Comprehensive Food Security Monitoring Exercise (CFSME)
October 2016

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Introduction

- Third annual edition of the WFP/REACH nationwide assessment of Syrian refugees' food security.

- Can look at trends in food security over time and identify causes for change in food security.

- Updated and improved each year to ensure it evolves in line with contextual developments.

CFSME 2016 objectives

Identify current needs and characteristics of registered Syrian refugee households

Identify trends in needs and vulnerabilities by triangulating findings with CFSMEs 2014 and 2015 and VAF

Identify the characteristics of refugee households vulnerable to food insecurity

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Methodology

- A randomly sampled nationwide household survey was conducted for quantitative analysis.

- Data was collected at the household, case, and case member levels, allowing for a comparison of data and an understanding of intra-household and intra-case dynamics.

- 16 focus group discussions were also conducted across Jordan to expand on and explain trends in the quantitative data.

3,253 households interviewed

5,252 cases interviewed

20,067 case members interviewed
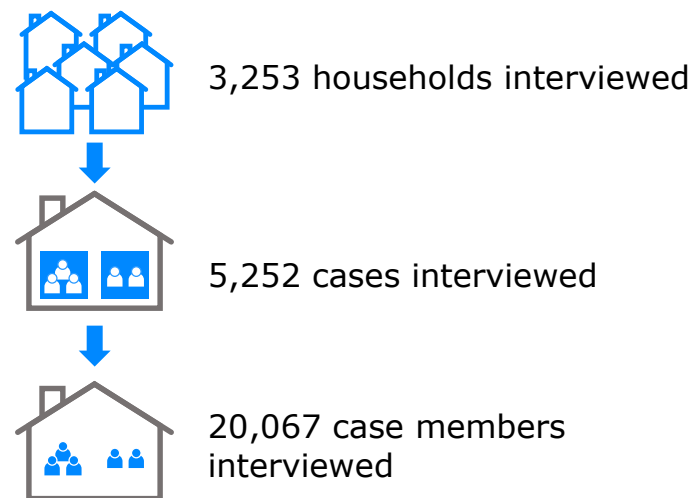
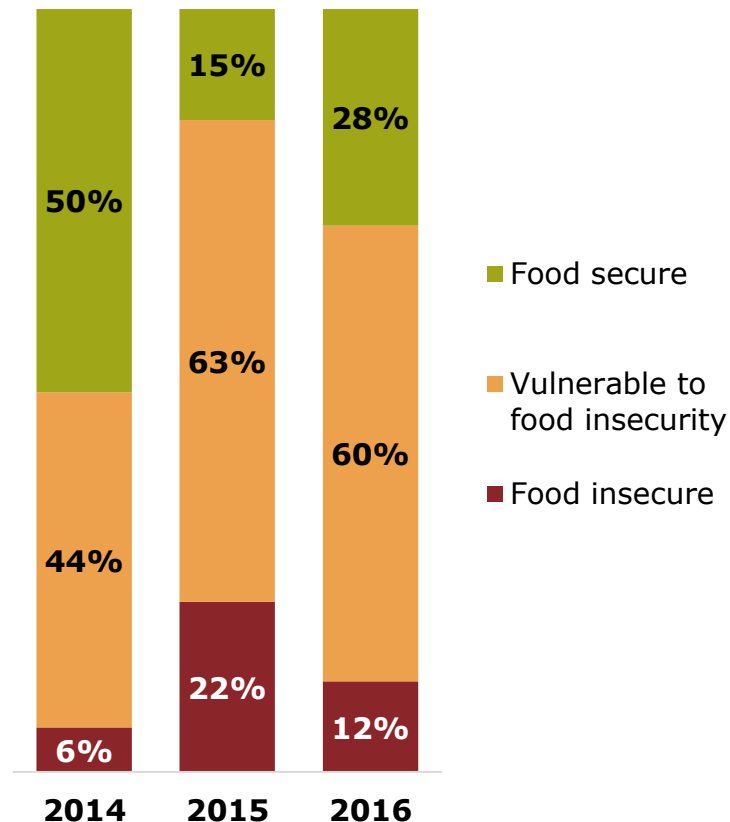**New livelihoods questions added in the 2016 questionnaire:**
If you have worked/been employed in the last 30 days:
- *Which sector have you worked in?*
- *Where has most of this work been carried out?*
- *What was your income from this work in the last 30 days?*

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Food security

- Improved since 2015, but remains below 2014 levels.

- Also improved in both Azraq and Za'atari refugee camps since 2015.

- Potentially due to the increased capacity of WFP to deliver the planned level of assistance.

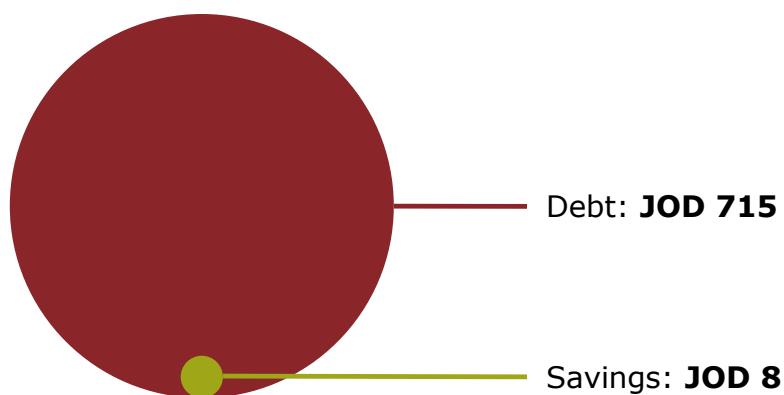- Not all households have improved to this extent, such as ITS households.

Food security index, Syrian refugees living in host communities

	Food secure	Vulnerable to food insecurity	Food insecure
2014	50%	44%	6%
2015	15%	63%	22%
2016	28%	60%	12%

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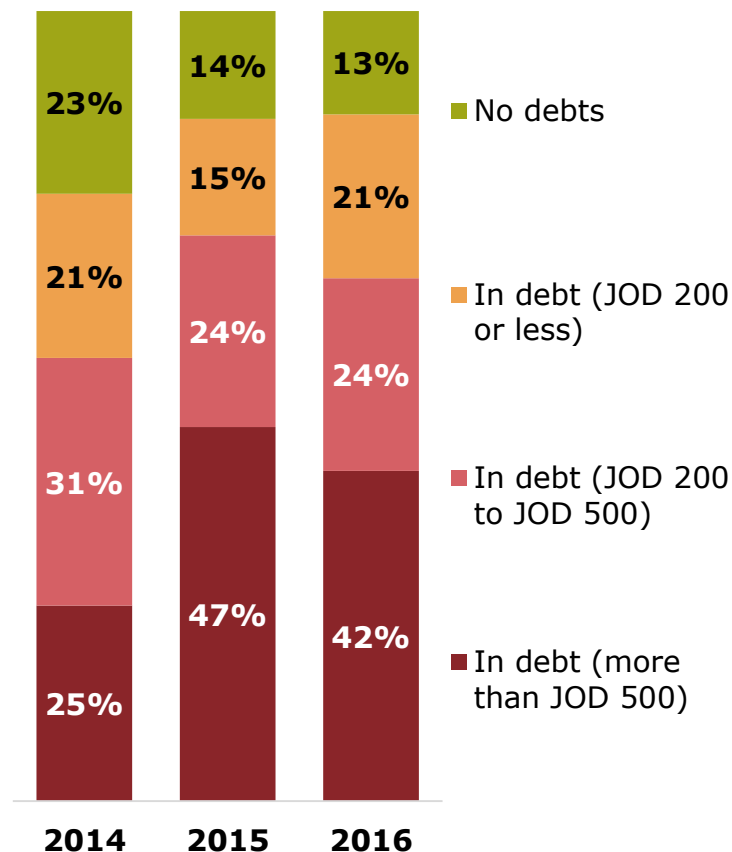REACH Informing more effective humanitarian action

Economic vulnerabilities

- **High levels of debt** and **low levels of savings** persist

- Households with members who have **serious medical conditions** have an average of JOD 779 in debt, compared with JOD 562 for households who do not.

Household debt, refugees in host communities

Legend:
- No debts
- In debt (JOD 200 or less)
- In debt (JOD 200 to JOD 500)
- In debt (more than JOD 500)

	2014	2015	2016
No debts	23%	14%	13%
In debt (JOD 200 or less)	21%	15%	21%
In debt (JOD 200 to JOD 500)	31%	24%	24%
In debt (more than JOD 500)	25%	47%	42%

Average household debt and savings, refugees in host communities

Debt: **JOD 715**

Savings: **JOD 8**

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Household income sources

Top 5 sources of income, refugees in host communities

Main source of income	2014	2015	2016	Trend
WFP food voucher	75%	22%	15%	⬇
Unskilled labour	5%	23%	29%	⬆
Cash from aid organisations	2%	11%	21%	⬆
Credits/borrowing money	5%	20%	14%	⬇
Skilled labour	2%	10%	11%	⬆

Percentage of 19 to 60 year olds in employment, refugees in host communities

2015: Female 4%, Male 47%
2016: Female 4%, Male 56%
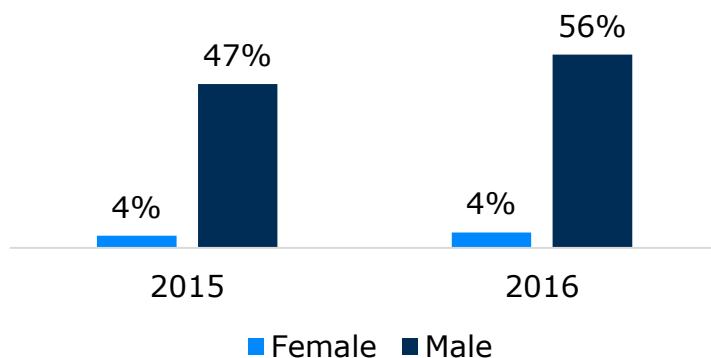
■ Female ■ Male

Top 3 employment sectors: Female

33% Accommodation and food services

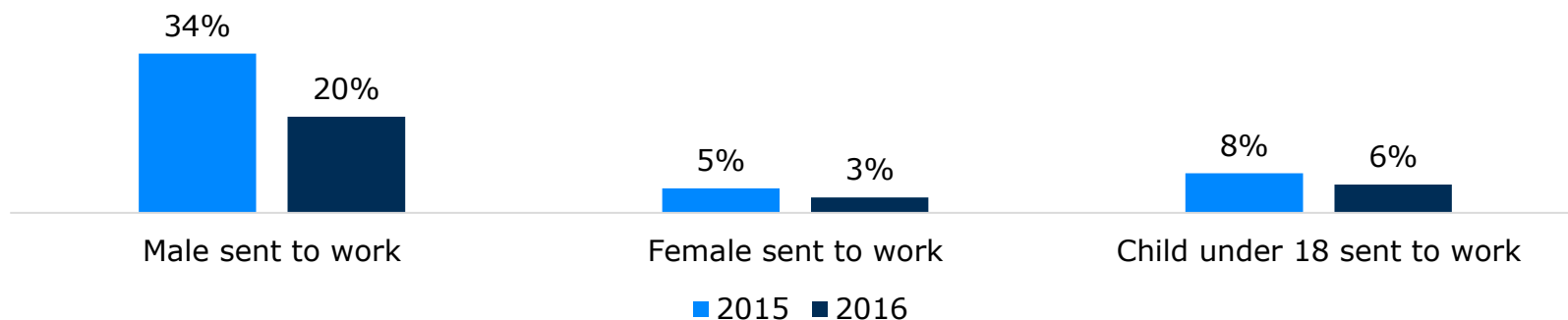**26%** Agriculture, forestry and fishing

12% Cleaning services

Top 3 employment sectors: Male

41% Construction

14% Wholesale, retail, trade and repair

11% Agriculture forestry and fishing

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Work remains a coping strategy for many

- Of the 19 to 60 year olds who worked in the 30 days prior to being interviewed, **83% were in temporary (irregular) work.**

- Overall, **26% of households** in host communities are sending household members to work in **socially degrading, high-risk, exploitative or illegal work as a coping strategy**.

- In Za'atari refugee camp, 20% of households are using this coping strategy, up from 7%

- In Azraq refugee camp, 6% of households are using this strategy, compared with 11%

Households sending members to work in socially degrading, exploitative, high-risk or illegal temporary jobs

34%
20%

5%
3%

8%
6%

Male sent to work   Female sent to work   Child under 18 sent to work

■ 2015 ■ 2016

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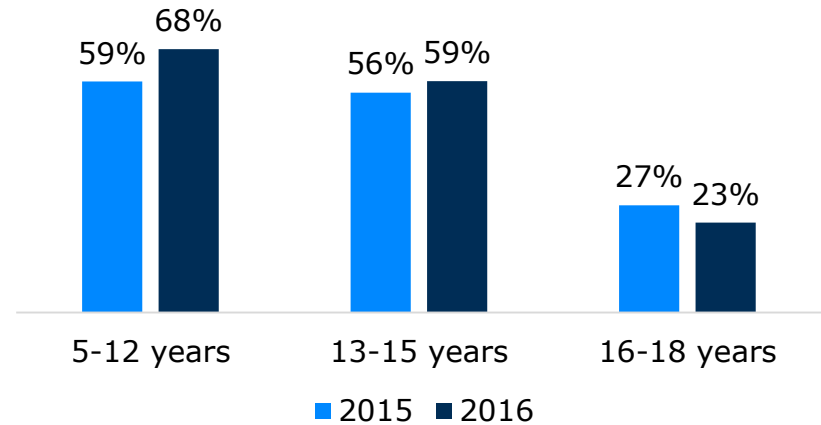REACH Informing more effective humanitarian action

Access to education and youth employment

- 27% of 16 to 18 year old males are employed, compared with 33% in 2015.

- School attendance has risen for 5 to 15 year olds since 2015 but fallen for 16 to 18 year olds.

Youth employment, refugees in host communities

	5-12 years	13-15 years	16-18 years
2015	1%	7%	17%
2016	0%	5%	14%
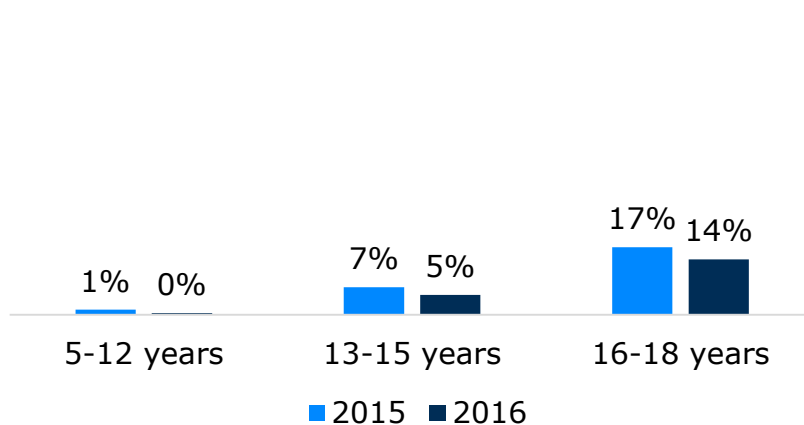
School attendance, refugees in host communities

	5-12 years	13-15 years	16-18 years
2015	59%	56%	27%
2016	68%	59%	23%

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Impact of assistance and employment

- Access to work does **not** necessarily **ensure increased food security**.
- Households receiving **higher levels of WFP** food assistance are more **likely to be food secure**.

Food security by WFP assistance and employment, refugees in host communities

Receive WFP assistance?	HH member in employment?			
✓	✗	11%	52%	37%
✓	✓	10%	65%	25%
✗	✓	28%	60%	12%

■ Food insecure   ■ Vulnerable to food insecurity   ■ Food secure

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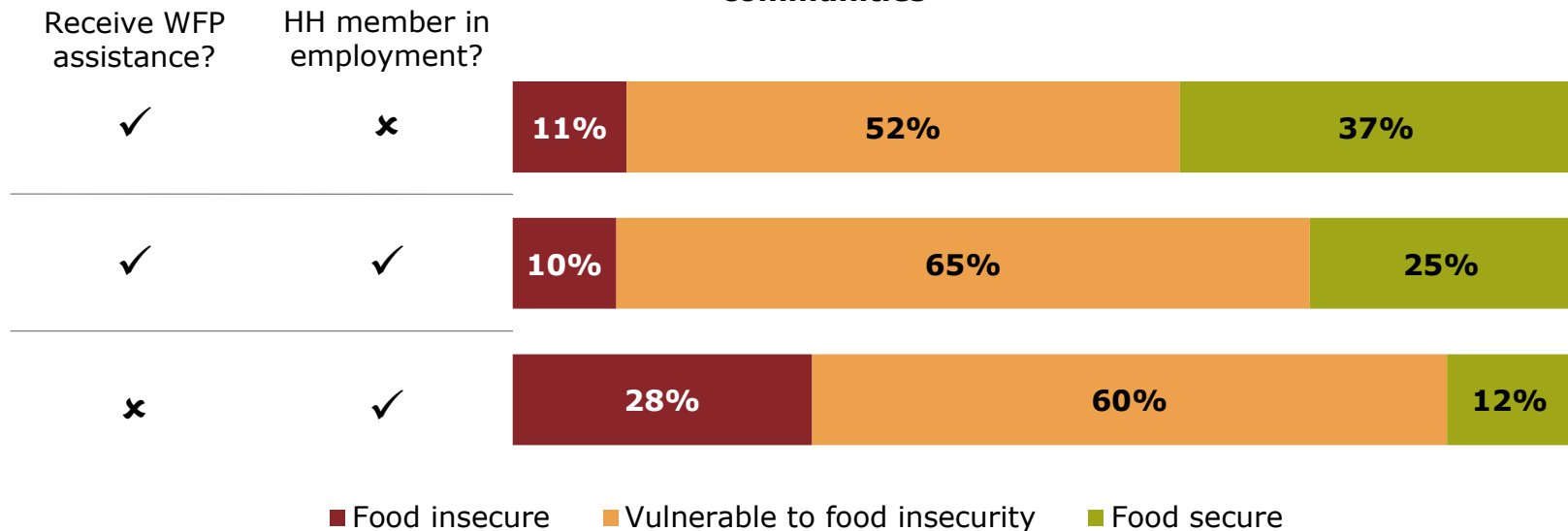
Conclusions

- Despite improvements since 2015, food security remains well below 2014 levels.

- The vast majority of refugee households continue to resort to livelihood coping strategies in order to maintain food consumption levels.

- Access to informal livelihood opportunities appears to have improved, although dependency on aid remains high.

- Access to livelihoods and employment does not necessarily translate into improved food security outcomes.

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