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# **“Advancing Evidence-based Policy in Crisis Management: Field Survey Findings**

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# Advancing Evidence-based Policy in Crisis Management: Field Survey Findings

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## I. INTRODUCTION

The recent financial and economic meltdown in Lebanon is the result of 30 years of social, economic, financial, and fiscal mismanagement, amplified by the COVID-19 pandemic, and further exacerbated by the Beirut Port explosion and more recently by the Russia-Ukraine war. According to the World Bank, Lebanon is facing one of the top 10 if not top three, most severe crises episodes globally since 1850. The country's GDP contracted by 21.4% in 2020 and 10.5% in 2021,<sup>1</sup> while inflation is spiraling out of control (154.8% for 2021).<sup>2</sup> The UN-ESCWA estimates an even more pessimistic GDP contraction for 2021 (16.2 %), while it reports that the multidimensional poverty rate has almost doubled from 42% in 2019 to 82% in 2021.<sup>3</sup> Moreover, ESCWA expects the unemployment rate to have reached 43.5% in 2021.

A popular uprising across Lebanon in October 2019 led to significant unrest and demonstrations that culminated in the resignation of the government in November 2019. A new cabinet was not formed until the end of January 2020, which resigned in the aftermath of the Port explosion and stayed for another 14 months as a caretaker government. In September 2021, a new government was formed for a term of 9 months, turning again into a caretaking role as of May 21, 2022. Due to the frequent changes in government and political tensions, very few policies addressed the ongoing economic and financial crisis.

In spite of the magnitude of the crisis, there exists a big gap in the literature investigating its impacts on the livelihoods of the Lebanese households, or evaluating the efficiency and adequacy of the government's policies in alleviating the negative effects of the crisis. Led by the American University of Beirut (AUB)<sup>4</sup> and funded by the National Endowment for Democracy, the project "Advancing Evidence-Based Policy in Crisis Management," aims to fill this gap. Its main goal is to monitor the impact of the multi-dimensional crises Lebanon is facing, on multiple economic sectors, and subsequently advance evidence-based policy reforms that respond to citizens' priorities. The sectors include: agriculture, construction, education, food and beverage, health, manufacturing, and retail.

As part of this project, the AUB team has conducted a data collection exercise (both quantitative and qualitative data) that included (1) a field survey of 931 households, and (2) 5 group Key Informant Interviews (KIIs)<sup>5</sup> including around 5 experts in each session. This report presents findings from the household survey which consisted of a structured questionnaire and gathered information about: 1) basic demographics and household characteristics, 2) household income and expenditures, and 3) coping mechanisms.

In the next phase of the project, the team will triangulate and contextualize the information collected via different methods to conduct an in-depth analysis of the data. The final report will subsequently present further examination of the government's response to the economic and financial crisis, its direct impact on the living conditions of Lebanese families, and offer recommendations for better policymaking during the management of crises.

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<sup>1</sup> World Bank, 2022. Lebanon Economic Monitor, Fall 2021: The Great Denial.

<sup>2</sup> Central Administration of Statistics, 2022. <http://www.cas.gov.lb/index.php/economic-statistics-en>

<sup>3</sup> UN ESCWA, 2022. Competition In Lebanon. Policy Brief.

<sup>4</sup> The AUB project team comprises four members: Dr. Leila Dagher, Dr. Ibrahim Jamali, Oussama Abi Younes, and Maya Fattal.

<sup>5</sup> Findings from the KIIs will be presented in the final report.



## II. METHODOLOGY

The field survey is designed to assess the direct impact of the crisis on respondents' livelihoods and well-being. The main condition for eligibility to take the survey were: 1) being above 18 years old, 2) being a Lebanese citizen, and 3) being employed in one of the seven sectors of interest. To obtain a representative sample in each one of the seven sectors, sample size calculations using a 95% confidence interval and an 8.5% margin of error showed that we need a minimum of 133 households per sector for a total of  $133*7=931$  surveys.

A structured questionnaire consisting of 52 questions was developed by the AUB team. The dossier submitted to the Institutional Review Board (IRB) at AUB on November 14, 2021, included the IRB application, the consent script, and the questionnaire. After several rounds of revisions, the IRB approval was granted on March 15, 2022. While awaiting IRB approval a specialized firm in conducting surveys, MINERS, was contracted and started getting ready for the task; the questionnaire was uploaded to KoBo and pilot testing was performed. The field surveys were effectively carried out during the last two weeks of March 2022.

Several teams of enumerators worked in parallel in different regions. For most sectors recruitment was done on site in the workplace. For example, enumerators would take permission from a hospital or school to conduct the surveys or alternatively they would approach potential subjects when leaving work or during breaks. Locating interviewees in the construction and agricultural sectors was a bit more challenging compared to other sectors. All interviews were recorded and stored on a shared drive to ensure the quality and accuracy of the information. The raw dataset will remain strictly confidential and only accessible to the project team and any identifying information of respondents shall remain anonymous and undisclosed in the report as per AUB IRB rules. Overall, the average time taken for the questionnaire was 17 minutes.

MINERS and AUB research team validated and cleaned the data all throughout the collection process and continued after closing the data collection process once the targeted number of surveys was secured. Random samples of surveys were double-checked via listening to the recordings, especially those held during the pilot phase and first day of the data collection process, to ensure the quality of the collected data. After completing the data collection phase, MINERS and AUB research teams went over the dataset in excel sheets to check for consistency and any anomalies or outliers. The cleanliness of the dataset is a good indication that the survey was well designed.

### III. AGRICULTURE SECTOR

As part of the “Advancing evidence-based policy in crisis management” project, 133 households that have a family member working in the agriculture sector were interviewed. This report outlines the findings related to their working status, income, ability to make ends meet, livelihood-based coping strategies, and attitudes towards immigration.

According to the national accounts for 2020 published by the Central Administration of Statistics, the agriculture and forestry sector accounts for 6% of Gross Domestic Product. In terms of the gender distribution of employees in the sector, 86% of the employees are male while 14% are female.

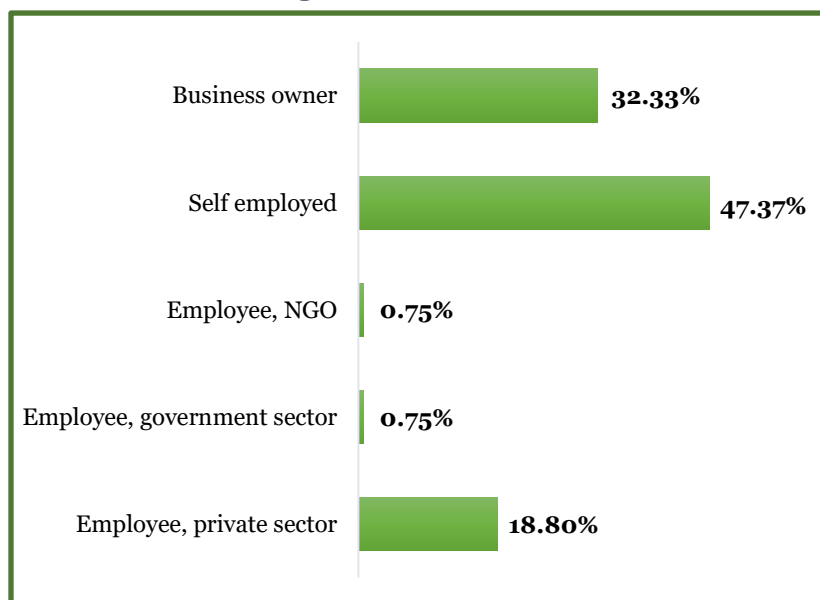
#### A. Working status

Around 47% of the agriculture sector workers are self-employed, and 32.33% are business owners. Only 18.80% of the respondents claimed being employed by the private sector.

Out of the 20.3% employed workers, 81.48% are daily workers (i.e., don't have a contract), around one-tenth (11.11%) have a contract with a duration between 1 month and 1 year, and only 2 (7.41%) workers claimed having a stable job (the contract duration is more than 1 year).

The workforce includes all age groups, but most of them are under the age of 30 (30.07%) or above the age of 50 (36.85%). About half of the agriculture sector workers did not complete their high school education: 19.55% stopped their education at the elementary level and 33.08% completed their intermediary education.

Figure 1. Work status

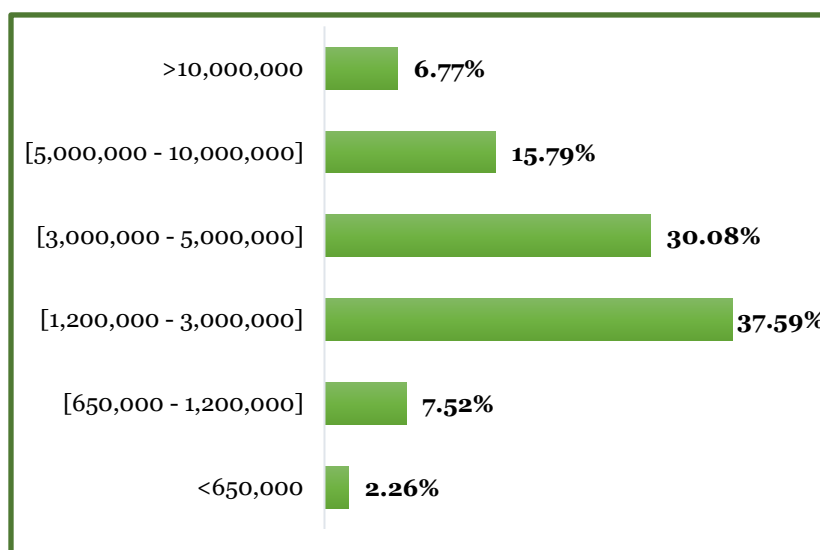


#### B. Total Income

Nearly 68% of the households that have a family member working in the agriculture sector earn a total monthly income between 1.2 million and 5 million LBP. Further, 92.48% of these households don't have access to any source of “Fresh dollars”. Barely 2 (1.50%) households reported getting remittances in “Fresh dollars” and only 2 (1.50%) are relying on their fresh savings. Approximately, 4% (6 households) have a family member earning a part of his/her salary in “Fresh USD”.

As for the agriculture sector employees, 92.59% still don't get any part of their salaries in “Fresh USD”, only 1 (3.7%) employee at the private sector gets 20%, and 1 (3.7%) employee at an NGO claimed getting 100% of his/her wage in “Fresh USD”.

Figure 2. Total household income



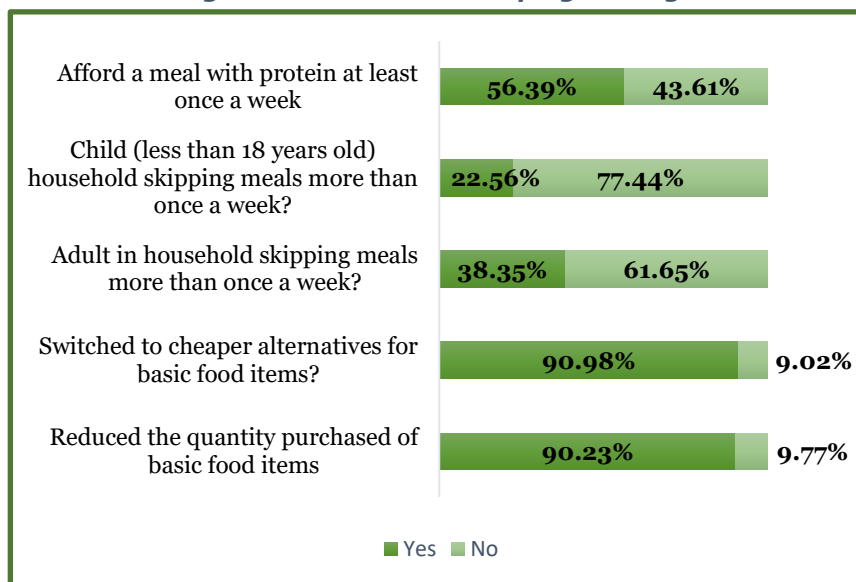
### C. Ability to make ends meet and adopted coping strategies

The findings reveal that a striking 66.99% of the respondents believe that they cannot make ends meet and 87.22% reported that their wage or allowance lost its value. In addition, according to the results of our survey, 29.32% faced a delay or suspension of salaries, 35.34% reported facing a reduction in their working hours, and 35.34% lost their job in the past two years. As a result, 14.29% of the respondents were forced to get a second job or more working hours, and all households had to adopt some coping strategies.

#### C1. Food

Against a backdrop of rampant inflation, around three-fifth of the households claimed spending on food and beverages 500 thousand to 3 million LBP. Of the households that spend 500 thousand to 3 million on food and beverages, 55.95% are of 5 or more members. The survey responses also indicate that 8.27% of the households are spending on food and beverages more than their total income. Thus, the households were forced to adopt a coping strategy that focuses on reducing the quantity of staple foods (90.23%) and switching to cheaper alternatives (90.98%). However, some families had to adopt severe coping strategies: 38.35% have an adult skipping meals more than once a week, 22.56% have a child skipping meals more than once a week, and 56.39% cannot afford to eat a meal with protein at least once a week.

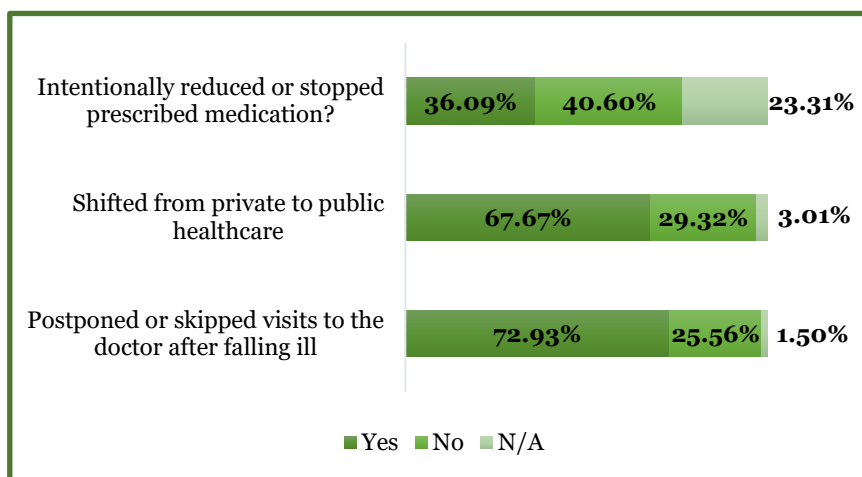
Figure 3. Food-related coping strategies



#### C2. Health

The decrease in the purchasing power of wages and the soaring cost of healthcare forced the households to adopt severe coping strategies. 67.67% of the respondents shifted from private to public healthcare, 72.93% postponed or skipped visits to the doctor after falling ill, and 36.09% reduced or intentionally stopped their prescribed medication. In addition, around 56% of the respondents reported switching to alternative or generic medication due to cost. The latter figures are demonstrated by the fact that about 36% of the respondents reported spending less than 4 million LBP on their health during the past 12 months, and 19.55% reported spending 0 LBP.

Figure 4. Health-related coping strategies



### C3. Electricity

In terms of access to electric power, 71.43% of the surveyed households reported having only 1 to 4 hours of power from Electricite du Liban (EdL) per day. In order to mitigate the long hours of power outage, around 45% of respondents indicated obtaining 5 to 10 hours of power from the diesel generators. However, due to the soaring prices of diesel, which translated into higher fees for diesel generators, 53.38% reported experiencing a blackout of 11 to 19 hours per day. While 73.68% of the households pay less than 500 thousands LBP in return for the government’s power, 69.92% pay between 500 thousand and 1 million LBP for diesel generators. The relatively low expenditures on diesel generators can be explained by the fact that 45% of the respondents use only 5 amperes. The soaring fees for diesel generators forced 18.05% of the households to consume less than 5 amperes. Moreover, 58% of households get by on only 3 amperes while 50% had to decrease their intake of amperes in the past two years. Alarming, 24.81% of Lebanese households indicated their inability to afford the fees associated with the diesel generator and were forced to get by without this alternative power supply leaving them with long hours of power outage. Further, 59.40% of respondents indicated that they are unlikely or extremely unlikely to continue affording the bill of the diesel generator. The latter statistic illustrates the precarious state of many households and the the potentially significant energy poverty going forward.

Figure 5. Electricity (in hours) from EDL

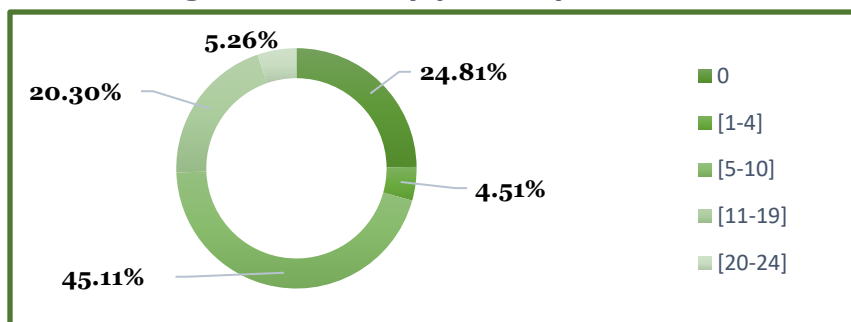


Figure 6. Electricity (in hours) from DG

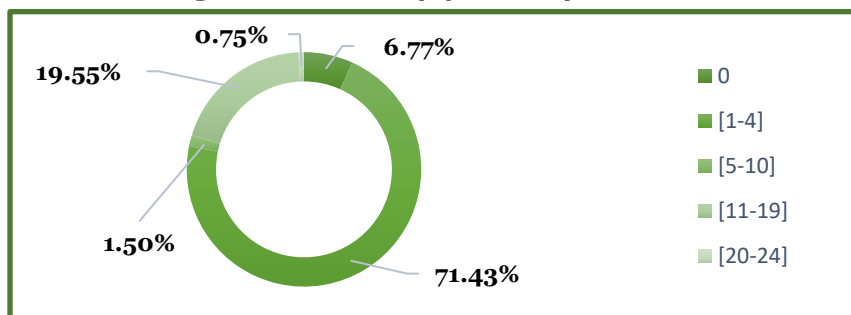
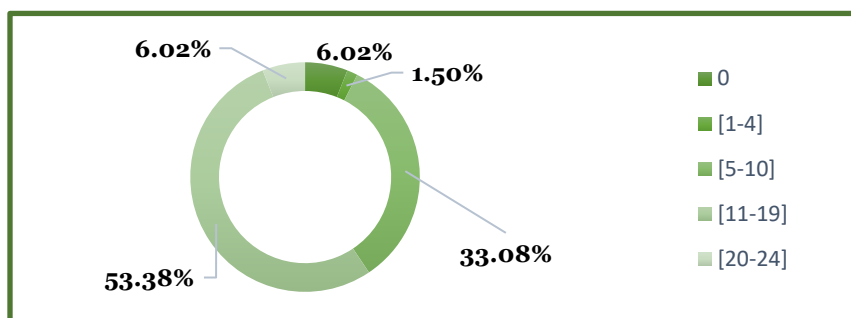


Figure 7. Power cut (in hours)



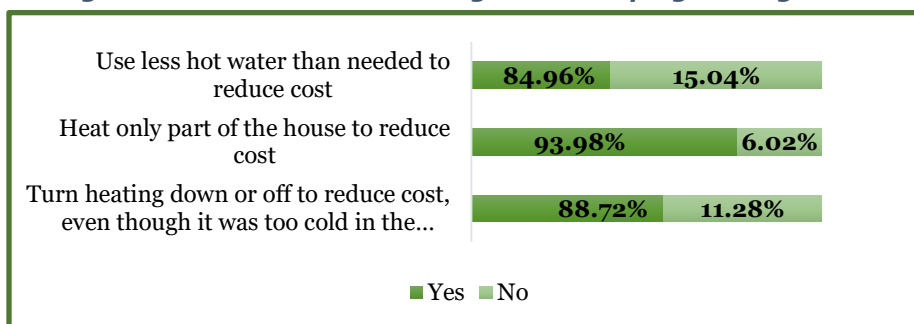
### C4. Education

The crisis impeded respondents’ access to education. Indeed, 22.56% of the respondents postponed or withdrew from university/school (or have a family member who had to) and 22% moved to a more affordable university/school. Further, around 28% of the respondents indicated paying less than 6 million LBP on education over the previous 12 months suggesting unwillingness or an inability to spend on furthering their education. The results also suggest that the workers in the agricultural sector do not appear to have pursuing higher education as a priority. In fact, only 2 (1.50%) workers reported being enrolled in part-time formal education.

### C5. Hot water and heating

Another finding that highlights the burden of the crisis on Lebanese households is their livelihood-based coping strategy related to hot water and heating. In fact, 79.70% of the respondents claimed not being able to keep their households warm. As a result, 93.98% had to heat only a part of the house to reduce cost, and 88.72% had to turn heating down. Similarly, 93.98% reported using less hot water than needed to reduce cost.

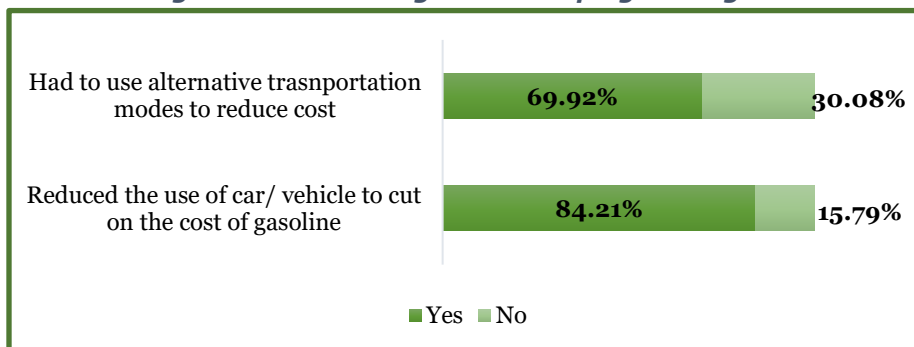
Figure 8. Hot water and heating related coping strategies



### C6. Transportation

While 77.44% of the surveyed households' total income does not exceed 5 million LBP, 69.92% claimed spending between 500 thousand and 3 million LBP on transportation per month. Thus, as a result of the increased gasoline prices, 62.92% switched to alternative modes of transportation to reduce costs and 84.21% had to reduce the use of the car to cut on the cost of gasoline.

Figure 9. Commuting-related coping strategies



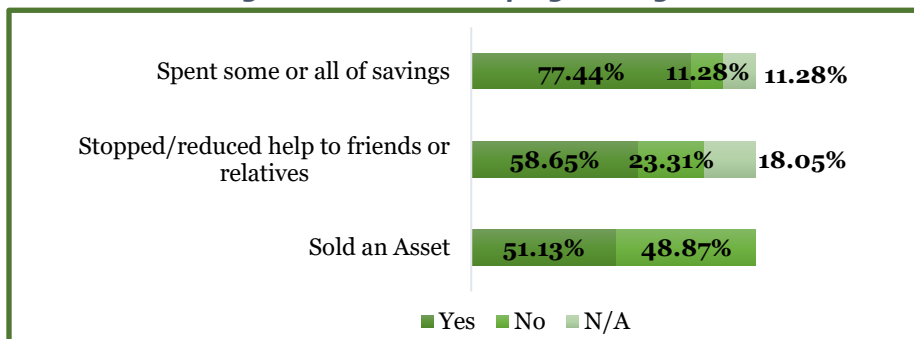
### C7. Rent

Based on the findings of our study, most of the households live in owned houses, and only 19.55% live in rented ones. In fact, all the renters in this sector live in houses with a rent that does not exceed 1 million LBP. In the past two years, around 19% experienced a change in rent as they had to move into cheaper apartments. That is, some households were forced to move to houses whose rent does not exceed 1 million LBP. It's worth noting that half of the households of more than 4 members live in houses with a size less than 150 square meters.

### C8. General coping strategies

In order to be able to meet their daily expenses, the respondents had to rely on other coping strategies. These include drawing on their savings, selling jewelry and stopping or reducing help for a friend. In fact, 77.44% spent some or all of their savings, 51.13% stopped or reduced help to friends or relatives whom they have helped before, and 58.65% sold an asset (real estate, jewelry, car, ...).

Figure 10. General coping strategies



### C9. Monetary assistance

The findings reveal that only 6.02% of the households received monetary assistance over the past two years. Moreover, 75% of this assistance is received from local family or friends. Only 1 (12.5%) household reported receiving assistance from family or friends abroad, and 1 (12.5%) claimed receiving it from the government.

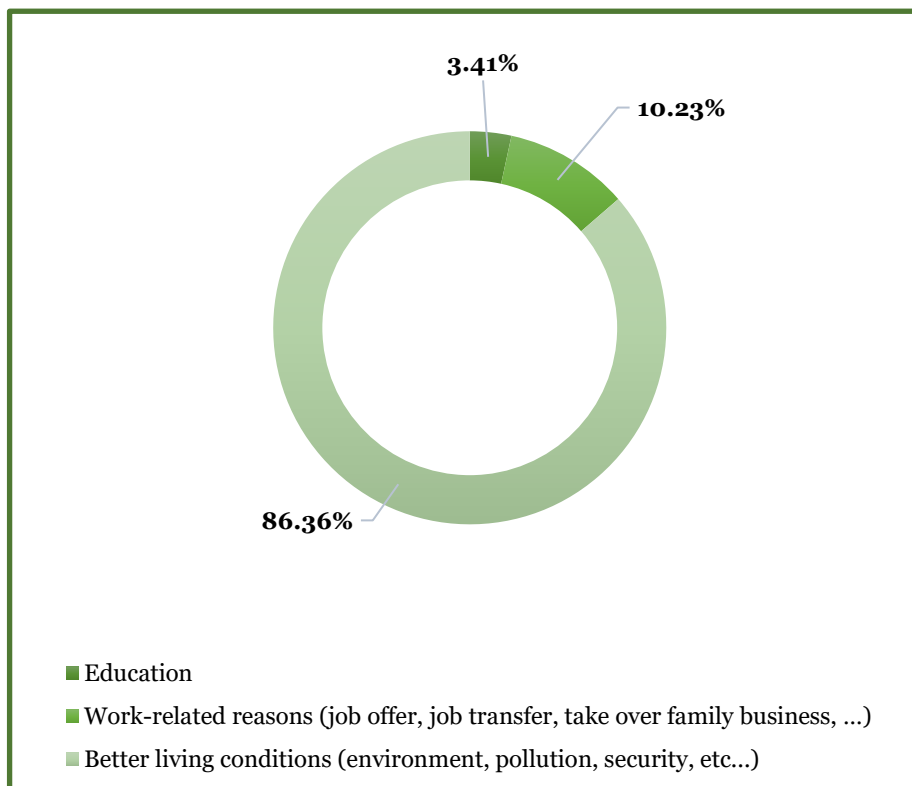
### D. Immigration

With regards to immigration, 20.30% reported having one or more household members who immigrated. Moreover, 81.48%, of those who immigrated moved to another country did so in search for better living conditions while 14.81% decided to move for work related reasons.

Further, 66.17% of the workers in the agricultural sector indicated that they would move permanently to another country if they are presented with the opportunity.

With regards to motives driving respondents to contemplate immigration, 86.36% of the respondents indicated that they want to move out of Lebanon in search of better living conditions and 10.23% for work-related reasons. Of those wanting to immigrate for work-related reasons, 55.56% responded they are willing to accept job offers ranging from two to four thousand USD.

Figure 11. Reasons to immigrate



## IV. CONSTRUCTION SECTOR

As part of the “Advancing evidence-based policy in crisis management” project, 133 households that have a family member working in the construction sector were interviewed. This report outlines the findings related to their working status, income, ability to make ends meet, livelihood-based coping strategies, and attitudes towards immigration.

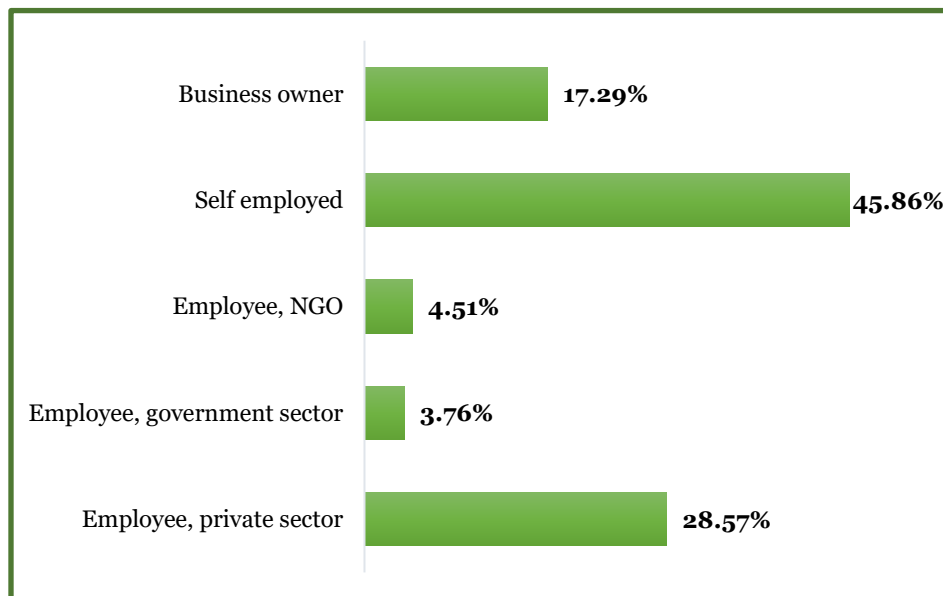
According to the national accounts for 2020 published by the Central Administration of Statistics, the construction sector accounts for 2.86% of Gross Domestic Product. In terms of the gender distribution of employees in the sector, 96% of the employees are male while 4% are female.

### A. Working Status

The findings reveal that 46% of the respondents are self-employed, and 17.29% are business owners. 28.57% of the respondents are employed in the private sector. Out of the 28.57% respondents that are employed in the private sector, nearly 80% are daily workers (i.e., don’t have a contract), 6.12% have a contract with a duration between 1 month and 1 year, and 12.24% have a stable job (the contract duration is more than 1 year).

Further, 56% of the respondents did not complete completing elementary and intermediary education. Most of the workers are under the age of 30 (45.87%) and only 11% are above the age of 50.

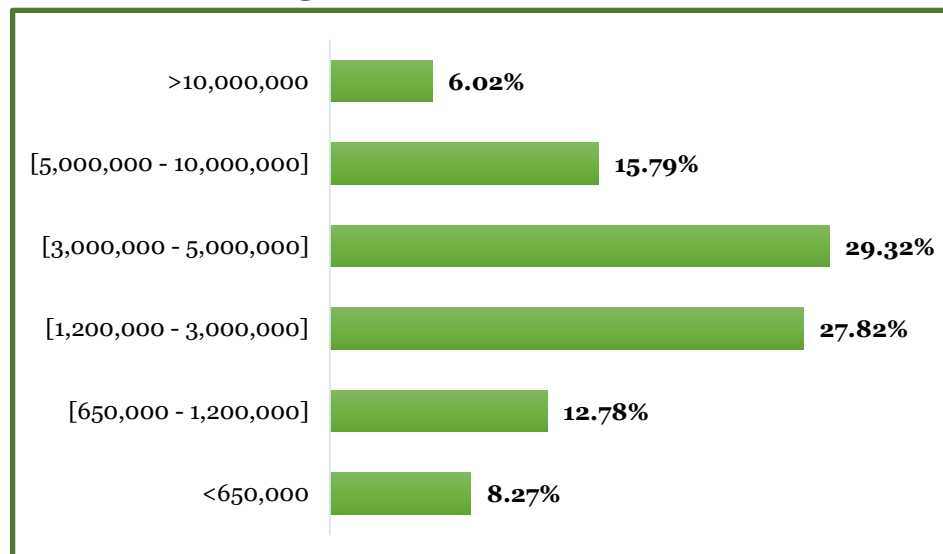
Figure 12. Work status



### B. Total Income

Around 57% of the respondents earn a total monthly income of 1.2 to 5 million LBP, while 15.79% earn an income of 5 to 10 million and only 6.02% earn an income exceeding 10 million. Thus, at the prevailing market exchange rate, the bulk of the respondents’ income is lower than \$400. The findings reveal that 93.23% of households don’t have access to any source of “Fresh dollars”. Only 2 (1.50%) households reported receiving remittances in “Fresh dollars” and only 1 (0.75%) are relying on their “Fresh Dollar” savings. About 4.5% households have a family member earning a part of his/her salary in “Fresh USD”.

Figure 13. Total household income



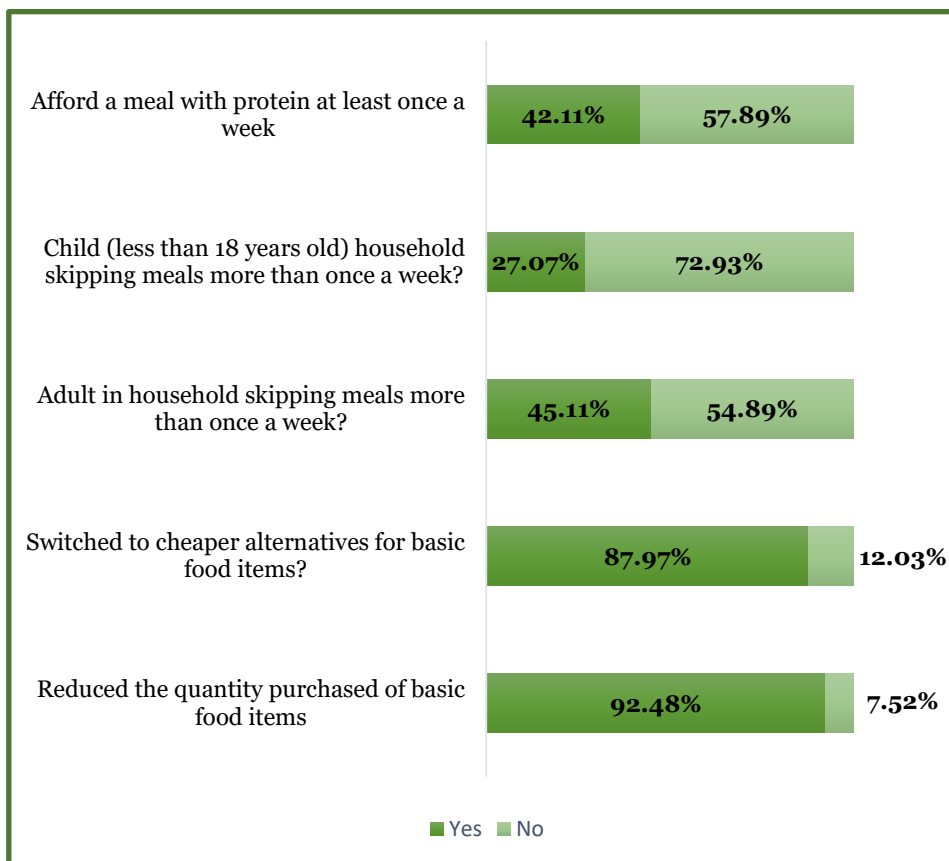
### C. Ability to make ends meet and adopted coping strategies

In a striking finding, 84.21% of the respondents indicated that they were unable to make ends meet. Moreover, 91% of the respondents, unsurprisingly, had to contend with a decrease in their purchasing power due to triple digit inflation. Nearly 50% of the respondents faced a delay or suspension of salaries, 53.38% reported facing a reduction in their working hours, and 50.38% lost their job in the past two years. In order to cope with the decrease in their income and purchasing power, 9.77% of the respondents were forced to get a second job or more working hours. None of the respondents received monetary assistance.

#### C1. Food

The soaring price of basic food items forced respondents to change their consumption patterns and to adopt food-related coping strategies. Nearly 60% of the respondents indicated that they spend more than 2 million Lebanese pounds on food and beverages with nearly 38% spending more than 3 million pounds. In terms of coping strategies, a staggering 92.48% of the respondents indicated that they had to adopt a livelihood-based coping strategy that centers on reducing the quantity of food and 87.97% of the respondents indicated having to switch to cheaper alternatives for basic food items. Severe food-related coping strategies were not uncommon. Indeed, 45.11% of the respondents indicate having an adult in their household skipping a meal more than once a week and 27.07% indicated that a child in their household skips a meal more than once a week. Furthermore, 57.89% of the respondents indicated that they cannot afford to eat a meal with protein at least once a week.

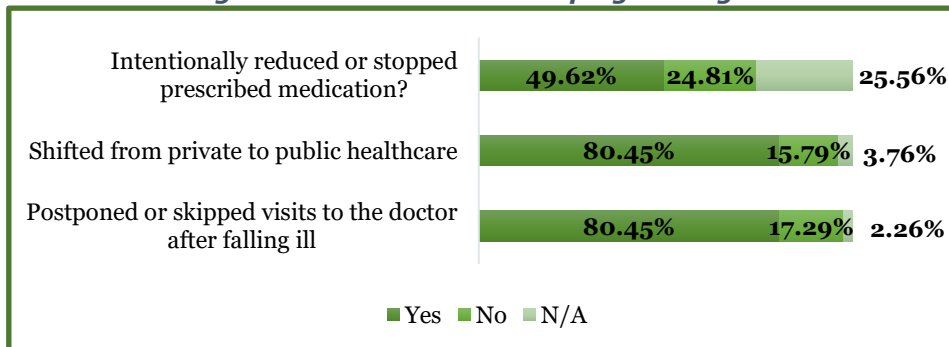
Figure 14. Food-related coping strategies



#### C2. Health

The decrease in the purchasing power of wages and the soaring cost of healthcare forced the households to adopt severe health-related coping strategies. In fact, a striking 80.45% of the respondents shifted from private to public healthcare, 80.45% postponed or skipped visits to the doctor after falling ill, and 49.62% reduced or intentionally stopped their prescribed medication.

Figure 15. Health-related coping strategies





### C3. Electricity

In terms of access to electric power, 81.2% of the surveyed households reported getting only 1 to 4 hours of power from EDL per day. In order to mitigate the long hours of power outage, around 55% obtain 5 to 10 hours of power from the diesel generators. However, due to the soaring prices of diesel, which translated into higher fees for diesel generators, many households did not rely on alternative power supply sources and 64.66% reported experiencing a blackout of 11 and 19 hours per day. While 77.3% of the households pay less than 500 thousands LBP in return for the government's power and 78.1% pay between 500 thousand and 1 million LBP for diesel generators. The latter relatively low fee for the diesel generator is explained by the fact households' intake is only 5 amperes.

Higher prices forced 23.31% of the households to use an intake of less than 5 amperes from the diesel generators. In addition, of the latter statistic, 35.48% are undertaking their daily activities on only 3 amperes during the EDL power cuts. Moreover, 62.41% of the respondents indicated that they are unlikely or extremely unlikely to be able to pay the bill of the diesel generator in the next six months.

Figure 16. Electricity (in hours) from EDL

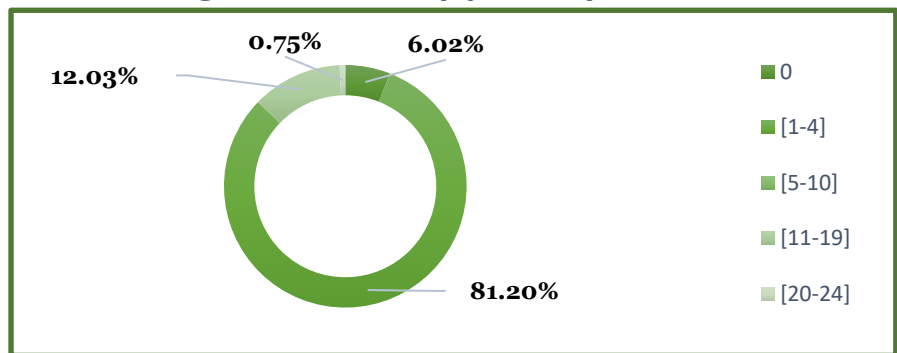


Figure 17. Electricity (in hours) from DG

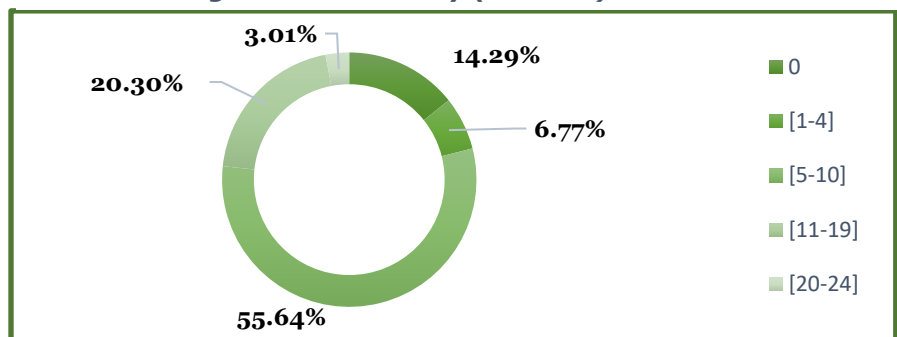
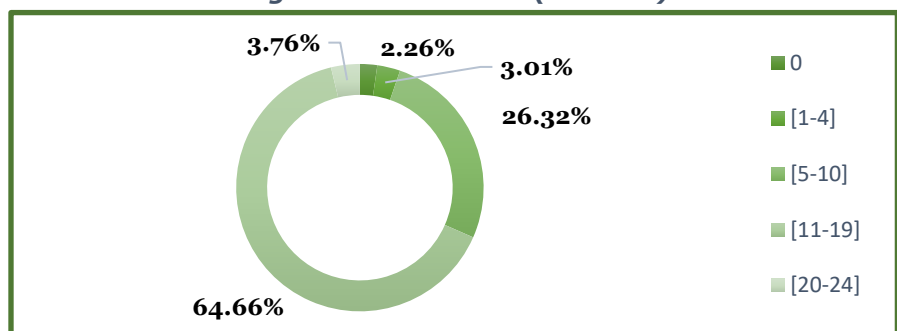


Figure 18. Power cut (in hours)



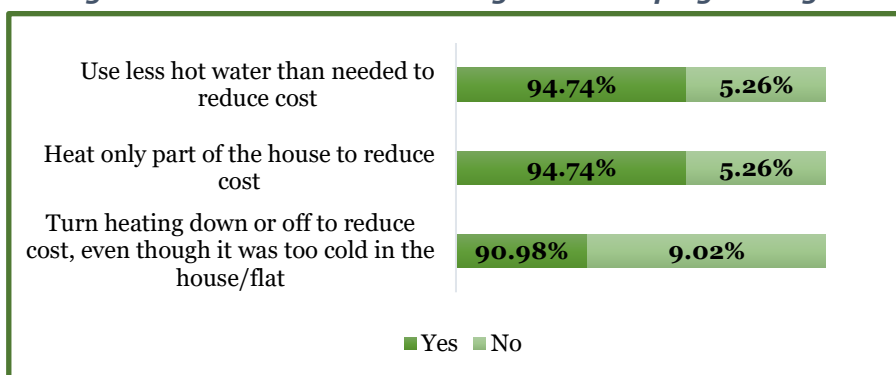
### C4. Education

The crisis impeded respondents' access to education. In fact, 22.56% of the respondents postponed or withdrew from university/school (or have a family member who had) and 30.83% moved to a more affordable university/school. Moreover, around 33.84% reported paying less than 6 million LBP on education in the past 12 months and only 3.01% reported being enrolled in part-time formal education. The latter findings suggest that education-related coping strategies were adopted by the respondents.

### C5. Hot water and heating

Another finding that highlights the burden of the crisis on Lebanese households is their livelihood-based coping strategy related to hot water and heating. In fact, 77.44% of the respondents indicated that they are not able to keep their households warm. As a result, a staggering 94.47% had to heat only a part of the house to reduce cost and 90.98% had to turn heating down. Similarly, 94.74% reported using less hot water than needed to reduce cost.

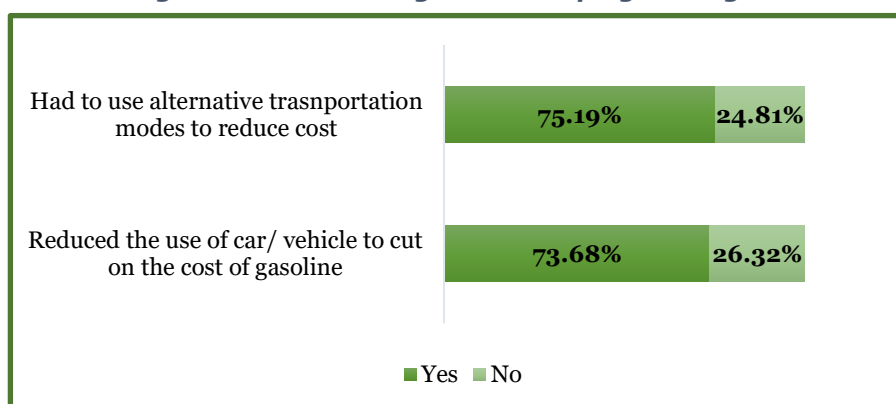
**Figure 19. Hot water and heating-related coping strategies**



### C6. Transportation

While 78.19% of the surveyed households' total income does not exceed 5 million LBP, 69.9% indicated that they spent between 500 thousand and 2 million LBP on transportation per month. The findings reveal that 9.02% of this sector's employees live and work in different districts. Thus, as a result of the increased gasoline prices, 75.19% switched to alternative modes of transportation to reduce costs and 73.68% had to reduce the use of the car to cut on the cost of gasoline.

**Figure 20. Commuting-related coping strategies**



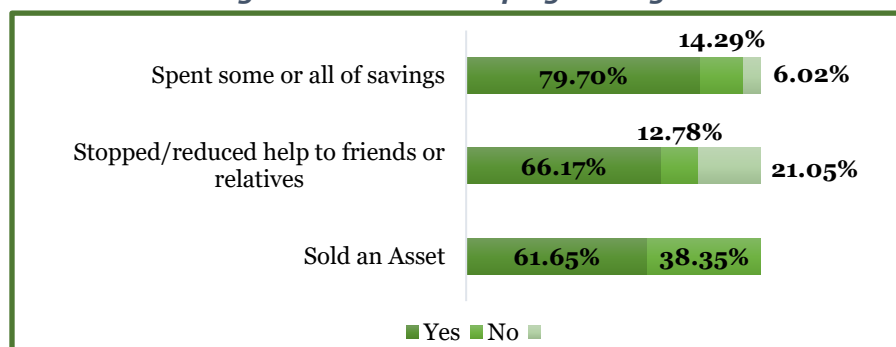
### C7. Rent

The findings indicate that 63.16% of respondents own their houses and that 64.71% of respondents had to contend with an increase in rent. In the past two years, around 35.42% experienced a change in rent. On one hand, 64.71% of the renters faced an increase in their rent from less than 1 million LBP to 1 to 3 million LBP. On the other hand, as a result of the crisis, 2.25% of the households had to move to cheaper apartments as a coping strategy to cut their expenses.

### C8. General Coping Strategies

In order to be able to meet their daily expenses, the respondents had to rely on other coping strategies. These include dipping into their savings, selling jewelry and stopping or reducing help for a friend. In fact, 79.70% of the respondents spent some or all of their savings, 61.65% sold an asset (real estate, jewelry, car, ...) and 66.17% stopped or reduced help to friends or relatives whom whom they used to help before.

**Figure 21. General coping strategies**



### C9. Monetary Assistance

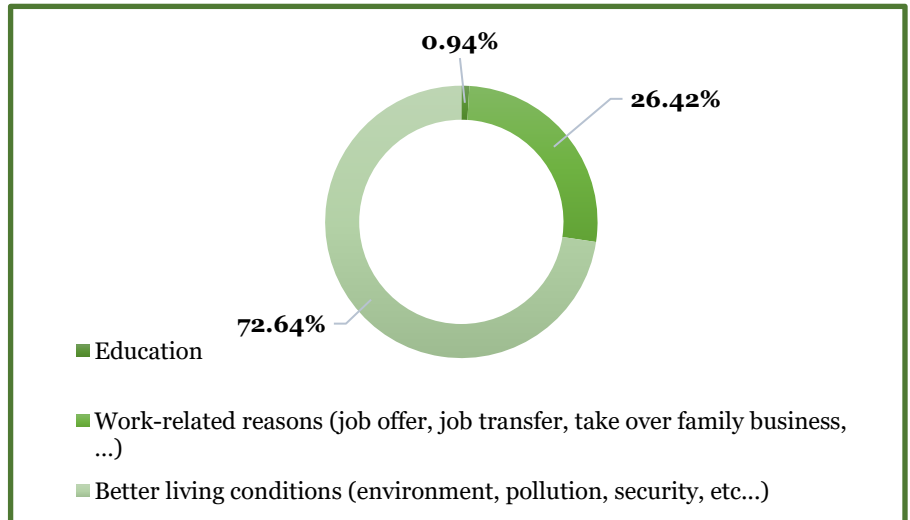
The findings reveal that only 9.02% of the households received monetary assistance over the past two years. Half of this assistance is received from local family or friends, and 50% from family or friends abroad or NGOs. Only 25% of households reported receiving monetary assistance from the government.

### D. Immigration

With regards to immigration, 17.29% of the respondents indicated having one or more household member who immigrated.

Strikingly, 79.7% of the respondents indicated a desire to move permanently to another country if they are presented with the opportunity to do so. With regards to their motives for wanting to immigrate, 72.64% of the respondents indicated wanting to move out of Lebanon in search of better living conditions. Moreover, 26.42% of respondents indicated that they intend to move for work-related reasons and 57.55% are willing to accept job offers with salaries ranging from two to four thousand USD.

**Figure 22. Reasons to immigrate**



## V. EDUCATION SECTOR

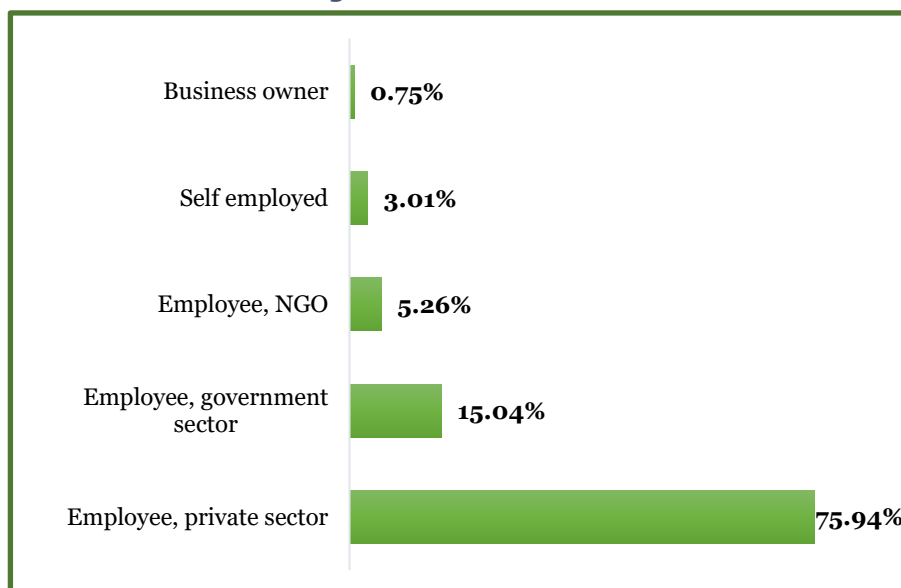
As part of the “Advancing evidence-based policy in crisis management” project, 131 households that have a family member working in the education sector were interviewed. This report outlines the findings related to their working status, income, ability to make ends meet, livelihood-based coping strategies, and attitudes towards immigration.

According to the national accounts for 2020 published by the Central Administration of Statistics, the education sector accounts for 7% of Gross Domestic Product. The educational sector employs the highest proportion of females across sectors. In fact, 71.43% of the employees in the sector are females.

### A. Working Status

The largest portion of the employees of the education sector are employed in the private sector. In fact, 75.94% of the survey’s respondents are employed in the private sector. Around a third of the employees in the education sector have a contract with a duration of more than one year while about 67% of the employees don’t have a stable job. In fact, 34.38% have a contract with a duration between 1 month and 1 year, and 33.59% are working without a contract. The workforce is young. Indeed, around 77% of the respondents are under the age of 44. The sector’s workforce is well educated: 44.36% hold a Bachelor’s degree and 40.60% earned a Master’s degree. Most of these workers live in Beirut (18.80%), Zahleh (16.54%), and Akkar (26.32%).

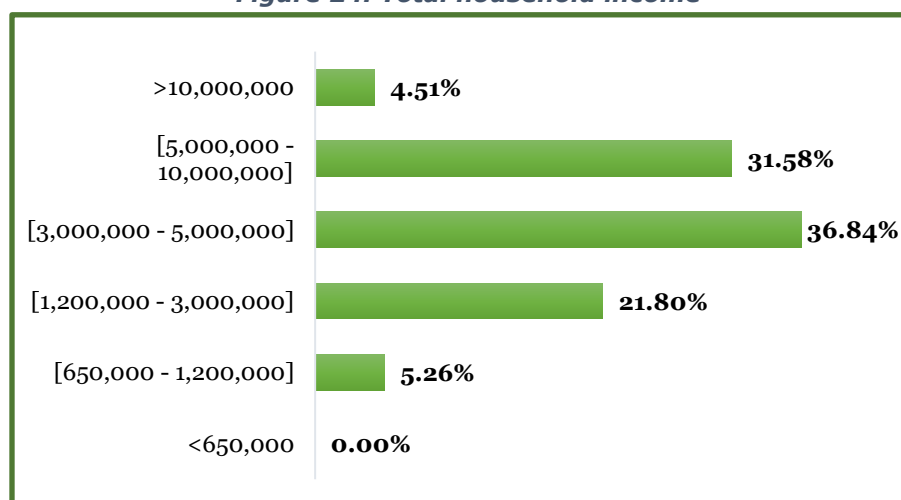
Figure 23. Work status



### B. Total Income

Nearly 68% of the households that have a family member working in the educational sector earn a total monthly income between 3 million and 10 million LBP. The total earnings of one-fourth do not exceed 3 million LBP. Moreover, the results indicate that 89.47% of households don’t have access to any source of “Fresh dollars”. Only 3 (2.26%) households have reported obtaining remittances in “Fresh dollars” and only 2 (1.50%) are relying on their “Fresh dollar” savings. The findings also indicate that 6.77% have a family member earning a part of his/her salary in “Fresh USD”.

Figure 24. Total household income



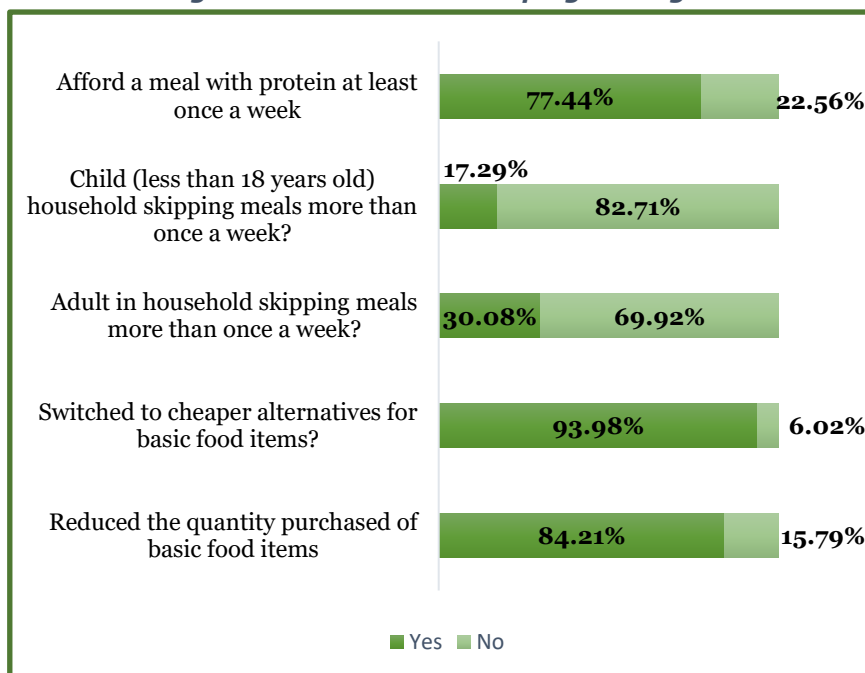
### C. Ability to make ends meet and adopted coping strategies

Strikingly, 61% of the respondents viewed that they are unable to make ends meet while 91.73% reported that their wage/allowance lost its value. In addition, 42.86% faced a delay or suspension of salaries, 33.83% reported facing a reduction in working hours, and 18.80% lost their job in the past two years. As a result, 16.54% of the respondents were forced to secure a second job or work for longer hours. Moreover, respondents had to adopt harsh livelihood-based coping strategies.

#### C1. Food

With rampant inflation increasing the cost of living significantly, 68.42% of the respondents indicated spending between 500 thousand and 3 million LBP per month on food and beverages. Of the households that spend 500 thousand and 3 million LBP per month on food and beverages, 73% are spent by households that consist of 3 to 5 members. In terms of livelihood-based coping strategies, the results indicate that 84.21% of households had to reduce the quantity of staple foods that are purchased and 93.98% had to switch to cheaper alternatives. Moreover, some households had to adopt severe coping strategies: 30.08% of households reported having an adult that skips a meal more than once a week and 17.29% reported having a child skipping a meal more than once a week. Alarming, 22.56% of households indicated their inability to afford eating a meal with protein at least once a week.

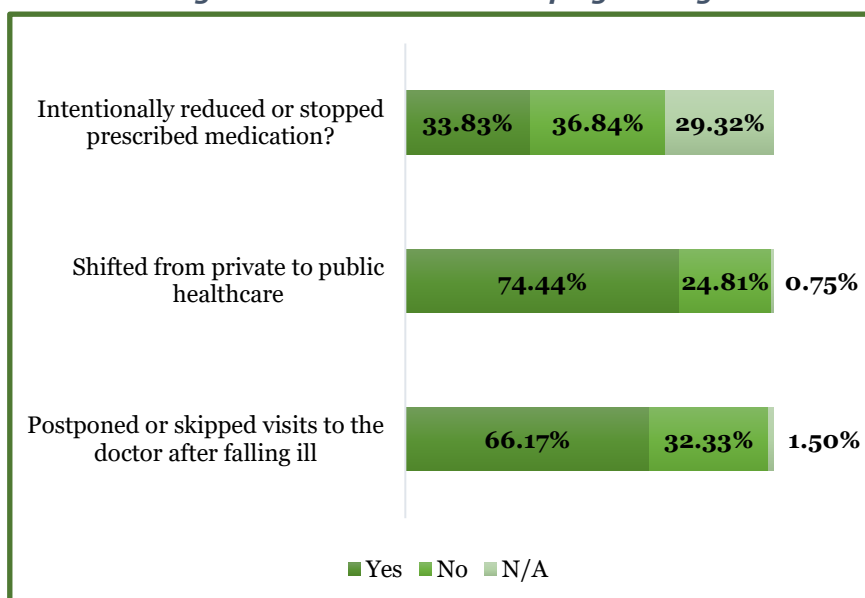
Figure 25. Food-related coping strategies



#### C2. Health

The decrease in the purchasing power of wages and the soaring cost of healthcare forced the households to adopt severe health-related coping strategies. The health-related coping strategies that were adopted by households were as severe as the food-based coping strategies. In fact, 74.44% of the respondents shifted from private to public healthcare, 66.17% postponed or skipped visits to the doctor after falling ill, and 33.83% reduced or intentionally stopped their prescribed medication. In terms of expenditure on healthcare, 24.81% of the respondents reported spending less than 2 million LBP on healthcare during the past 12 months and about 31% reported spending 0 LBP. The latter expenditure patterns illustrate the frugal expenditure patterns of households in relation to healthcare.

Figure 26. Health-related coping strategies



### C3. Electricity

In terms of access to electric power, 78.95% of the surveyed households reported getting only 1 to 4 hours of power from EdL per day. In order to mitigate the long hours of power outage, around 54% of respondents indicated obtaining 5 to 10 hours of power from diesel generators. However, due to the soaring prices of diesel, which translated into higher fees for diesel generators, many households did not rely on alternative power supply sources and 62.41% reported experiencing a blackout of 11 to 19 hours per day.<sup>6</sup> While 81.20% of the households pay less than 500 thousands LBP in return for the government's power, 80.45% pay between 500 thousand and 1 million LBP for private generators. Higher prices of diesel, which translated into higher diesel generator subscription fees, forced 9% of the households to cancel their private generator subscription and 6.77% to undertake their daily activities on less than 5 amperes. In fact, 48.87% of the households reported that they decreased their intake of amperes in the past two years. Further, around 55.64% indicated that they are unlikely or extremely unlikely to pay the bill of the private generator in the next six months.

Figure 27. Electricity (in hours) from EDL

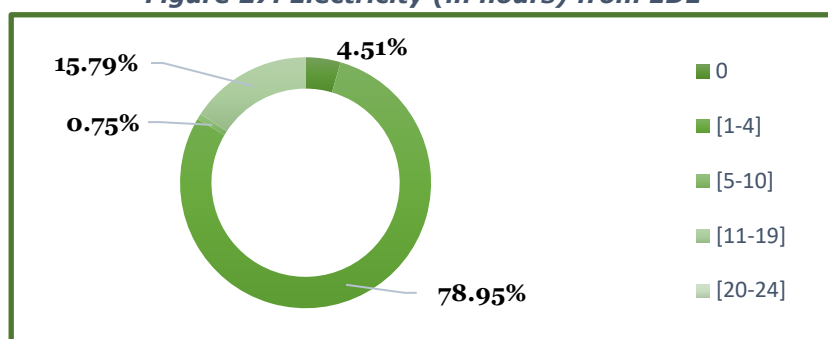


Figure 28. Electricity (in hours) from DG

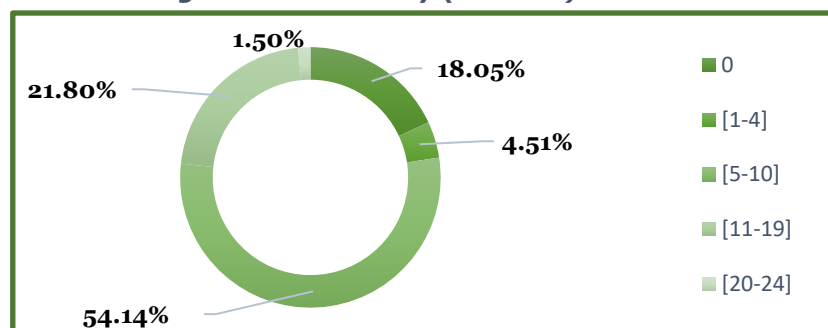
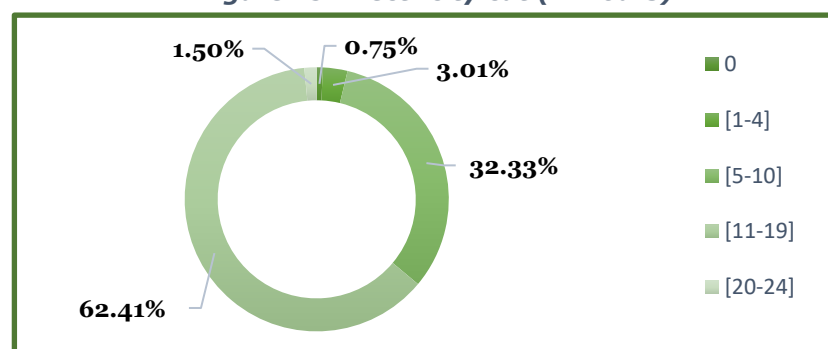


Figure 29. Electricity cut (in hours)



### C4. Education

The crisis impeded respondents' access to education. In fact, 11.28% of the respondents postponed or withdrew from university/school or have a family member who had to. Other less severe education-related coping strategies that were adopted include moving to a more affordable university or school and paying less on education. More specifically, 18% moved to a more affordable university/school and 29% of the respondents reported paying less than 6 million LBP on education in the previous 12 months. Only 12 (9.02%) workers reported being enrolled in part-time formal education.<sup>7</sup>

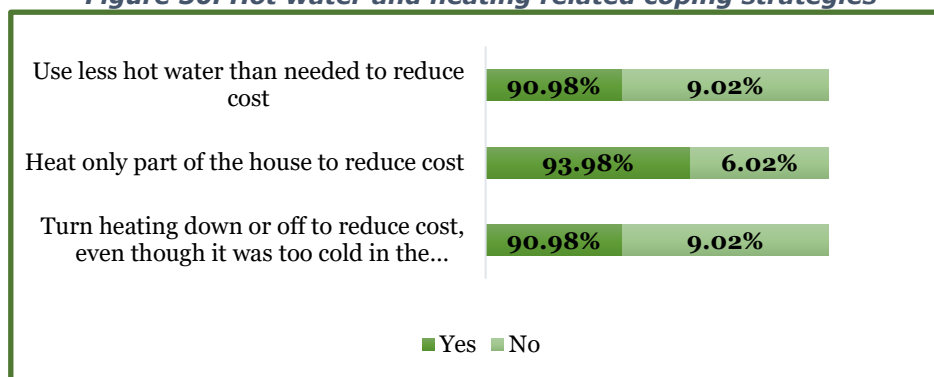
<sup>6</sup> We should note that the households that reported getting 11 to 19 hours from EdL live in Zahleh.

<sup>7</sup> Of the 12 students, 10 are at the Lebanese university and 2 at private universities.

### C5. Hot water and heating

Another finding that highlights the burden of the crisis on Lebanese households is their livelihood-based coping strategy related to hot water and heating. In fact, 85.71% of the respondents claimed not being able to keep their households warm. As a result, 93.98% had to heat only a part of the house to reduce cost and 90.98% had to turn heating down. Similarly, 90.98% reported using less hot water than needed to reduce cost.

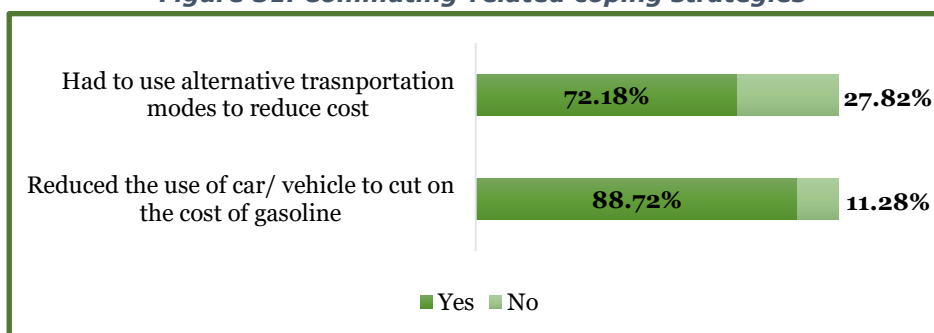
**Figure 30. Hot water and heating related coping strategies**



### C6. Transportation

Despite that 63.91% of the surveyed households' total income does not exceed 5 million LBP, 61.65% claimed spending between 500 thousand and 2 million LBP on transportation per month. As a result of the increase in gasoline prices, 72.18% switched to alternative modes of transportation to reduce cost and 88.72% had to reduce the use of the car to cut on the cost of gasoline.

**Figure 31. Commuting-related coping strategies**



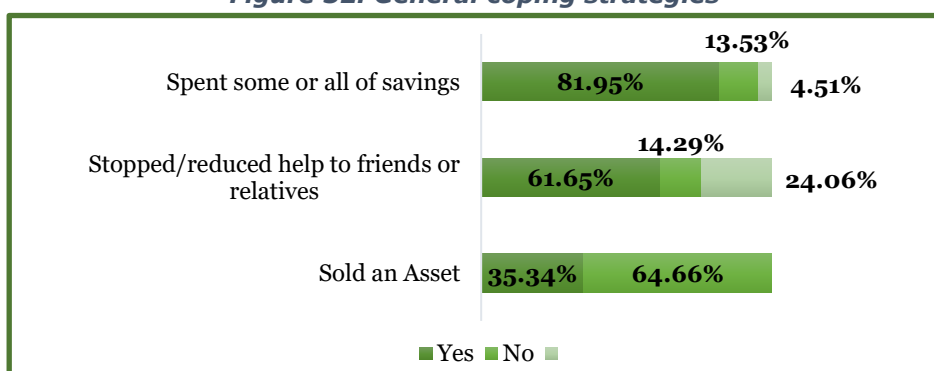
### C7. Rent

The findings indicate that only 21.80% of the respondents to the survey live in rented properties. In the past two years, around 48.28% experienced a change in rent. In fact, around 31% of the renters faced an increase in their rent from less than 1 million LBP to between 1 and 3 million LBP. On another hand, as a result of the crisis, 6.90% of the households reported moving for a cheaper rent as a coping strategy to cut their expenses.

### C8. General coping strategies

In order to be able to meet their daily expenses, the respondents had to rely on other coping strategies. These include drawing on their savings, selling jewelry and stopping or reducing help for a friend. In fact, 81.95% spent some or all of their savings, 35.34% sold an asset (real estate, jewelery, car, ...) and 61.65% stopped or reduced help to friends or relatives whom they used to help before.

**Figure 32. General coping strategies**



### C9. Monetary assistance

The findings indicate that 6.02% of the households received monetary assistance in the past two years. About 87% of this assistance is received from local or expatriate family or friends. Only 1 household reported receiving assistance from NGOs, and no respondent claimed receiving assistance from the government.

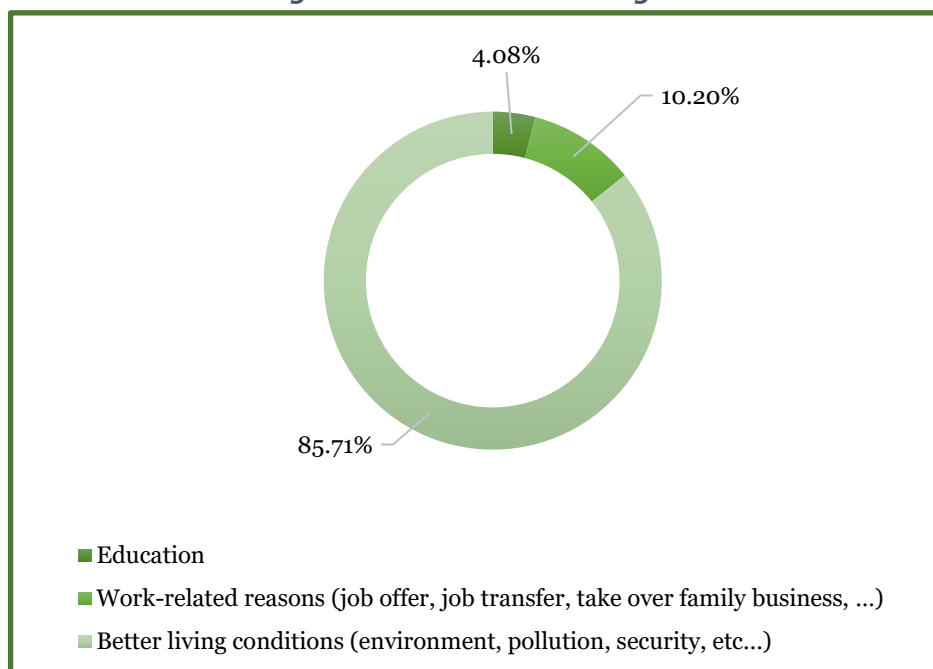
## D. Immigration

With regards to immigration, 22.56% of the respondents indicated having one or more household members who immigrated. Of these, 80% moved to another country in search for better living conditions.

Moreover, 73.68% of the respondents indicated that they would like to move permanently to another country if they are presented with the opportunity.

Further, 85.71% of the respondents indicated that they want to move out of Lebanon in search of better living conditions while only 10.2% expressed a desire to move for work-related reasons. Of those wanting to immigrate for work-related reasons, 70% responded they are willing to accept job offers ranging from two to four thousand USD.

**Figure 33. Reasons to immigrate**





## VI. FOOD AND BEVERAGE SECTOR

As part of the “Advancing evidence-based policy in crisis management” project, 133 households that have a family member working in the food and beverage sector were interviewed. This report outlines the findings related to their working status, income, ability to make ends meet, livelihood-based coping strategies, and attitudes towards immigration.

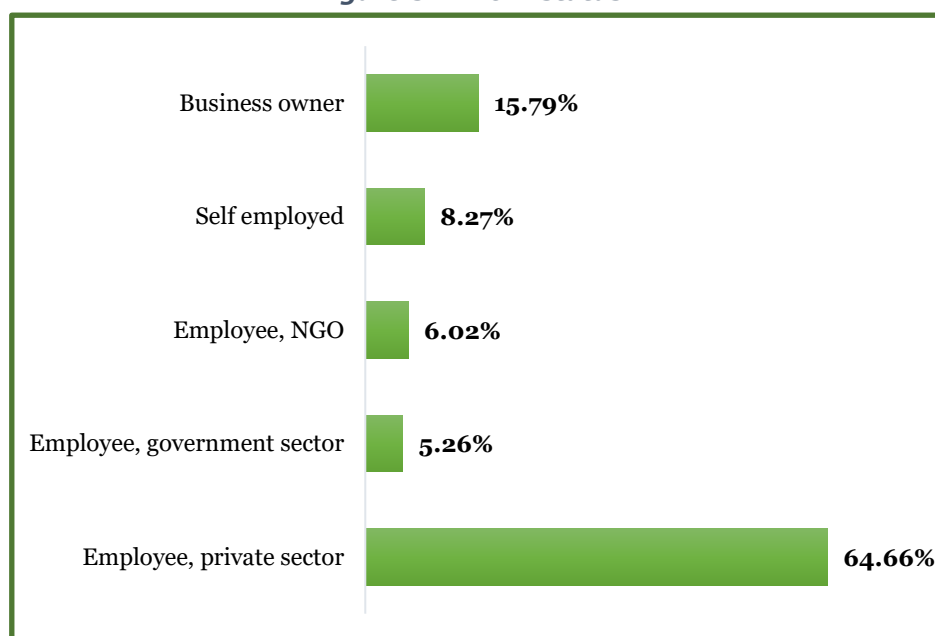
According to the national accounts for 2020 published by the Central Administration of Statistics, the food and beverage sector accounts for 2.03% of Gross Domestic Product. In terms of the gender distribution of employees in the sector, 65% of the employees are male while 35% are female.

### A. Working Status

The findings suggest that 8.27% of the respondents are self-employed, and 15.79% are business owners. 64.66% of the respondents are employed in the private sector. Out of the 64.66% respondents that are employed in the private sector, nearly 72% are daily workers (i.e., don’t have a contract), 11.88% have a contract with a duration between 1 month and 1 year, and 15.84% have a stable job (the contract duration is more than 1 year). The latter statistics demonstrate the precarity of employment in the sector.

Further, 74% of the respondents did not complete completing elementary and intermediary education. Most of the workers are under the age of 30 (48.13%) and only 15.79% are above the age of 50.

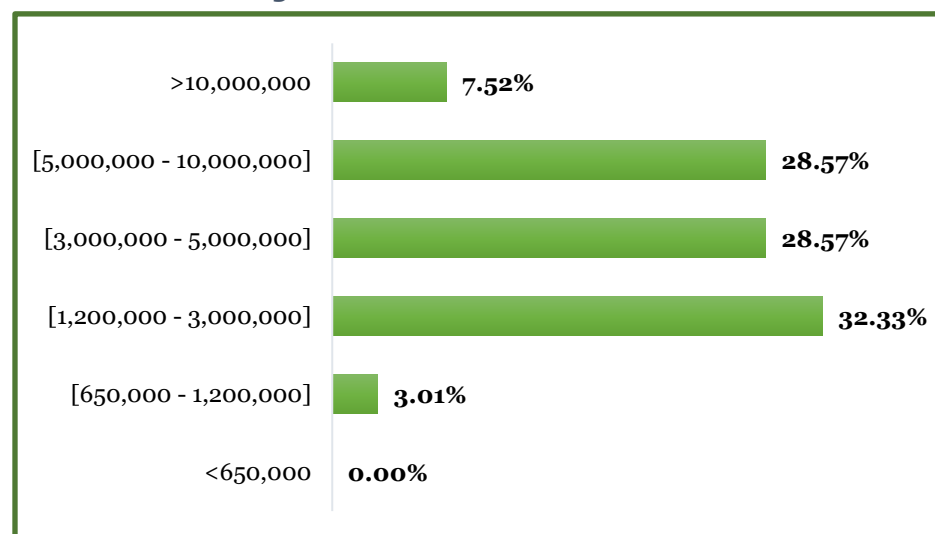
Figure 34. Work status



### B. Total Income

Nearly 61% of the respondents earn a total monthly income of 1.2 to 5 million LBP, while 28.57% earn an income of 5 to 10 million and only 7.52% earn an income exceeding 10 million. Thus, at the prevailing market exchange rate, the bulk of the respondents’ income is lower than \$400. The findings reveal that 92.48% of households don’t have access to any source of “Fresh dollars”. Only 3.76% households reported receiving remittances in “Fresh dollars”, and none are relying on their “Fresh Dollar” savings. Moreover, 3.76% households have a family member earning a part of his/her salary in “Fresh USD”.

Figure 35. Total household income



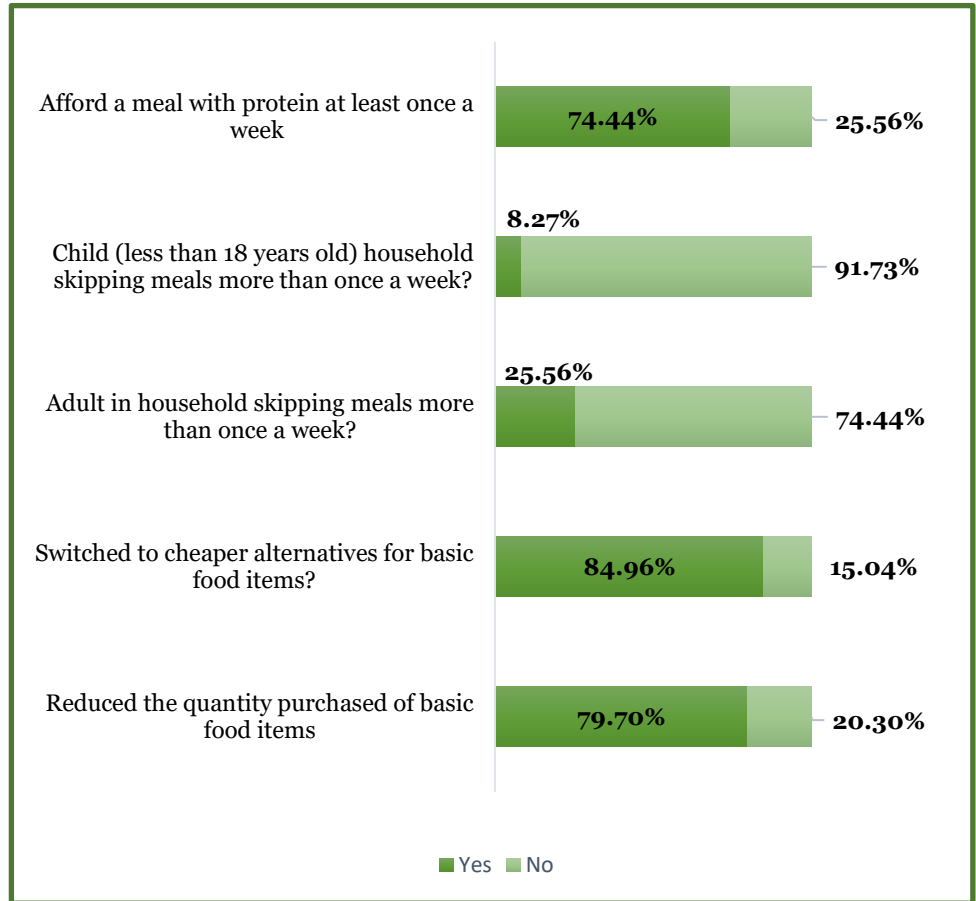
### C. Ability to make ends meet and adopted coping strategies

In a striking finding, 58.65% of the respondents indicated that they were unable to make ends meet. Moreover, 89.47% of the respondents, unsurprisingly, had to contend with a decrease in their purchasing power due to triple digit inflation. Nearly 30% of the respondents faced a delay or suspension of salaries, 23.31% reported facing a reduction in their working hours, and 31.58% lost their job in the past two years. In order to cope with the decrease in their income and purchasing power, 27.07% of the respondents were forced to get a second job or more working hours. None of the respondents received monetary assistance.

#### C1. Food

The soaring price of basic food items forced respondents to change their consumption patterns and to adopt food-related coping strategies. Around 56% of the respondents indicated that they spend more than 2 million Lebanese pounds on food and beverages with nearly 34% spending more than 3 million pounds. In terms of coping strategies, a staggering 79.7% of the respondents indicated that they had to adopt a livelihood-based coping strategy that centers on reducing the quantity of food and 84.96% of the respondents indicated having to switch to cheaper alternatives for basic food items. Severe food-related coping strategies were not uncommon. Indeed, 25.56% of the respondents indicate having an adult in their household skipping a meal more than once a week and 8.27% indicated that a child in their household skips a meal more than once a week. Furthermore, 25.56% of the respondents indicated that they cannot afford to eat a meal with protein at least once a week

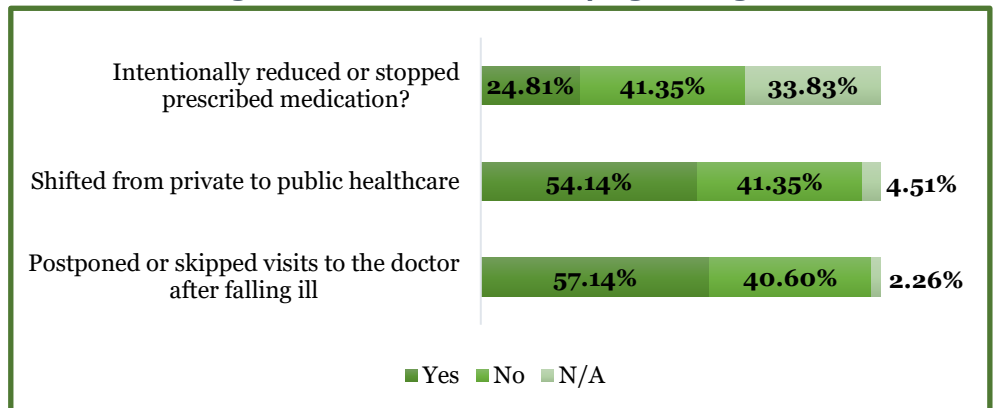
Figure 36. Food-related coping strategies



#### C2. Health

The sharp decrease in the purchasing power of wages and the increase in the cost of healthcare forced the households to adopt severe health-related coping strategies. In fact, a striking 54.14% of the respondents shifted from private to public healthcare, 57.14% postponed or skipped visits to the doctor after falling ill, and 24.81% reduced or intentionally stopped their prescribed medication.

Figure 37. Health-related coping strategies



### C3. Electricity

In terms of access to electric power, 81.2% of the surveyed households reported getting only 1 to 4 hours of power from EDL per day. In order to mitigate the long hours of power outage, nearly 35% obtain 5 to 10 hours of power from the diesel generators. However, due to the soaring prices of diesel, which translated into higher fees for diesel generators, many households did not rely on alternative power supply sources and 39.1% reported experiencing a blackout of 11 and 19 hours per day. While nearly 82% of the households pay less than 500 thousands LBP in return for the government's power and 75.15% pay between 500 thousand and 1 million LBP for diesel generators. The latter relatively low fee for the diesel generator is explained by the fact households' intake is only 5 amperes. Higher prices forced 12.03% of the households to use an intake of less than 5 amperes from the diesel generators. In addition, of the latter statistic, 62.5% are undertaking their daily activities on only 3 amperes during the EDL power cuts. Moreover, 47.37% of the respondents indicated that they are unlikely or extremely unlikely to be able to pay the bill of the diesel generator in the next six months.

Figure 38. Electricity (in hours) from EDL

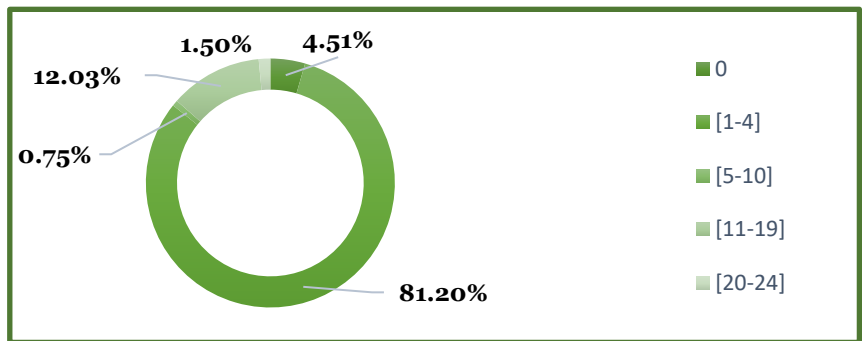


Figure 39. Electricity (in hours) from DG

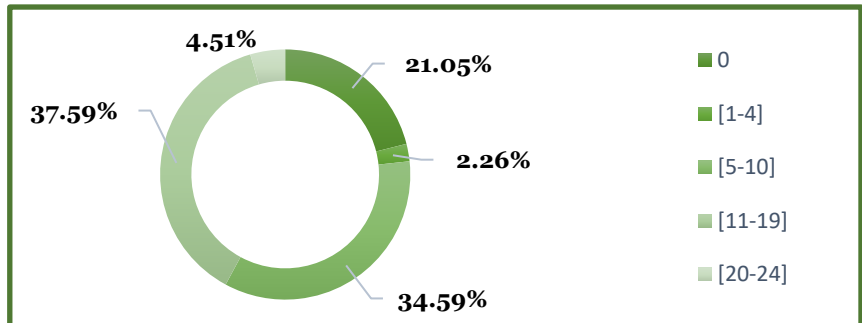
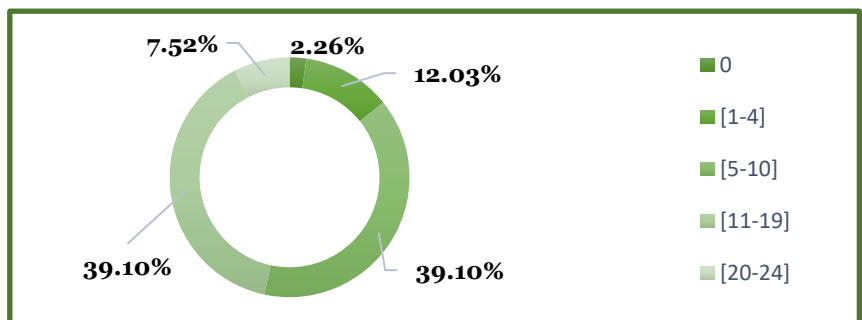


Figure 40. Power cut (in hours)



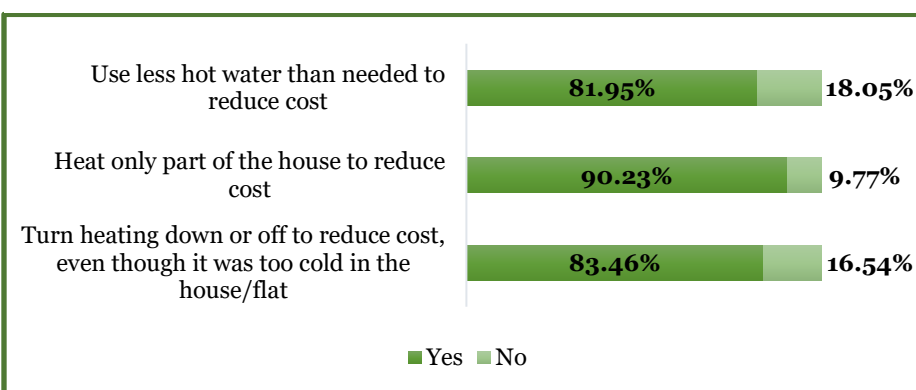
### C4. Education

The crisis impeded respondents' access to education. In fact, 18.8% of the respondents postponed or withdrew from university/school (or have a family member who had) and 21.05% moved to a more affordable university/school. Moreover, 25.57% reported spending less than 6 million LBP on education in the past 12 months and only 13.53% reported being enrolled in part-time formal education. The latter findings suggest that education-related coping strategies were adopted by the respondents.

### C5. Hot water and heating

Another finding that highlights the burden of the crisis on Lebanese households is their livelihood-based coping strategy related to hot water and heating. In fact, 75.94% of the respondents indicated that they are not able to keep their households warm. As a result, a staggering 90.23% had to heat only a part of the house to reduce cost and 83.46% had to turn heating down. Similarly, 81.95% reported using less hot water than needed to reduce cost.

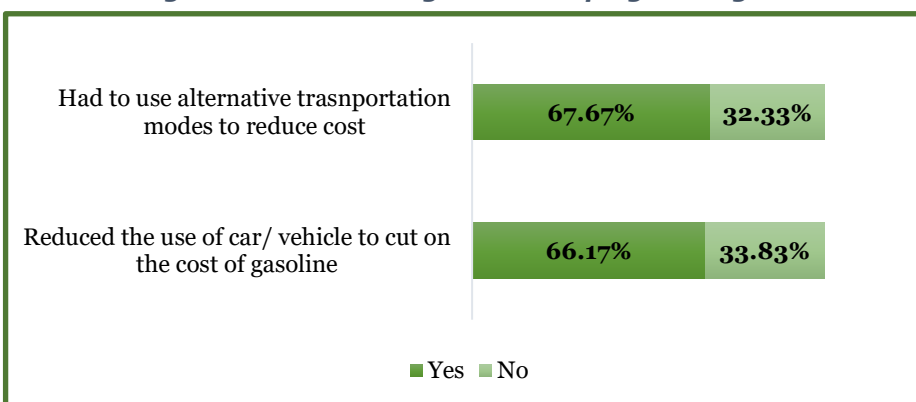
**Figure 41. Hot water and heating related coping strategies**



### C6. Transportation

While 63.91% of the surveyed households' total income does not exceed 5 million LBP, 68.42% indicated that they spent between 500 thousand and 2 million LBP on transportation per month. The findings reveal that 21.05% of this sector's employees live and work in different districts. Thus, as a result of the increased gasoline prices, 67.67% switched to alternative modes of transportation to reduce costs and 66.17% had to reduce the use of the car to cut on the cost of gasoline.

**Figure 42. Commuting-related coping strategies**



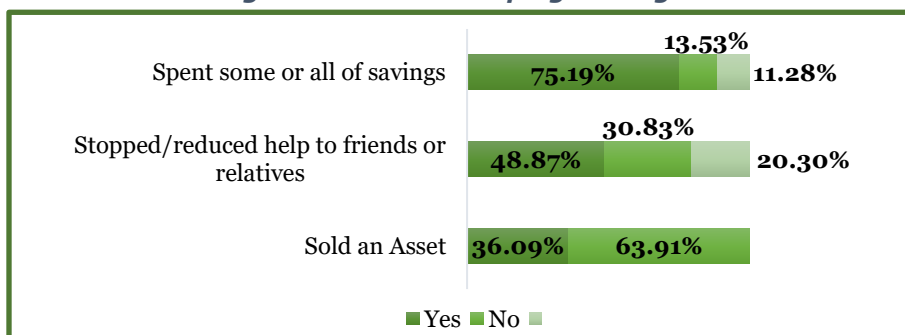
### C7. Rent

The findings indicate that 57.89% of respondents own their houses and that around 86% of respondents had to contend with an increase in rent. In the past two years, around 48.21% experienced a change in rent. On one hand, 70.37% of the renters faced an increase in their rent from less than 1 million LBP to 1 to 3 million LBP. On the other hand, as a result of the crisis, 3% of the households had to move to cheaper apartments as a coping strategy to cut their expenses.

### C8. General Coping Strategies

In order to be able to meet their daily expenses, the respondents had to rely on other coping strategies. These include dipping into their savings, selling jewelry and stopping or reducing help for a friend. In fact, 75.19% of the respondents spent some or all of their savings, 36.09% sold an asset (real estate, jewelry, car, ...) and 48.87% stopped or reduced help to friends or relatives whom they used to help before.

**Figure 43. General coping strategies**



### C9. Monetary Assistance

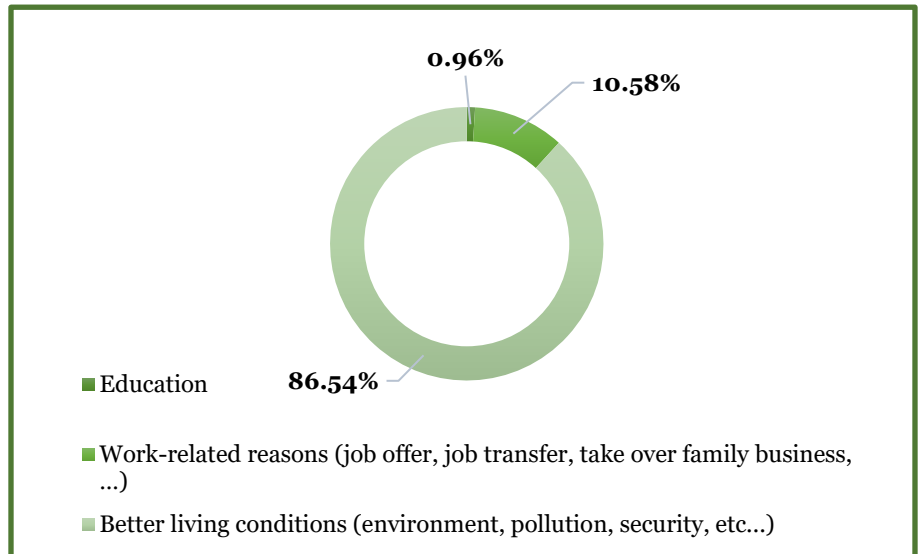
The findings reveal that only 15.79% of the households received monetary assistance over the past two years. 38.1 of this assistance is received from local family or friends, and 33.33% from family or friends abroad and 23.81% from NGOs. Only 4.76% of households reported receiving monetary assistance from the government.

## D. Immigration

With regards to immigration, 24.81% of the respondents indicated having one or more household member who immigrated.

Strikingly, 78.2% of the respondents indicated a desire to move permanently to another country if they are presented with the opportunity to do so. With regards to their motives for wanting to immigrate, 86.64% of the respondents indicated wanting to move out of Lebanon in search of better living conditions. Moreover, 10.58% of respondents indicated that they intend to move for work-related reasons and 49.04% are willing to accept job offers with salaries ranging from two to four thousand USD.

**Figure 44. Reasons to immigrate**



## VII. HEALTH SECTOR

As part of the “Advancing evidence-based policy in crisis management” project, 131 households that have a family member working in the health sector were interviewed. This report outlines the findings related to their working status, income, ability to make ends meet, livelihood-based coping strategies, and attitudes towards immigration.

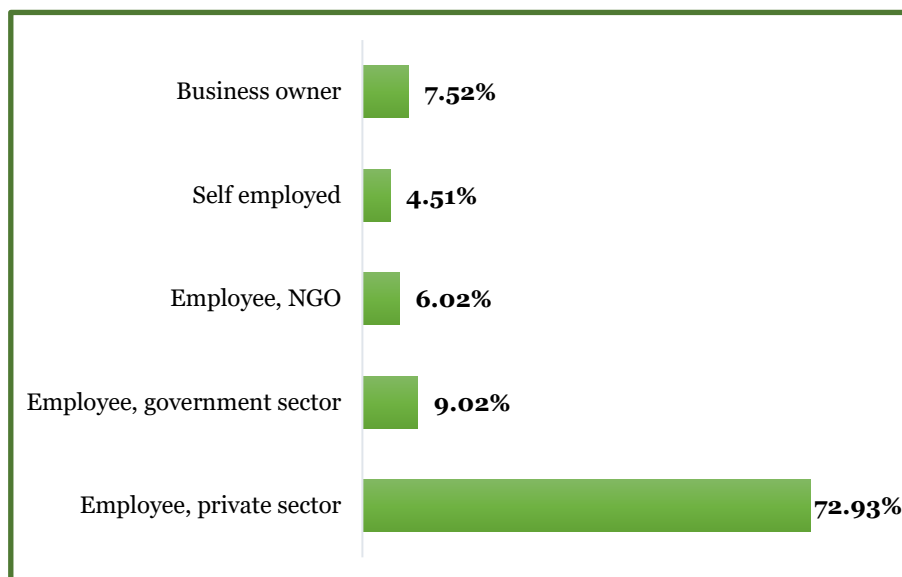
According to the national accounts for 2020 published by the Central Administration of Statistics, the health and social care sector accounts for 4.3% of Gross Domestic Product. In terms of the gender distribution of employees in the sector, 54.89% of the employees are male while 45.11% are female.

### A. Working status

The bulk (73.93%) of the respondents are employees in the private sector. Nearly 44% of the respondents indicated having a stable job and that the duration of their contract duration exceeds one year. Nonetheless, the working conditions of sizeable proportion of employees in the sector is precarious. In fact, 36.75% of the sector’s employees are working without a contract. These statistics show the precarity of employment in the sector.

The workforce is young, and its educational attainment is high. Indeed, around 63% of the respondents are between 19 and 34 years old, 31.58% hold a bachelor’s degree, and 21.1% earned a master’s degree. Most of the respondents live in Beirut (23.31%), Zahleh (16.54%), and Akkar (13.53%).

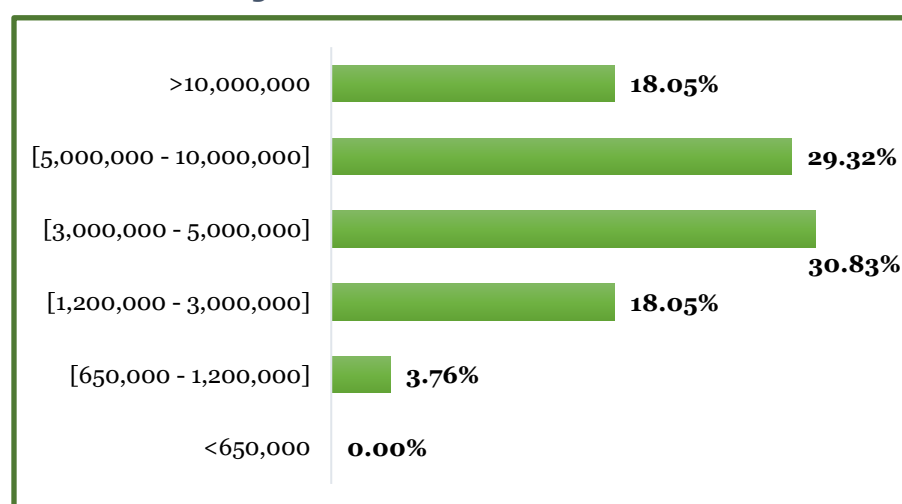
Figure 45. Work status



### B. Total income

Nearly 60% of the households that have a family member working in the health sector earn a total monthly income of 3 million to 10 million LBP. In terms of total income, 72.93% of households reported not having access to any source of “Fresh dollars” while only 8 households reported receiving remittances in “Fresh dollars” and only 1 is relying on savings in fresh dollars. In terms of salary, 80.82% don’t get any part of their salaries in “Fresh USD” while 12.25% are not paid more than 20% to 30% of their wages in “Fresh dollars”. The latter statistics speak to a slow and protracted adjustment in the salaries.

Figure 46. Total household income



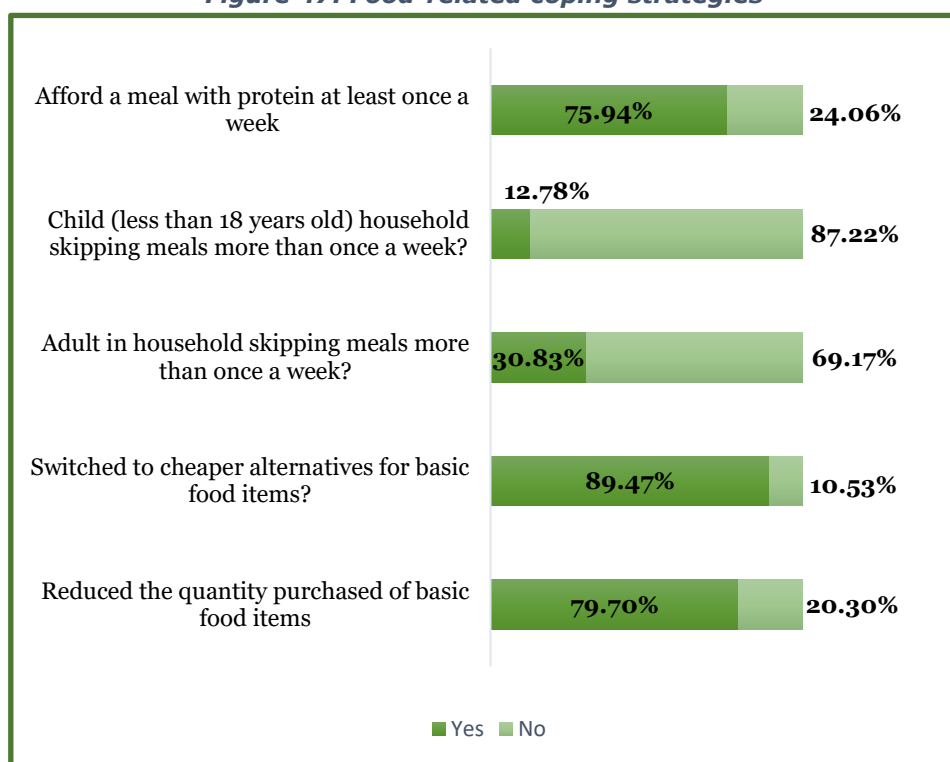
## C. Ability to make ends meet and adopted coping strategies

The findings suggest that 50% of the respondents view that they cannot make ends meet and 81.20% reported that their wage/allowance lost its value. The latter stark statistic illustrates the economic hardships facing the employees in the healthcare sector. Further, 31.58% of the survey's respondents indicated that they faced a delay or suspension of salaries, 21.80% reported facing a reduction in working hours, and 18.80% reported that they lost their job in the past two years. The termination of employment is particularly striking given that the country was going through the COVID-19 pandemic. Given the economic hardships that they face and their inability to make ends meet, 21.05% of the respondents reported being forced to obtain a second job or work for longer hours to increase their income. Further, households had to rely on harsh livelihood-based coping strategies that will be reviewed next.

### C1. Food

As a result of rampant inflation, 39.10% of the households reported spending on food and beverages more than 3 million LBP per month. In fact, around 12% of the surveyed households are spending on their food needs more than their total income. Thus, 79.70% of the respondents indicated that they had to adopt a livelihood-based coping strategy that centers on reducing the quantity of food and 89.47% indicated having to switch to cheaper alternatives. Severe food-related coping strategies were not uncommon. Indeed, 30.83% of the respondents indicate having an adult in their household skipping a meal more than once a week and 12.78% indicated that a child in their household skips a meal more than once a week. Furthermore, 24.06% of the respondents indicated that they cannot afford to eat a meal with protein at least once a week.

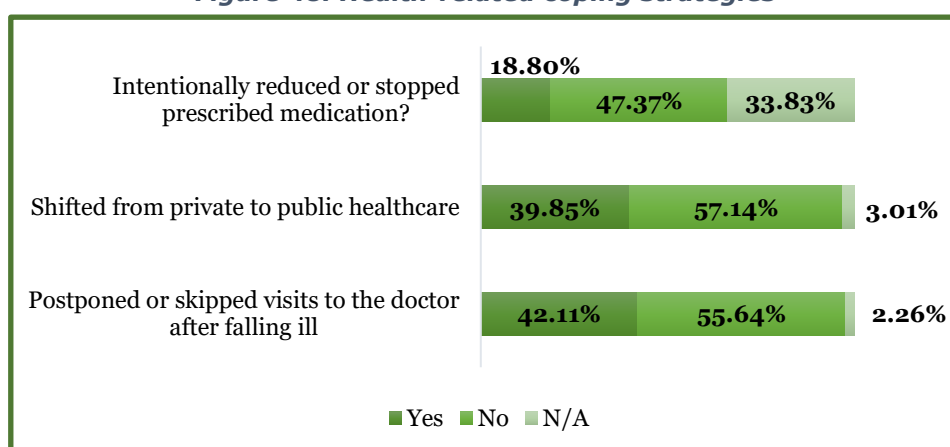
Figure 47. Food-related coping strategies



### C2. Health

The decrease in the purchasing power of wages and the soaring cost of healthcare forced the households to adopt severe health-related coping strategies. In fact, 39.85% of the respondents shifted from private to public healthcare, 42.11% postponed or skipped visits to the doctor after falling ill, and 18.80% reduced or intentionally stopped their prescribed medication. Strikingly, 39.85% of the respondents indicated spending 0 LBP on their health during the past 12 months.

Figure 48. Health-related coping strategies



### C3. Electricity

In terms of access to electric power, 77.44% of the surveyed households reported getting only 1 to 4 hours of power from EdL per day.<sup>8</sup> In order to mitigate the long hours of power outage, around 50% obtain 5 to 10 hours of power from the diesel generators. However, due to the soaring prices of diesel, which translated into higher fees for diesel generators, many households did not rely on alternative power supply sources and 52.63% reported experiencing a blackout of 11 and 19 hours per day. While 81.95% of the households pay less than 500 thousands LBP in return for the government's power and 81.20% pay between 500 thousand and 1 million LBP for diesel generators. The latter relatively low fee for the diesel generator is explained by the fact households' intake is only 5 amperes. Higher prices forced 14.29% of the households to use an intake of less than 5 amperes from the diesel generators. In addition, of the latter statistic, 63% are undertaking their daily activities on only 3 amperes during the EDL power cuts. Moreover, 42.85% of the respondents indicated that they are unlikely or extremely unlikely to be able to pay the bill of the diesel generator in the next six months.

Figure 49. Electricity (in hours) from EDL

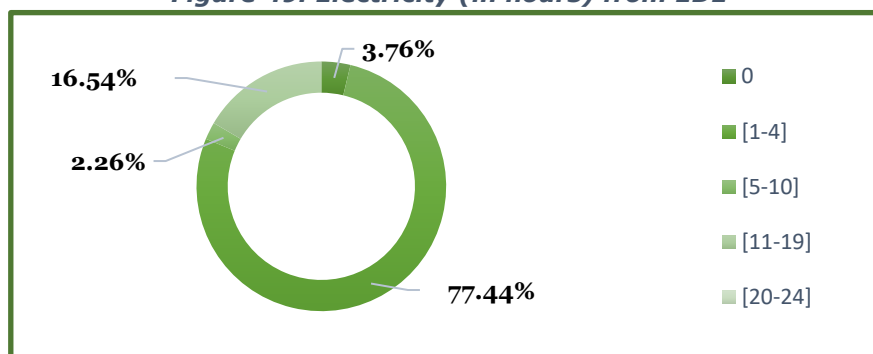


Figure 50. Electricity (in hours) from DG

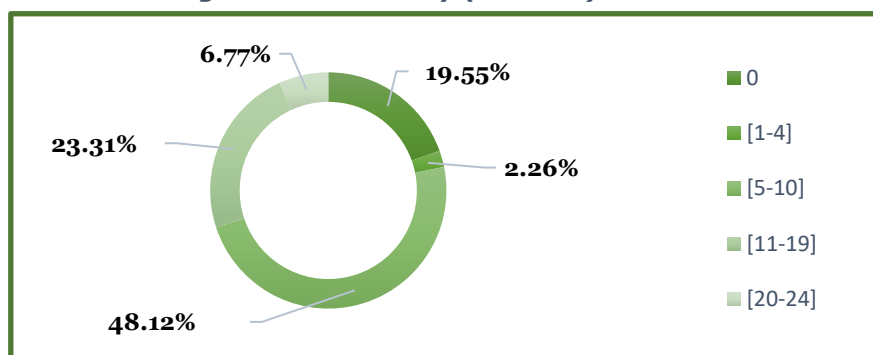
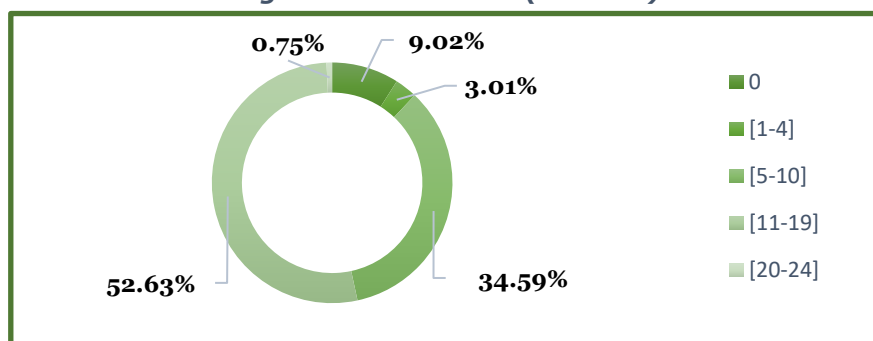


Figure 51. Power cut (in hours)



### C4. Education

The crisis impeded respondents' access to education. In fact, 18.05% of the respondents postponed or withdrew from university/school (or have a family member who had) and 14.29% moved to a more affordable university/school. Moreover, around 21% reported paying less than 6 million LBP on education in the past 12 months and only 5.26% reported being enrolled in part-time formal education. The latter findings suggest that education-related coping strategies were adopted by the respondents.

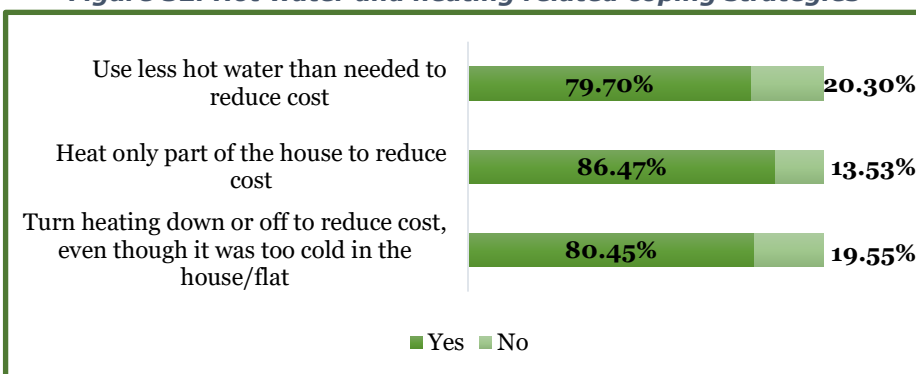
<sup>8</sup> Some households reported 0 hours of diesel generator and 11 to 19 hours from EdL. These households are located in Zahleh.



### C5. Hot water and heating

Another finding that highlights the burden of the crisis on Lebanese households is their livelihood-based coping strategy related to hot water and heating. In fact, 71.43% of the respondents indicated that they are not able to keep their households warm. As a result, 86.47% had to heat only a part of the house to reduce cost and 80.45% had to turn heating down. Similarly, 79.70% reported using less hot water than needed to reduce cost.

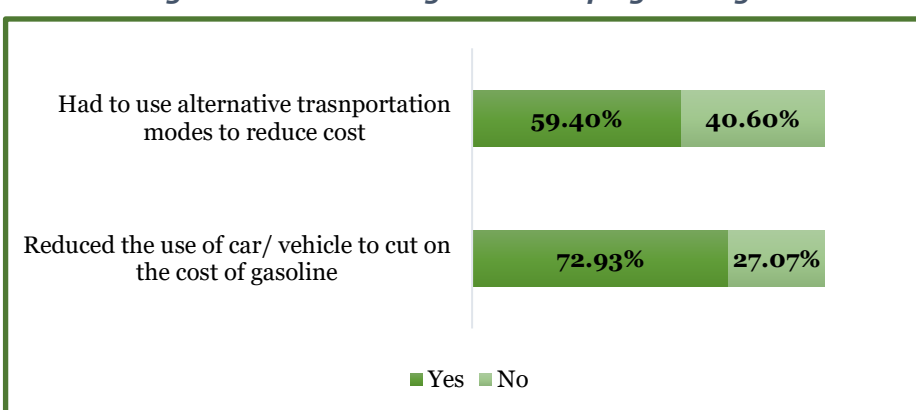
Figure 52. Hot water and heating related coping strategies



### C6. Transportation

While 48.87% of the surveyed households' total income does not exceed 5 million LBP, 64% indicated that they spent between 500 thousand and 2 million LBP on transportation per month. The findings reveal that 32.33% of this sector's employees live and work in different districts. Thus, as a result of the increased gasoline prices, 59.40% switched to alternative modes of transportation to reduce costs and 72.93% had to reduce the use of car to cut on the cost of gasoline.

Figure 53. Commuting-related coping strategies



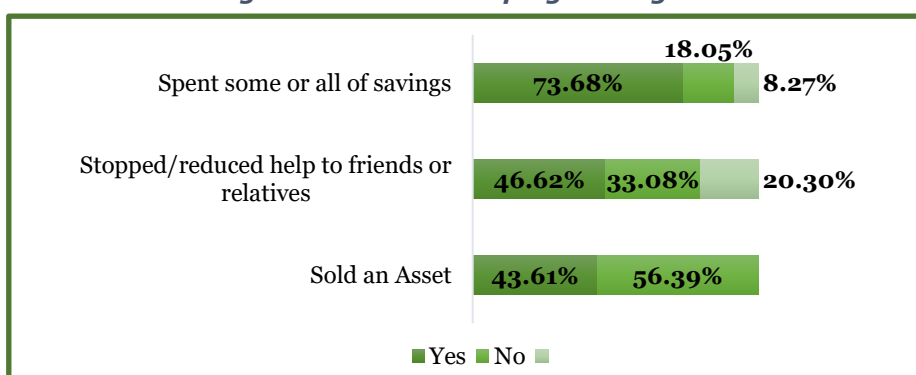
### C7. Rent

The findings reveal that the bulk (75.19%) of the respondents own their properties and only 24.81% live in rented premises. In the past two years, around 66.67% experienced a change in rent. In fact, 45.45% of the renters faced an increase in their rent from less than 1 million LBP to 1 to 3 million LBP. On another hand, as a result of the crisis, 9.09% of the households had to move to cheaper apartments as a coping strategy to cut their expenses.

### C8. General Coping Strategies

In order to be able to meet their daily expenses, the respondents had to rely on other coping strategies. These include drawing on their savings, selling jewelry and stopping or reducing help for a friend. In fact, 73.68% of the respondents spent some or all of their savings, 43.61% sold an asset (real estate, jewelry, car, ...) and 46.62% stopped or reduced help to friends or relatives whom whom they used to help before.

Figure 54. General coping strategies



### C9. Monetary assistance

The findings reveal that only 13.53% of the households received monetary assistance over the past two years. About half of this assistance is received from family or friends abroad, and around 39% from local family or friends or NGOs. Only 3 (11.11%) households reported receiving monetary assistance from the government.

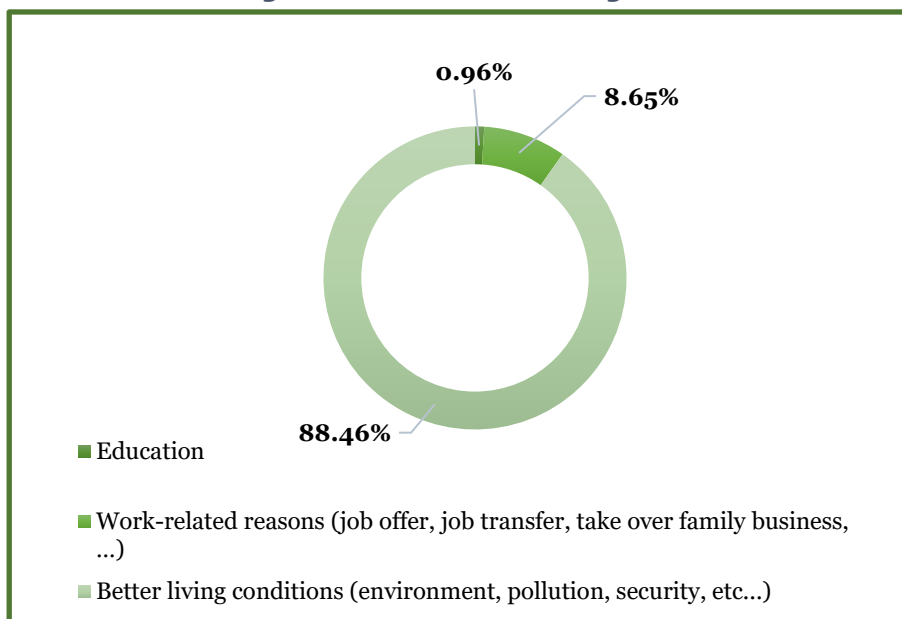
### D. Immigration

With regards to immigration, 30.08% of the respondents indicated having one or more household member who immigrated.

Strikingly, 78.20% of the respondents indicated a desire to move permanently to another country if they are presented with the opportunity to do so. With regards to their motives for wanting to immigrate, 88.46% of the respondents indicated wanting to move out of Lebanon in search of better living conditions.

Moreover, 8.65% of respondents indicated that they intend to move for work-related reasons. Of those wanting to immigrate for work-related reasons, 66.67% responded they are willing to accept job offers ranging from two to four thousand USD.

Figure 55. Reasons to immigrate



## VIII. MANUFACTURING SECTOR

As part of the “Advancing evidence-based policy in crisis management” project, 133 households that have a family member working in the manufacturing sector were interviewed. This report outlines the findings related to their working status, income, ability to make ends meet, livelihood-based coping strategies, and attitudes towards immigration.

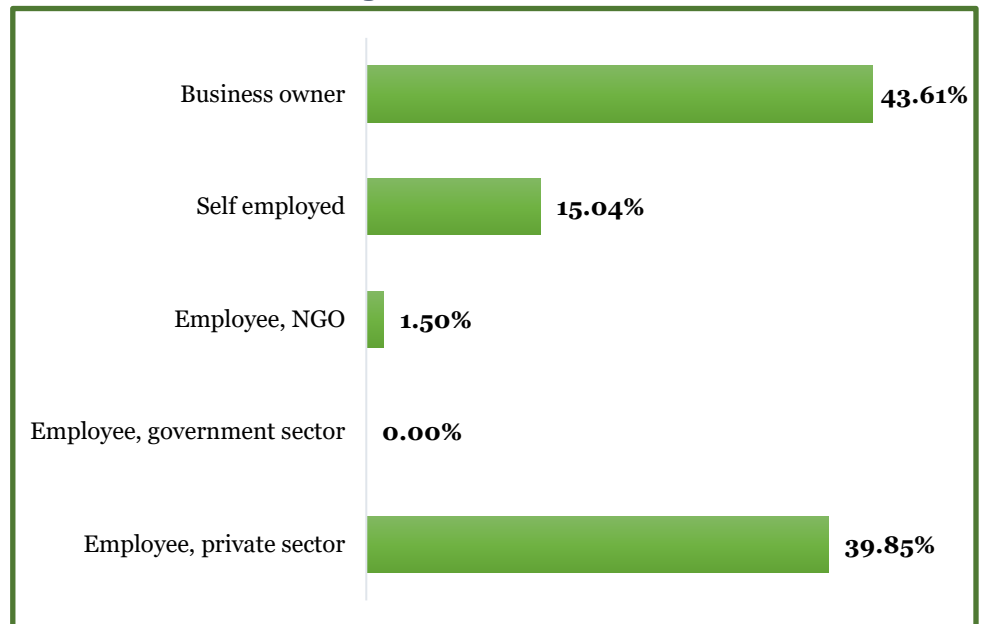
According to the national accounts for 2020 published by the Central Administration of Statistics, the manufacturing sector accounts for 3.1% of Gross Domestic Product. In terms of the gender distribution of employees in the sector, 95% of the employees are male while 5% are female.

### A. Working Status

The findings suggest that 15.04% of the respondents are self-employed, and 43.61% are business owners. Moreover, 39.85% of the respondents are employed in the private sector. Of the respondents that are employed in the private sector, nearly 71% are daily workers (i.e., don't have a contract), 3.64% have a contract with a duration between 1 month and 1 year, and 25.45% have a stable job (the contract duration is more than 1 year).

Further, 53% of the respondents did not complete completing elementary and intermediary education. Most of the workers are above 30 years of age (nearly 80%) and only 20% are less than 30 years of age.

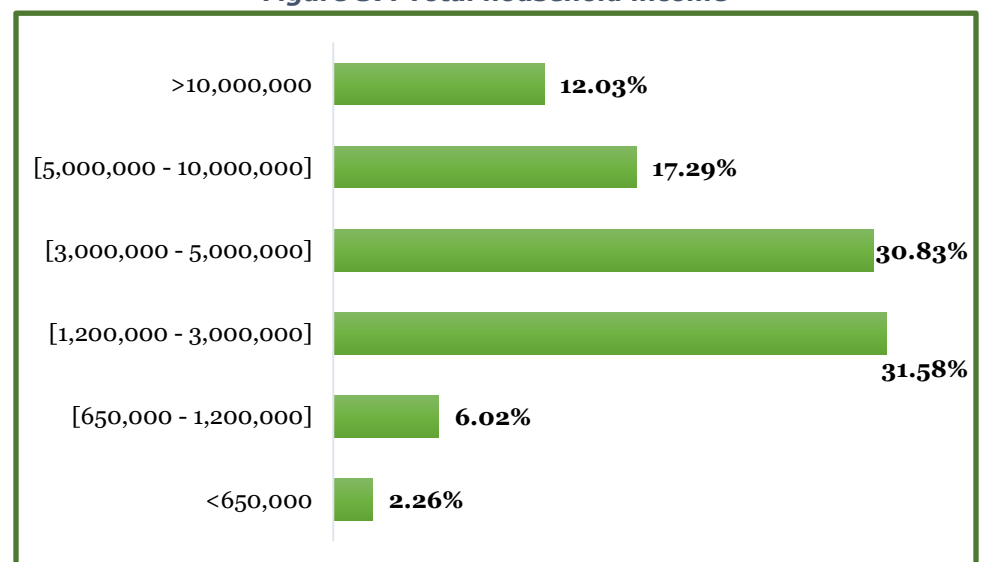
Figure 56. Work status



### B. Total Income

Nearly 63% of the respondents earn a total monthly income of 1.2 to 5 million LBP, while 17.29% earn an income of 5 to 10 million and only 12.03% earn an income exceeding 10 million. Thus, at the prevailing market exchange rate, the bulk of the respondents' income is lower than \$400. The findings also reveal that 84.21% of households don't have access to any source of “Fresh dollars”. Only 8.27% households reported receiving remittances in “Fresh dollars” and none were relying on their “Fresh Dollar” savings. Only 7.52% households have a family member earning a part of his/her salary in “Fresh USD”.

Figure 57. Total household income



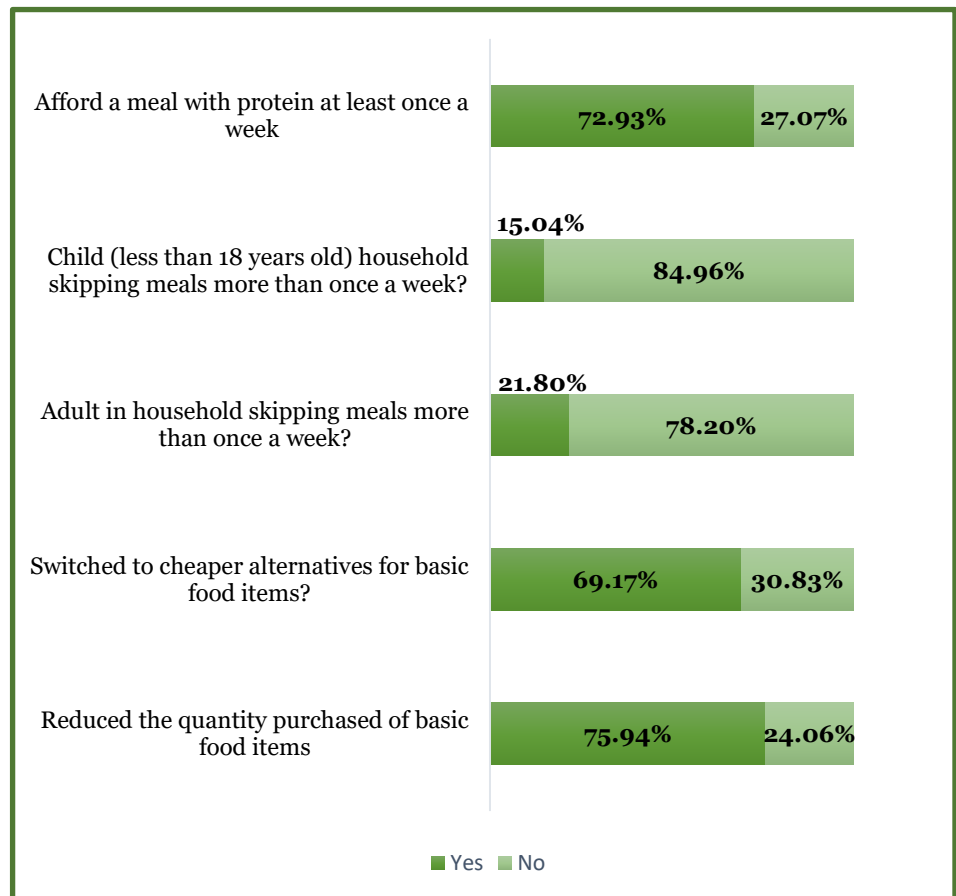
### C. Ability to make ends meet and adopted coping strategies

In a striking finding, 58.65% of the respondents indicated that they were unable to make ends meet. Moreover, 83.46% of the respondents, unsurprisingly, had to contend with a decrease in their purchasing power due to triple digit inflation. Nearly 25% of the respondents faced a delay or suspension of salaries, 39.1% reported facing a reduction in their working hours, and 31.58% lost their job in the past two years. In order to cope with the decrease in their income and purchasing power, 12.03% of the respondents were forced to get a second job or more working hours. None of the respondents received monetary assistance.

#### C1. Food

The soaring price of basic food items weakened respondents' ability to maintain their consumption patterns and forced them to adopt food-related coping strategies. Around 70% of the respondents indicated that they spend more than 2 million Lebanese pounds on food and beverages with nearly 46% spending more than 3 million pounds. In terms of coping strategies, a staggering 75.94% of the respondents indicated that they had to adopt a livelihood-based coping strategy that centers on reducing the quantity of food and 69.17% of the respondents indicated having to switch to cheaper alternatives for basic food items. Severe food-related coping strategies were not uncommon. Indeed, 21.8% of the respondents indicate having an adult in their household skipping a meal more than once a week and 15.04% indicated that a child in their household skips a meal more than once a week. Furthermore, 27.07% of the respondents indicated that they cannot afford to eat a meal with protein at least once a week.

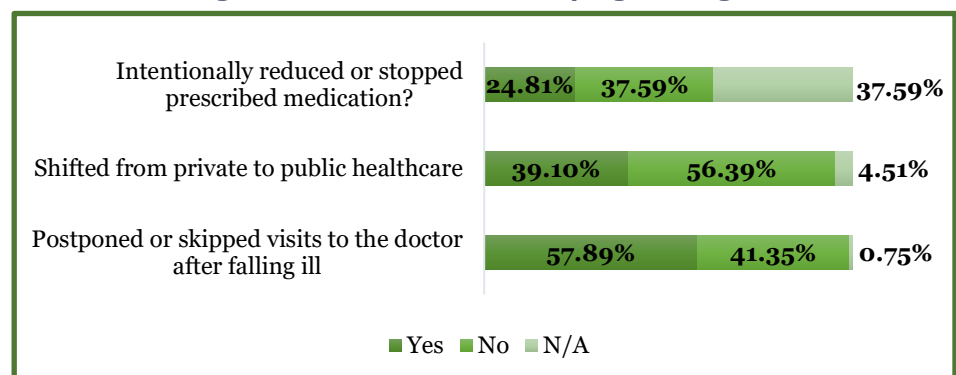
Figure 58. Food-related coping strategies



#### C2. Health

The decrease value in the purchasing power of wages and the increase in the prices of medication and imported medical supplies forced the households to adopt severe health-related coping strategies. In fact, a striking 39.1% of the respondents shifted from private to public healthcare, 57.89% postponed or skipped visits to the doctor after falling ill, and 24.81% reduced or intentionally stopped their prescribed medication.

Figure 59. Health-related coping strategies



### C3. Electricity

In terms of access to electric power, 82.71% of the surveyed households reported getting only 1 to 4 hours of power from EDL per day. In order to mitigate the long hours of power outage, nearly 40% obtain 5 to 10 hours of power from the diesel generators. However, due to the soaring prices of diesel, which translated into higher fees for diesel generators, many households did not rely on alternative power supply sources and 46.62% reported experiencing a blackout of 11 and 19 hours per day. In terms of expenditures on electricity, 85.65% of the households pay less than 500 thousands LBP in return for the government's power and 83.4% pay between 500 thousand and 1 million LBP for diesel generators. The latter relatively low fee for the diesel generator is explained by the fact households' intake is only 5 amperes. Higher prices forced 12.78% of the households to use an intake of less than 5 amperes from the diesel generators. In addition, of the latter statistic, 88.24% are undertaking their daily activities on only 3 amperes during the EDL power cuts. Moreover, 54.13% of the respondents indicated that they are unlikely or extremely unlikely to be able to pay the bill of the diesel generator in the next six months.

Figure 60. Electricity (in hours) from EDL

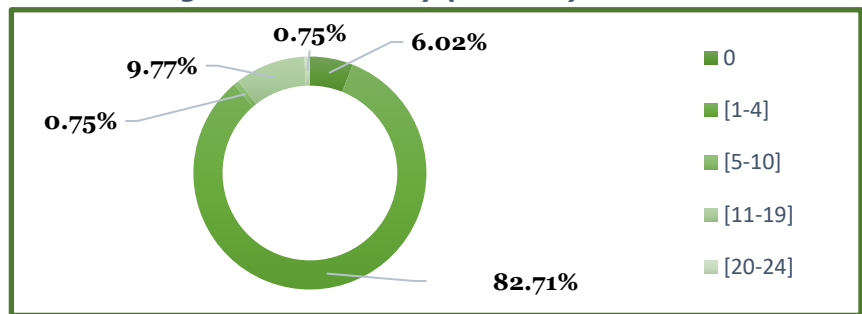


Figure 61. Electricity (in hours) from DG

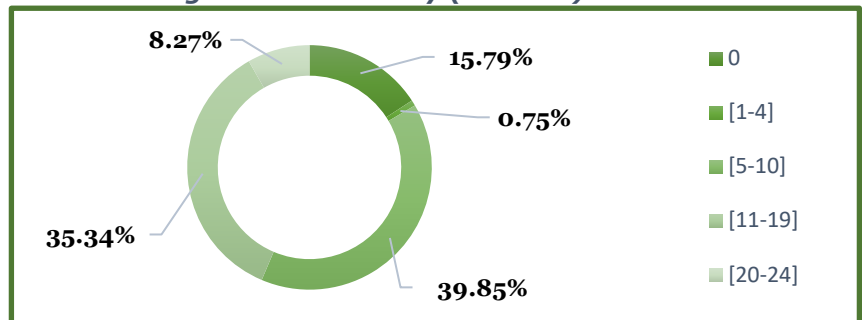
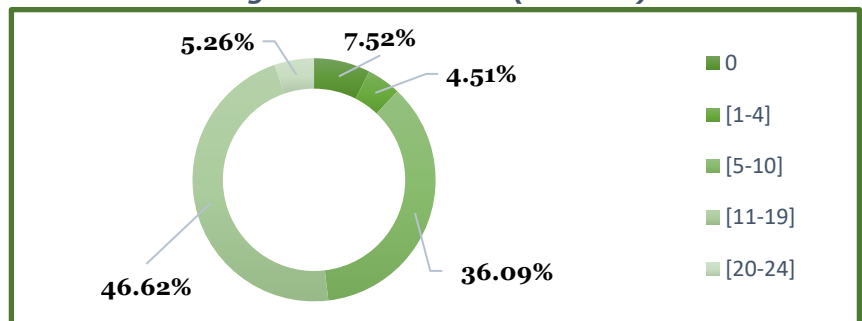


Figure 62. Power cut (in hours)



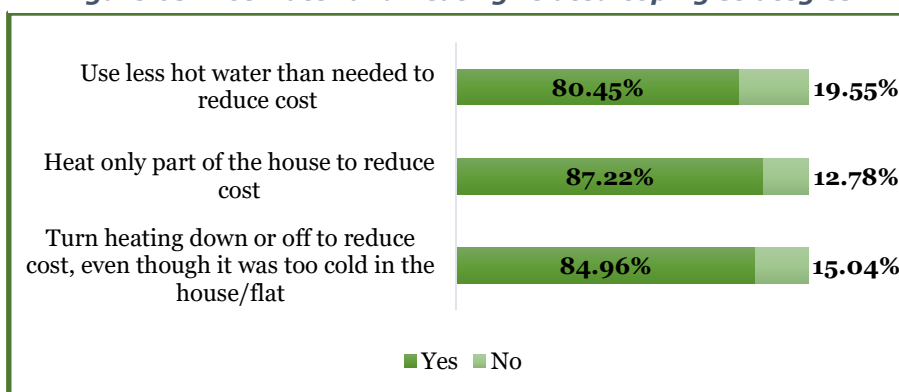
### C4. Education

The crisis impeded respondents' access to education. In fact, 9.77% of the respondents postponed or withdrew from university/school (or have a family member who had) and 12.03% moved to a more affordable university/school. Moreover, around 15.04% reported spending less than 6 million LBP on education in the past 12 months and only 2.26% reported being enrolled in part-time formal education. The latter findings suggest that education-related coping strategies were adopted by the respondents.

### C5. Hot water and heating

Another finding that highlights the burden of the crisis on Lebanese households is their livelihood-based coping strategy related to hot water and heating. In fact, 75.94% of the respondents indicated that they are not able to keep their households warm. As a result, a staggering 87.22% had to heat only a part of the house to reduce cost and 84.96% had to turn heating down or off to reduce cost, even though it was too cold in the house/flat. Similarly, 80.45% reported using less hot water than needed to reduce cost.

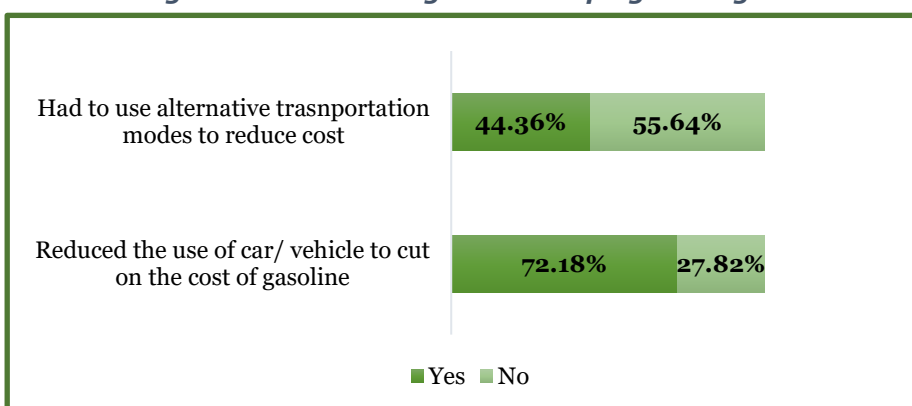
Figure 63. Hot water and heating related coping strategies



### C6. Transportation

While 70.69% of the surveyed households' total income does not exceed 5 million LBP, 64.6% indicated that they spent between 500 thousand and 2 million LBP on transportation per month. The findings reveal that 30.83% of this sector's employees live and work in different districts. Thus, as a result of the increased gasoline prices, 44.36% switched to alternative modes of transportation to reduce costs and 72.18% had to reduce the use of the car to cut on the cost of gasoline.

Figure 64. Commuting-related coping strategies



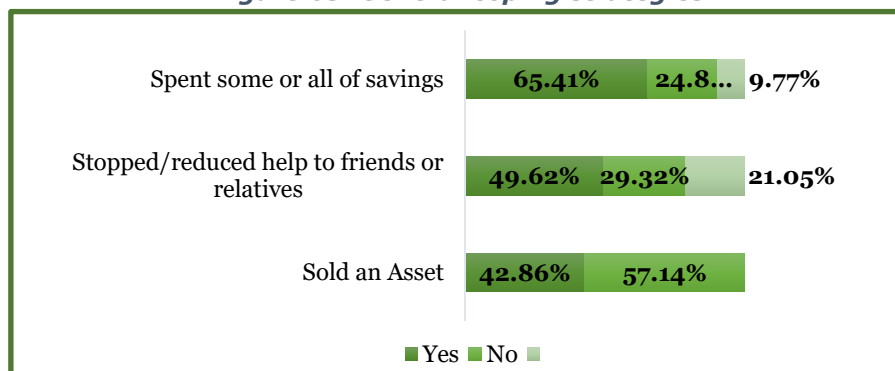
### C7. Rent

The findings indicate that 61.65% of respondents own their houses and that 85% of respondents had to contend with an increase in rent. In the past two years, around 39.22% experienced a change in rent. On one hand, 65% of the renters faced an increase in their rent from less than 1 million LBP to 1 to 3 million LBP. On the other hand, as a result of the crisis, 7.5% of the households had to move to cheaper apartments as a coping strategy to cut their expenses.

### C8. General Coping Strategies

In order to be able to meet their daily expenses, the respondents had to rely on other coping strategies. These include dipping into their savings, selling jewelry and stopping or reducing help for a friend. In fact, 65.41% of the respondents spent some or all of their savings, 42.86% sold an asset (real estate, jewelry, car, ...) and 49.62% stopped or reduced help to friends or relatives whom they used to help before.

Figure 65. General coping strategies



### C9. Monetary Assistance

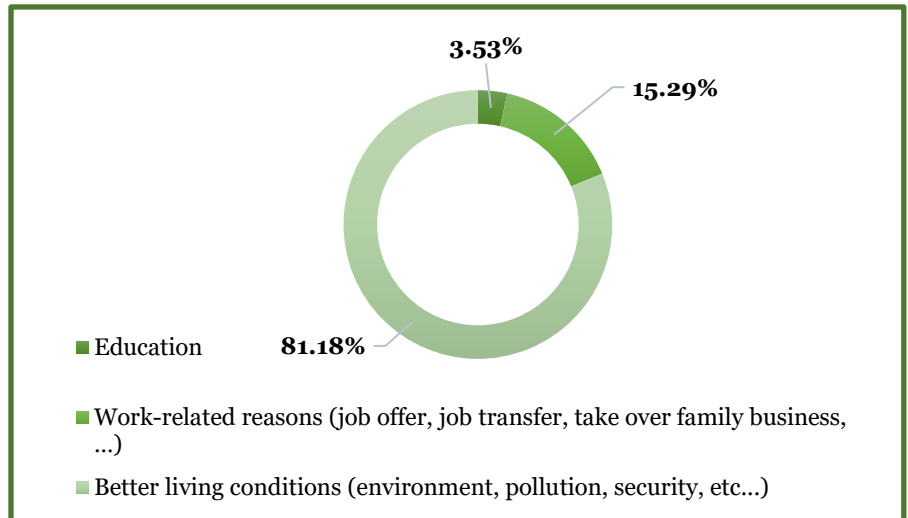
The findings reveal that only 16.54% of the households received monetary assistance over the past two years. 23.81% of this assistance is received from local family or friends, 23.81% from family or friends abroad and 36.36% from NGOs. Only 18.18% of households reported receiving monetary assistance from the government.

## D. Immigration

With regards to immigration, 23.31% of the respondents indicated having one or more household member who immigrated.

Strikingly, nearly 64% of the respondents indicated a desire to move permanently to another country if they are presented with the opportunity to do so. With regards to their motives for wanting to immigrate, 81.18% of the respondents indicated wanting to move out of Lebanon in search of better living conditions. Moreover, 15.29% of respondents indicated that they intend to move for work-related reasons and 56.47% are willing to accept job offers with salaries ranging from two and four thousand USD.

Figure 66. Reasons to immigrate



## IX. RETAIL SECTOR

As part of the “Advancing evidence-based policy in crisis management” project, 133 households that have a family member working in the retail sector were interviewed. This report outlines the findings related to their working status, income, ability to make ends meet, livelihood-based coping strategies, and attitudes towards immigration.

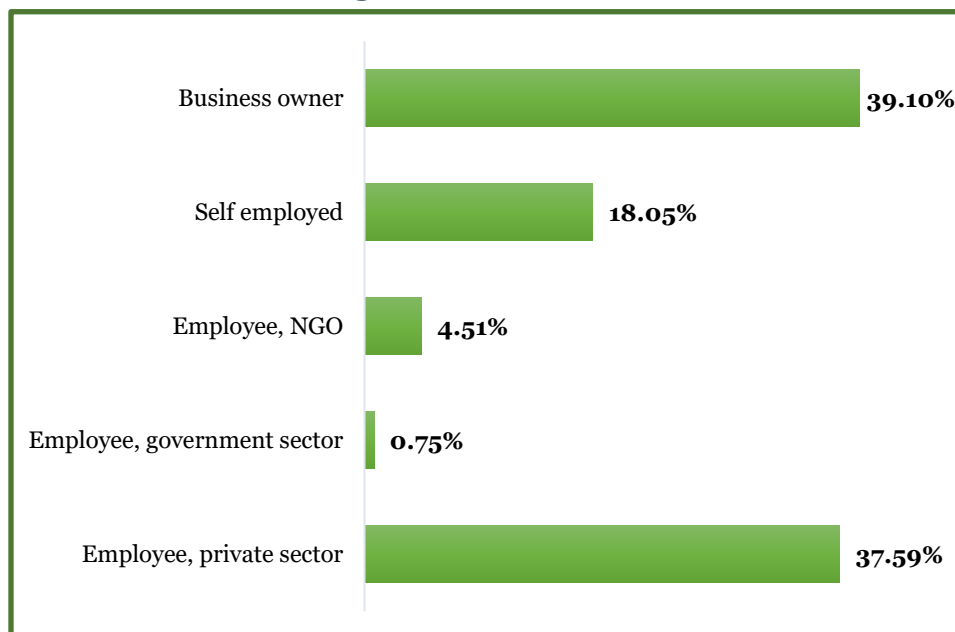
According to the national accounts for 2020 published by the Central Administration of Statistics, the retail sector accounts for 14.43% of Gross Domestic Product. In terms of the gender distribution of employees in the sector, 64% of the employees are male while 36% are female.

### A. Working Status

The findings suggest that 18.05% of the respondents are self-employed and 39.1% are business owners. Moreover, 37.59% of the respondents are employed in the private sector. Of the latter, nearly 60% are daily workers (i.e., don't have a contract), 3.51% have a contract with a duration between 1 month and 1 year, and 35.09% have a stable job (the contract duration is more than 1 year). These statistics show the precarity of employment in the sector.

Further, 75% of the respondents did not complete elementary and intermediary education. In terms of age distribution, 21.81% of the workers are under the age of 30 and 39.09% are above the age of 50.

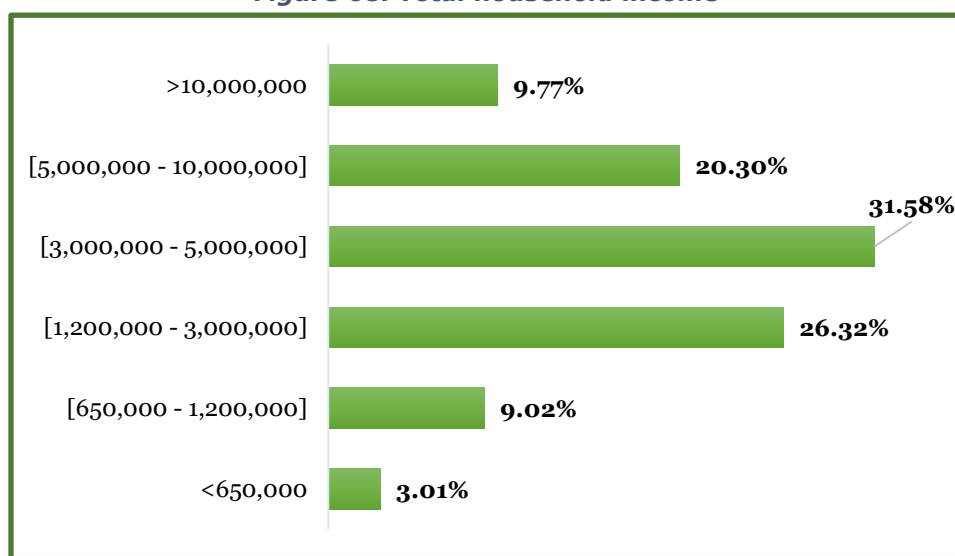
Figure 67. Work status



### B. Total Income

Nearly 58% of the respondents earn a total monthly income of 1.2 to 5 million LBP, while 20.3% earn an income of 5 to 10 million and only 9.77% earn an income exceeding 10 million. Thus, at the prevailing market exchange rate, the bulk of the respondents' income is lower than \$400. The findings reveal that 83.46% of households don't have access to any source of “Fresh dollars”. Only 9.02% households reported receiving remittances in “Fresh dollars” and only none are relying on their “Fresh Dollar” savings. Moreover, 7.52% households have a family member earning a part of his/her salary in “Fresh USD”.

Figure 68. Total household income





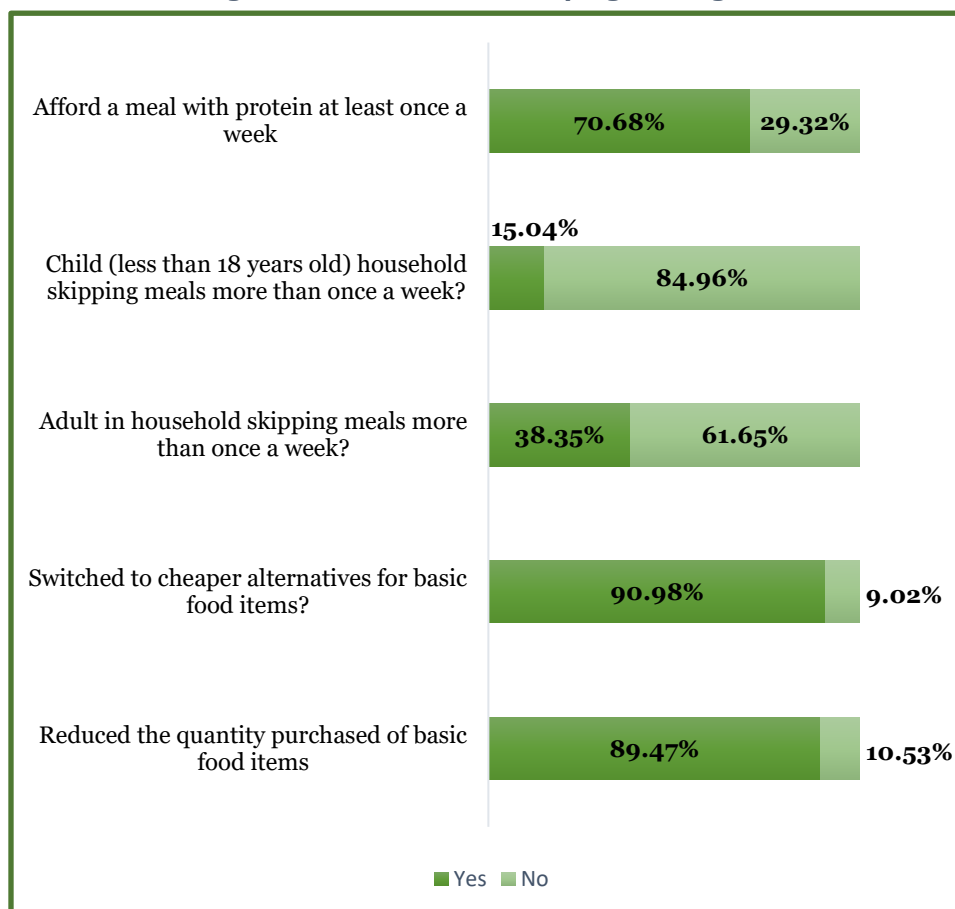
## C. Ability to make ends meet and adopted coping strategies

In a striking finding, 61.65% of the respondents indicated that they were unable to make ends meet. Moreover, 78.95% of the respondents, unsurprisingly, had to contend with a decrease in their purchasing power due to triple digit inflation. Further, 21.05% of the respondents faced a delay or suspension of salaries, 33.83% reported facing a reduction in their working hours, and 22.56% lost their job in the past two years. In order to cope with the decrease in their income and purchasing power, 9.77% of the respondents were forced to get a second job or more working hours. None of the respondents received monetary assistance.

### C1. Food

The soaring price of basic food items weakened respondents' ability to maintain their consumption patterns and forced them to adopt food-related coping strategies. 54.16% of the respondents indicated that they spend more than 2 million Lebanese pounds on food and beverages with around 33% spending more than 3 million pounds. In terms of coping strategies, a staggering 89.47% of the respondents indicated that they had to adopt a livelihood-based coping strategy that centers on reducing the quantity of food and 91% of the respondents indicated having to switch to cheaper alternatives for basic food items. Severe food-related coping strategies were not uncommon. Indeed, 38.35% of the respondents indicate having an adult in their household skipping a meal more than once a week and 15.04% indicated that a child in their household skips a meal more than once a week. Furthermore, 29.32% of the respondents indicated that they cannot afford to eat a meal with protein at least once a week.

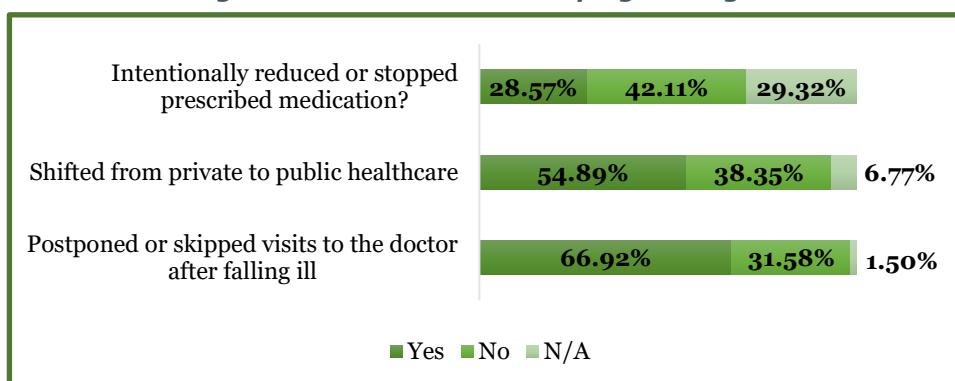
Figure 69. Food-related coping strategies



### C2. Health

The decrease in the purchasing power of wages and the increase in the prices of medication and imported medical supplies forced the households to adopt severe health-related coping strategies. In fact, a striking 54.89% of the respondents shifted from private to public healthcare, 66.92% postponed or skipped visits to the doctor after falling ill, and 28.57% reduced or intentionally stopped their prescribed medication.

Figure 70. Health-related coping strategies



### C3. Electricity

In terms of access to electric power, 75.94% of the surveyed households reported getting only 1 to 4 hours of power from EDL per day. In order to mitigate the long hours of power outage, and 38% obtain 5 to 10 hours of power from the diesel generators. However, due to the soaring prices of diesel, which translated into higher fees for diesel generators, many households did not rely on alternative power supply sources and 44.36% reported experiencing a blackout of 11 and 19 hours per day. While 85.6% of the households pay less than 500 thousands LBP in return for the government's power and 67.6% pay between 500 thousand and 1 million LBP for diesel generators. The latter relatively low fee for the diesel generator is explained by the fact households' intake is only 5 amperes. Higher prices forced 11.28% of the households to use an intake of less than 5 amperes from the diesel generators. In addition, of the latter statistic, 46.67% are undertaking their daily activities on only 3 amperes during the EDL power cuts. Moreover, nearly 61% of the respondents indicated that they are unlikely or extremely unlikely to be able to pay the bill of the diesel generator in the next six months.

Figure 71. Electricity (in hours) from EDL

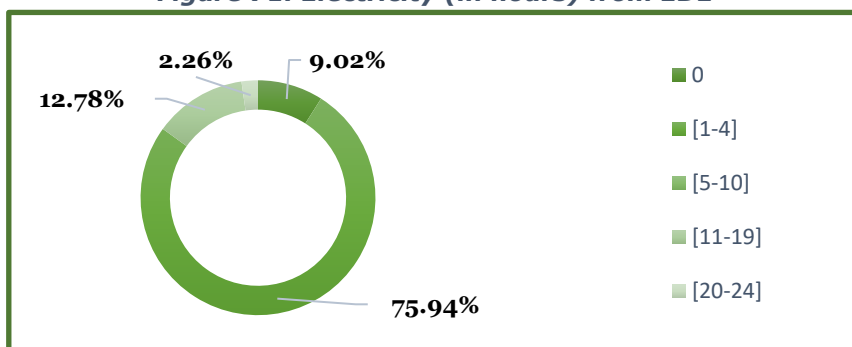


Figure 72. Electricity (in hours) from DG

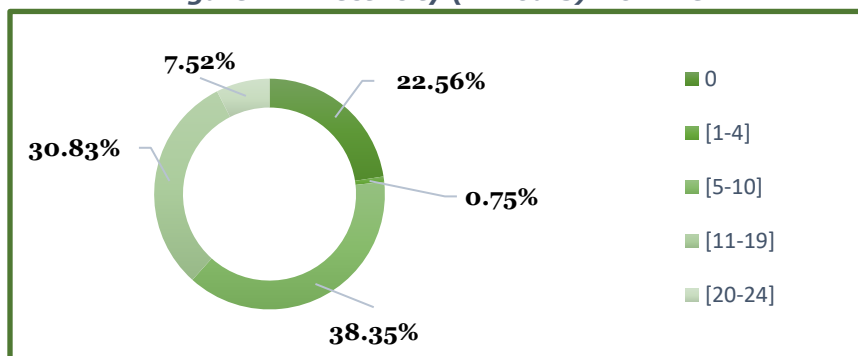
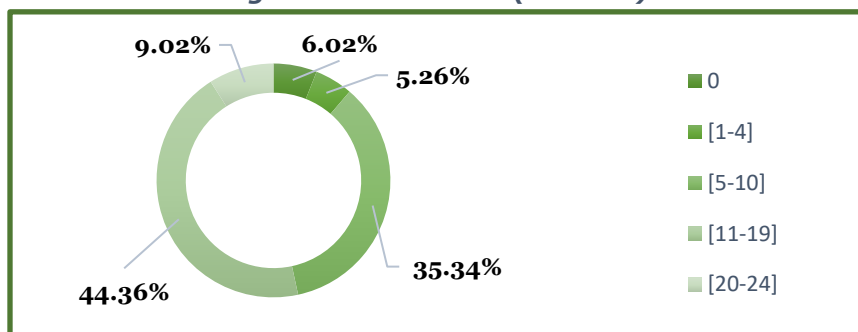


Figure 73. Power cut (in hours)



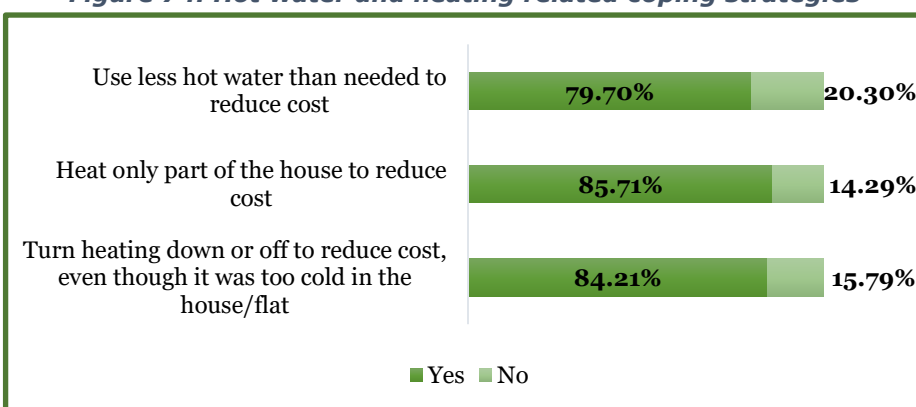
### C4. Education

The crisis impeded respondents' access to education. In fact, 11.28% of the respondents postponed or withdrew from university/school (or have a family member who had) and 16.54% moved to a more affordable university/school. Moreover, around 21.81% reported paying less than 6 million LBP on education in the past 12 months and only 7.52% reported being enrolled in part-time formal education. The latter findings suggest that education-related coping strategies were adopted by the respondents.

### C5. Hot water and heating

Another finding that highlights the burden of the crisis on Lebanese households is their livelihood-based coping strategy related to hot water and heating. In fact, 77.4% of the respondents indicated that they are not able to keep their households warm. As a result, a staggering 85.71% had to heat only a part of the house to reduce cost and 84.21% had to turn heating down. Similarly, 79.7% reported using less hot water than needed to reduce cost.

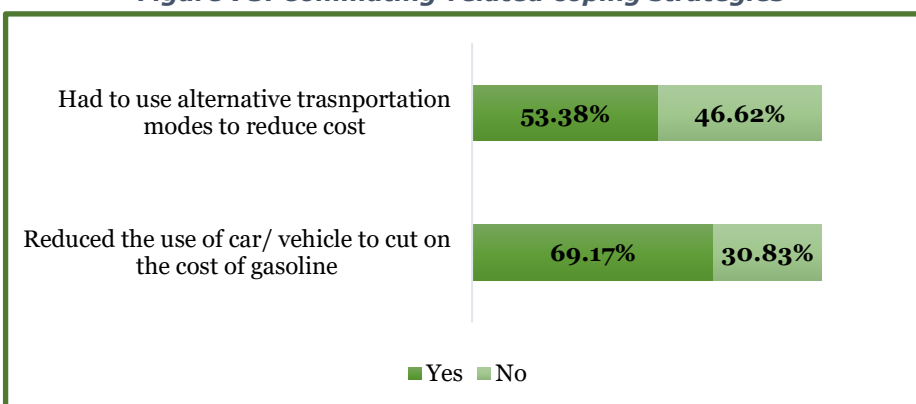
Figure 74. Hot water and heating related coping strategies



### C6. Transportation

While 69.93% of the surveyed households' total income does not exceed 5 million LBP, 66.13% indicated that they spent between 500 thousand and 2 million LBP on transportation per month. The findings reveal that 16.54% of this sector's employees live and work in different districts. Thus, as a result of the increased gasoline prices, 53.38% switched to alternative modes of transportation to reduce costs and 69.17% had to reduce the use of the car to cut on the cost of gasoline.

Figure 75. Commuting-related coping strategies



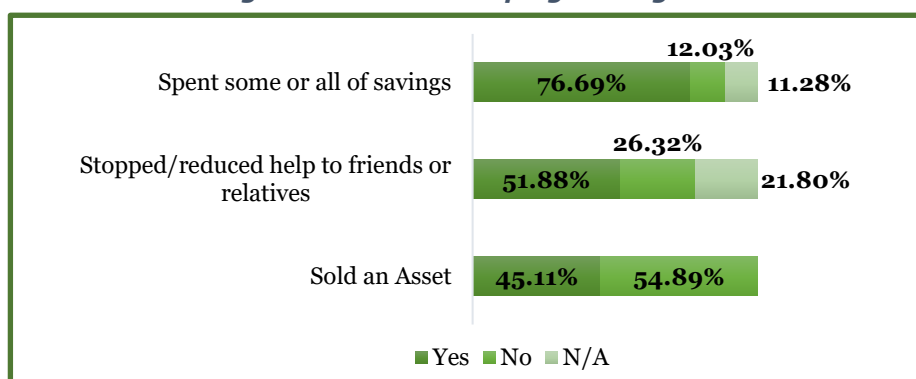
### C7. Rent

The findings indicate that 64.66% of respondents own their houses and around 87% of respondents had to contend with an increase in rent. In the past two years, around 37.78% experienced a change in rent. On one hand, 58.82% of the renters faced an increase in their rent from less than 1 million LBP to 1 to 3 million LBP. On the other hand, as a result of the crisis, 1.5% of the households had to move to cheaper apartments as a coping strategy to cut their expenses.

### C8. General Coping Strategies

In order to be able to meet their daily expenses, the respondents had to rely on other coping strategies. These include dipping into their savings, selling jewelry and stopping or reducing help for a friend. In fact, 76.69% of the respondents spent some or all of their savings, 45.11% sold an asset (real estate, jewelry, car, ...) and 51.88% stopped or reduced help to friends or relatives whom whom they used to help before.

Figure 76. General coping strategies



### C9. Monetary Assistance

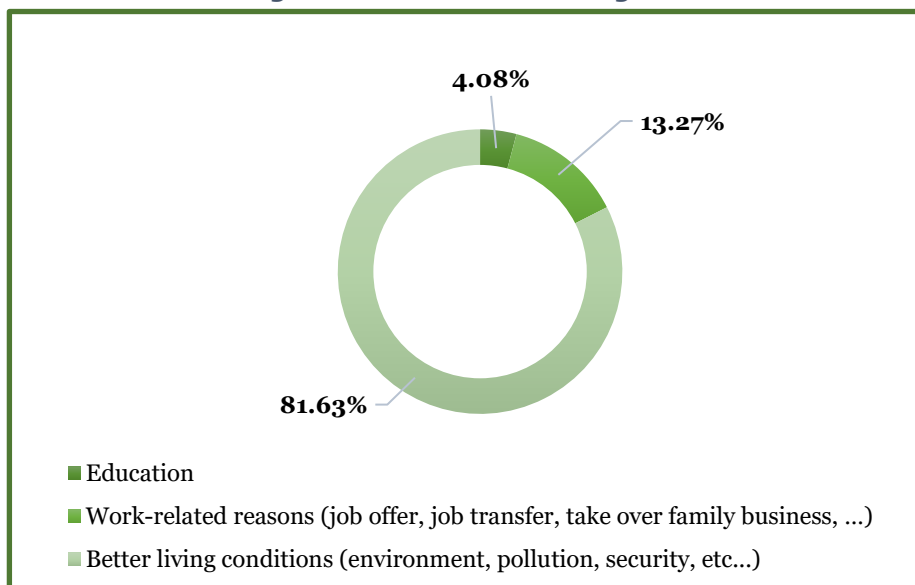
The findings reveal that only 15.79% of the households received monetary assistance over the past two years. 23.81 of this assistance is received from local family or friends, and 38.10% from family or friends abroad and 28.57% from NGOs. Only 9.52% of households reported receiving monetary assistance from the government.

### D. Immigration

With regards to immigration, 30.08% of the respondents indicated having one or more household member who immigrated.

Strikingly, 73.68% of the respondents indicated a desire to move permanently to another country if they are presented with the opportunity to do so. With regards to their motives for wanting to immigrate, 81.63% of the respondents indicated wanting to move out of Lebanon in search of better living conditions. Moreover, 13.27% of respondents indicated that they intend to move for work-related reasons and 51.02% are willing to accept job offers with salaries ranging from two to four thousand USD.

Figure 77. Reasons to immigrate



## X. CONCLUSION

This report presents preliminary findings from the field surveys conducted as part of the project led by AUB and funded by the National Endowment for Democracy: “Advancing Evidence-Based Policy in Crisis Management.” The project aims to monitor the impact of the multi-dimensional crises Lebanon is facing, on multiple economic sectors, and subsequently advance evidence-based policy reforms that respond to citizens’ priorities.

For this purpose, the assessment carried out had two main objectives: (i) gathering information about the socio-economic impacts of the crisis, and (ii) data on coping mechanisms. This preliminary report will be followed by a more detailed final report containing analysis of qualitative and quantitative data collected through surveys and interviews. Studies have found that collecting more information (qualitative and quantitative) on households’ vulnerability to poverty could help inform policy.<sup>9</sup> The final report will present a more comprehensive analysis and make some policy recommendations.

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<sup>9</sup> Dercon, S. (2002). Income risk, coping strategies, and safety nets. *The World Bank Research Observer*, 17(2), 141-166.