

## Introduction

During Q1 2021, WFP Jordan responded to the food needs of 512,524 refugees, including 258,005 females and 254,519 males, through the provision of monthly food assistance in the form of cash-based transfers.<sup>1</sup> Assistance was provided in both host communities and camps, covering 401,763 refugees living in communities and 110,761 refugees living in camps. To ensure that assistance is effective, efficient, relevant, and aligned with organizational commitments towards protection and inclusion, the WFP Jordan Country Office conducts quarterly food security outcome monitoring (FSOM) exercises covering WFP beneficiaries in Jordan. This factsheet provides a summary of the main findings for communities from the FSOM Q1 2021 conducted in March 2021 and covering the first quarter (Q1) of 2021. The findings and conclusions presented in this document provide the evidence base for effective data-driven decision-making for WFP and partners with the goal of improving program quality and accountability.

## Programme Overview

### Programme Coverage



### Programme Targeting

Targeted coverage for refugee households in communities.

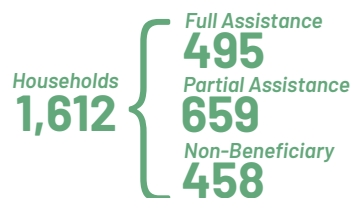
### Programme Assistance Modality

Unconditional e-vouchers redeemable at either WFP-contracted shops or as unrestricted cash at WFP-contracted ATMs with a value of 23 JOD or 15 JOD per person per month depending on level of household vulnerability.

## Study Overview

### Data Collection

Phone-based survey administered to a stratified random sample, with a margin of error of 5% and confidence interval of 95%.



### Data Analysis

Weighted descriptive statistics and hypothesis testing across strata (full assistance, partial assistance, non-beneficiary) and disaggregate (head of household gender, household disability status, household size).

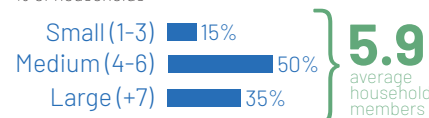
## Study Findings

### Demographics

Refugee households in communities had an average household size of 5.9 members with 35% of households having 7 or more members. Seventy-two percent of households were headed by a male member of the household with the remaining 28% of households headed by a female member. The average age of the head of households was 42 years, with 10% of households headed by a member who was 60 or older. Household heads were primarily married (85%) and generally completed formal education through primary school (63%) or secondary school (20%). Eleven percent of household heads were illiterate, although this percentage increased to 14% for female-headed households. Forty-seven percent of household heads found work in Q1 2021, of which 89% engaged in temporary work and 9% engaged in permanent work. Among female-headed households, only 19% of household heads found work in Q1 2021. Seventeen percent of households had a member with a disability, with difficulties in walking (12%) and seeing (9%) reported as the most frequent challenges.

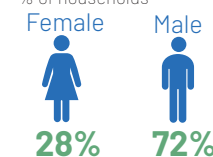
### Household Composition

% of households



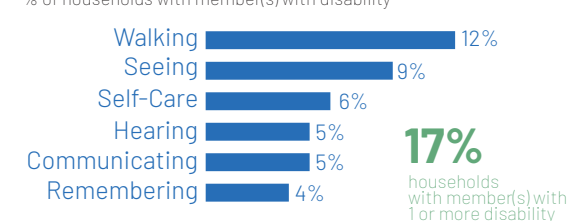
### Head of Household Gender

% of households



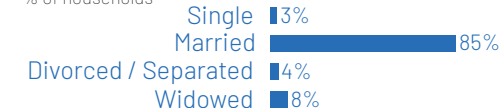
### Household Disability Status<sup>2</sup>

% of households with member(s) with disability



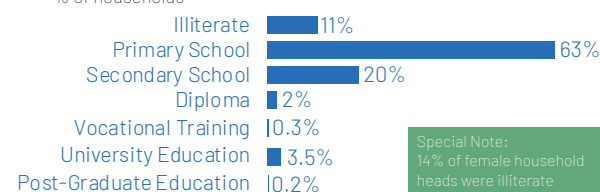
### Head of Household Marital Status

% of households



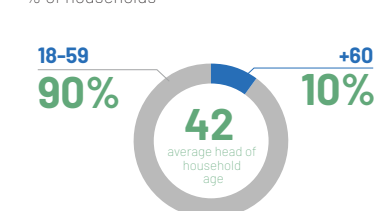
### Head of Household Educational Status

% of households



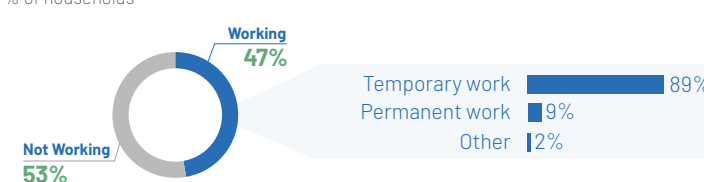
### Head of Household Age

% of households



### Head of Household Employment Status

% of households

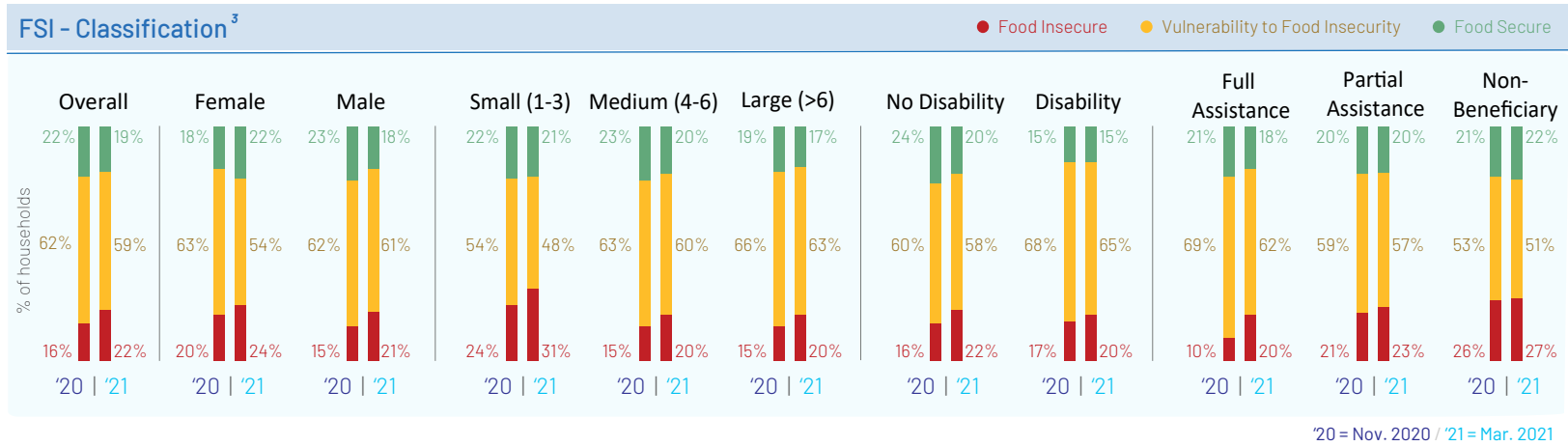


<sup>1</sup> Beneficiary figures as of March 30, 2021.

<sup>2</sup> Presented values follow the "Disability 3" threshold recommended by the Washington Group which includes all households citing "a lot of difficulty" or "cannot do at all".

# Food Security Index (FSI)

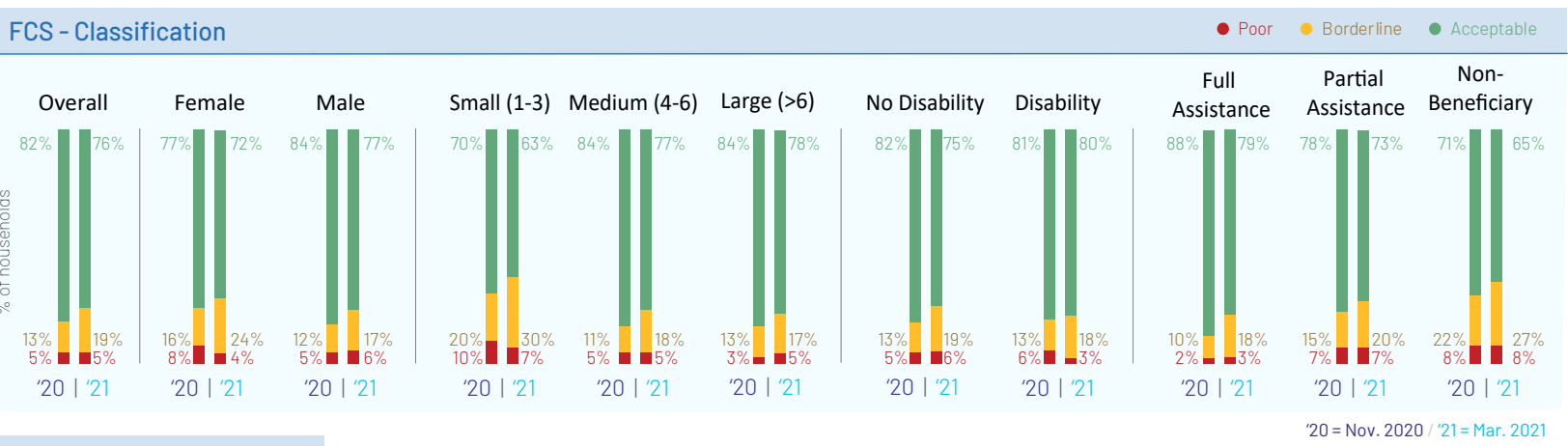
**Definition:** The Food Security Index is a composite measure of food security that combines the Food Consumption Score (FCS), Food Expenditure Share (FES), and Livelihoods-Based Coping Strategy Index (LCSI) into a single holistic measure calculated following the Consolidated Approach to Reporting Indicators of Food Security (CARI).



- Food security for refugee households in communities generally deteriorated with 81% of households classified as food insecure or vulnerable to food insecurity in Mar 2021 compared to 78% of households in Nov 2020.
- Disaggregation by household demographics identified large households (83%) and households with a member with a disability (85%) as particularly likely to be food insecure or vulnerable to food insecurity. Small households had a high prevalence of food insecurity (31%) but a relatively low prevalence of vulnerability to food insecurity (48%).

## Food Consumption Score (FCS)

**Definition:** The Food Consumption Score measures dietary diversity, consumption frequency, and relative nutritional importance of household food consumption. The measure is considered a good indicator of current food security when combined with the Consumption-Based Coping Strategy Index (rCSI).



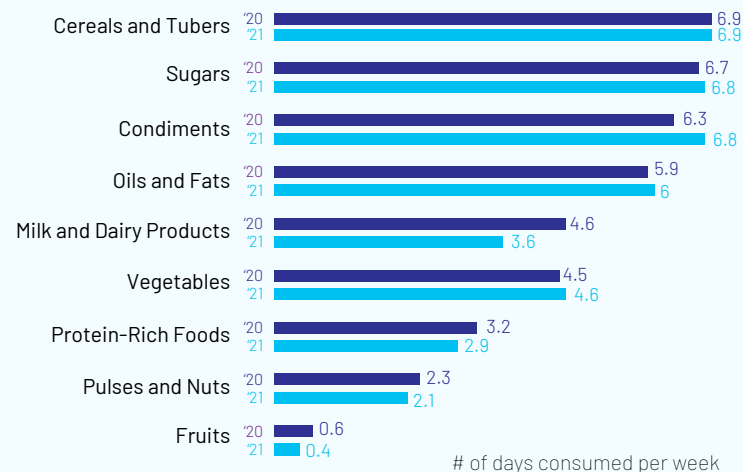
- The average food consumption score for refugee households in communities decreased to 57 in Mar 2021, compared to 63 in Nov 2020, largely driven by a reduction in the consumption of meat, fruits, and milk and dairy products.
- Food consumption for refugee households in communities decreased with 24% of households having poor or borderline food consumption in Mar 2021 compared to 18% of households in Nov 2020.
- Disaggregation by household demographics identified female-headed households (28%) and small households (37%) as having particularly inadequate food consumption, as measured by the proportion of households with poor or borderline food consumption.

**FCS - Average Score**

| Nov '20 | Mar '21 |
|---------|---------|
| 63      | 57      |

<sup>3</sup> Disaggregation headers indicated by the following: Female = female-headed households; Male = male-headed households; Full Assistance = households receiving 23 JOD per person per month from WFP; Partial Assistance = households receiving 15 JOD per person per month from WFP

## Food Group Consumption



**Cereals and Tubers** includes rice, wheat, bulgur, bread, pasta, wheat flour, vermicelli, potatoes, sweet potatoes, etc.

**Condiments** includes spices, tea, coffee, cocoa, salt, garlic, yeast, baking powder, thyme, etc.

**Sugars** includes sugar, juice, halawa, honey, jam, cakes, candy, cookies, pastries, etc.

**Oils and Fats** includes vegetable oil, palm oil, olive oil, ghee, margarine, etc.

**Vegetables** includes tomatoes, cucumber, onions, carrot, red pepper, pumpkin, spinach, broccoli, etc.

**Milk and Dairy Products** includes powdered milk, fresh milk, cheese, yoghurt, etc.

**Protein-Rich Foods** includes chicken, beef, lamb, goat, duck, fish, eggs, etc. and includes both flesh meat and organ meat (liver, kidneys, hearts, etc.)

**Pulses and Nuts** includes lentils, chickpeas, peanut, almond, chestnut, cashew, etc.

**Fruits** includes apple, banana, orange, clementine, apricot, peach, etc.

Refugee households in communities generally consumed cereals and tubers, condiments, sugars, and oils and fats 6-7 days per week. Vegetables, protein-rich foods, and milk and dairy products were consumed 3-5 days per week, while pulses, nuts and fruits were consumed 1-2 days per week. The only major change in consumption patterns between Nov 2020 and Mar 2021 was for milk and dairy products, which dropped from 4.6 days per week in Nov 2020 to 3.6 days per week in Mar 2021.

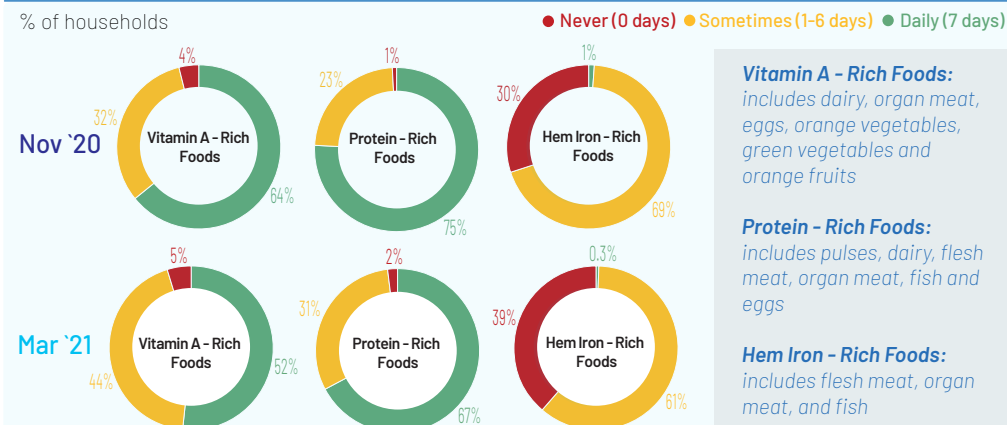
## Food Consumption Score - Nutrition (FCS-N)

'20 = Nov. 2020 / '21 = Mar. 2021

**Definition:** The Food Consumption Score - Nutrition is a proxy measure of household consumption of key macro and micronutrients, including Vitamin A, Protein, and Hem Iron. The FCS-N is assessed as the frequency of consumption of Vitamin A-Rich, Protein-Rich, and Hem Iron - Rich foods over a 7 day recall period.

- In March, consumption of Vitamin A - Rich Foods and Protein - Rich Foods had declined dramatically, by 12 and 8 percentage points respectively for refugee households in communities, in comparison to Nov 2020. Overall, the consumption of these foods remained at an adequate level for most households.
- Consumption of Hem Iron - Rich Foods was inadequate for the majority of refugee households in communities, with 39% of households consuming no Hem Iron-Rich Foods throughout the week in Mar 2021. Hem iron is generally provided through animal-based proteins, including meat, poultry, seafood, and fish and is a key macronutrient needed for the prevention of anemia. Consumption of hem iron appears to be low due to the relatively high cost of animal-based proteins compared to more affordable energy sources including cereals, sugars, and oils.

### FCS-N - Classification

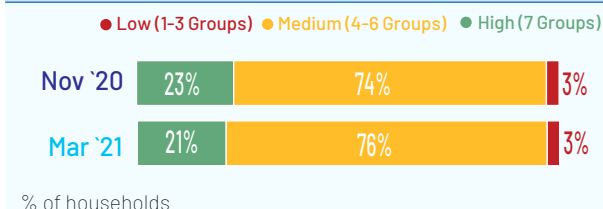


## Dietary Diversity Score (DDS)

**Definition:** The Dietary Diversity Score is a proxy measure of overall household nutrient intake, reflecting the degree to which a household consumes a diverse diet. The DDS is assessed as the number of food groups consumed by a household within a 7 day recall period.

- Average dietary diversity score for refugee households in communities remained stable at 5.7 food groups from Nov 2020 to Mar 2021.
- Dietary diversity for refugee households in communities decreased slightly between Nov 2020 and Mar 2021, with the proportion of households with insufficient (low or medium dietary diversity) increasing from 77% to 79%.

### DDS - Classification



### DDS - Average Score

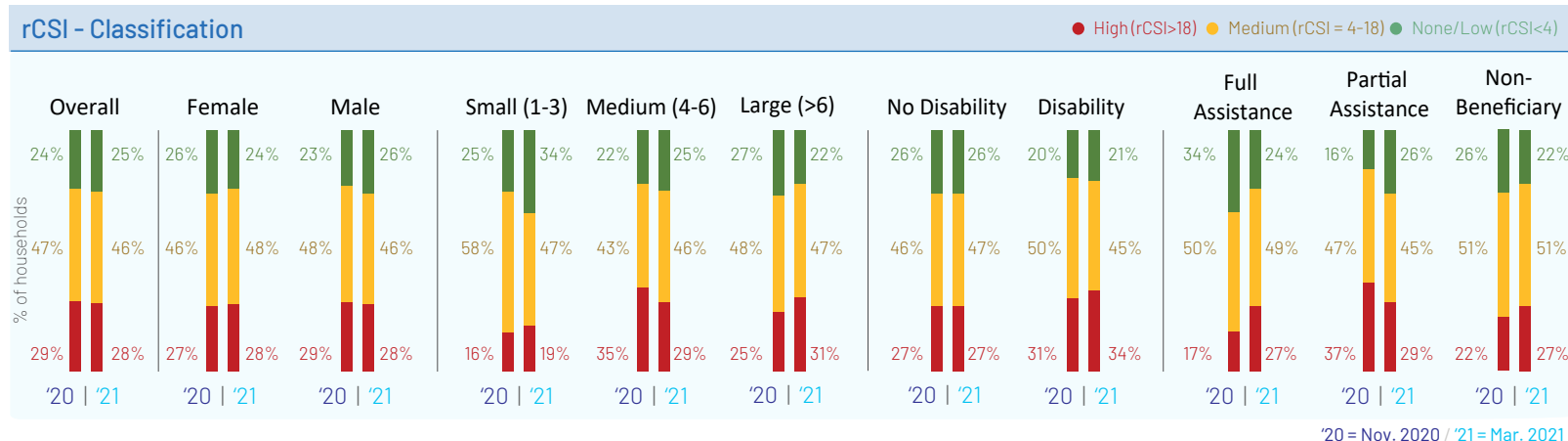
| Nov '20 | Mar '21 |
|---------|---------|
| 5.7     | 5.7     |

## Consumption-Based Coping Strategy Index (rCSI)

**Definition:** The Consumption-Based Coping Strategy Index (rCSI) measures the adoption of consumption-based coping strategies frequently employed by households exposed to food shortages. The rCSI is an indicator of current household food security when analyzed in combination with the FCS.

- Refugee households in communities continued to use a concerning level of consumption-based coping strategies, however trends remained stable between Nov 2020 and Mar 2021.
- Disaggregation by household demographics identified female-headed households (76%), large households (78%), and households with a member with a disability (79%) as particularly likely to use consumption-based coping strategies, as measured by the proportion of households with medium to high rCSI scores.
- The most applied consumption-based coping strategy utilized by refugee households in communities was the consumption of less preferred foods, which increased from 82% in Nov 2020 to 84% in Mar 2021. All other strategies decreased by 2 to 5 percentage points in Mar 2021 when compared to the household usage of the same strategies in Nov 2020. This decrease appears to stem from improvements among households receiving partial assistance who may be well placed to benefit from employment opportunities arising from increased demand for seasonal labor and other employment opportunities associated with the loosening of COVID19 restrictions.

### rCSI - Classification



### rCSI Strategies

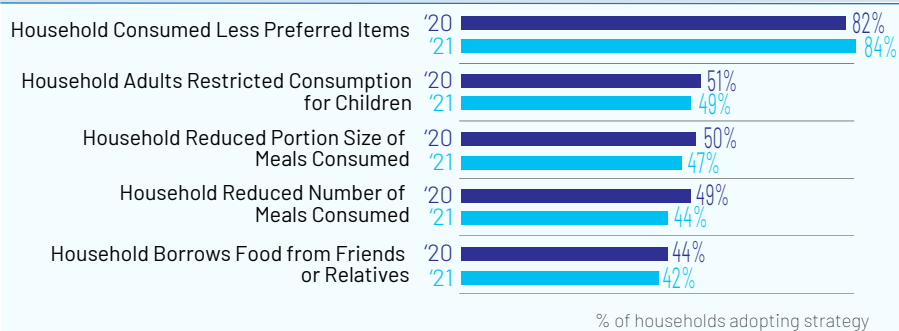


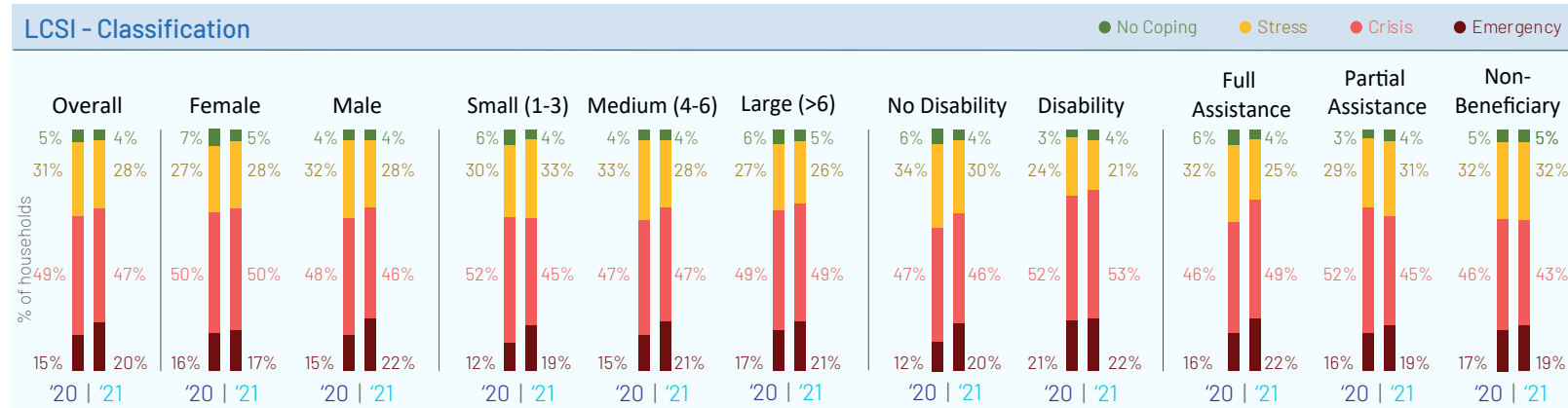
Photo Credit: Mohammad Batah

## Livelihoods-Based Coping Strategy Index (LCSI)

**Definition:** The Livelihoods-Based Coping Strategy Index measures the adoption of livelihoods-based coping strategies frequently employed by households exposed to food shortages. The LCSI is an indicator of future food security when analyzed in combination with the FCS and rCSI.

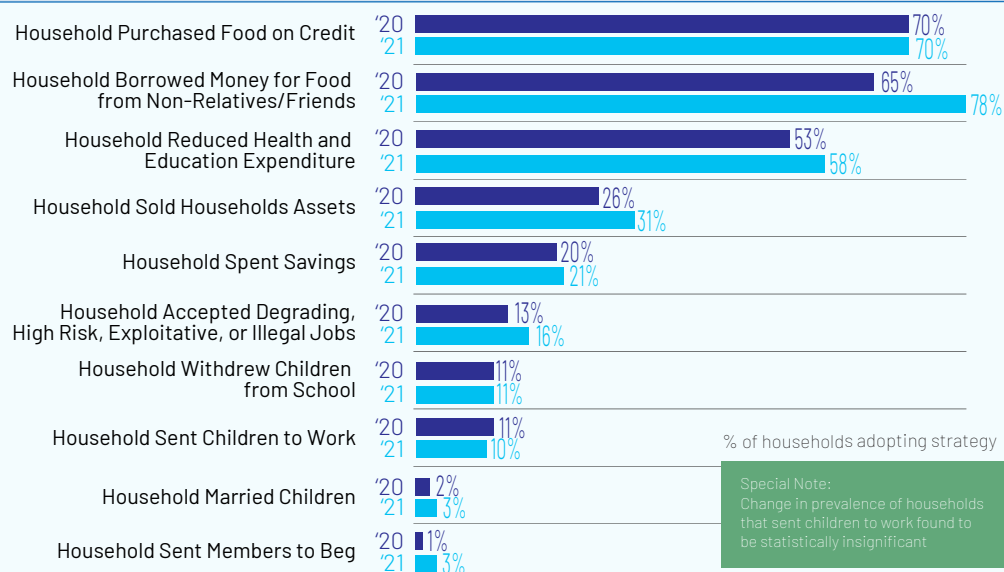
- The share of refugee households in communities resorting to emergency-level coping strategies increased by 5 percentage points, from 15% in Nov 2020 to 20% in Mar 2021.
- Disaggregation by household demographics identified medium and large households (21%) and households with members with disability (22%) as having particularly high rates of adoption of emergency coping strategies, with 3 and 8 percentage points respectively above overall figures for Mar 2021.
- The proportion of refugee households in communities accepting high-risk, socially degrading, illegal, or exploitative jobs rose from 13% in Nov 2020 to 16% in Mar 2021. Supporting qualitative data found that many households were forced to accept employment despite ill-treatment, dangerous working conditions, and exploitation from employers due to scarce employment opportunities.

### LCSI - Classification



'20 = Nov. 2020 / '21 = Mar. 2021

### LCSI - Strategies



% of households adopting strategy

Special Note:  
Change in prevalence of households that sent children to work found to be statistically insignificant

'20 = Nov. 2020 / '21 = Mar. 2021



Photo Credit: Mohammad Batah



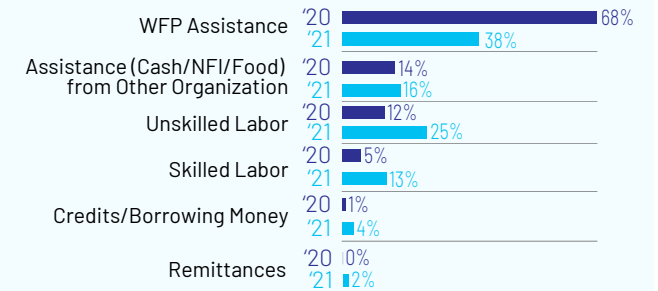
## Household Income<sup>4</sup>

- Household income for refugee households in communities increased slightly from 265 JOD per month in Nov 2020 to 283 JOD per month in Mar 2021. The change in per capita household income for refugee households in communities was non-significant, increasing slightly from 52 JOD per month in Nov 2020 to 53 JOD per month in Mar 2021.
- WFP cash assistance as the self-reported primary source of income in the past 30 days for refugee households in communities has decreased from 66% in Nov 2020 to 38% in Mar 2021, although the percent contribution of WFP assistance to the overall household income remains unchanged at 44%.

### Household Income

|   | Nov '20 | Mar '21 |
|---|---------|---------|
| <b>Monthly Income Per Household (JOD)</b> | 265     | 283     |
| <b>Monthly Income Per Capita (JOD)</b>    | 52      | 53      |

### Household Primary Income Source



'20 = Nov. 2020 / '21 = Mar. 2021

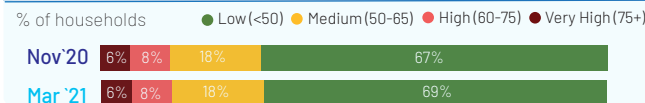
## Household Expenditure

- Refugee households in communities decreased their overall household expenditure from 358 JOD per month in Nov 2020 to 340 JOD per month in Mar 2021. Similarly, food and non-food expenditure decreased on average by 8 JOD in Mar 2021.
- Refugee households in communities decreased their food total expenditure from 143 JOD per month in Nov 2020 to 135 JOD per month in Mar 2021.
- Refugee households in communities decreased their health expenditure from 36 JOD per month in Nov 2020 to 34 JOD per month in Mar 2021.
- Refugee households in communities decreased their debt repayment from 11 JOD per month in Nov 2020 to 6 JOD per month in Mar 2021.
- The average Food Expenditure Share (FES) for refugee households in communities decreased slightly from 44% in Nov 2020 to 43% in Mar 2021.

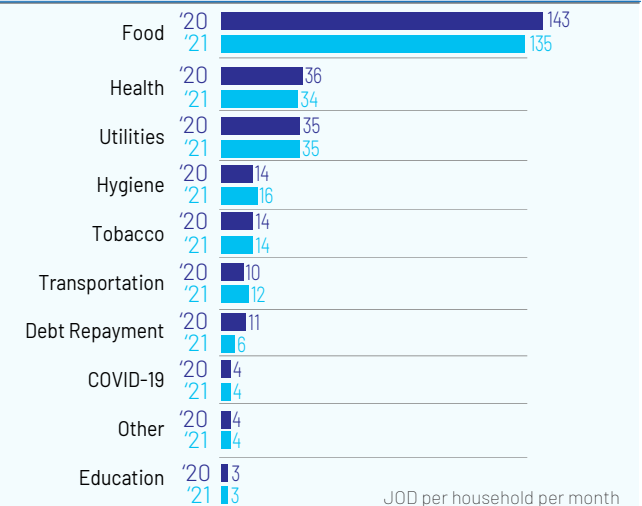
### Household Expenditure / Food Expenditure Share

|   | Nov '20 | Mar '21 |
|---|---------|---------|
| <b>Monthly Expenditure Per Household (JOD)</b>          | 358     | 340     |
| <b>Monthly Food Expenditure Per Household (JOD)</b>     | 143     | 135     |
| <b>Monthly Non-Food Expenditure Per Household (JOD)</b> | 214     | 206     |
| <b>Monthly Expenditure Per Capita (JOD)</b>             | 71      | 65      |
| <b>Monthly Food Expenditure Per Capita (JOD)</b>        | 27      | 25      |
| <b>Monthly Non-Food Expenditure Per Capita (JOD)</b>    | 44      | 40      |
| <b>Food Expenditure Share</b>                           | 44%     | 43%     |

### Food Expenditure Share - Classification



### Household Expenditure Sub-Categories



'20 = Nov. 2020 / '21 = Mar. 2021

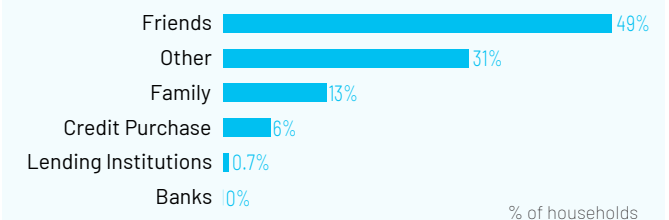
## Household Debt

- Household debt for refugee households in communities increased on average from 831 JOD per household in Nov 2020 to 843 JOD in Mar 2021. The primary source of debt came from friends (49%), other (31%), and family (13%) in Mar 2021. "Other" primarily includes outstanding rent payments to landlords.

### Household Debt

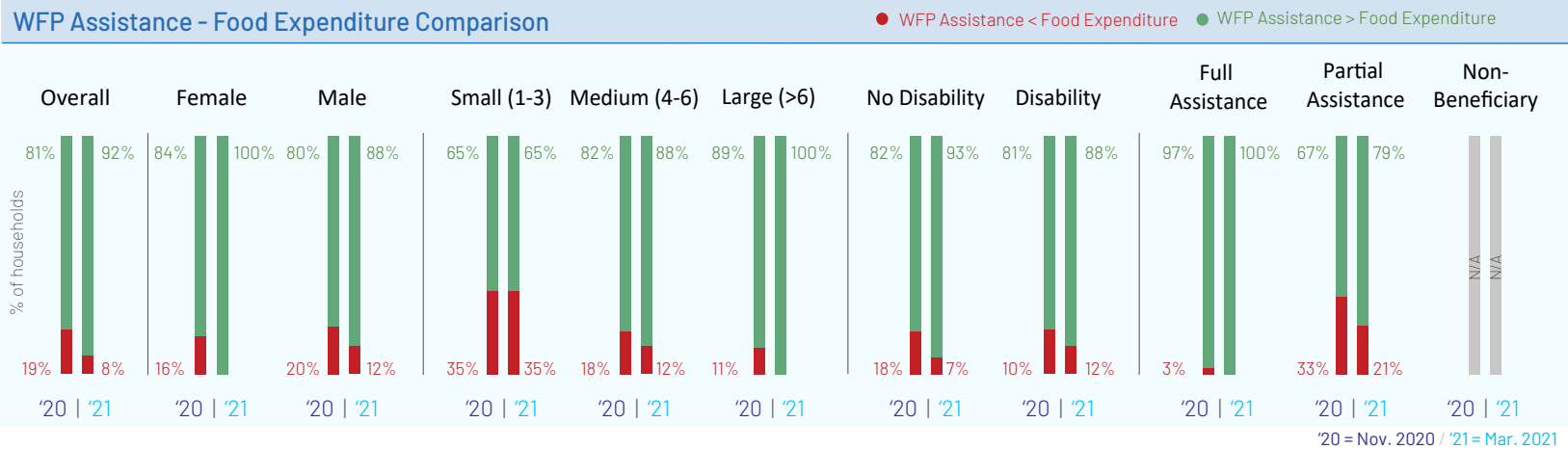
|   | Nov '20 | Mar '21 |
|---|---------|---------|
| <b>Accumulated Debt Per Household (JOD)</b> | 831     | 843     |
| <b>Accumulated Debt Per Capita (JOD)</b>    | 167     | 170     |

### Household Debt Source

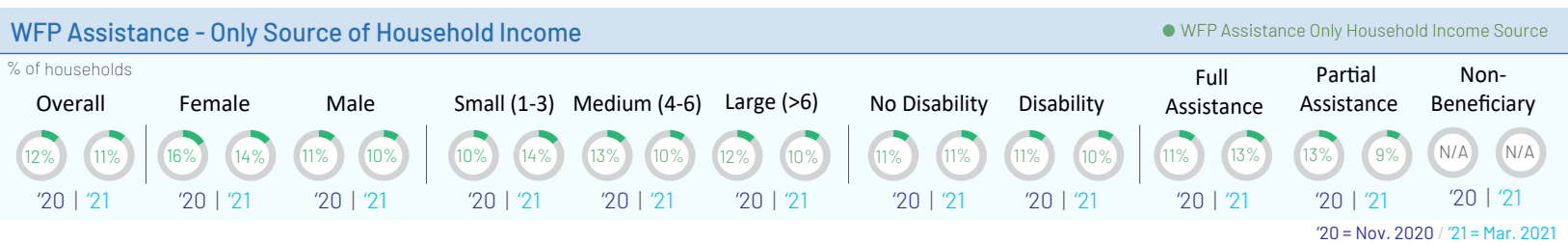
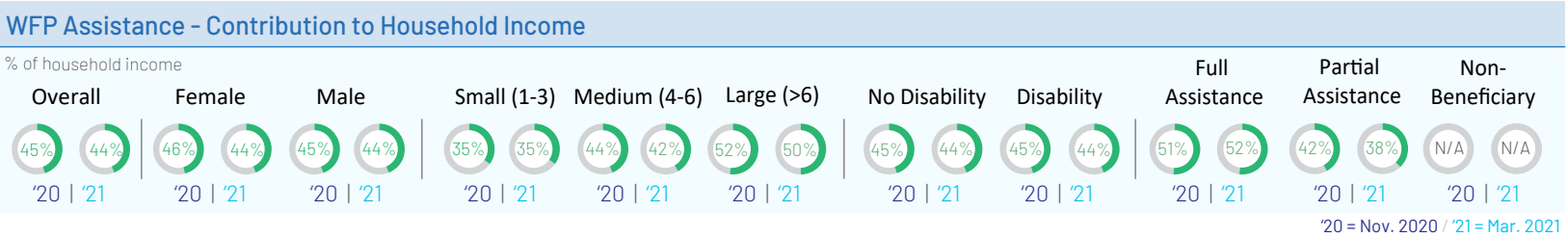


<sup>4</sup> Household income includes WFP assistance

Household Assistance



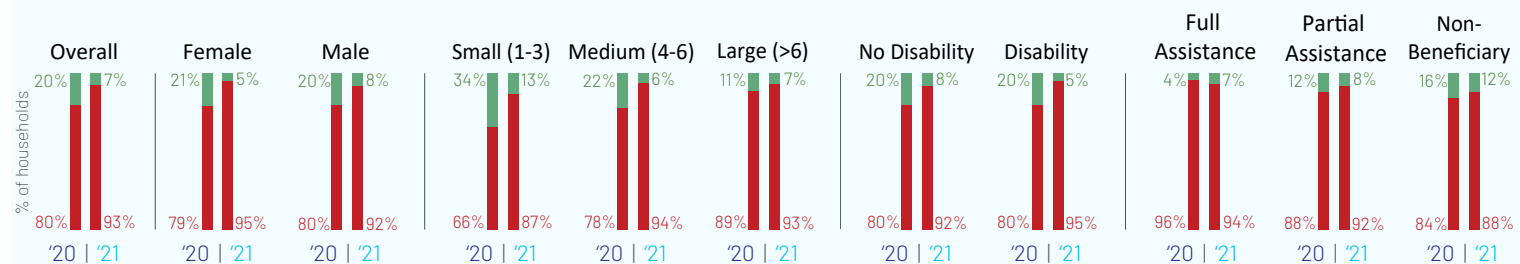
- In Mar 2021, WFP assistance covered all food expenditure for 92% of refugee households in communities, an increase from 81% in Nov 2020. Generally, WFP assistance covered household food expenditure for the majority of households, however among small households, WFP assistance covered food expenditure for only 65% of households.
- The WFP assistance contribution to the income of refugee households in communities remained roughly unchanged from 45% in Nov 2020 to 44% in Mar 2021. Disaggregation by household demographics noted that household income for large households was particularly dependent upon WFP assistance, providing 50% of household income in Mar 2021.
- Roughly 11% of refugee households in communities have no other income source than WFP assistance, a slight decrease from 12% in Nov 2020. Disaggregation by household demographics found that 14% of small households had no other income source than WFP assistance in Mar 2021.



## Household Poverty

### Economic Capacity to Meet Essential Needs (ECMEN) - MEB<sup>5</sup>

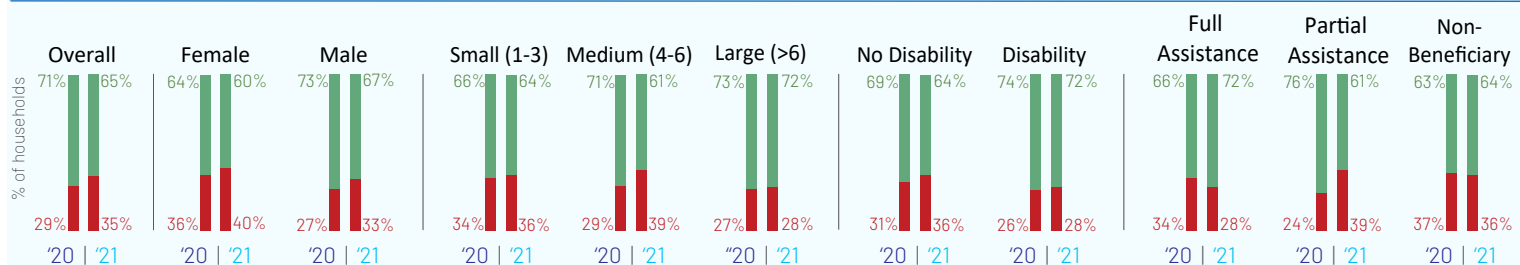
● HH total expenditure below MEB ● HH total expenditure above MEB



'20 = Nov. 2020 / '21 = Mar. 2021

### ECMEN - SMEB<sup>5</sup>

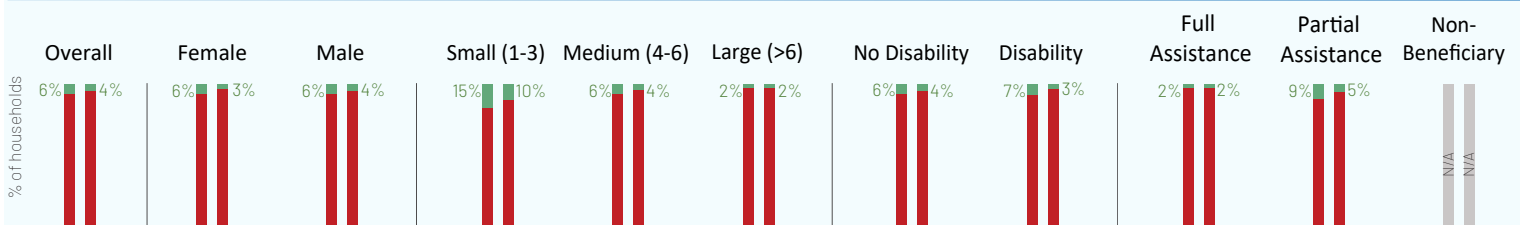
● HH total expenditure below SMEB ● HH total expenditure above SMEB



'20 = Nov. 2020 / '21 = Mar. 2021

### ECMEN Without WFP Assistance - MEB

● HH total expenditure below MEB ● HH total expenditure above MEB



- The percentage of refugee households in communities with total expenditure below the Minimum Expenditure Basket (MEB), a poverty threshold established for refugee households in communities, increased drastically from 80% of households in Nov 2020 to 93% of households in Mar 2021, indicating a significant increase in household-level poverty. Disaggregation by household demographics identified female-headed households (95%), medium sized households (94%), and households with members with a disability (95%) as particularly likely to be in poverty.
- The percentage of refugee households in communities with a total expenditure below the Survival Minimum Expenditure Basket (SMEB), an abject poverty threshold established for refugee households in communities, increased from 29% in Nov 2020 to 35% in Mar 2021, indicating a significant increase in household-level abject poverty. Disaggregation by household demographics identified female-headed households (40%) and medium sized households (39%) as particularly likely to be in abject poverty.
- To understand household economic standing in the absence of WFP assistance, WFP assistance was subtracted from household expenditure and the percentages of households above and below the MEB and SMEB thresholds were re-evaluated. The percentage of refugee households in communities with total expenditure minus WFP assistance above the MEB threshold decreased from 6% in Nov 2020 to 4% in Mar 2021. The percentage of refugee households in communities with total expenditure minus WFP assistance above the SMEB threshold

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