**for a family of five (+4 percent since Dec-22)
  - **MEB: LBP5.3M or USD106** for a family of five (+4 percent since Dec-22)

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Price increase continue across nearly all components of the food SMEB between December 2022 and January 2023 – bread registering the highest price increase since January 2022 (154%)

	SMEB Components	Price (Jan 23) LBP	Percentage Variation Monthly	Quarterly	Yearly
Food SMEB Components (SMEB per Individual Weights)	Bread (7.02 Kg)	168,968	8%	15%	154%
	Pasta (1.8 Kg)	133,865	12%	25%	119%
	Brown Bulgur (1.95 Kg)	88,250	12%	21%	124%
	Egyptian Rice (2.4 Kg)	111,096	15%	25%	105%
	Potatoes (2.1 Kg)	38,990	-9%	-7%	36%
	Lentils (0.75 Kg)	54,812	12%	25%	70%
	White Beans (0.3 Kg)	22,715	11%	23%	62%
	Chickpeas (0.9 Kg)	70,747	12%	27%	91%
	Powder Milk (0.6 Kg)	182,129	14%	27%	86%
	Sunflower Oil (0.51 L)	48,905	10%	11%	81%
	Sugar (0.6 Kg)	26,052	12%	22%	105%
	Tomato Paste (0.6 Kg)	57,021	9%	22%	110%
	Eggs (0.45 Kg)	40,892	7%	10%	94%
	Cabbage (2.7 Kg)	23,670	-24%	-28%	112%
	Apples (1.5Kg)	39,000	-3%	37%	75%
	Salt (0.12 Kg)	1,326	14%	20%	124%
	Tea (0.12 Kg)	53,733	16%	27%	80%
	Carrots (0.6 Kg)	11,620	-12%	19%	66%
	Sardine (0.45 Kg)	119,626	11%	19%	72%

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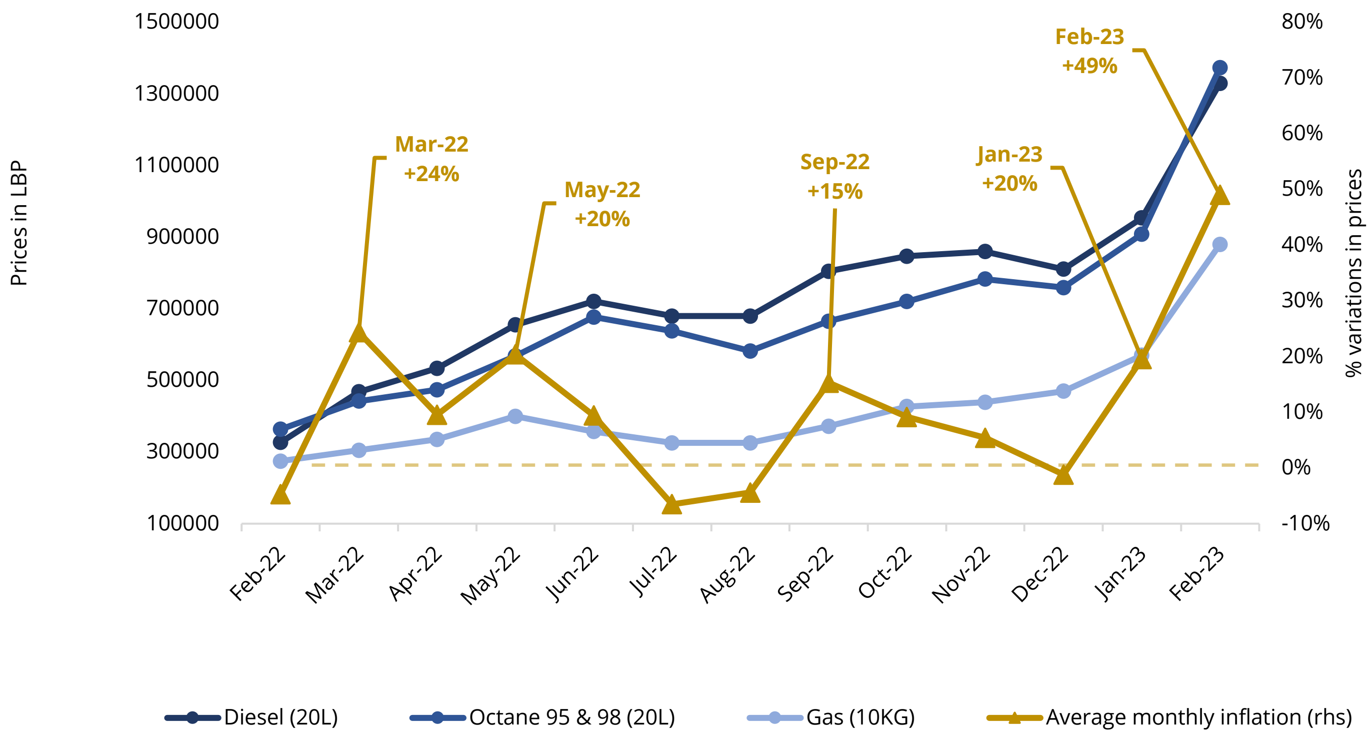
Gasoline prices

Monthly price average and variation (Feb 22 -Feb 23)



- Between February 2022 and February 2023:
  - The price of 20 litres of motor fuels (Octanes 98 and 95) increased by 278 percent;
  - The price of 20 litres of diesel increased by 307 percent;
  - The price of a 10Kg gas can increased by 220 percent.
- The price of gas cylinder (10KG) surpassed the LBP1M level for the first time on the 28th of February 2023

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Source: https://www.iptgroup.com.lb/ipt/en/our-stations/fuel-prices

Thanks!
Questions?

WFP Lebanon

RAM Unit

https://dataviz.vam.wfp.org/version2/country/lebanon

Understanding the potential of territorial markets in promoting healthy diets: Evidence from Lebanon

FAO/MoA, 2023

FSAS National Meeting

March 14, 2023

Agenda

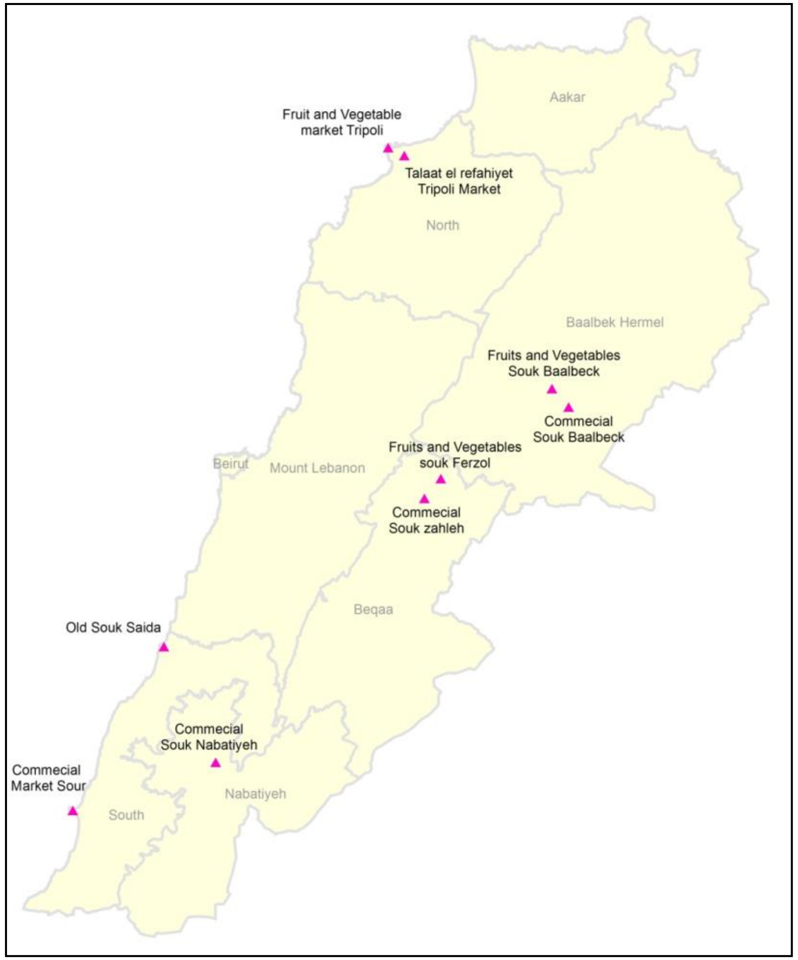
1. Introduction
2. Mapping methodology/ Data collection process
3. Evidence from retailers' survey
4. Evidence from consumers' survey
5. Discussion and Recommendations
6. Q&A

Introduction

- FAO in collaboration with MoA conducted **a study on mapping of territorial markets (TMs) in Lebanon** during September 2022- February 2023
- TMs as an essential food retail outlet was studied based on 3 surveys conducted in a number of territories
- **The study aims at better understanding the functioning of these markets** via sound data and evidence generation with emphasis on market inclusivity and access to healthy and diversified diets and taking into consideration the impact of the economic and financial crisis on these markets
- **The study findings to support in planning and implementation of interventions** that aim at improving the FSN situation at the level of the territories in alignment with national strategies : Lebanon National Agriculture Strategy (2020-2025) and National Nutrition Strategy and Action Plan (2021-2026)

Mapping methodology

- The study was based on **the methodology and guidelines for participatory data collection in mapping of territorial markets (FAO, 2022)**
- **A preliminary analysis survey** was carried out in 13 markets in targeted territories: North (Tripoli); South (Saida, Sour), Nabatiyeh, Bekaa (Zahle) and Baalbeck Hermel (Baalbeck). Beirut and Mount Lebanon were excluded from the study. A total of 9 markets located in 6 different districts across 5 governorates were selected.
- **The selection of the targeted TMs** was based on the following criteria: diversity of food items available; large number of consumers that visit the markets due to easy access, competitive prices, location and proximity; frequency of the markets (open on a daily basis or more than twice per week); number of retailers exceeding 15 retailers; comparability of markets in various territories



Data collection

- **Data collection** conducted during October-November 2022
- **A retailers' survey** was implemented based on a representative sample of food retailers (339 out of 1099) taking into consideration the following criteria: retailers operating in the market, food groups on sale, sex and age groups of retailers
- **A consumers' survey** was also implemented in the TMs. The sample of consumers which was randomly selected has been kept big enough (337) to capture the existing diversity among consumers

Governorate	Market	Av. number of retailers	No. of retailers sampled *(339)*	No. of consumers sampled *(337)*
Baalbeck-Hermel	Baalbeck-Commercial souk of the city	100	33	32
Baalbeck-Hermel	Baalbeck-F&V wholesale&retail market	24	20	30
Bekaa	Ferzol wholesale F&V market	79	25	36
Nabatiyeh	Nabatiyeh commercial souk	205	55	44
South	Saida old souk market	151	45	35
South	Sour commercial souk	133	38	45
North	Tripoli F&V souk/souk el kameh	130	38	38
North	Tripoli Taalet el Rifahiyeh	240	65	52
Bekaa	Zahle commercial market	37	20	25

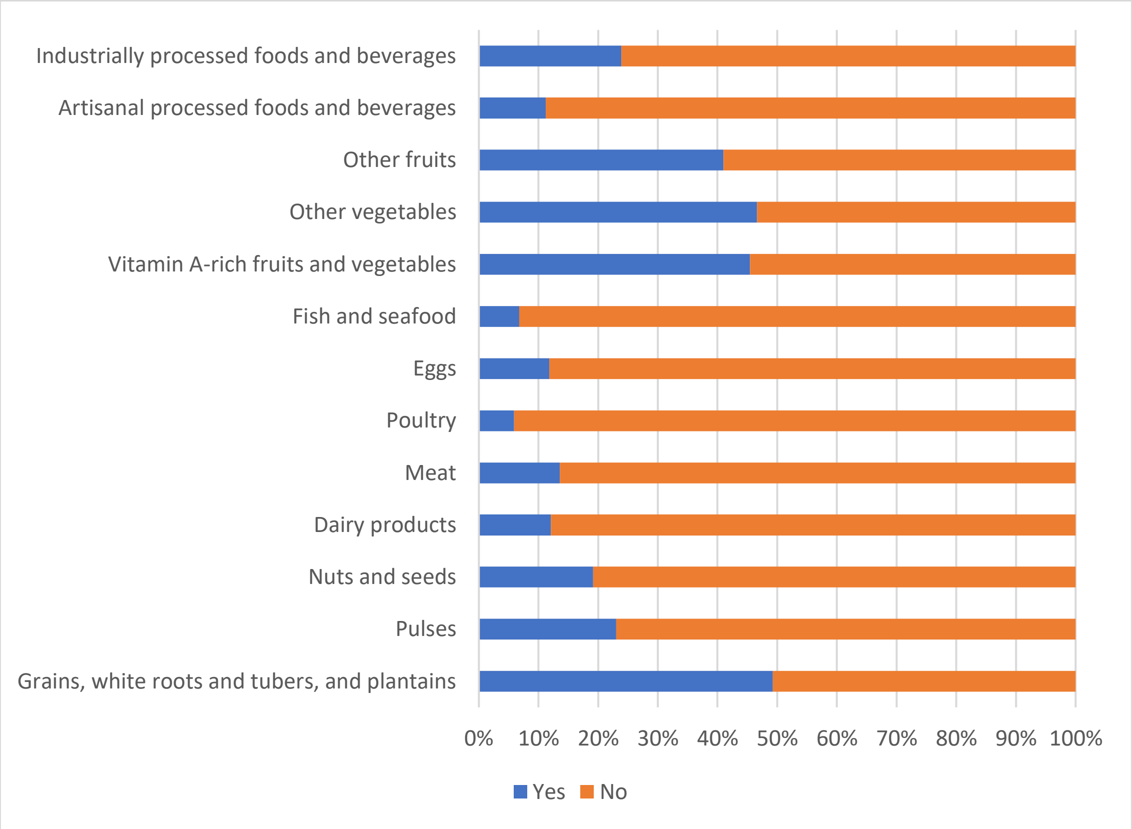
Evidence from retailers' survey

Key findings

1- Availability, diversity and origin of the products at the level of TM markets
2- Socio-economic characteristics of retailers
3- Synthetic indicators

Availability of products

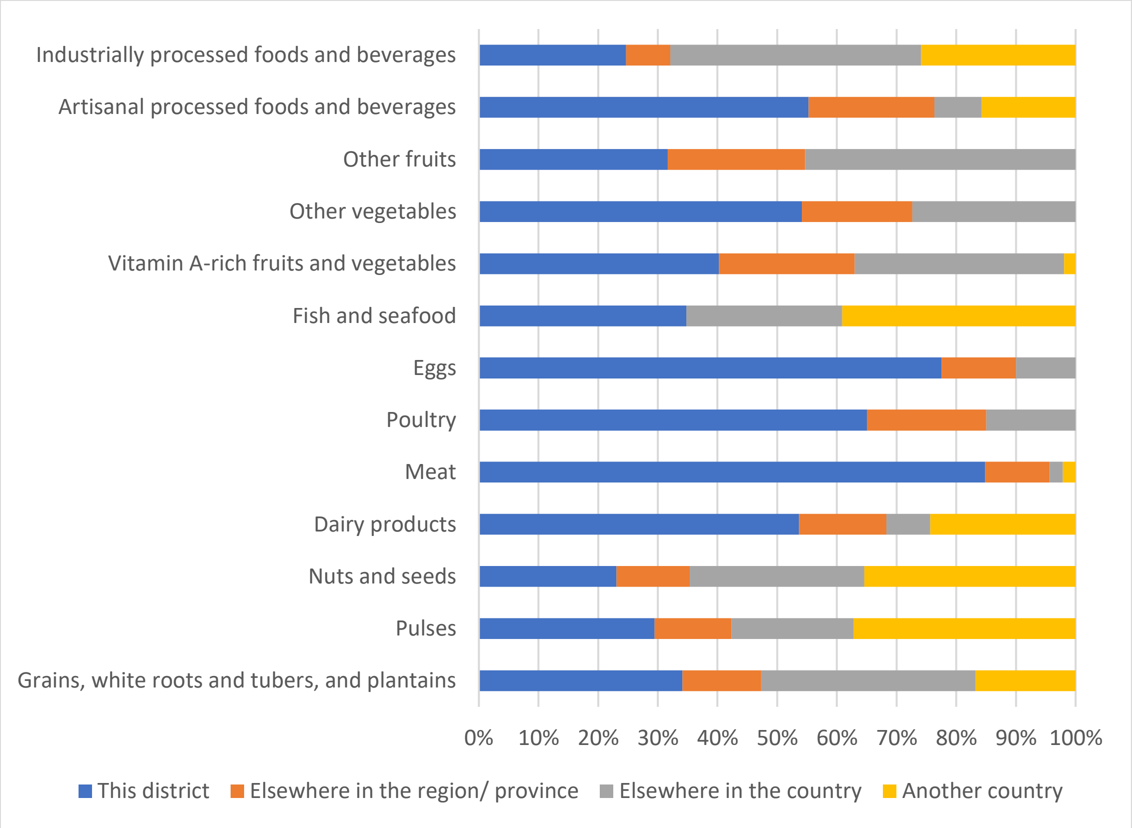
- **Products most offered include grains and tubers, vegetables, Vitamin A-rich F&V, fruits, processed F&B, pulses, nuts and seeds** , while meat, dairy products, artisanal processed F&B, eggs, poultry, and fish and seafood are the food least offered
- **Grains and tubers have highest volumes of sales (15,000 tons /month) , fruits (11,800 tons), vegetables (8,500 tons), Vitamin A-rich fruits (5,700 tons)**, while artisanal processed F&B (16 tons), eggs (21 tons), dairy products (22 tons), and nuts and seeds (31 tons) are the food groups least sold
- The most available food categories are the mostly sold in terms of volumes



The economic and financial crisis has decreased the purchasing power among low-and-middle income households leading to reducing consumption of fish, meat, poultry and eggs and dairy products and increasing consumption of potatoes and vegetables

Geographical source of products

- **50% of products offered under the food categories** of meat, eggs, poultry, artisanal processed F&B, vegetables and dairy products from same district
- **Food groups that originate from elsewhere** in the same governorate include Vitamin-A rich F&V , fruits, artisanal processed F&B, poultry, and vegetables
- **Food groups that originate from elsewhere in the country** include fruits, industrially processed F&B, grains and tubers, and vegetables
- **1/3 of products offered under food groups** of fish and sea food, pulses, and nuts and seeds are imported, followed by industrially processed F&B and dairy products

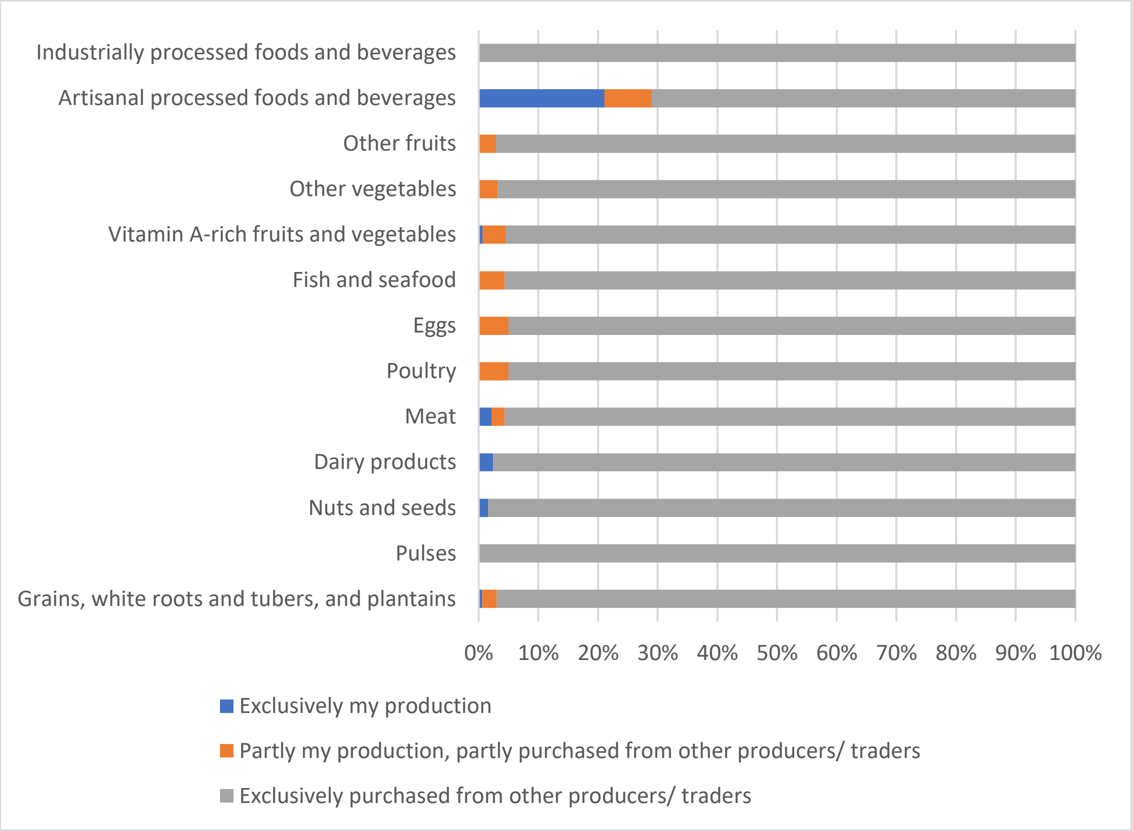


Lebanon is self sufficient in F&V, poultry and eggs but imports considerable quantities of fish, pulses and nuts and seeds. Although meat and dairy products are produced locally, quantities produced do not meet consumption needs which are covered by imports (cattle meat, powder milk and various types of cheeses)

Source of supply

- **More than 95 percent of products offered** for all food groups (with exception of artisanal processed F&B) are purchased from other producers/traders

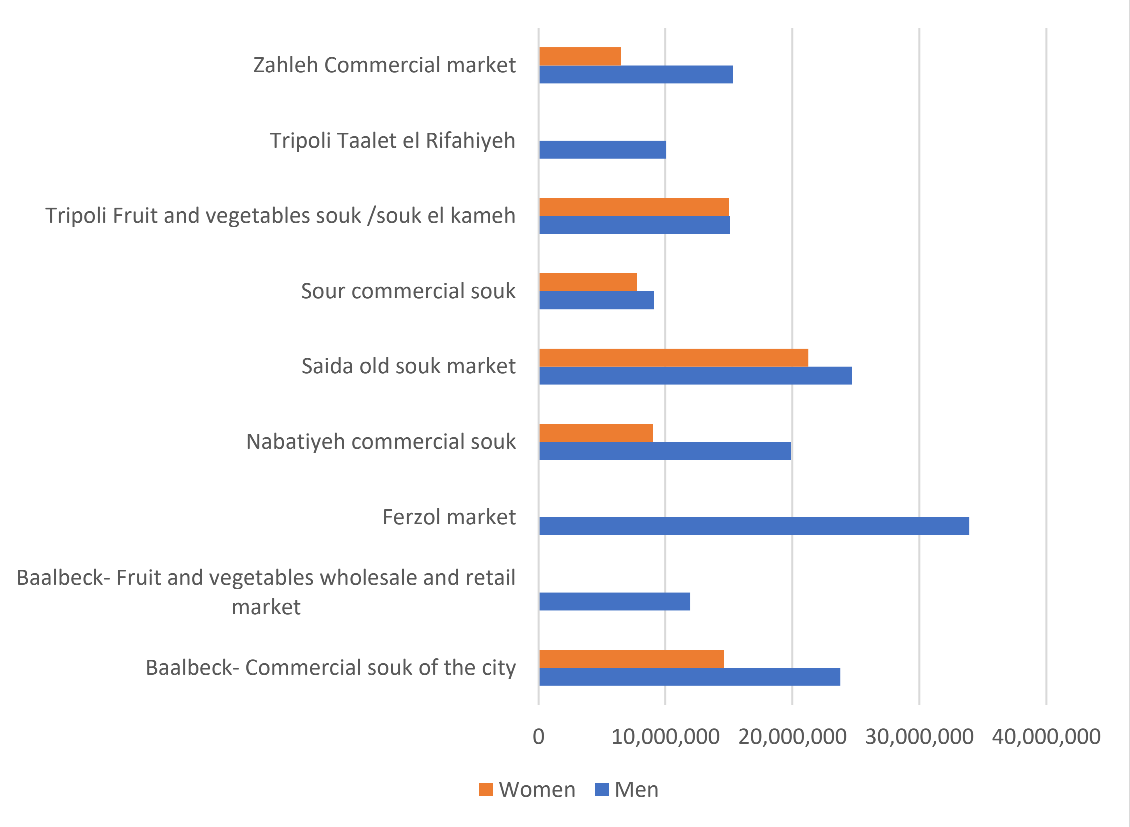
- **Small number of retailers buying their products directly from farmers** reaching 13% for artisanal processed F&B, fruits (10%), vegetables (9%), Vitamin A rich F&V (9%) and grains and tubers (7%)



Most preferred market outlets for producers of F&V are wholesale markets. For dairy products, poultry and eggs, there is a number of agro-processing industries that distribute to retail outlets. For nuts and seeds, pulses, meat, fish, industrially processed F&B, local production is limited and imported products are purchased from traders or distributors

Socio-economic aspects

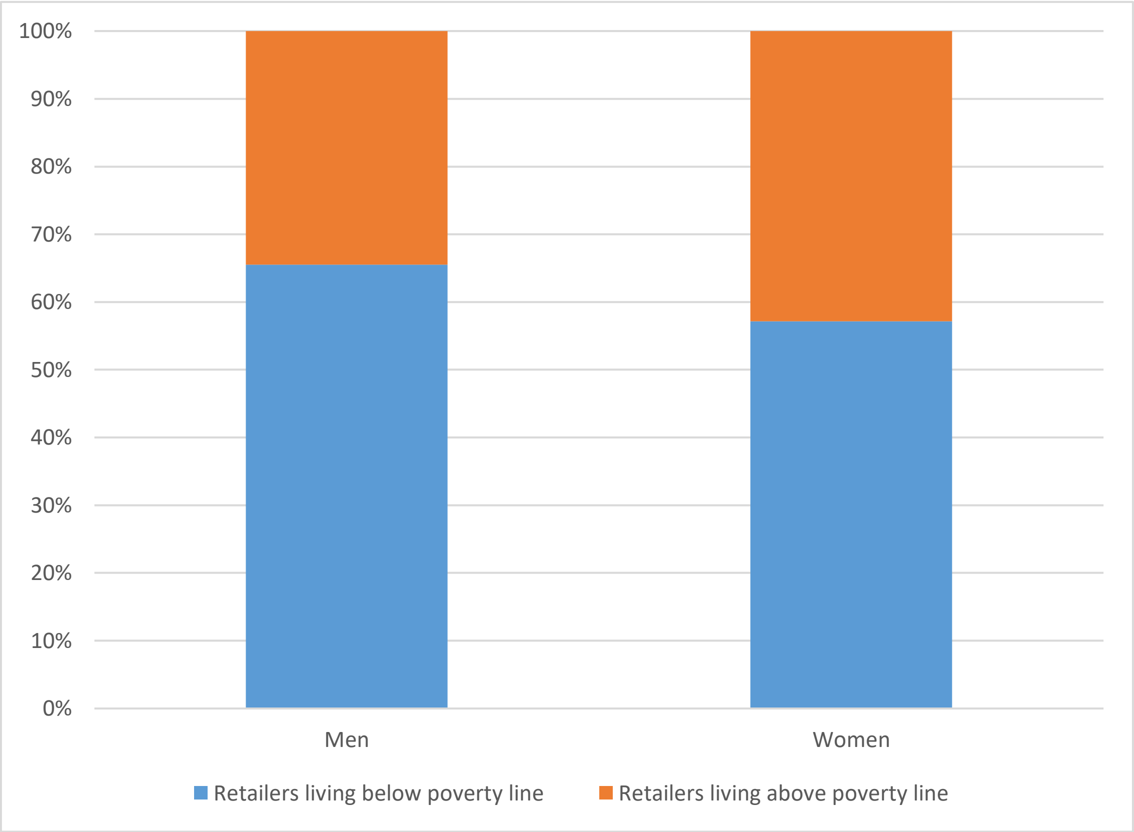
- **Men retailers represent about 86%** of total retailers with only 14% women retailers
- **There are large disparities in terms of net take home income between men and women** reaching more than 40% (LBP 12 million women vs. LBP 17 million men).
- **There are also variations at the level of the markets** with highest income disparities in Zahle commercial market (163%) then Nabatiyeh commercial souk (121%), Baalbeck commercial souk (62%) with income disparities lowest in Sour commercial market (17%) and Saida old souk market (16%)



Women retailers face barriers that hinder their full participation in the markets: limited access to financial services and credit facilities, limited access to marketing services, socio-cultural and legal barriers. Women retailers mostly own small businesses offering dairy products and artisanal processed F&B

Poverty

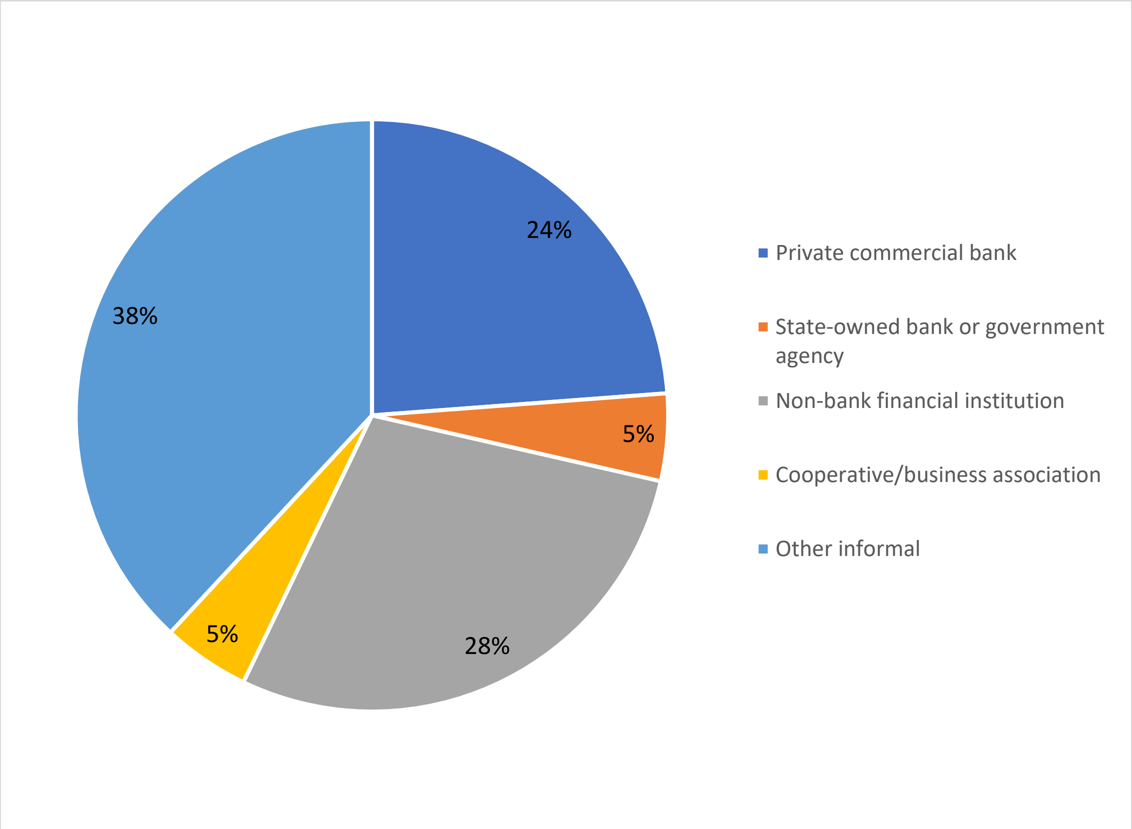
- **Retailers have an average monthly income per capita of less than LBP 5 million** with a limited number having a higher income
- **About 64% of retailers have a monthly income per capita that falls below the poverty line** (considering the national poverty line of LBP 3.3 million per person monthly)
- **The share of women retailers that fall under the poverty line is lower than that of men retailers** (57% for women and 65.5 % for men)



Poverty has drastically increased affecting 74% of the total population (ESCWA, 2021). Taking into account dimensions other than income, such as access to health, education and public utilities the rate increases to 82% of the population living in multidimensional poverty

Business environment- Access to credit

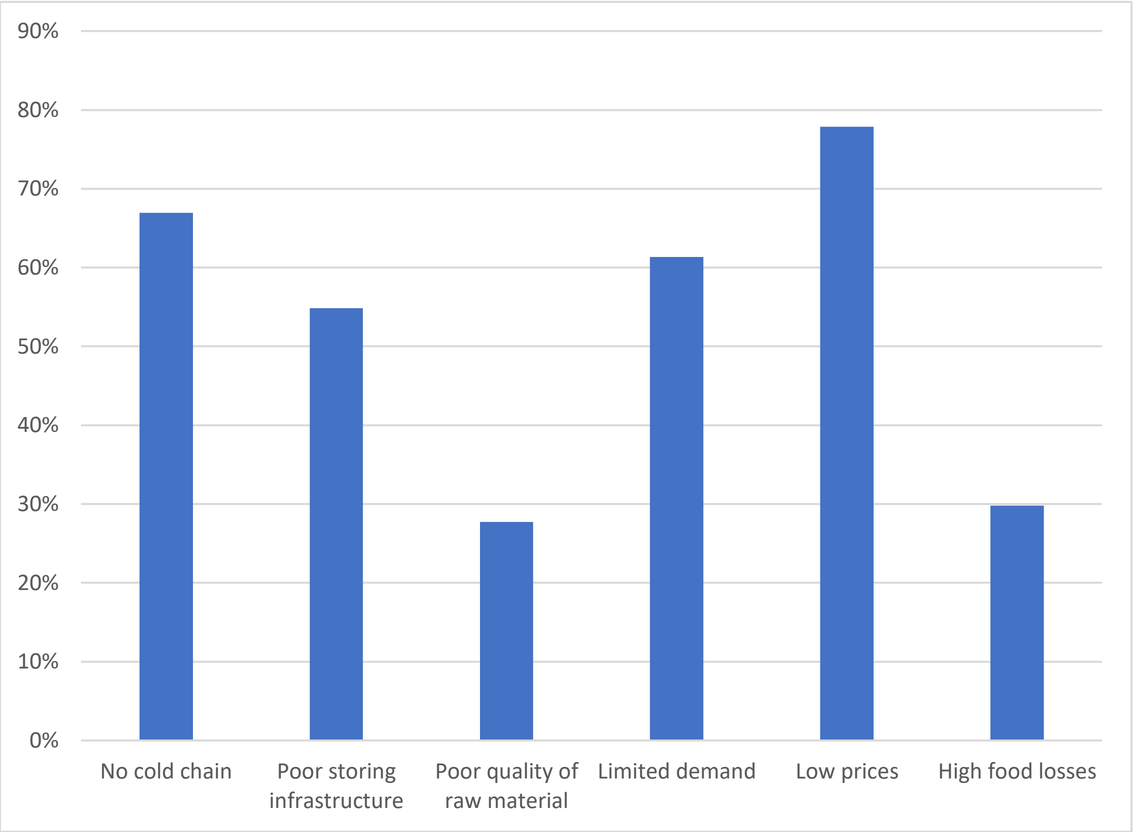
- **6% of retailers have a credit or loan**: more than 38% as informal credits, 28% from non-bank financial institution, 24% from private commercial banks, 5% from government agency and 5% from cooperative/business association
- **Reasons for not having access to credits (94% of retailers) include**: lack of opportunities and capacities (50%), do not need credits (42%)



Access to finance through private commercial banks has been limited due to the financial and economic crisis. The microfinance sector was also affected (informal credits through NGOs or MFIs) with high risks of non-settlement, high business uncertainties, fluctuations of the exchange rate and LBP devaluation

Business environment- Infrastructure

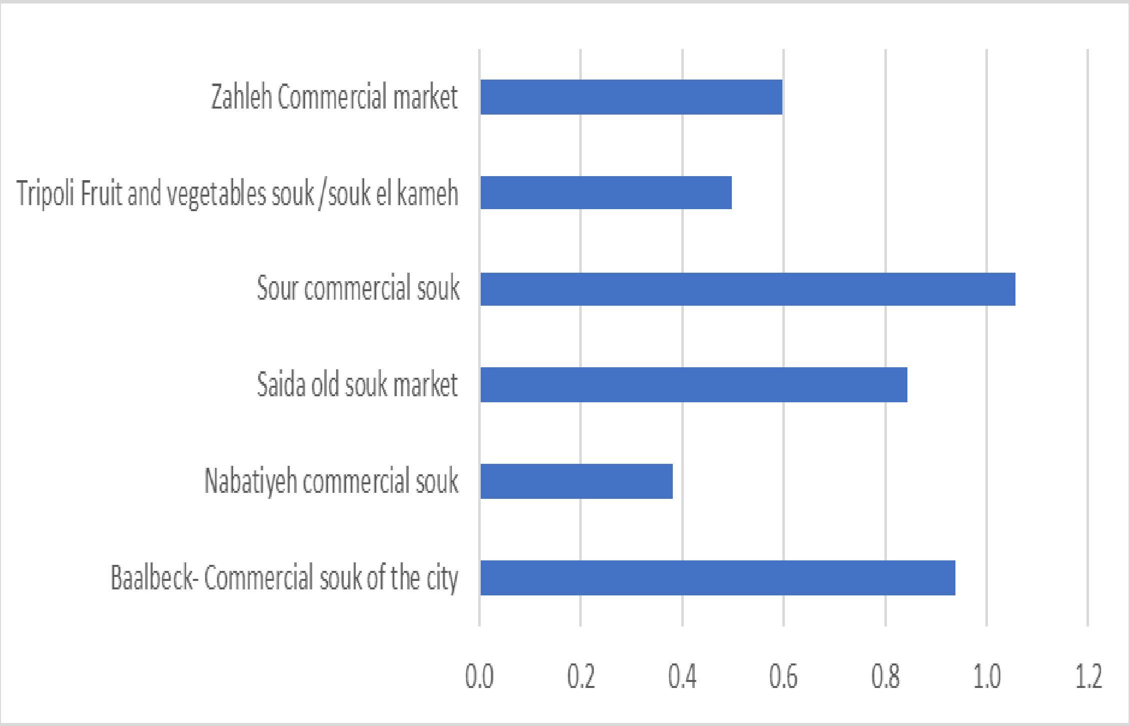
- **Main problems affecting retailers' businesses**: low prices (78%), absence of cold chain (67%), limited demand (61%), poor storing infrastructure (55%), high food loss (30%) and poor quality of raw material (28%)
- **Existing infrastructure includes access to water** (91%), electricity (87%), toilets (60%) retailers booths (51%), with retailers declaring poor access to warehouses (21%).
- **All markets have no access to cold warehouses** and facilities for the collection or transformation of organic waste



Market infrastructure, business services and credit services to be developed with emphasis on cold chain (largely affected by the power outages and high fuel costs) , storing infrastructure and cold warehouses, facilities for collection or transformation of organic waste

SI 1- Gender inclusion indicator

- **Gender inclusion indicator is highest in Sour commercial market and Saida old souk market** with a difference of 17% recorded in net take-home income between men and women retailers
- **Gender inclusion indicator in Baalbeck** commercial souk was also high (0.9)
- **The lowest value of this indicator** was observed at the level of Nabatiyeh commercial souk
- **Gender inclusion indicator showed equal inclusion in Sour, Saida and Baalbeck commercial souks** explained by increasing opportunities of women retailers to informal credits or loans at the level of these markets

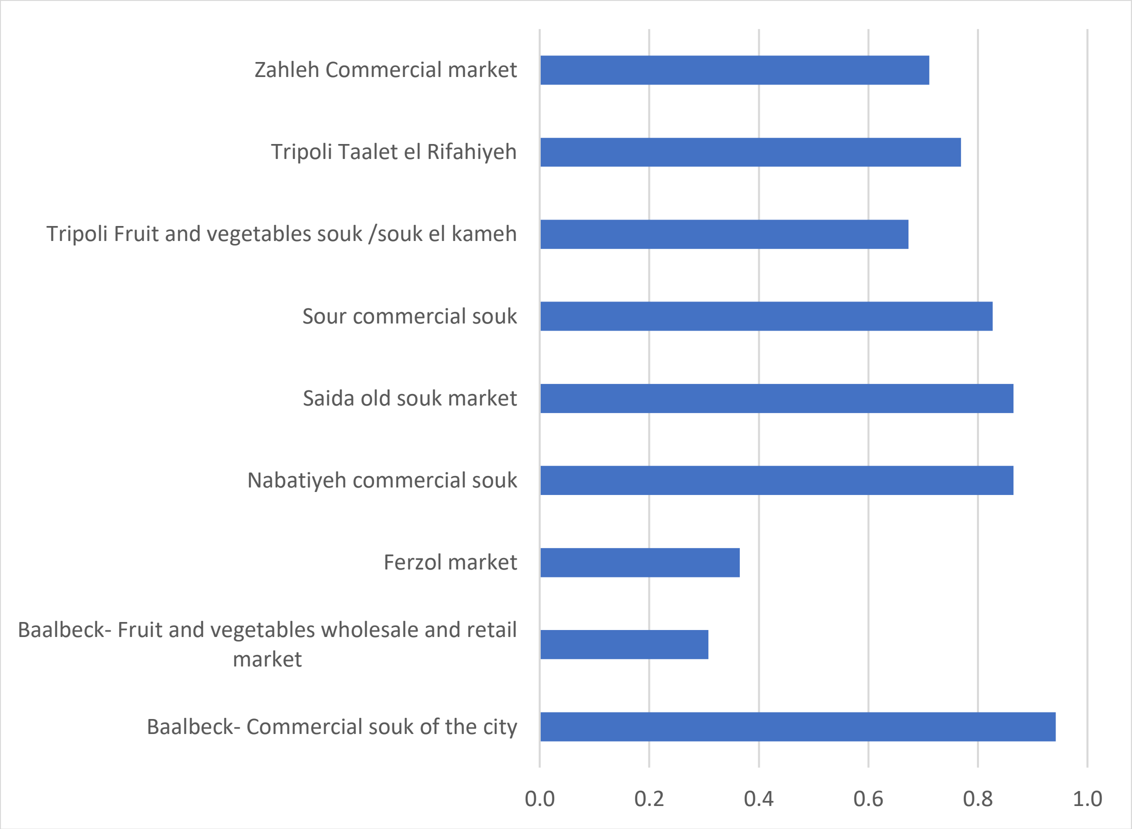


Gender inclusion SI based on gender income gap (calculated as the ratio between women and men net take-home income) and gap between male and female retailers who don’t have access to financial services. It ranges from 0 to 1, a value equals to 1 means equal inclusion of both men and women, a value close to 0 means women not included and a value higher than 1 means men not included

SI 2- Food diversity indicator

- **The highest food diversity indicator was recorded at the level of Baalbeck, Saida, Nabatiyeh and Sour commercial markets**, followed by Tripoli Taalet el Rifahiyeh, Zahle commercial market and Tripoli F&V/souk el kameh.

- **This indicator is lowest for Ferzol F&V wholesale market and Baalbeck- F&Vwholesale and retail market** *where mostly fresh fruits and vegetables are available and sold at the level of these markets*

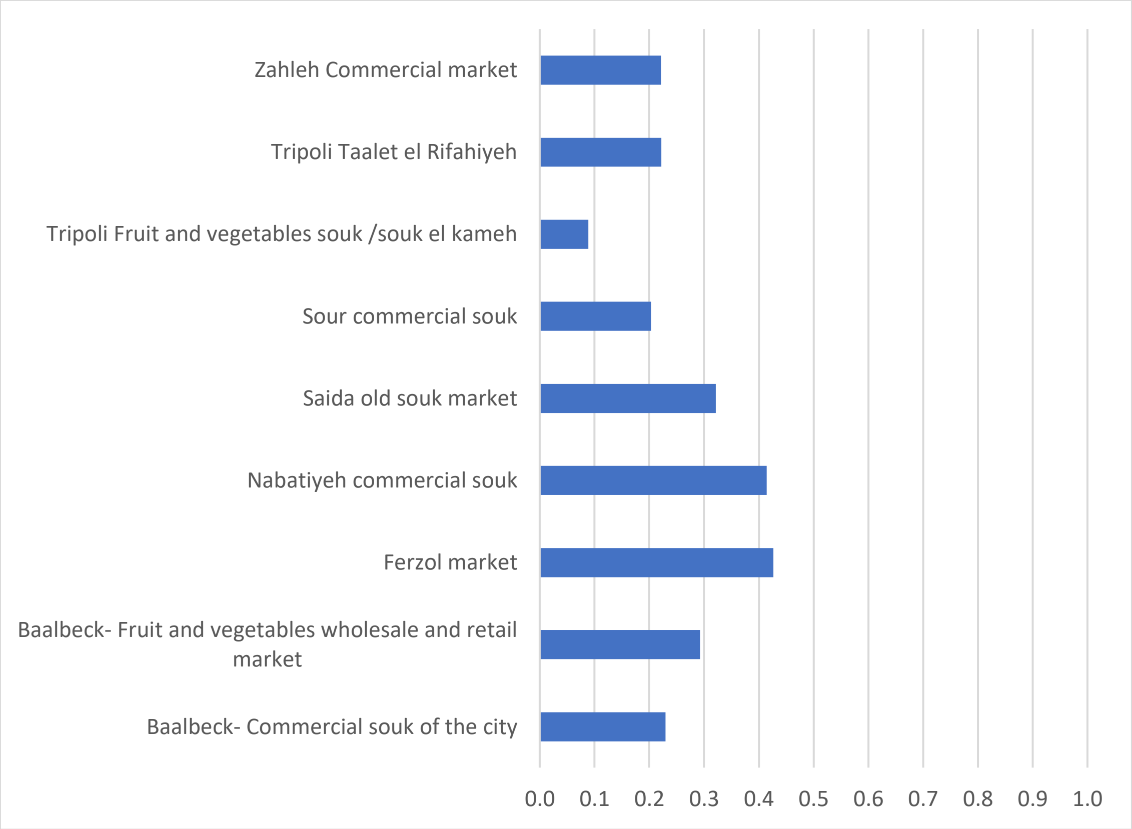


Food diversity indicator was calculated based on each product category offered at the market the number of varieties available. It ranges from 0 to 1, where 0 showing lowest food diversity -none of food products offered at the market – and 1 maximum food diversity –four or more varieties for each category is available

SI 3- Business environment indicator

- **The business environment indicator was less than 0.5 due to lack of access of retailers to formal financial services** with Ferzol market having the highest score (0.427) followed by Nabatiyeh commercial souk (0.41).

- **The lowest score observed at the level of Tripoli F&V souk/souk El kameh** (0.088) which has poor market infrastructure facilities as well as no access to formal credits

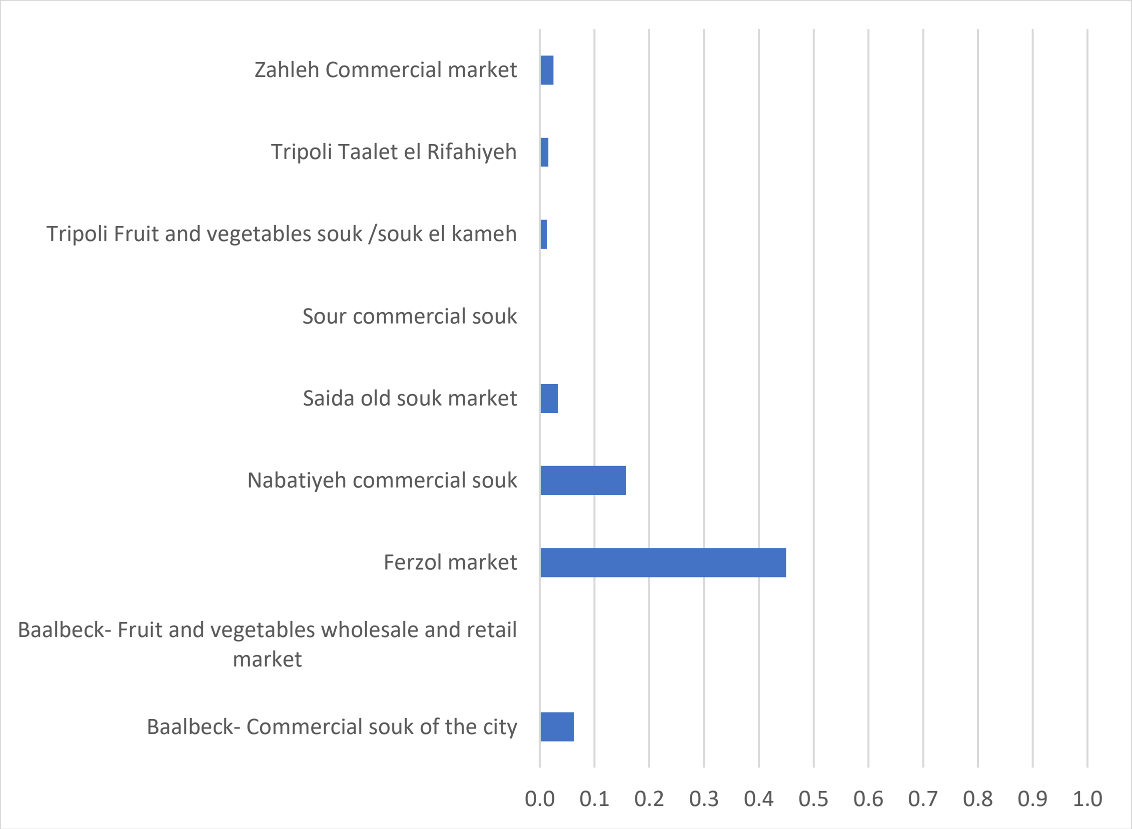


The business environment indicator considers the existing infrastructure in the markets and the access of retailers to formal financial services. The indicator ranges from 0 to 1, where 0 means that the business environment is not favourable to food retailers and 1 that the environment is advantageous for retailers.

SI 4- Producer-consumer link indicator

- **The producer consumer link indicator is low at the level of all markets** with only Ferzol market having a relatively high score (0.45) since it is one of the main F&V wholesale markets in the Bekaa region where farmers supply their products without intermediaries

- In all other surveyed markets, **retailers mostly purchase their products from intermediaries (traders/middlemen) and less from farmers**. A very small number of retailers in the surveyed markets are producers themselves



The producer-consumer link SI takes into account the share of retailers who are also producers themselves and the share of retailers who purchase directly from farmers the products that they do not produce. It ranges from 0 to 1, where 1 means that the supply chain is short, and farmers are directly linked to market without intermediaries

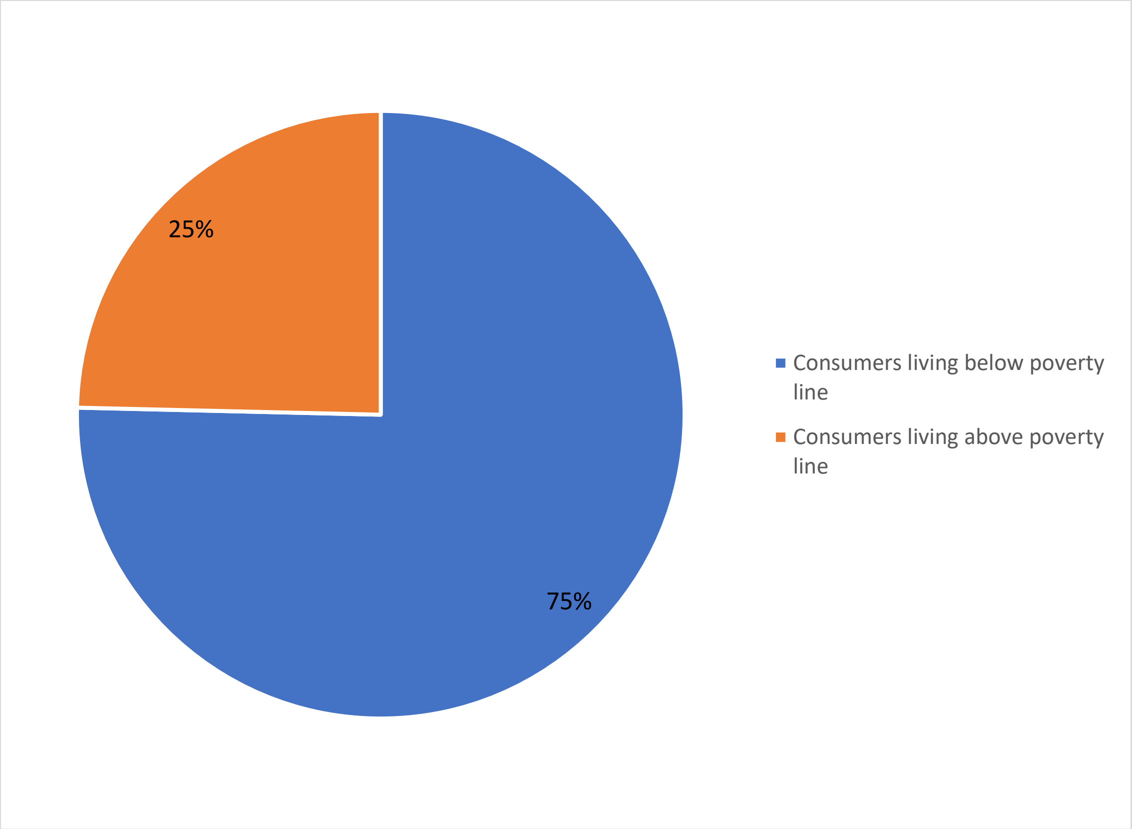
Evidence from consumers’ survey

Key findings

1- Consumers’ profile
2- Consumers’ purchasing preferences
3- Frequency of consumers’ purchase to markets
4- Consumers’ consumption diversity
5- Purchasing patterns for consumers’ with children under 5 years
6-Purchasing power
7- Markets contribution to daily food consumption
8- Contribution to the purchase of healthy food baskets
9- Synthetic indicator- Minimum contribution to healthy and diversified diet

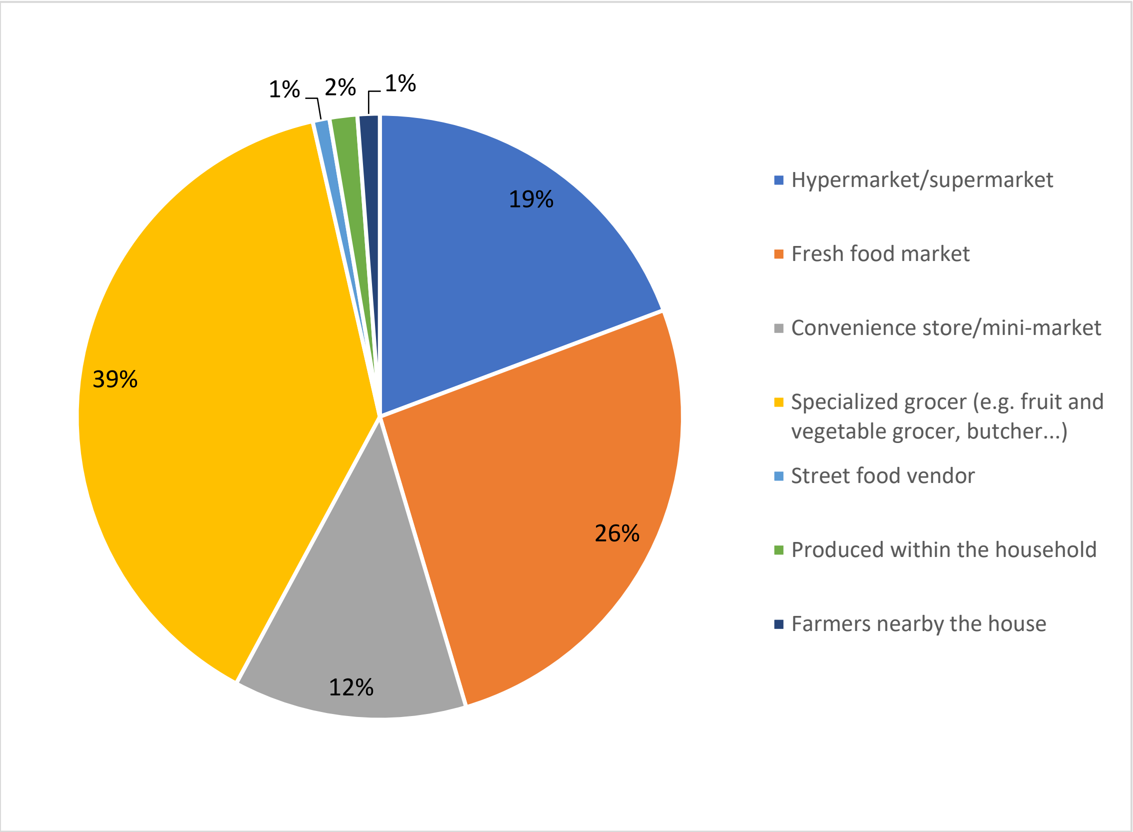
Consumers’ profile

- **About 48% of consumers live in urban areas**, 39% in periurban areas and 13% in rural areas
- **The average markets distance from consumers living areas** varies from 3 to 9 km showing that these markets cover a large food supply area
- **The majority of consumers have an average income per capita of less than LBP 4 million** with few consumers having income per capita higher than LBP 6 million
- **About 75% of consumers have a monthly income per capita that falls below the poverty line** (considering the national poverty line of LBP 3.3 million per person monthly)



Consumers’ purchasing preferences

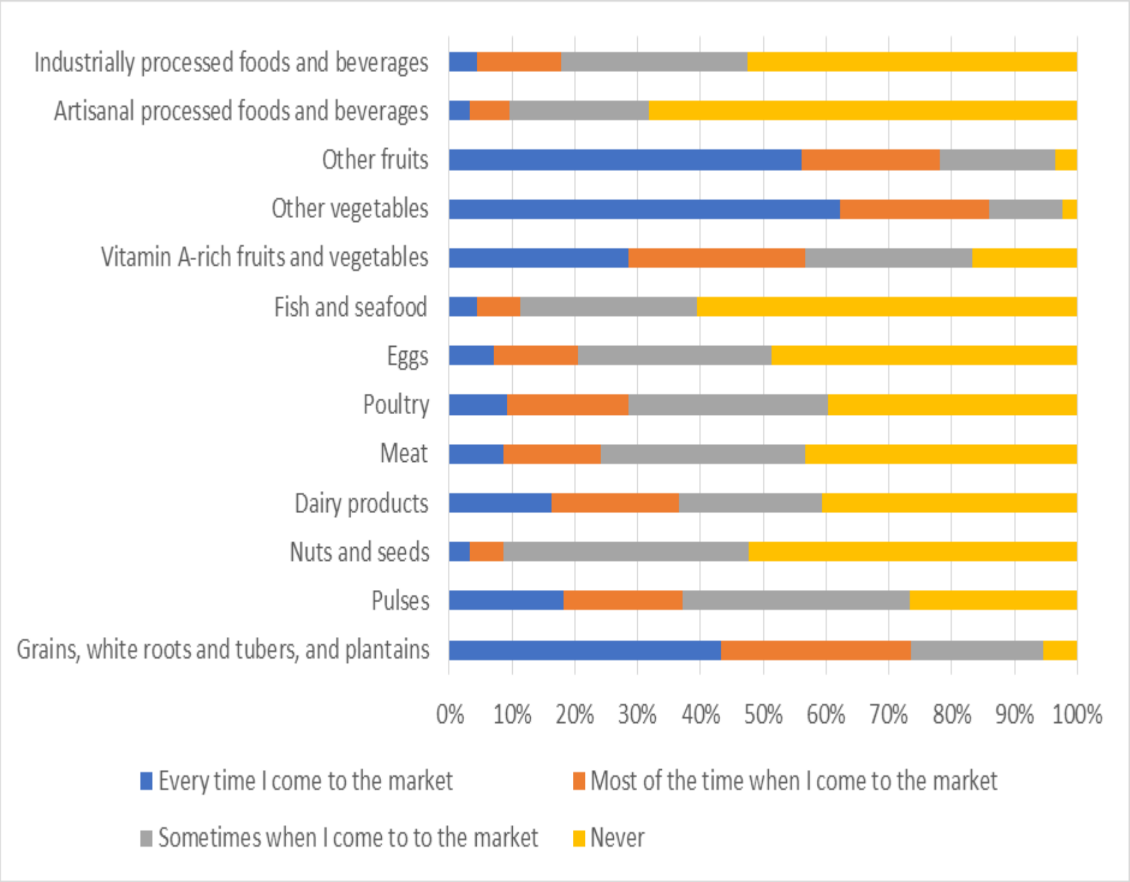
- **Consumers purchase most of the food consumed during a week from several food outlets** with highest percent purchasing from specialized grocers (i.e fruits and vegetables, butchers…) (39%), fresh market (26%), hypermarkets/ supermarkets (19%), and convenience store/minimarket (12%)
- **Convenience of the working/opening hours of the mapped markets and the wide assortment of food offered** are main reasons for consumers for buying from the markets followed by wide assortment of healthy food, safety of food offered for consumption, and market location on the way from home



Traditional formats like grocery stores and minimarkets co-exist with modern retail formats. Consumers continued to rely on traditional food retail shops as source of affordable and acceptable quality food

Frequency of consumers' purchase to markets

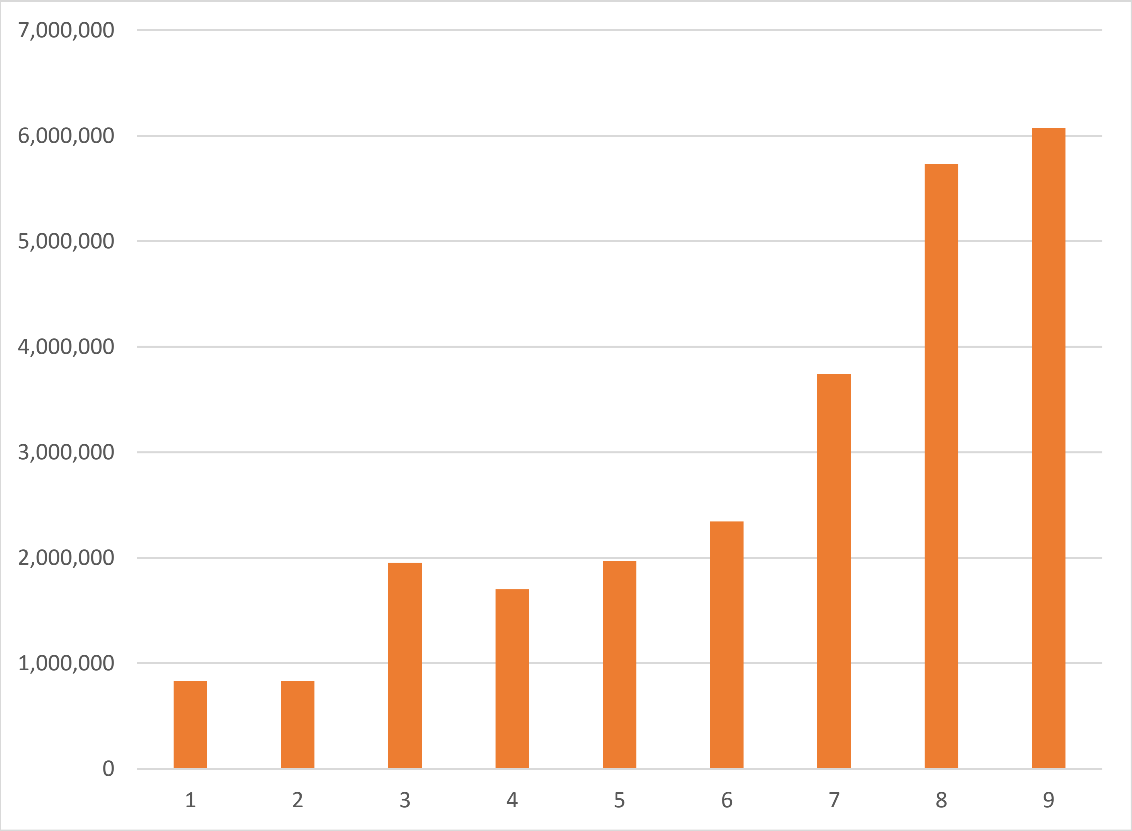
- **Fruits, vegetables and grains (including bread, potatoes, rice, pasta...) are products purchased by consumers** more frequently. Pulses followed by dairy products, meat, poultry and eggs are consumed in much lower quantities
- **Artisanal processed F&B, fish and seafood, industrially processed F&B, nuts and seeds and eggs** are groups that consumers declared not buying from the surveyed markets
- **Products not available in the markets, nor being afforded by consumers; consumers prefer to buy these products** from convenience or specialized groceries stores /other markets



Food groups that could be stored and/or produced at level of the households are less frequently purchased including artisanal processed F&B(mouneh products), industrially processed food, pulses, and some types of dairy products (such as labneh, kescheck...)

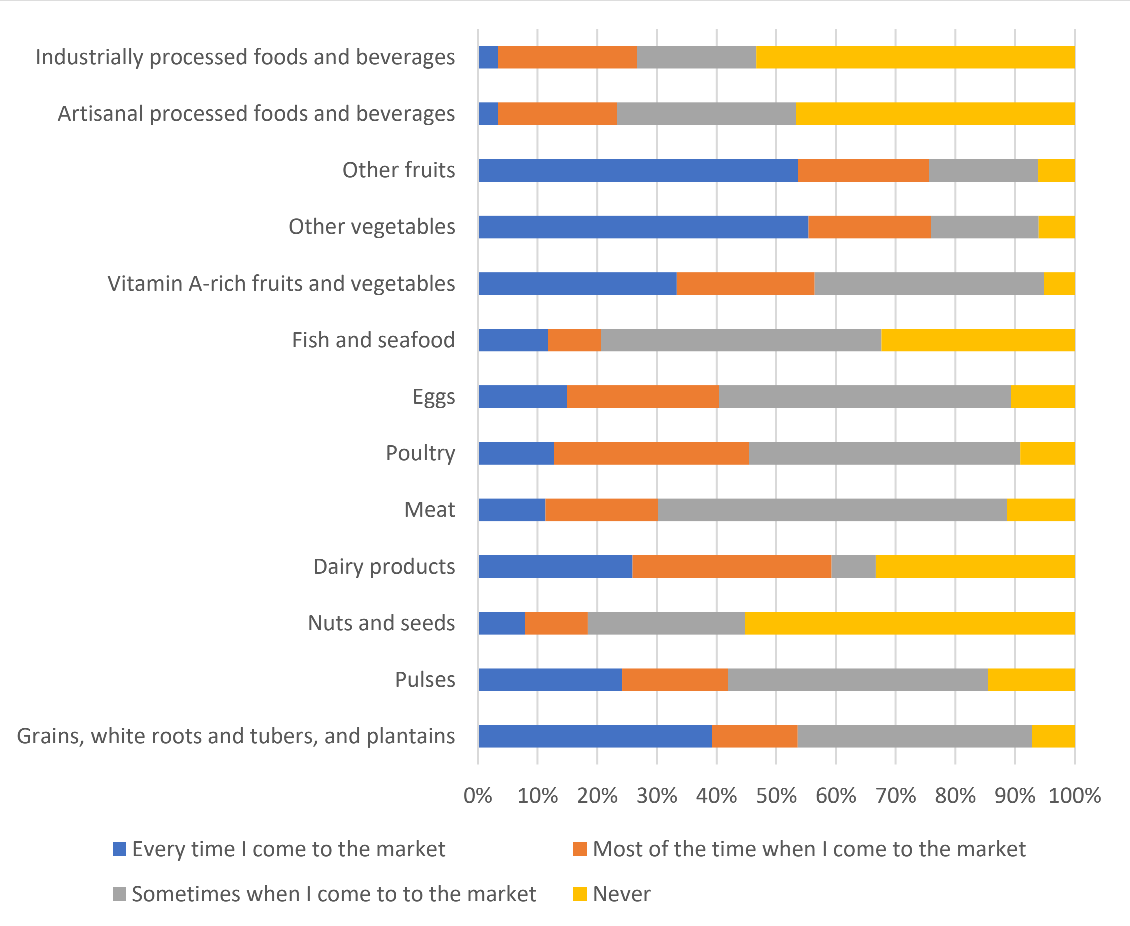
Consumers' consumption diversity

- **The dietary diversity score is high** for most types of markets
- **Items from 7 food groups were consumed by 27% of the household representatives** while items from 6 food groups were consumed by 25%
- **This score is higher for consumers with higher incomes** showing they have a greater diversified diet than consumers with lower incomes
- **40% of the surveyed consumers who are in low income brackets** (with income ranging between LBP 2-2.5 million) afford between 5- 6 food products



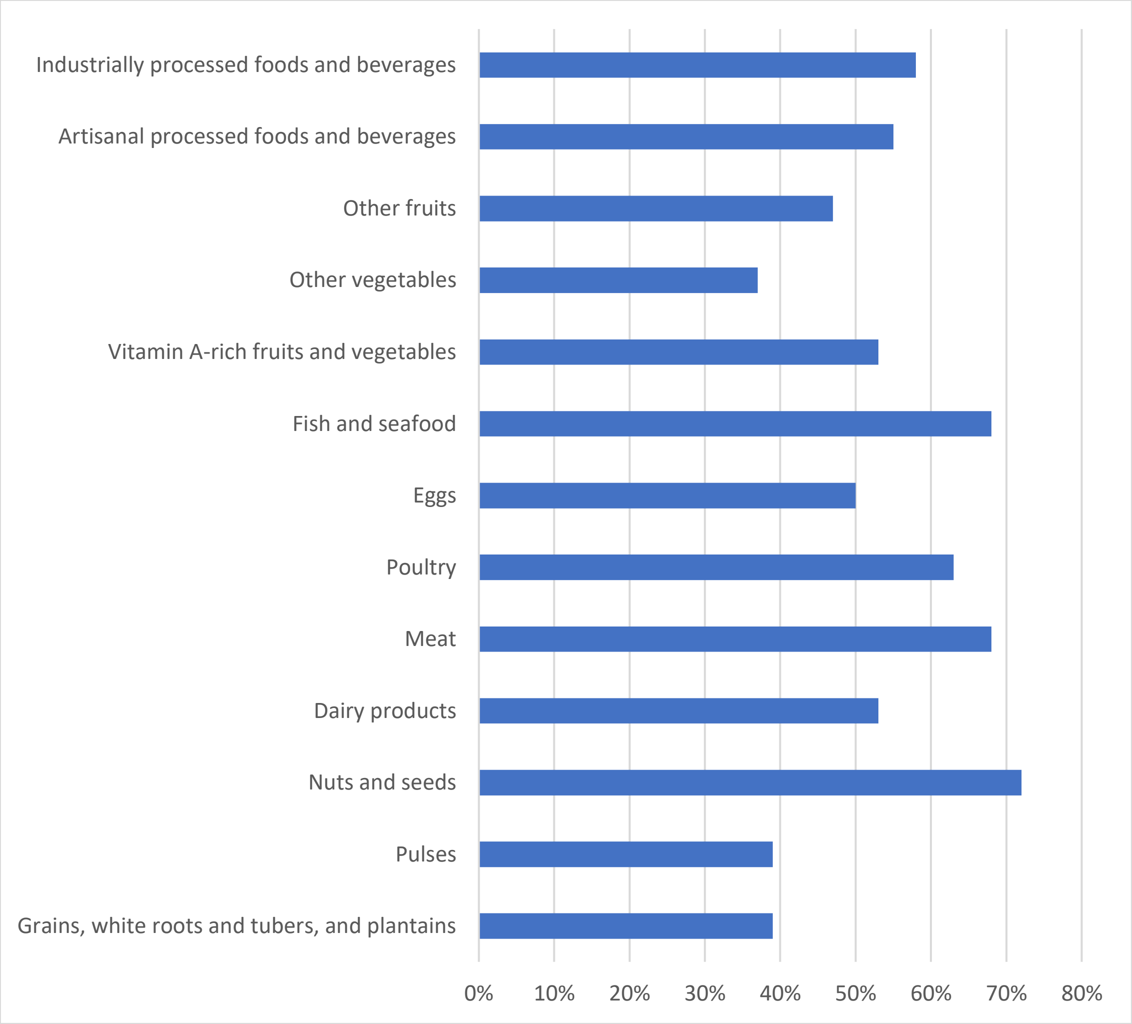
Purchasing patterns for consumers with children under 5 years

- **Products purchased by consumers with children under 5 years** include vegetables, fruits, grains, and tubers, Vitamin A rich F&V
- **Products not purchased** include nuts and seeds, industrially processed F&B, artisanal processed F&B, dairy products and fish and seafood
- **Purchasing patterns are comparable** between consumers with children under 5 years of age and other consumers
- **Most declared reason for not buying these products** is that they are too expensive. Products most affected by increase in prices include food with high source of protein including poultry, meat and pulses, followed by F&V including Vitamin A rich F&V, grains and tubers



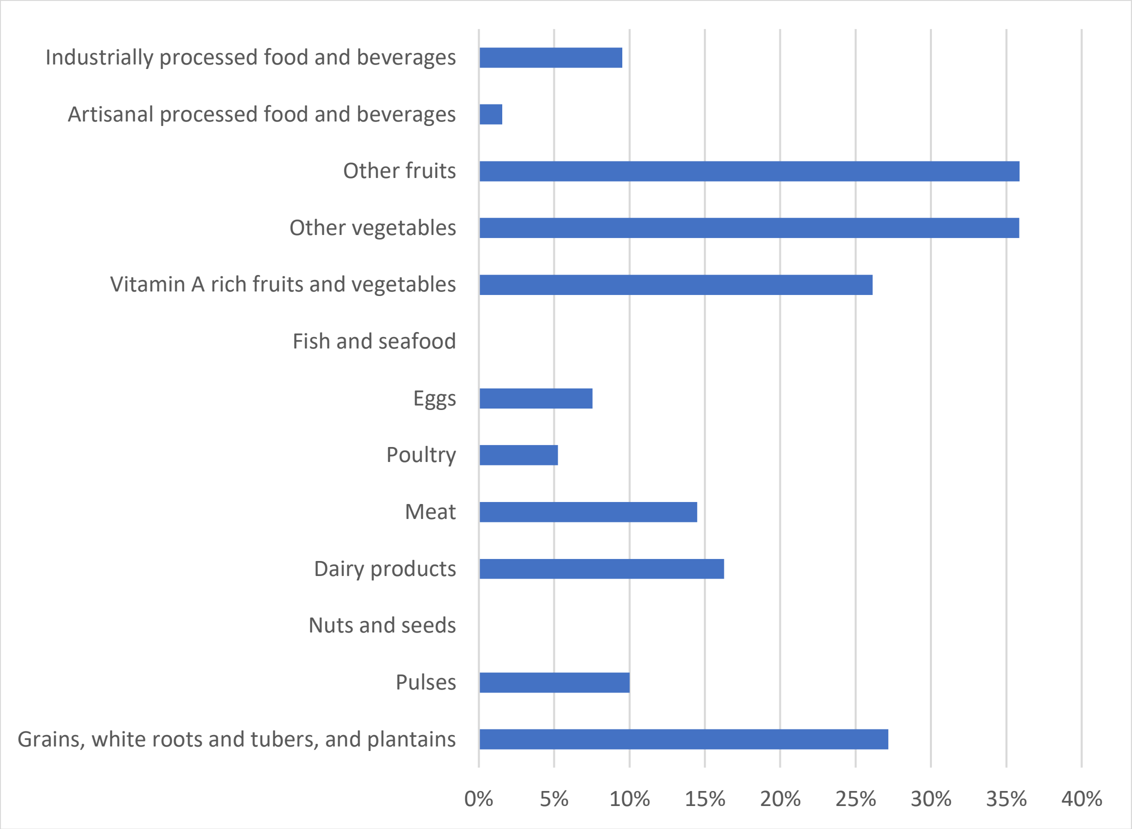
Purchasing power

- **85% of consumers declared a decrease in purchasing power** over the past year
- **Consumers who declared a decrease have a lower income** (avg. LBP 2.5 million) as compared to those not experiencing change in their purchasing power (avg. LBP 3-3.5 million)
- **Most affected food products** include nuts and seeds, fish and seafood, meat, poultry, industrially processed F&B and artisanal processed F&B
- **Animal source of proteins are among the food products with the highest decrease**, witnessing an increase in prices due to high production costs for locally produced items (poultry and eggs) and increase in cost of imports with devaluation of the LBP (meat and fish)



Markets contribution to daily food consumption

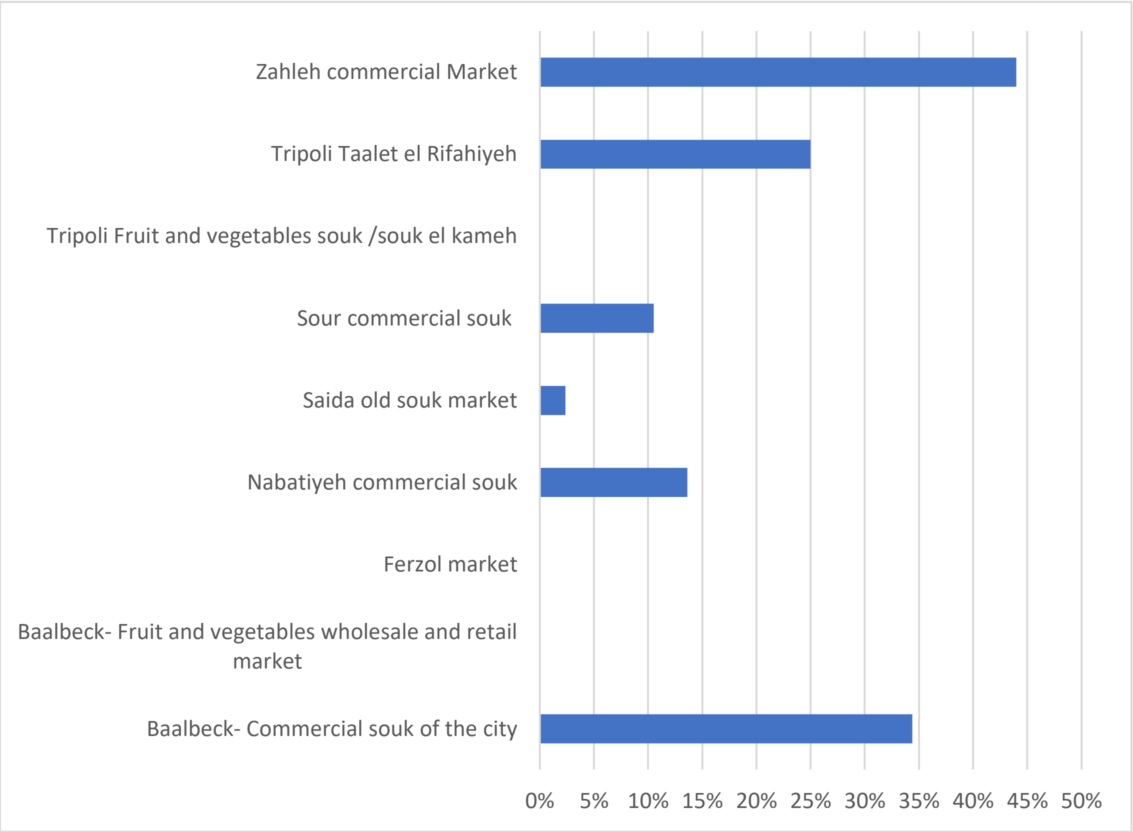
- **The contribution of the markets to daily food consumption exceeds 20%** for the following food categories: fruits and vegetables (36%), grains and tubers (27%) , and Vitamin A rich F&V (26%)
- **Fish and seafood, nuts and seeds, artisanal processed food and beverages, and poultry** are categories for which the market contribution to consumers' daily consumption is small
- **These categories are among the least consumed** within the previous 24 hours and the least frequently purchased from the markets



Markets contribution to the purchase of healthy food baskets

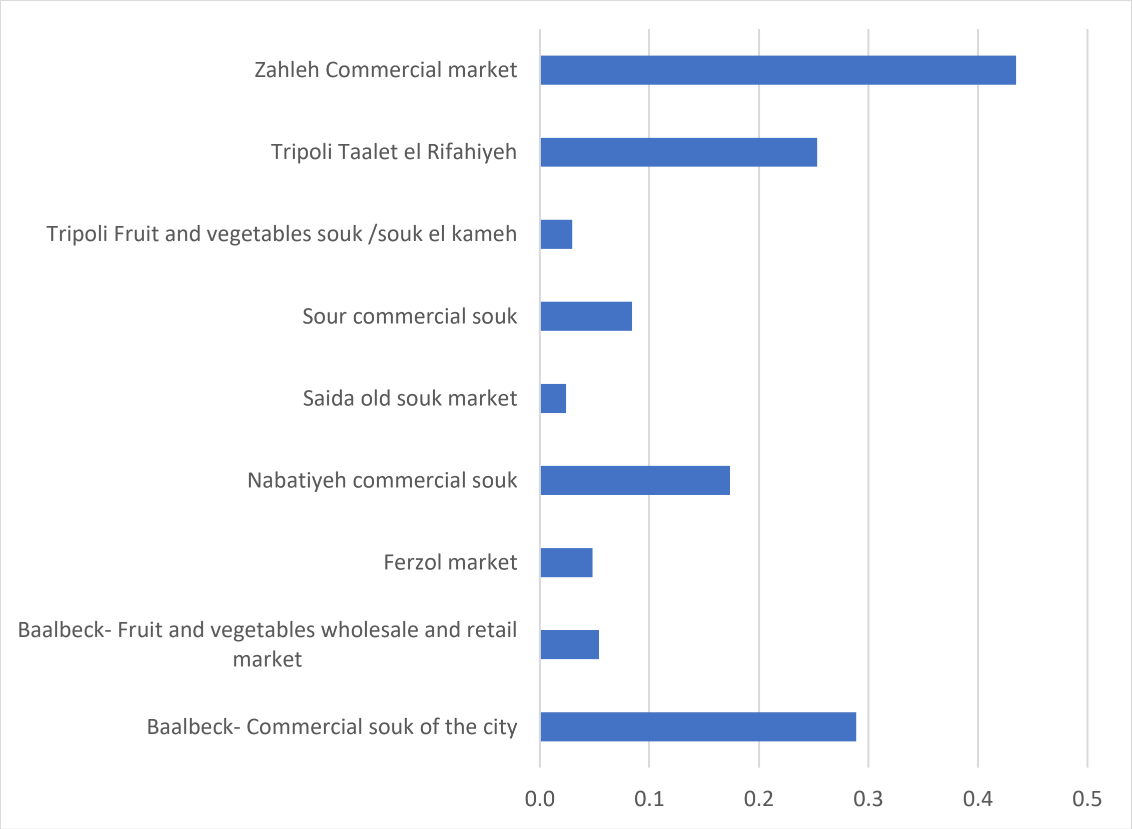
- **Markets having the highest contribution to consumers purchase on healthy food baskets** are Zahle commercial market (44%), Baalbeck commercial souk (34%), Tripoli Taalet el Rifahiyeh (25%)

- Based on this indicator, **the F&V markets of Ferzol, Baalbeck and Tripoli/souk el kameh** do not contribute to healthy food baskets as the food groups available and purchased by consumers belong to only three different food groups (source of carbohydrates, vitamins and fibers)



SI - Minimum contribution to healthy and diversified diets

- **Three markets (Zahleh commercial souk, Baalbeck commercial souk and Taalat el Rifahiyeh)** have a score higher than 0.25
- **These markets are crucial in ensuring access to healthy and diversified diets** to at least 25% of consumers making their purchases at the level of these markets



The minimum contribution to healthy and diversified diets SI was calculated as the sum (then divided by two) of the markets contribution to daily food consumption indicator and the contribution to the purchase of healthy food baskets indicator. It ranges from 0 to 1, where 1 means that the market contributes to ensuring access to healthy and diversified diets to all consumers

Discussion

Key recommendations

The income pathway (producers and retailers)

There is a need to increase retailers' income to contribute to improving their FSN through the following priority interventions:

- **Design and implement policies to support energy costs to producers/retailers** and provide financial support for adoption of alternative energy sources including RE (when applicable) with the aim of decreasing costs and increasing retailers and producers' income
- **Increase access of food retailers/producers to business development services and credit services** with special focus on women to develop women and men retailers and producers' businesses, increase the scale of women businesses, improve net take home income as well as reduce poverty among food retailers and producers

There is need to support linkages between producers and retailers by helping small individual producers/cooperatives link with food retailers with aim to shorten supply chain, help producers market their crops, reduce market intermediaries, lower food costs, through:

- **Provide support/training to smallholders to access TMs through collective bargaining**, increase access to price information, and develop platforms that would facilitate linkages between retailers and producers
- **Support creation/development of new/existing permanent or seasonal farmers' markets** at the level of the territories to increase supply directly from producers in the selected territories

The availability pathway (consumers)

There is need to develop the market infrastructure (reduce food losses and improve food safety) in order to increase availability, this can be achieved through the following:

- **Improve cold chain infrastructure and warehouses** (including supporting the creation of cold facilities at the level of the F&V markets) to extend the shelf life of perishable food thus contributing to increasing their availability and increasing the profitability of retailers.
- **Provide TA and direct support to producers** to develop post harvest technologies
- **Develop and deliver training programmes to retailers on storage** to reduce spoilage and contamination of food as well as provide small equipment or tools (such as refrigerators) to reduce food losses.
- **Develop capacities of producers/cooperatives to improve quality and safety** of the products (storage, processing, packaging, labelling/branding and better certification ...) with the aim to reduce food losses and wastes as well as facilitating products' marketability
- **Conduct awareness sessions to consumers on food safety** and food losses and wastes

Pathway for improving nutritionally important food groups for local diets

Given the role of markets as essential suppliers when looking at the high monthly purchases of grains and tubers, F&V (including Vitamin rich F&V) which are important source of micronutrients and bioactive components, the following is needed:

- **Support business expansions and products' diversification towards local foods "mouneh"** in these markets with special focus on women. Rural women mostly engaged in processing of traditional food products to be supported to market their products in the territorial markets.
- **Conduct gender-sensitive awareness campaigns on healthy nutrition**, importance of traditional Lebanese diet with special focus on dietary needs for children under 5 years of age in the selected territories

The affordability pathway

Given that affordability was a main concern for all products categories, particularly for animal source of proteins such as fish, meat, poultry and dairy products, investments needed to develop these value chains and decrease their production costs thus reducing consumers' prices of food items, through the following:

- **Develop animal value chains** focusing on : livestock including small ruminants, poultry and eggs sector, aquaculture, with the aim to increase local production and availability of these food items. Actions that would support the production of fodder crops and restoration of pasturelands should also be promoted
- **Design and implement direct support programmes** to crop and livestock producers and provide financial and technical support to smallholders, cooperatives and MSMEs
- **Develop actions to crop and livestock producers** (including support for adoption of good agricultural and management practices) with aim to increase production and productivity

The affordability pathway- animal proteins source foods

While animal production remains an important component of agriculture in Lebanon, poultry and dairy are by far the most produced animal products followed by mutton and sheep. Lebanon is a significant importer of animal protein; Priority interventions should include:

- **Develop dairy value chains/cheese industries** with special focus on women
- **Increase cultivated areas and production of pulses** (and improve seeds’ multiplication programmes) for pulses should be considered as they represent a good plant-based protein source (and constitute a major part in the Lebanese diet)

Additional recommendations

In support of the above-mentioned pathways towards a nutrition and healthy diet in the territorial markets, there is need to:

- **Design and launch a programme for local territorial development** including review of local territorial development policies and action plans, and development of territorial markets in support of healthy nutrition
- **Implement national nutrition surveys** including food consumption survey and monitoring nutrition indicators on a regular basis

Thank You

Q&A

Caritas Lebanon

Overview and Services

March 2023

01 Caritas Lebanon Overview

Caritas Lebanon was founded in 1972

Caritas Lebanon is a member of Caritas family, known as Caritas Internationalis, ONE OF THE LARGEST HUMANITARIAN NETWORKS IN THE WORLD comprising more than 165 Catholic organizations.

Goals and Objectives:

- **PROVIDE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**
- **HEALTH & SOCIAL CARE**
- **SERVICE & EDUCATION**
- **SOCIAL ORGANIZATION**
- **TRANSPARENCY & VISIBILITY**
- **COORDINATION & COOPERATION**

Values:

- **LOVE**
- **GENEROSITY**
- **RESPECT**
- **PEACE**
- **HOPE**
- **JUSTICE**

02 Caritas Lebanon Services

HEALTH

SOCIAL

PROTECTION

EDUCATION

DEVELOPMENT & LIVELIHOOD

YOUTH

SOCIAL ENTREPRISE

10 **Primary Healthcare Centers (PHCCs)**

9 **Mobile Medical Units (MMUs)**

- Drugs distribution
- Nursing Care
- Diagnostic Exams
- Vaccination
- Dental Care
- Educational Campaigns
- Awareness Sessions
- Immunization
- Home Visits
- Contribution to hospital patient share
- Psychosocial support Activities
- School Health Programs

Caritas Lebanon

02 Caritas Lebanon Services

- HEALTH
- **SOCIAL**
- PROTECTION
- EDUCATION
- DEVELOPMENT & LIVELIHOOD
- YOUTH
- SOCIAL ENTREPRISE

36 social centers covering the entire Lebanese territories

- Social intervention, support and follow up
- Networking, Coordination and referrals
- Support groups
- Community engagement
- Reintegration

Caritas Lebanon

02 Caritas Lebanon Services

- HEALTH
- SOCIAL
- **PROTECTION**
- EDUCATION
- DEVELOPMENT & LIVELIHOOD
- YOUTH
- SOCIAL ENTERPRISE

Centers / Shelters / Schools:

- **Cedar** shelter for GBV survivors.
- **OAK** shelter receiving unaccompanied adolescents girls.
- **Laksetha** temporary shelter and community center for migrants.
- **Olive shelter** receiving the female women migrant domestic workers survivors of trafficking, exploitation and abuses.
- **Beth Aleph School** for migrant and refugee children in partnership with the social office of Vincentian Fathers in Achrafieh.
- Presence **24/7** in the **Retention Center** for **Foreign Detainees** at the **General Security**.

Since 1994, Caritas migrant's department has helped more than 300,000 migrants regardless of their race, religion, ethnicity, and political beliefs.

Caritas Lebanon

02 Caritas Lebanon Services

- HEALTH
- SOCIAL
- PROTECTION
- **EDUCATION**
- DEVELOPMENT & LIVELIHOOD
- YOUTH
- SOCIAL ENTREPRISE

Special Education Schools:

- Fghal Center, Jbeil
- Patriarch Sfeir, Zahle
- Hope School, Bhersaf
- Lebaa School, South Lebanon

Our education programs provide academic, financial, psychosocial, protection, medical, and specialized education services

Our educational initiatives are designed not only to prevent early dropout, delinquency, and child labor, but also to assist students in achieving academic and personal success

02 Caritas Lebanon Services

- HEALTH
- SOCIAL
- PROTECTION
- EDUCATION
- **DEVELOPMENT & LIVELIHOOD**
- YOUTH
- SOCIAL ENTREPRISE

Support local economic growth and market systems to sustain employment and income generating opportunities by strengthening MSMEs (Micro Small and Medium Enterprises) and boost productivity and competitiveness.

Empowering the vulnerable communities by providing them with technical and soft skills to match the current needs of the job market.

Supporting local development initiatives and rural communities by initiating and supporting agriculture and agro-processing projects as well as focusing on renewable energy projects.

<u>Training Centers:</u>

- **St John, Jbeil**
- **Fghal Center, Jbeil**
- **Centrale, Jounieh** (to be launched 1st of April)
- **CL Sector, Antelias** (to be launched 1st of April)
- **Darouna, Furn El Chebbak**
- **CL Technical School IEFT, Zahle**
- **Patriarch Sfeir Center, Zahle**

Caritas Lebanon

02 Caritas Lebanon Services

- HEALTH
- SOCIAL
- PROTECTION
- EDUCATION
- DEVELOPMENT & LIVELIHOOD
- **YOUTH**
- SOCIAL ENTREPRISE

Our Youth adopt the mission of the Catholic Church to serve the poor without any discrimination and promote integral human development, charity and justice.

Services:

- **Organizing recreational activities for children**
- **Organizing activities for the elderly, summer camps for children, environmental events like cleaning beaches and lakes, and rehabilitation of homes and prisons.**
- **Participating in the organization of international events, as well as, sports and school and university fairs and exhibitions.**
- **Providing healthy meals for people in need, visiting the sick at hospitals and awareness of volunteer work.**

Caritas Lebanon

02 Caritas Lebanon Services

HEALTH

SOCIAL

PROTECTION

EDUCATION

DEVELOPMENT & LIVELIHOOD

YOUTH

SOCIAL ENTREPRISE

- U-Feed / Caritas Social Eatery
- Academia / IT Academy
- Caritas Social Housing
- Agro-food center / Deir El Ahmar
- Intajouna

Caritas Lebanon

03 Caritas Lebanon Services Under Food Security & Agriculture

CASH ASSISTANCE

IN KIND SUPPORT

MEALS

TRAININGS

PRODUCTION

03 Caritas Lebanon Services Under Food Security & Agriculture

CASH ASSISTANCE

IN KIND SUPPORT

MEALS

TRAININGS

PRODUCTION

- **Under the MFA of Denmark, and with the support of Caritas Denmark, provision of Cash for Work support for agricultural production in Caritas Safe Shelters.**

Caritas Lebanon

03 Caritas Lebanon Services Under Food Security & Agriculture

CASH ASSISTANCE

IN KIND SUPPORT

MEALS

TRAININGS

PRODUCTION

- **Under WFP, supporting vulnerable Lebanese households struggling with food insecurity and limited financial resources with a safe and nutritious yearly food supply.**

- **Distribution of 1000 food Parcels per month, over a period of 10 months, through CL 36 sectors.**

- **Distribution of Food parcels to teachers and students under CL Education Centers.**

Caritas Lebanon

03 Caritas Lebanon
Services Under Food Security & Agriculture

- CASH ASSISTANCE
- IN KIND SUPPORT
- **MEALS**
- TRAININGS
- PRODUCTION

- **Provision of meals (3 times per day) to Detainees at the General Security Retention Center**
- **Under the MFA of Denmark, and with the support of Caritas Denmark, distribution of safe hot meals through our Caritas Social Eatery/U-Feed for around 11,000 beneficiaries in 5 regions of Beirut and CL Safe Shelters.**
- **Distribution of 900 Hot meals on weekly basis from our Caritas Social Eatery/U-Feed since 2020.**

Caritas Lebanon

03 Caritas Lebanon Services Under Food Security & Agriculture

- CASH ASSISTANCE
- IN KIND SUPPORT
- MEALS
- **TRAININGS**
- PRODUCTION

ACCESS TO SUSTAINABLE EMPLOYMENT (ASE)

The project consists of a 24 months intervention to equip youths in Beirut, Mount Lebanon, and Bekaa with the skills and links needed to (re-)enter the labour market either as micro-/small-business entrepreneurs or as skilled employees.

The project further seeks to empower the youths (50% Syrian refugee youth and 50% other conflict-affected youth, equally targeting men and women) and increase their self-reliance thereby minimizing negative coping strategies, protecting them from exploitation, and improving their mental health.

Caritas Lebanon

03 Caritas Lebanon Services Under Food Security & Agriculture

- CASH ASSISTANCE
- IN KIND SUPPORT
- MEALS
- **TRAININGS**
- PRODUCTION

ACCESS TO SUSTAINABLE EMPLOYMENT (ASE)

Under the sector of Agriculture and Agro-food, youths are receiving:

- **SOFT SKILLS TRAINING**
- **TECHNICAL VOCATIONAL TRAININGS (TVET)**
- **EMPLOYABILITY TRAINING**
- **BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT TRAINING**

The TVET Training will allow youth to:

- **Understand the agriculture sector in Lebanon, its strength, and its challenges**
- **Earn basic farming skills such as : pruning, irrigation, fertilizing, planting…**
- **Understand the agri-food sector in Lebanon and be introduced to the job opportunities in this sector**
- **Be initiated to different food processing techniques that require innovation and low financial investment**
- **Be initiated to the basics of agri-food businesses and how to start one.**

Caritas Lebanon

03 Caritas Lebanon
Services Under Food Security & Agriculture

- CASH ASSISTANCE
- IN KIND SUPPORT
- MEALS
- TRAININGS
- **PRODUCTION**

- **Setting up of Green Houses in Safe Shelters and Provision of Agricultural Trainings and Production to Migrants and Refugees. Under the MFA of Denmark, and with the support of Caritas Denmark.**

03 Caritas Lebanon Services Under Food Security & Agriculture

CASH ASSISTANCE

IN KIND SUPPORT

MEALS

TRAININGS

PRODUCTION

تعاونية المحبة لتصريف الانتاج الأهلي
INTAJOUNA

Established by Caritas Lebanon in 2005

Intajouna takes a variety of rural natural products from Deir El Ahmar agro-food center and other farmers.

Objectives:
- **Help local Producers and Farmers move from a position of vulnerability to security and economic self-sufficiency**
- **Promote the production and consumption of traditional, natural, and healthy Lebanese products**
- **Generate income for re-investment in the Cooperative of Charity**

Beneficiaries:
- **Farmers and small cooperatives**
- **Women working at the Deir El Ahmar Agro-food processing facility**
- **Suppliers of raw materials (sugar, salt, containers…)**
- **Region of Deir El Ahmar and North Bekaa**
- **Lebanese household consuming high quality natural products**

Caritas Lebanon

ومكملين...

بدعمكن

حملة المشاركة 2023

caritas.org.lb/donation

Caritas Lebanon

Updates from the sector

LEBANON
FOOD SECURITY & AGRICULTURE
SECTOR

Mailing list

- Deduplication for Lebanese – BUILDING BLOCKS
  - Data collected by part doesn’t meet the minimum required – internal discussion on best ways forward

- Food assistance package guidance revision – in collaboration with the Nutrition sector
  - First meeting 24 February
  - First draft to be shared 10 march (delayed)
  - Deadline for inputs – 17 march (to postpone)
  - 2nd meeting – Friday 24 March (to remain)

- Farmers’ register launch took place March 2nd – will share today material