

# LIPRIL

## Living Conditions of Palestinian Refugees in Lebanon

### Introduction

"LIPRIL: Glimpses  
from a household survey"  
Launching of report  
Beirut, 6 June 2003

## Main Survey objective

- **Provide data relevant to a range of policy concerns associated with the living conditions and socio-economic development of the refugee populations living in camps and gatherings in Lebanon**

## The LIPRIL household survey

- **The sample**
  - A sample of about 4,000 households
  - All camps and most Palestinian gatherings are included
  - New sampling frame was constructed and used
- **Fieldwork in 1999**
  - Response rate is 97.2%
  - Refusal rate is 0.83%

## Refugee status: Self-ascribed by respondents

- **For all persons, asked if they were:**
  1. Refugee from 1948
  2. Refugee after 1948
  3. Displaced from 1967
  4. Forced to migrate (*muhajjar*)
  5. None of the above
- Analysis on all households with at least one Palestinian refugee

## Main topics to be presented

- **Population and demographic characteristics**
- **Education**
- **Housing conditions and the neighbourhood**
- **Health and access to services**
- **Labour market and employment**
- **Income and poverty**

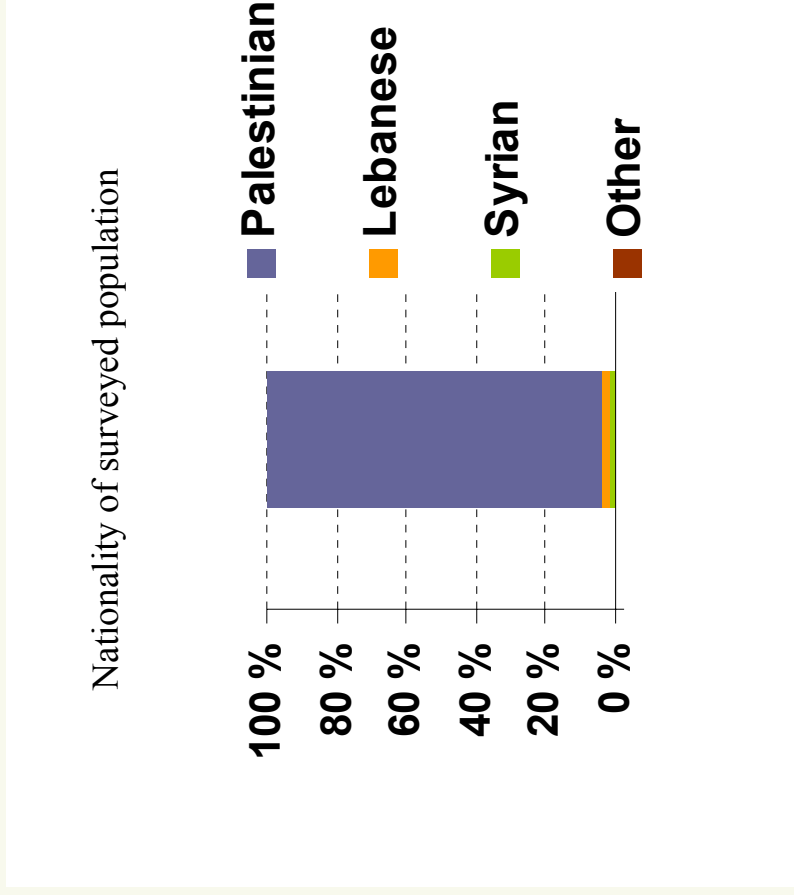
# LIPRIL

## Population & demographic characteristics

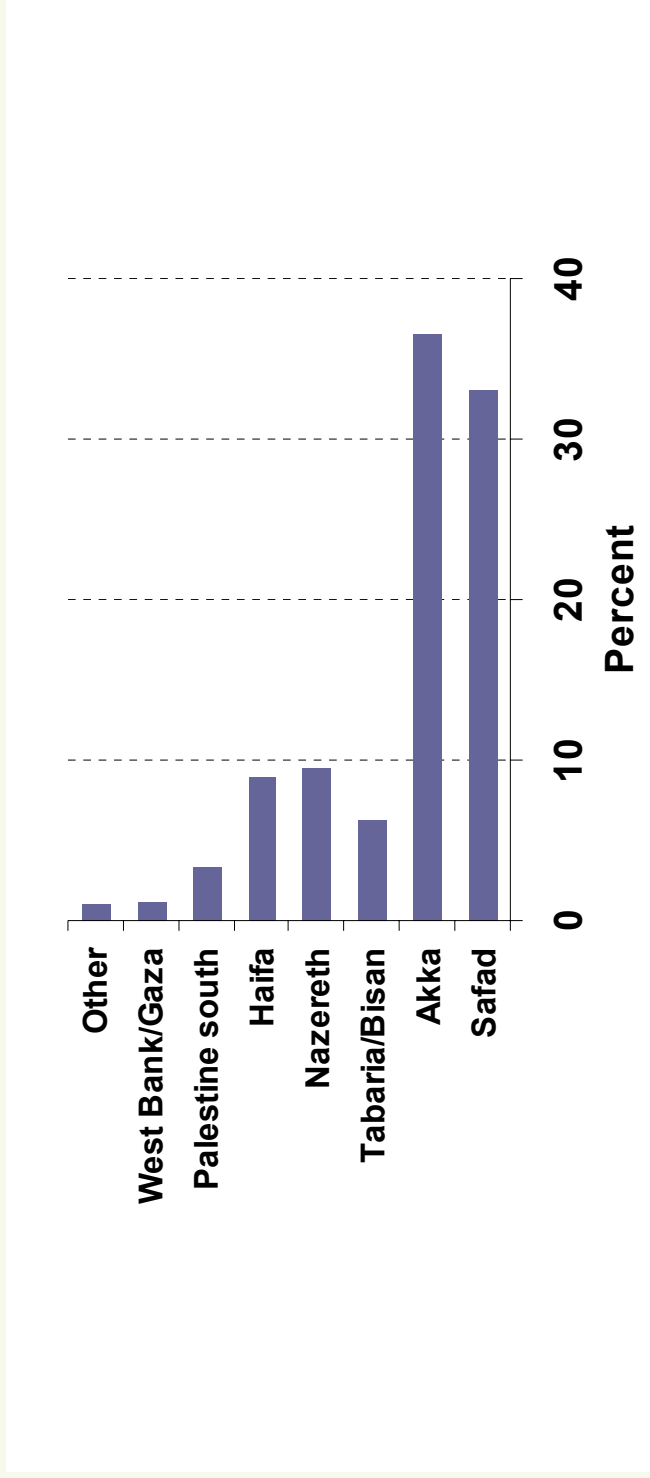
"LIPRIL: Glimpses  
from a household survey"  
Launching of report  
Beirut, 6 June 2003

## About 95% of the population living in the camps (and gatherings) are Palestinians

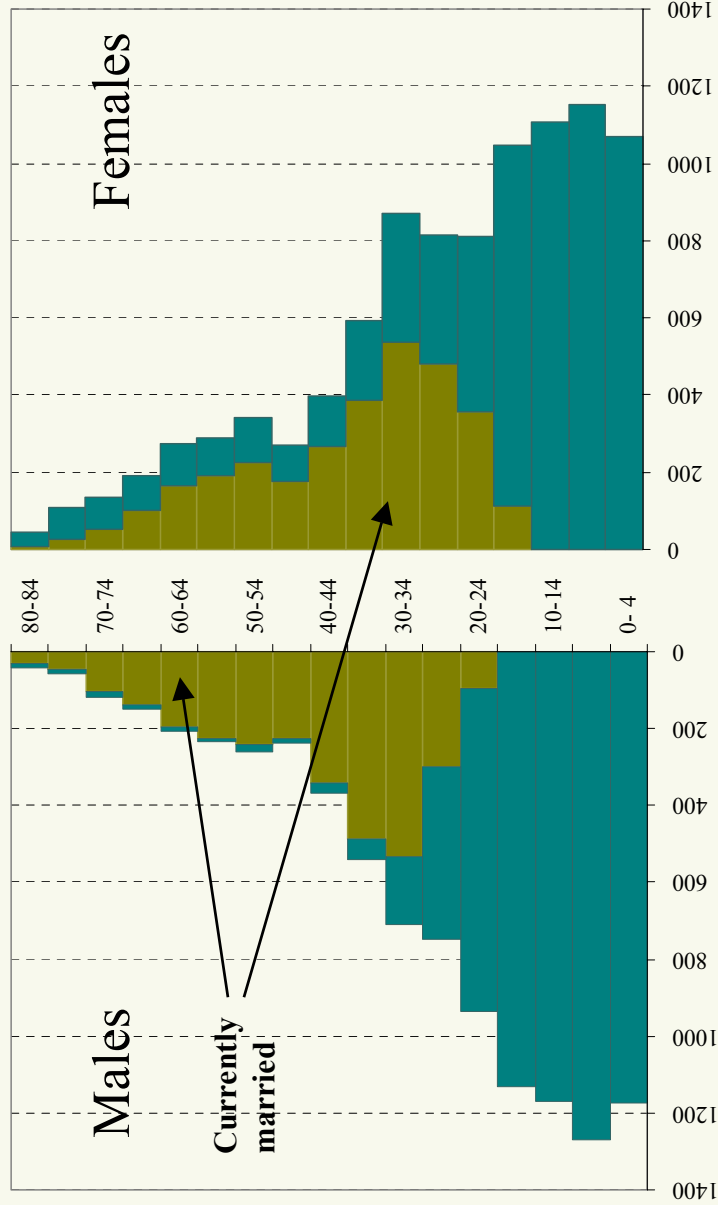
- Almost all Palestinians are refugees from 1948 (98%)



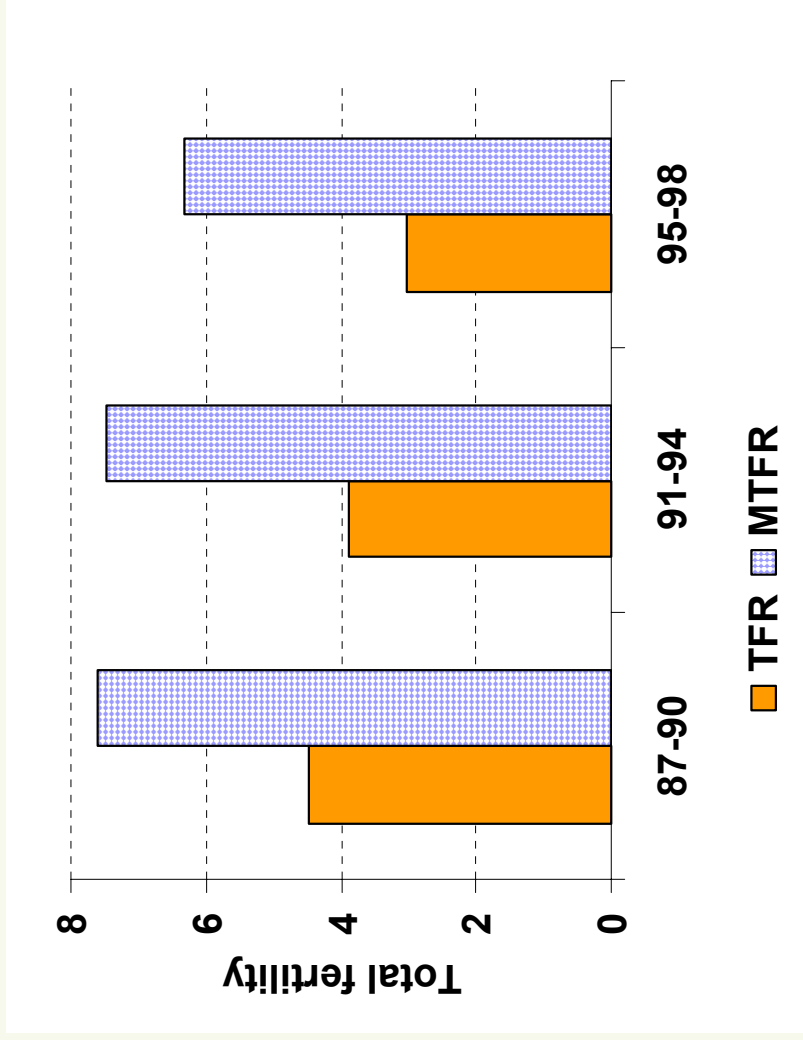
## Nearly 3 out of 4 refugees originate from Akka and Safad



# Rapid fertility decline is evident; the age distribution is clearly distorted by migration



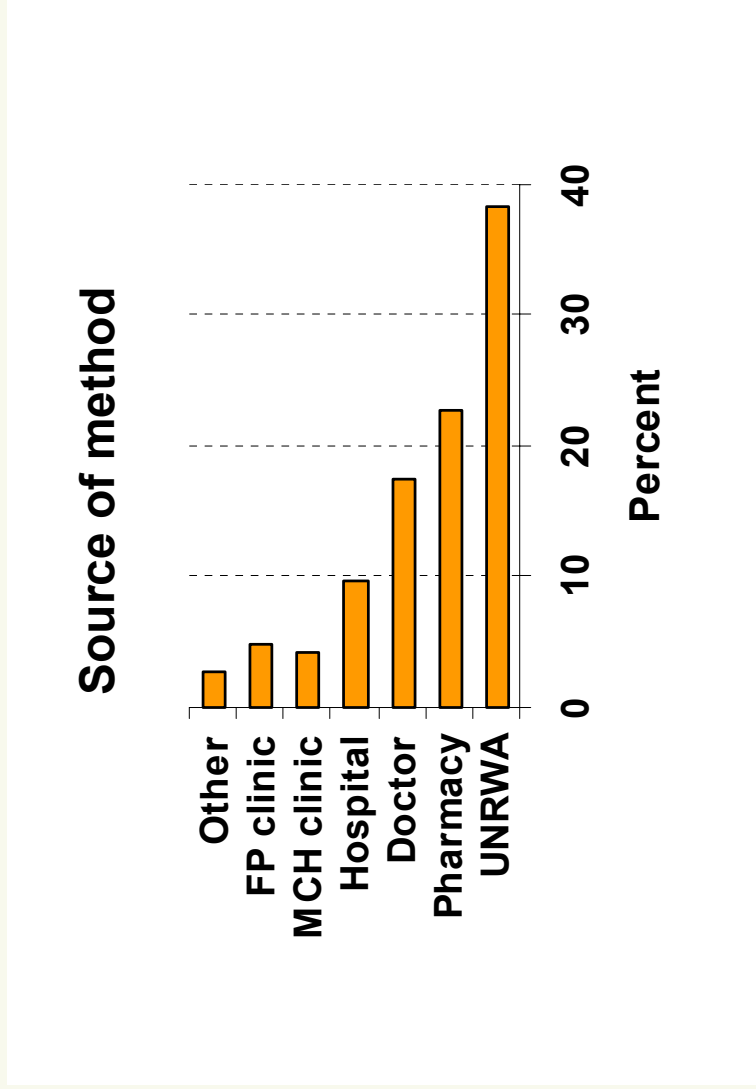
## Low levels of fertility



- **TFR of 3 is the lowest ever reported for a Palestinian population**
- **High contraceptive use**
- **Mean age at first birth 22.4 years (up 1.5 years in two decades)**
- **Birth spacing more widespread than before**

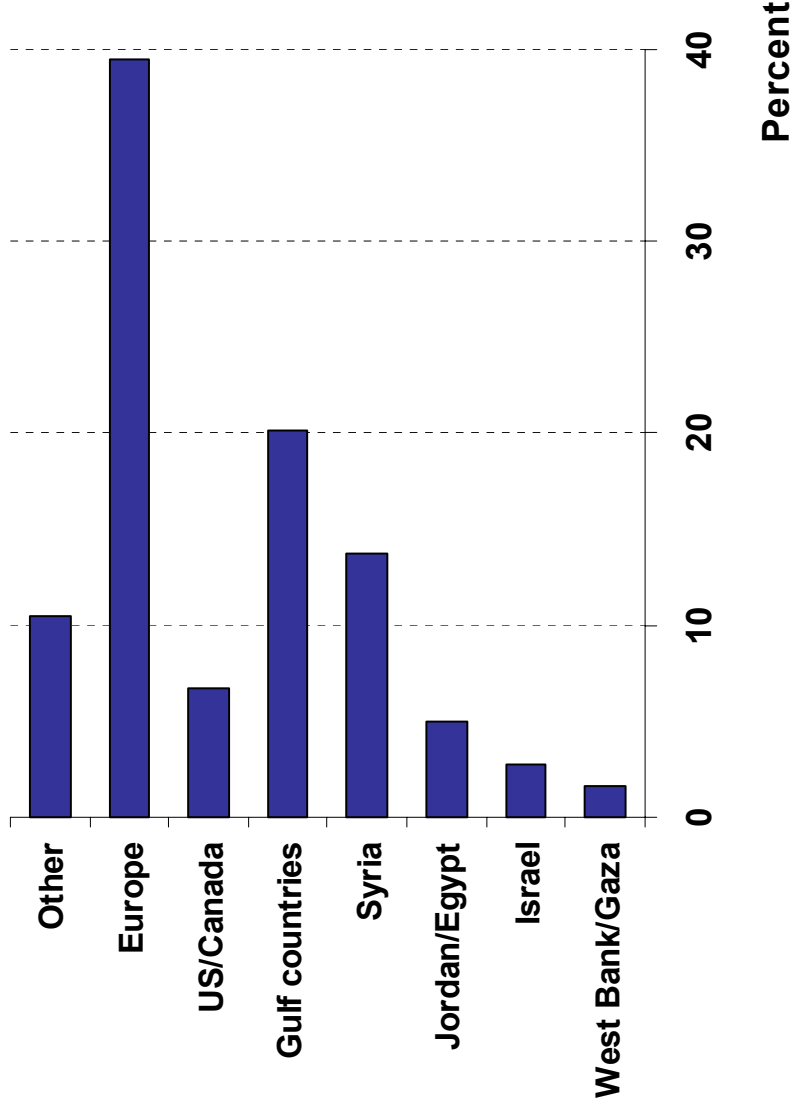
## The decline is affected by later marriage, but contraceptives are widely used

- **Contraceptive prevalence rate is about 66% (53% modern methods)**
- **UNRWA is the main suppliers of contraceptives to first users**



## 4 out of 5 households have close family abroad

Relative distribution of close relatives abroad



- **Europe, Arab Gulf countries and Syria have 70% of relatives**
- **Work and marriage main reason for residing there**

A "close relative" is defined as parent, sibling or child of any household member

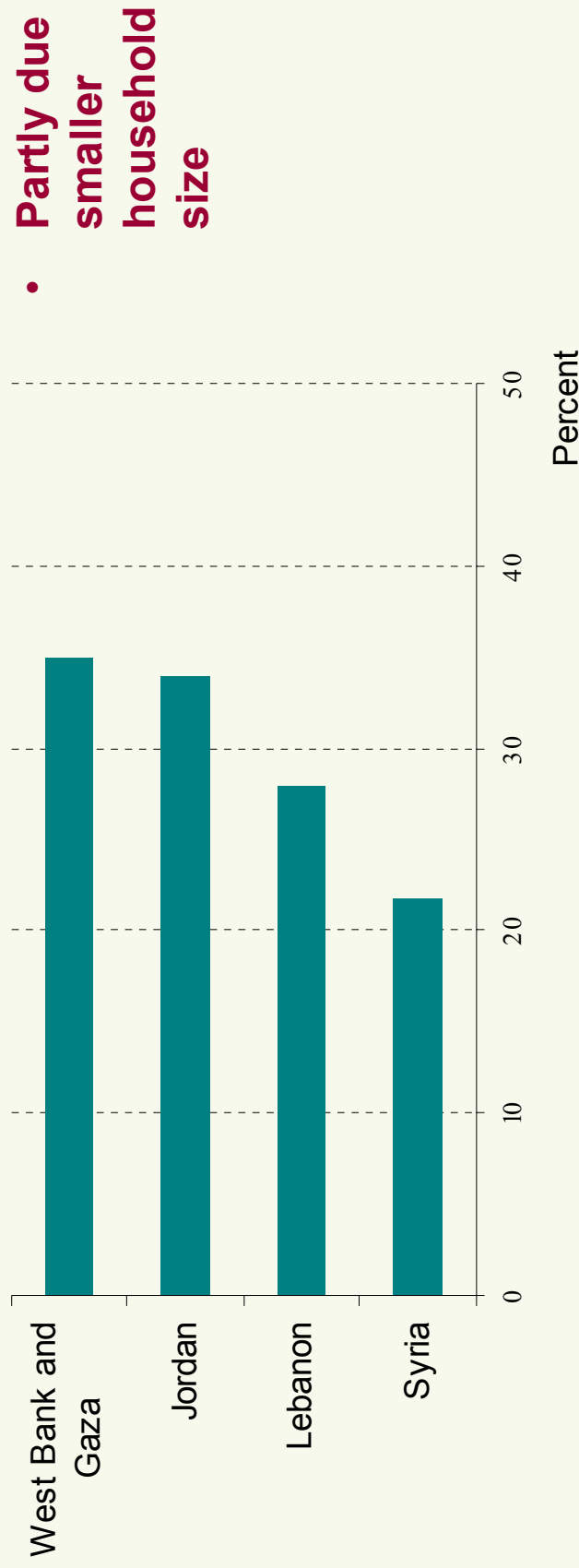
# LIPRIL

## Housing and infrastructure

"LIPRIL: Glimpses  
from a household survey"  
Launching of report  
Beirut, 6 June 2003

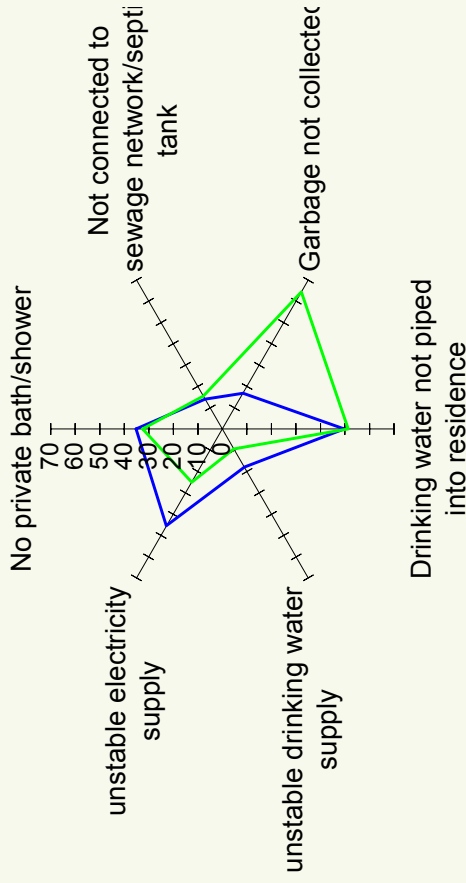
# Less crowding than in Jordan's refugee camps and the Occupied Palestinian Territories, but more cramped than in Syria

Proportion of households with 3 or more persons per room



## Different housing infrastructure problems in camp and gathering areas ....

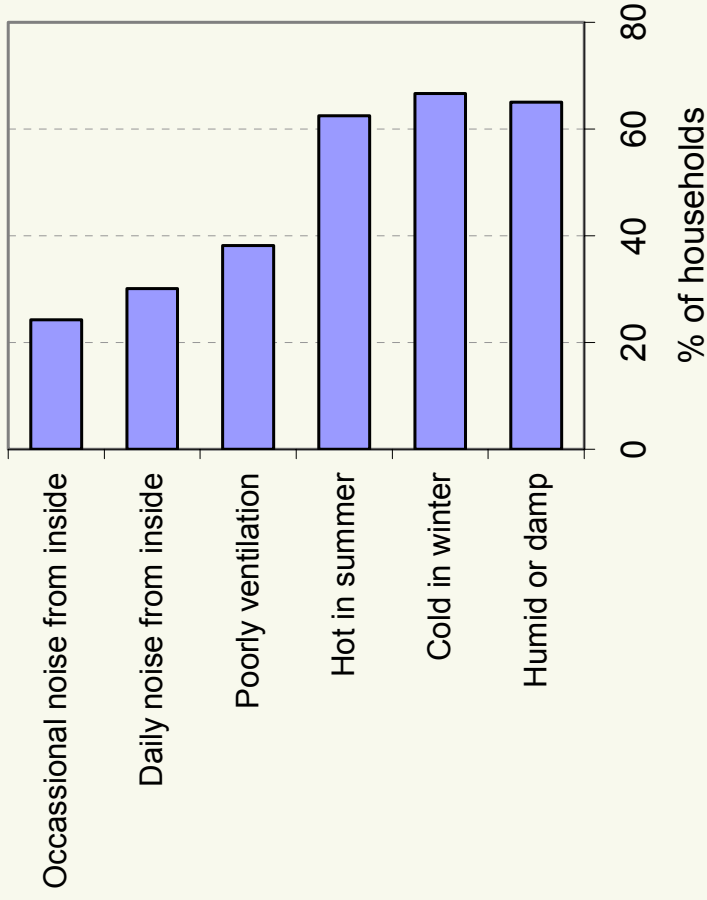
— Camp — Gathering



- Garbage a problem for gathering households: most dispose in open containers; 1 in 4 dump garbage. 37% of households usually exposed to outdoor garbage smell.
- Unstable electricity supply in Northern camps: over 60% of households have disruptions weekly or more often.
- Overall 50% without drinking water piped into dwelling: among them most rely on public reservoirs and tanker trucks - few with filter or purifying devices.

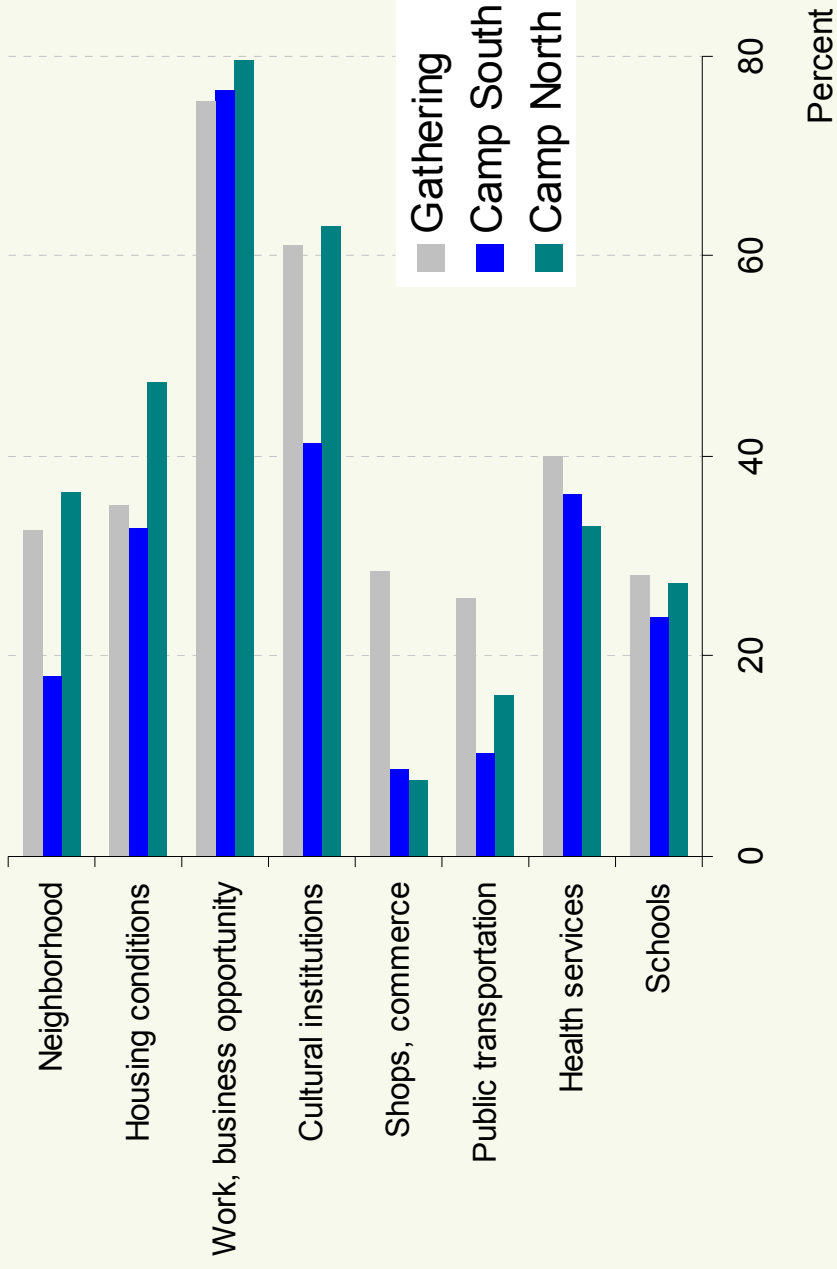
”North” = Beirut, Tripoli, Bequaa  
 ”South” = Saida, Tyre

## Poor quality of inside environment



- 7 in 10 household have cold dwellings in winter and lack room heating.
- Low-income, female-headed and loner households inhabit dwellings with less physical comfort than average.
- 1 in 3 households experience noise daily that is so disturbing that it is difficult to have a normal conversation.

# Considerable dissatisfaction with housing, neighbourhood

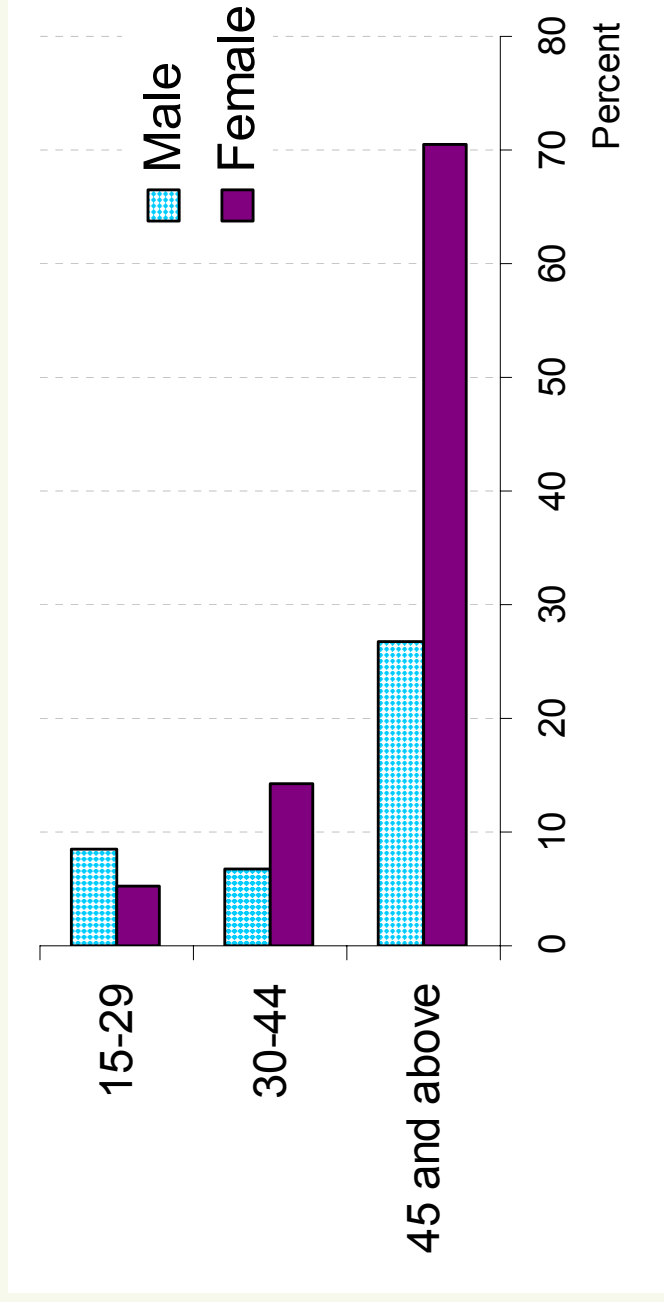


# LIPRIL

## Education

"LIPRIL: Glimpses  
from a household survey"  
Launching of report  
Beirut, 6 June 2003

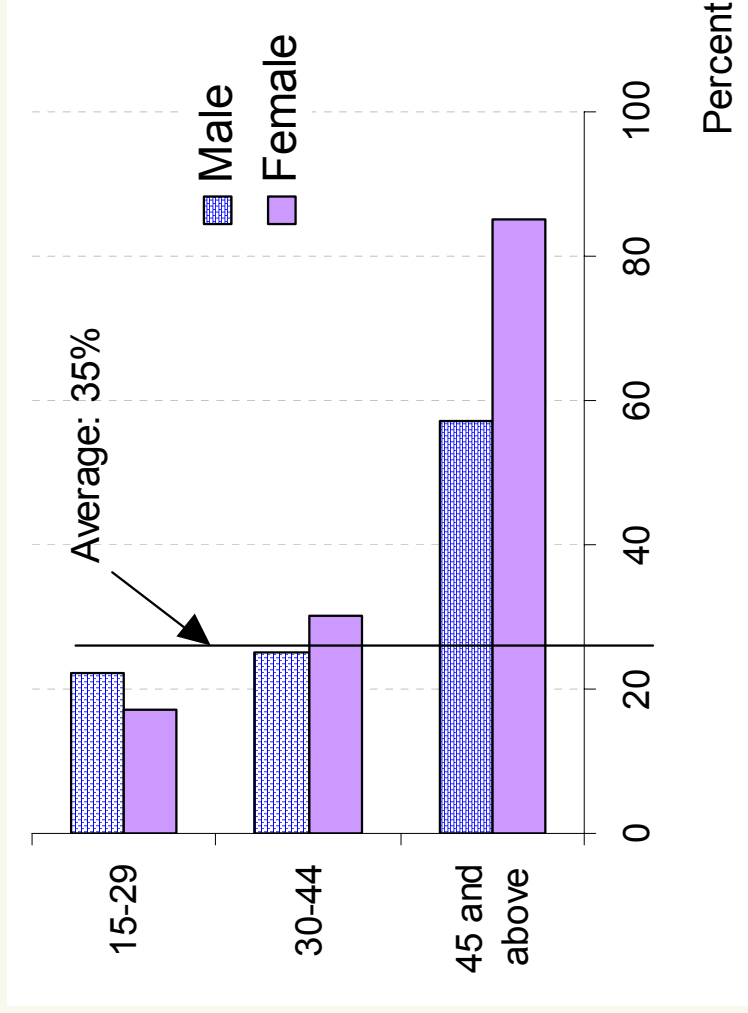
## Illiteracy more widespread among young men than young women



Illiteracy: Cannot write a simple message nor read and understand everyday written material (such as a newspaper)

# One third of population 15+ has not completed elementary education

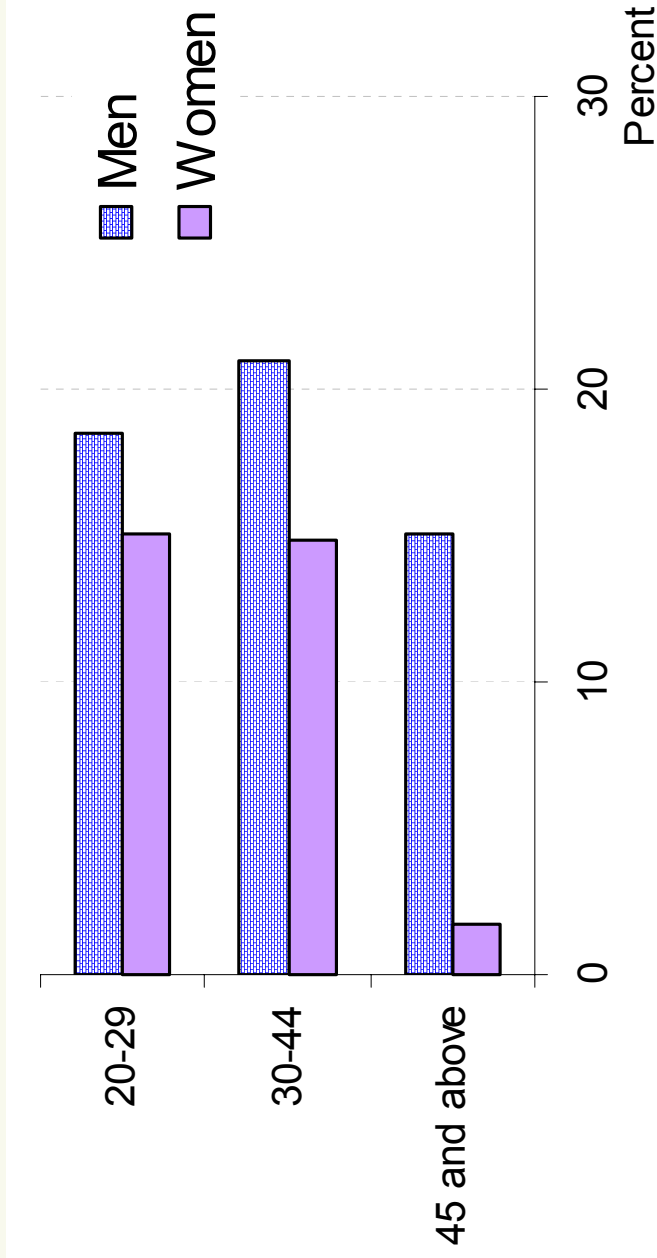
Proportion who have not completed elementary schooling by sex and age group



- **More females have not completed elementary (35%) than males (27%).**
- **Tremendous improvement over time**
- **Young women do better than young men**

## More men than women complete secondary or higher education

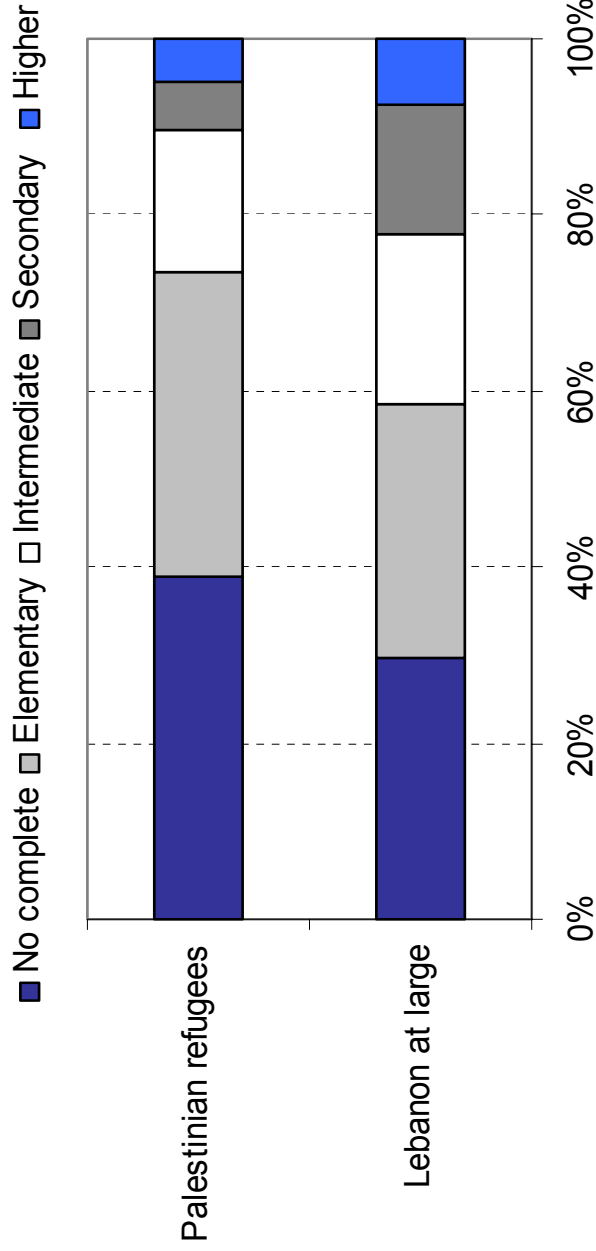
Proportion who have completed at least secondary education by sex and age group



- **18.5 % of young men vs. 15% of young women have at least a secondary degree**

## Refugees have lower education level than the national population

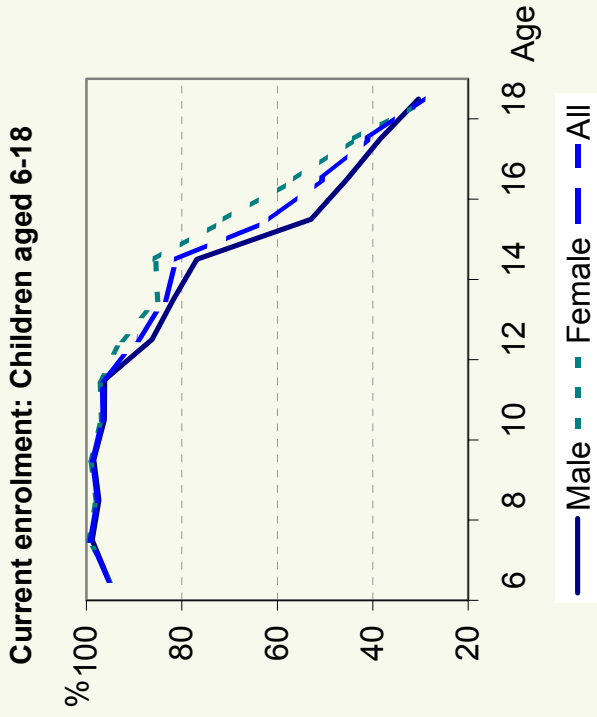
- **12% refugees vs. 22% of the national population have completed secondary education or higher**



Percent of persons aged 10+

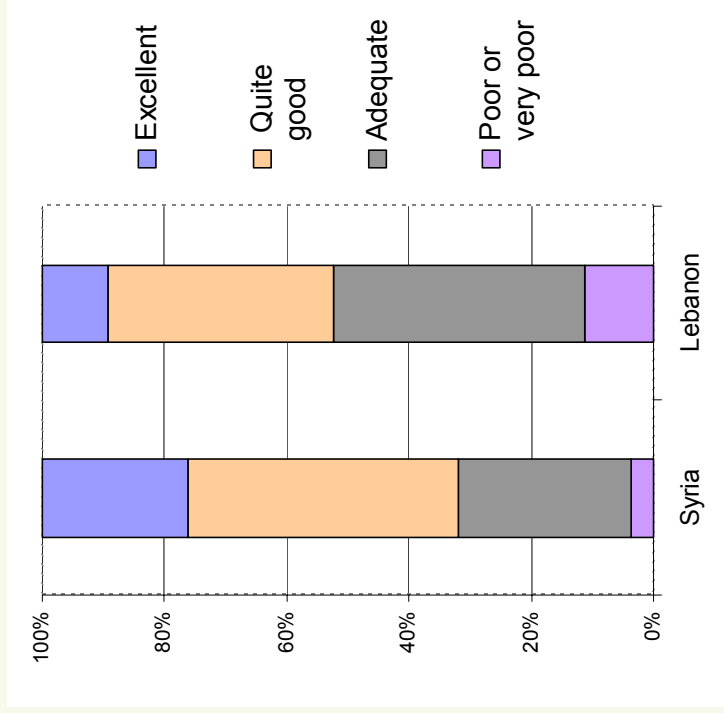
## 80% of refugees ages 6 through 18 are enrolled in school; 50% have left school by age 16

- Boys and children of heads with less than elementary education begin leaving school earliest (age 10).
- Characteristics of children aged 6-18 not enrolled in elementary school:
  - Head of household has elementary or less education
  - Male
  - Camp refugee



## 9 out of 10 parents think their child's school is at least adequate in quality

Parents' satisfaction with school of oldest child



- **But only half believe it is good or very good**
- **Rating is significantly poorer than among Palestinian refugees in Syria**

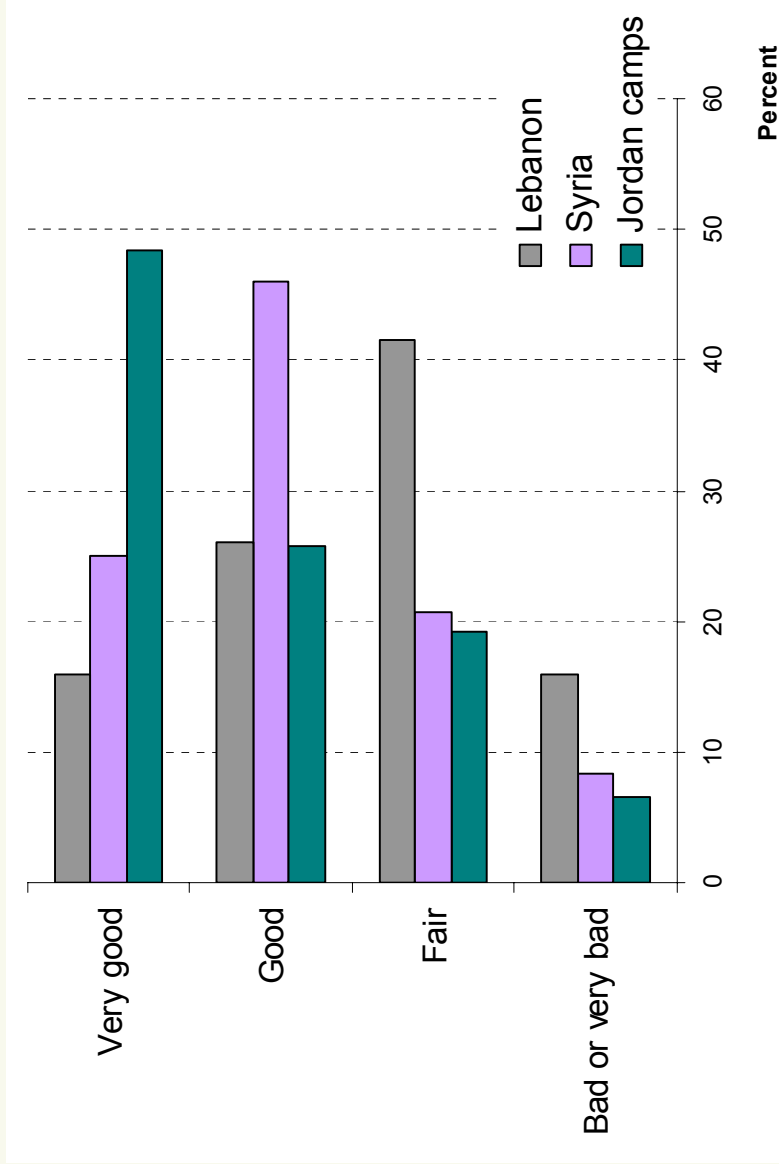
# LIPRIL

## Health status and health services

"LIPRIL: Glimpses  
from a household survey"  
Launching of report  
Beirut, 6 June 2003

# The health situation is poorer in Lebanon than in Jordan and Syria

Subjective health of persons aged 15+. Lebanon, Syria and Jordan's camps compared.

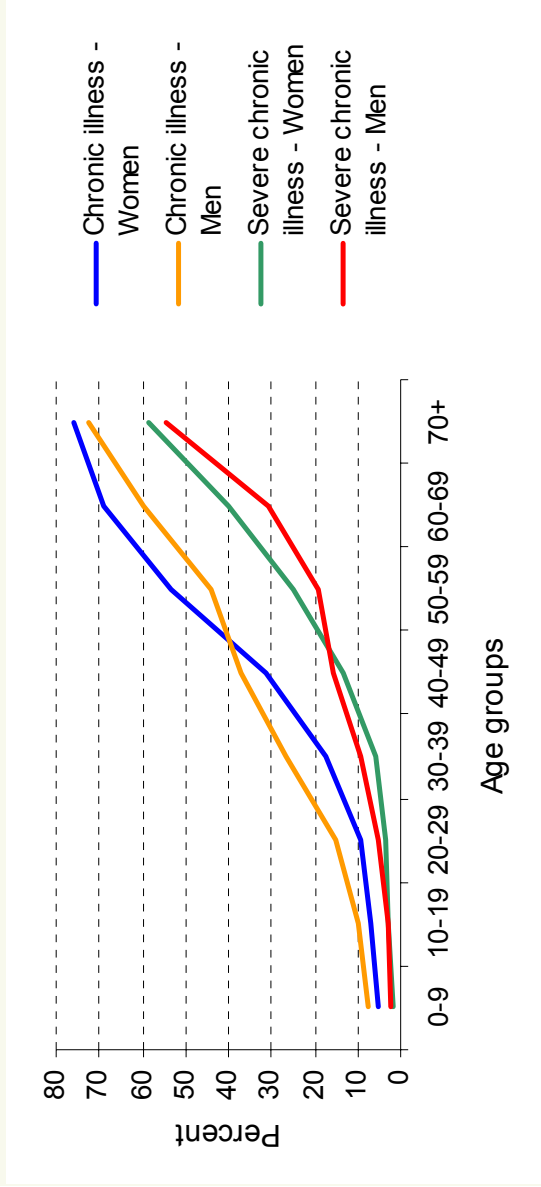


- **42% of adults rate their health as very good or good, compared to 74% in Jordan and 71% in Syria**

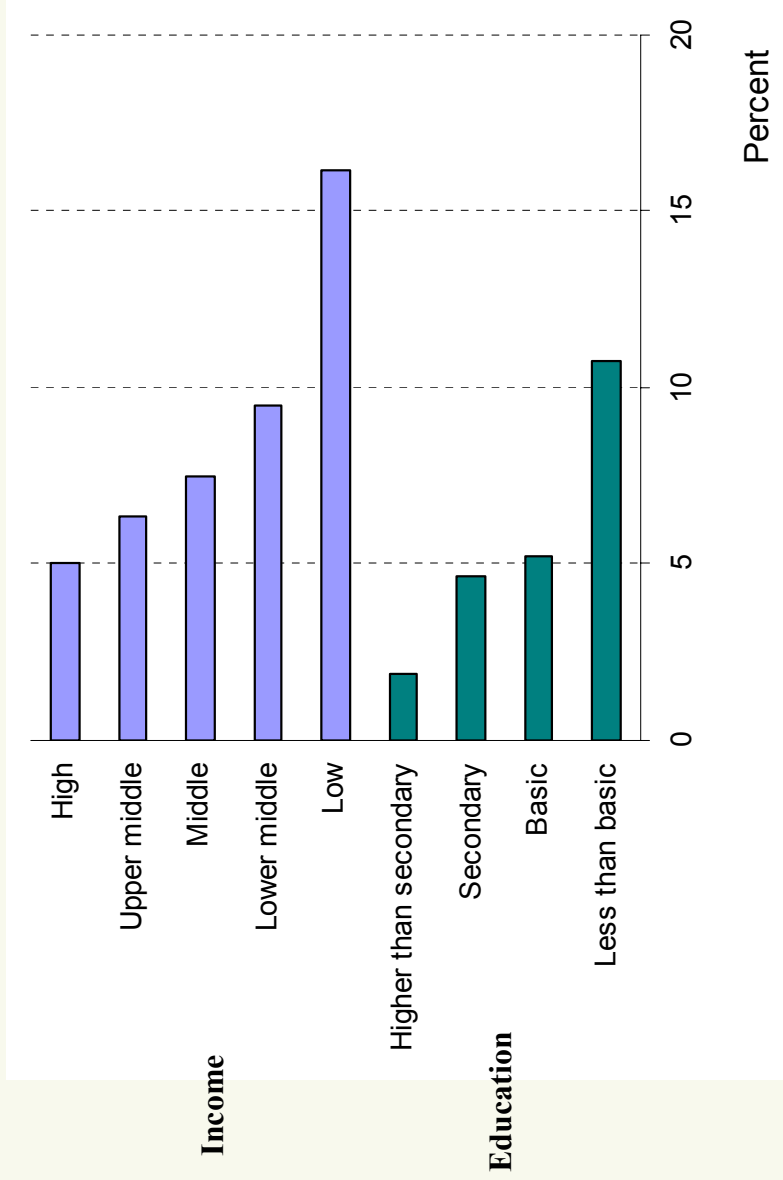
- **Similar pattern on other indicators: chronic illness, physical impairment, and mental health**

## Nearly 1 in 5 have a chronic health failure - close to 1 in 10 suffer from a severe problem

- **19% suffer from chronic health failure**
- **8.5% suffer from a severe chronic problem**
- **3% have a chronic problem caused by war**
- **Chronic illness more prevalent in the lower income brackets, among people with low education and in the southern camps**

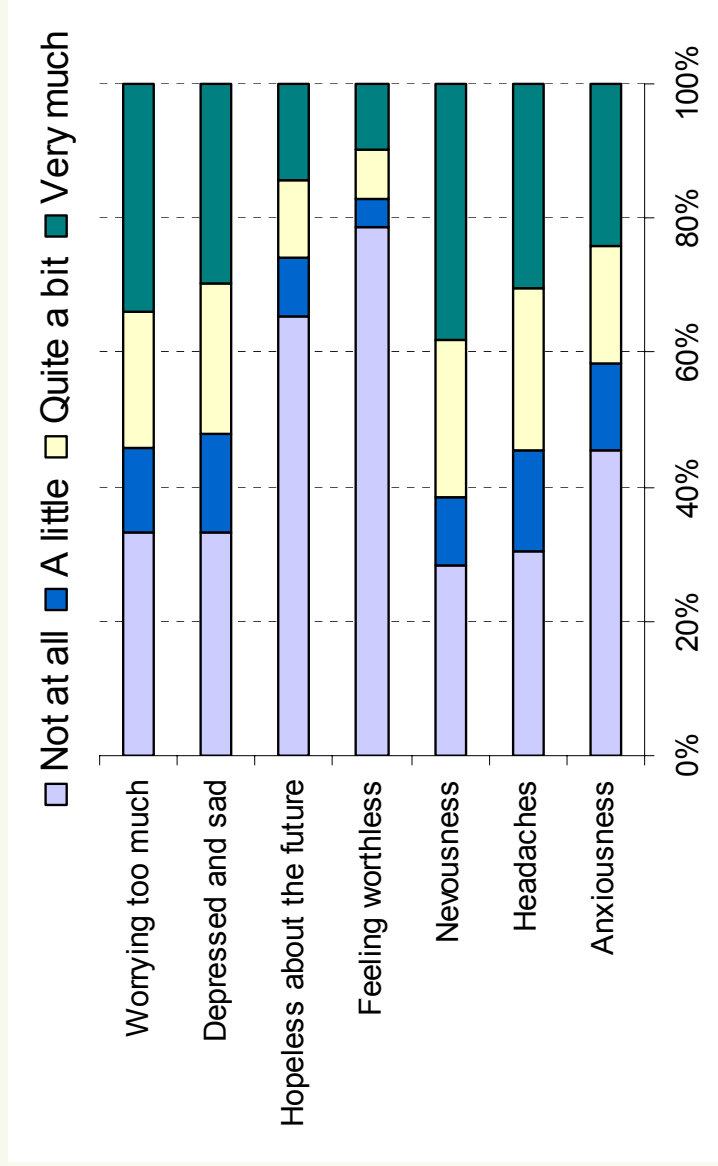


## Prevalence of severe chronic illness higher among people with low income and education



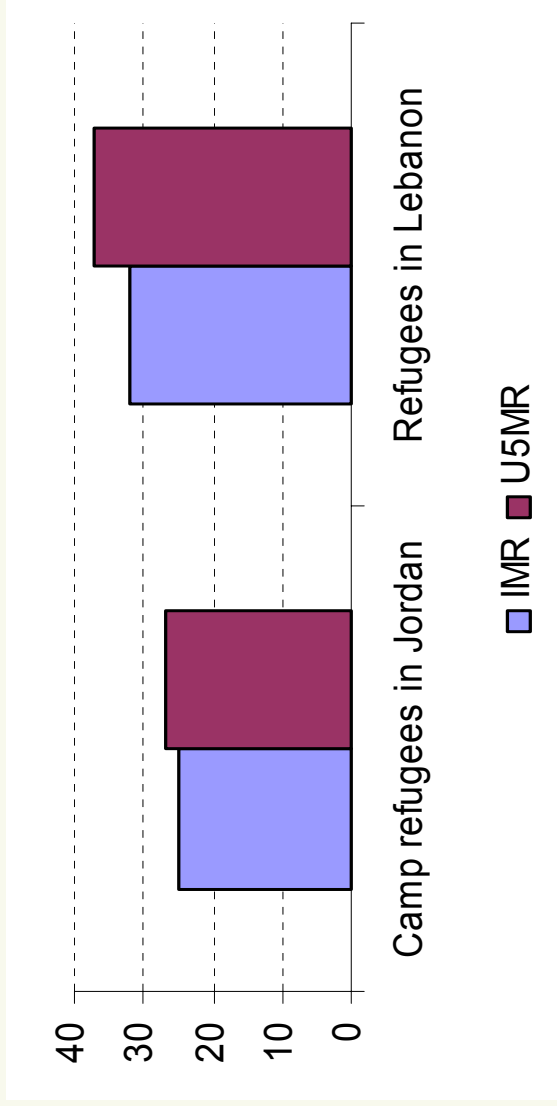
## Many adults show sign of psychological distress; 1 in 4 feels hopeless about the future

- 42% report 4 symptoms or more (18% in Jordan's camps)
- 21% have taken medicines regularly due to psych. distress the past 6 months
- 1,5% have seen a doctor for mental problems



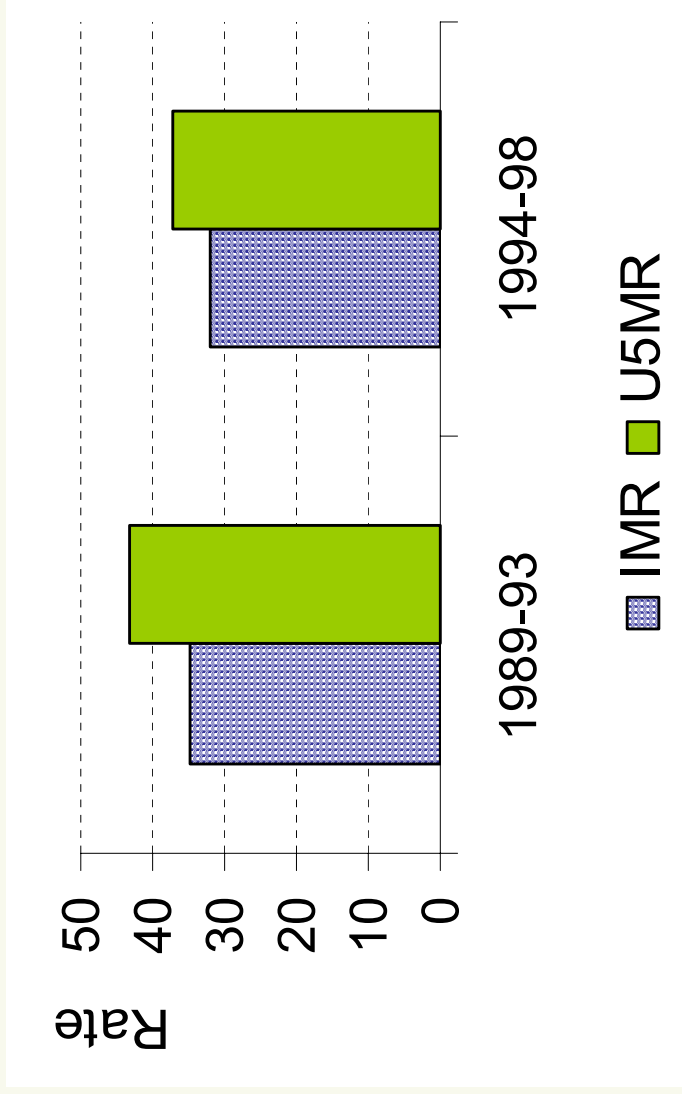
**Under-five health poorer than in Jordanian camps as indicated by higher IMR and U5MR and more undernourishment (measured by mid-upper arm circumference - MUAC)**

- **5% of children 1-3 years old are malnourished (MUAC < 12.5 cm) - compared to less than 1% in Jordan camps**
- **Another 4% are in the group of vulnerable children (MUAC 12.5 - 13.4 cm) - compared to 2% in Jordan camps**



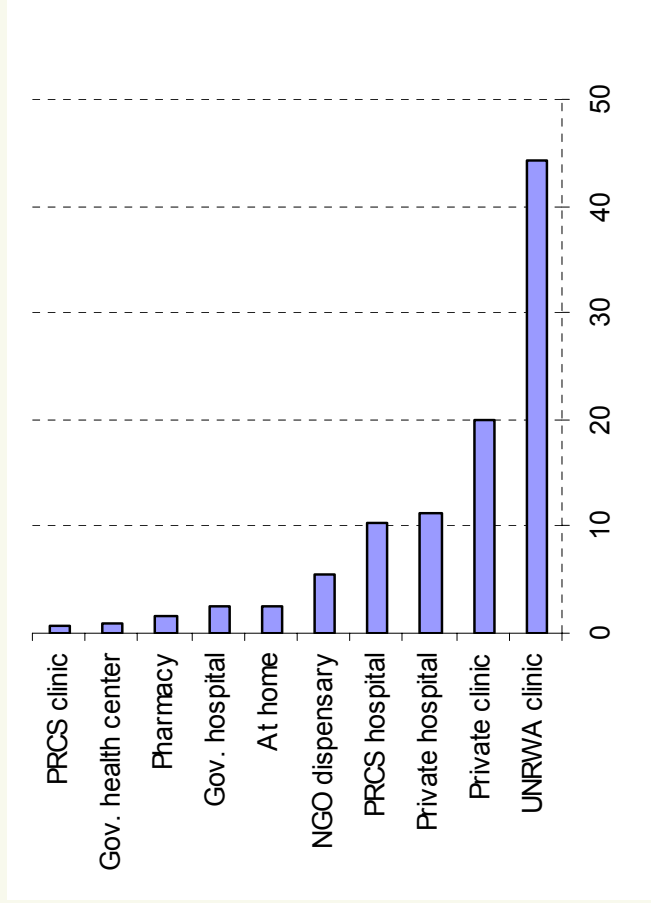
## Child mortality fell in the 1990s

- **IMR down 9% from 35 to 32 per thousand between the two 5-year periods**
- **The situation is better in Southern camps than in Northern camps with U5MR 38.5 vs. 44.5**



## UNRWA clinics, private institutions most often visited after acute illness

Place of consultation and treatment  
Percent of the acutely ill aged 5+

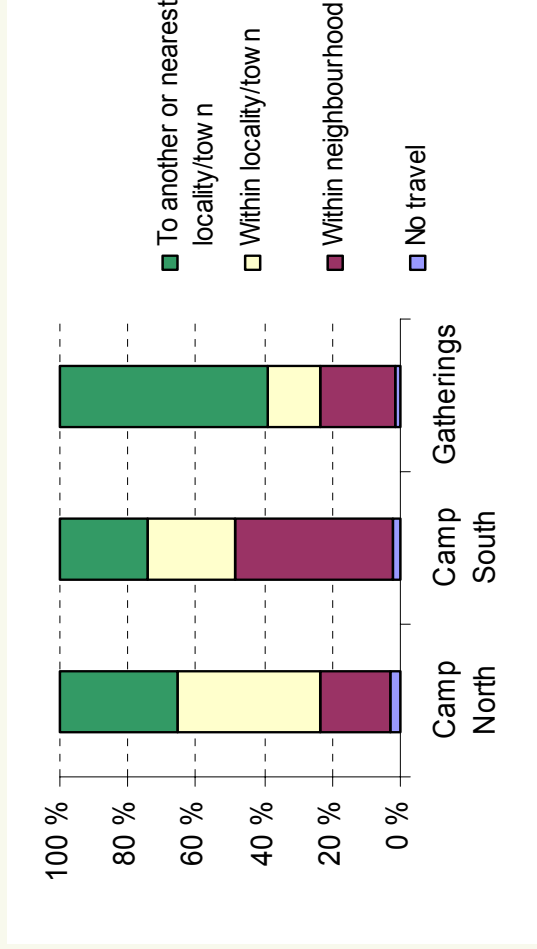


- 11% suffered from acute illness in the two week reference period
- 75% consulted someone, most often a general practitioner (56%) or a specialist doctor (40%)
- UNRWA's share of the patient stream higher than in Jordan camps
- Household income does not influence the type of services used
- ... but the 7% with health insurance go to private hospitals more often

# Regional differences in the availability of health services

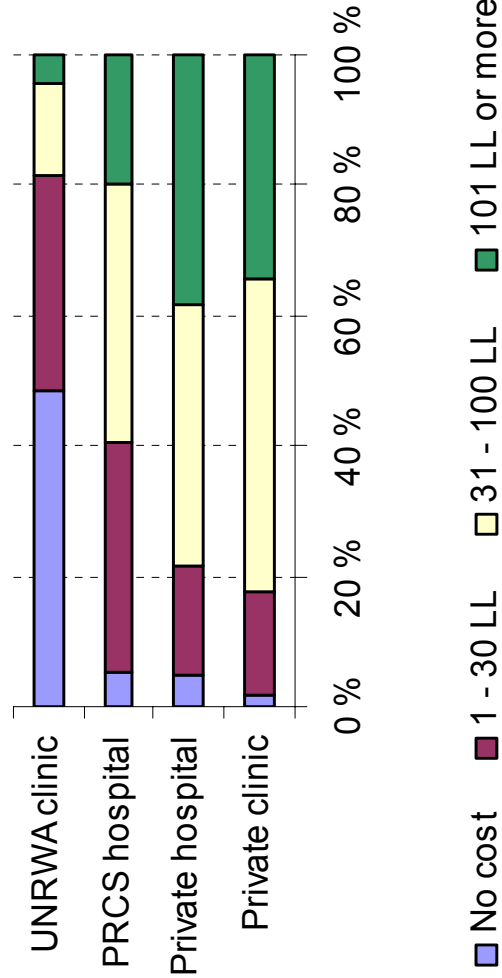
- **36% of all patients consulted someone in their neighbourhood**
- **Health services are within easier reach for people in the southern camps ...**
- **... who more often go to UNRWA for consultation**
- **People residing outside of the refugee camps travel the most**

Travel distance to place of consultation



## UNRWA clearly the less expensive provider ...

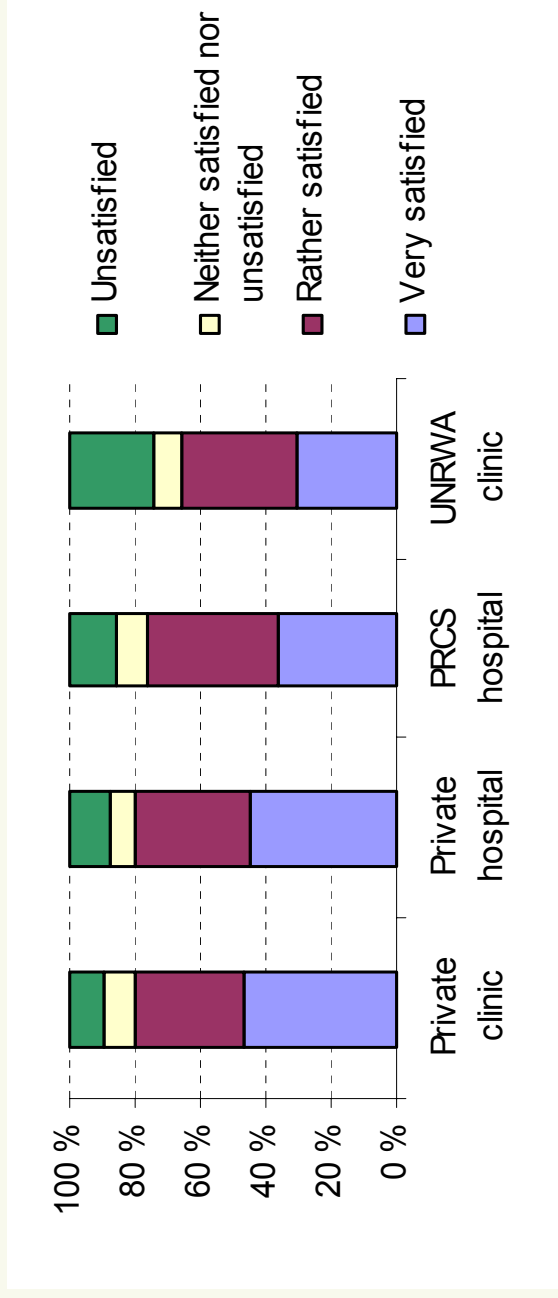
Total consultation, medication and treatment expenses  
In thousand LL



- Patients from the gatherings pay more for health services:**

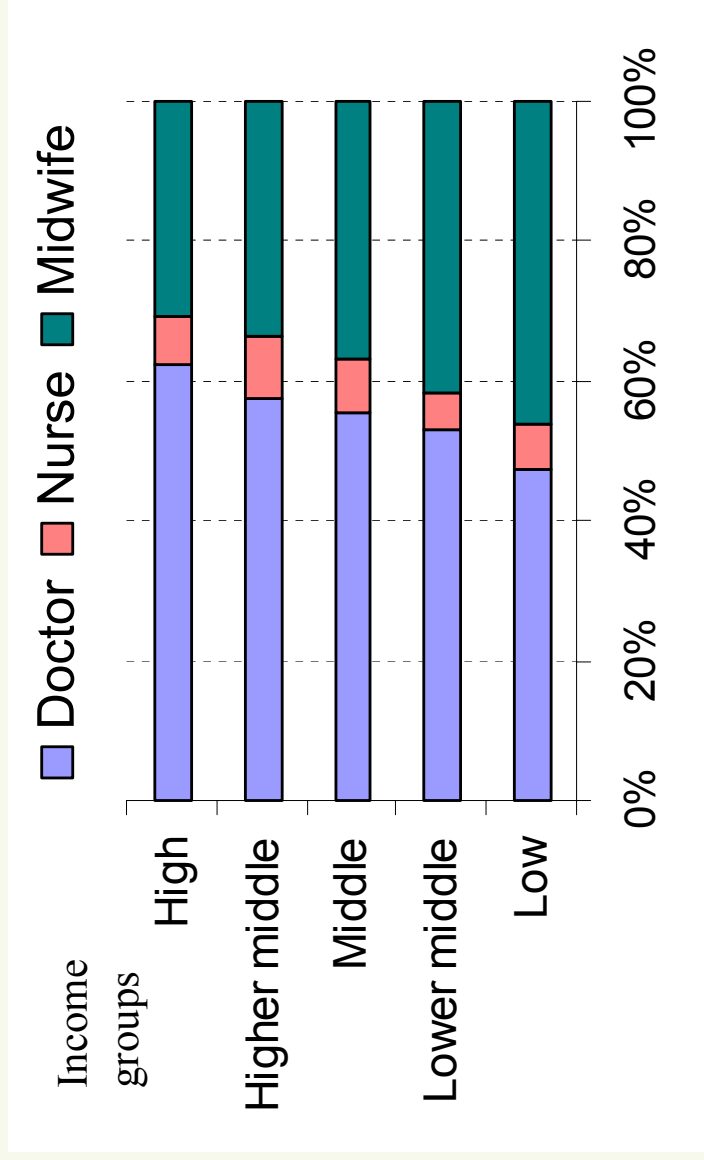
**Half as many people in the gatherings with free services compared with people from the camps**

## ... but more dissatisfaction with consultation and treatment at UNRWA clinics



## Prenatal care the rule (95%); 8 in 10 visit UNRWA; 6 in 10 see a physician

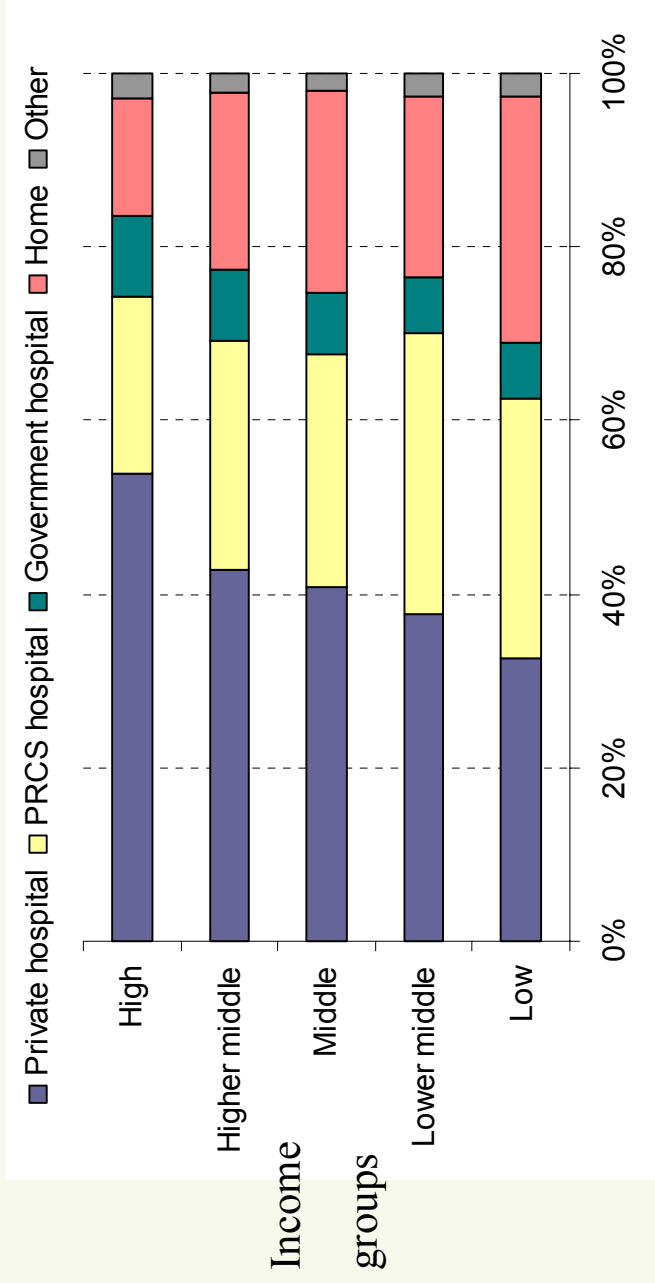
- 97% receive prenatal check-up in the South, 95% in gatherings and 93% in the North
- Women are leaning slightly more on UNRWA for controls in the South than elsewhere
- Few see a doctor compared to Beirut (95%) and Jordan (90%)



Education has a similar effect on the use of a doctor as income

## Three of four (76%) deliveries at a hospital (5 years prior to survey)

- Compares to 92% in Beirut and 93% in Jordan
- Varies by education also:  
24% of mothers without basic give birth at home vs. 11% of mothers with secondary+
- ✓ 55% receive post-natal check-ups
- ✓ Comparable to figures for Beirut

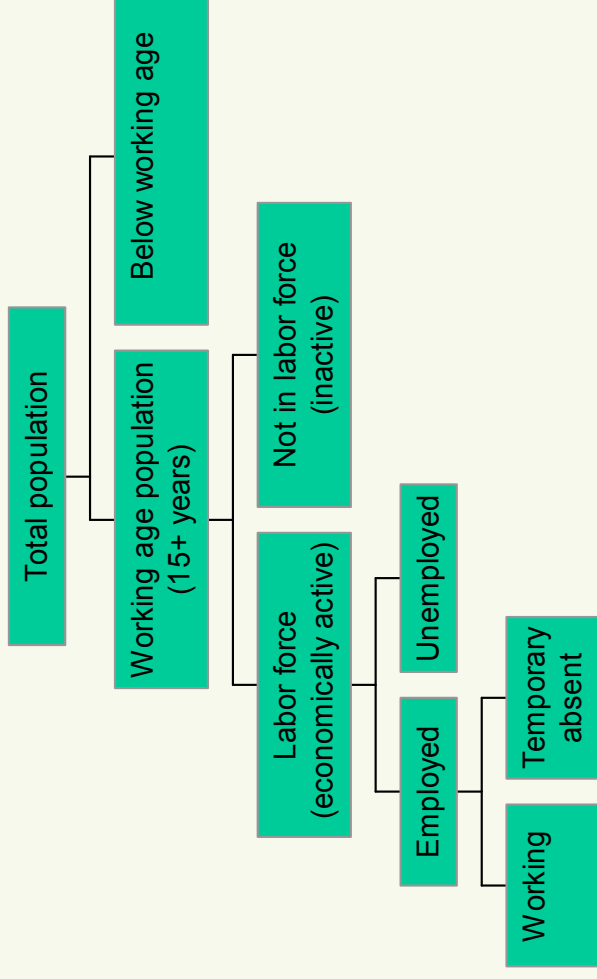


# LIPRIL

## Employment

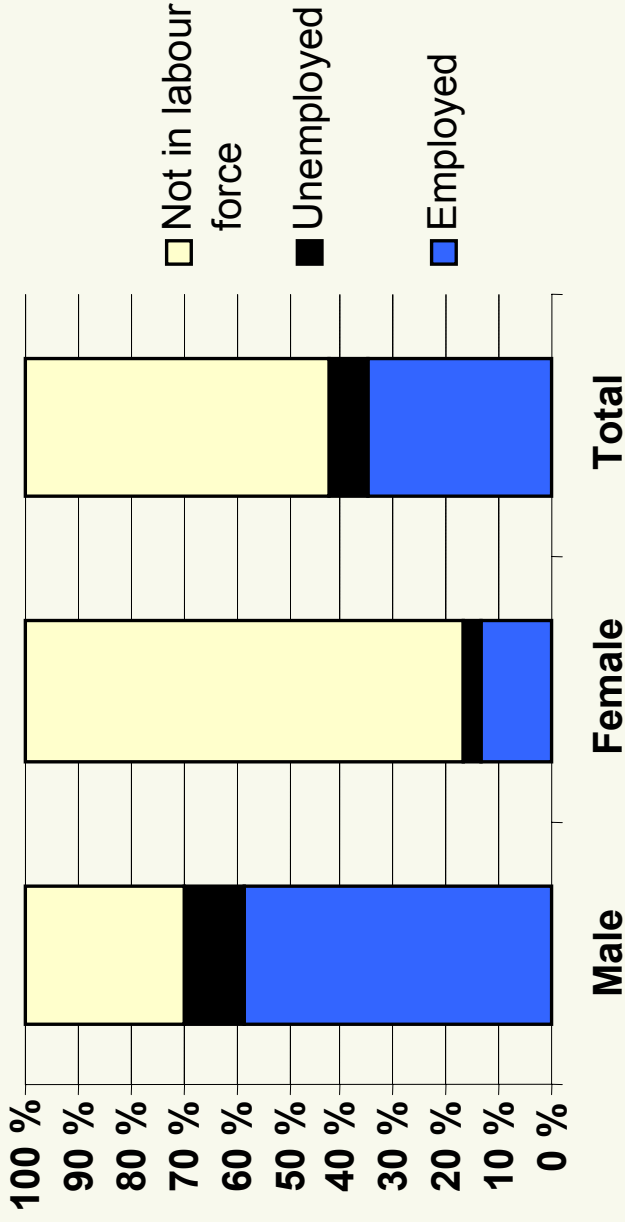
"LIPRIL: Glimpses  
from a household survey"  
Launching of report  
Beirut, 6 June 2003

# ILO labor force classification



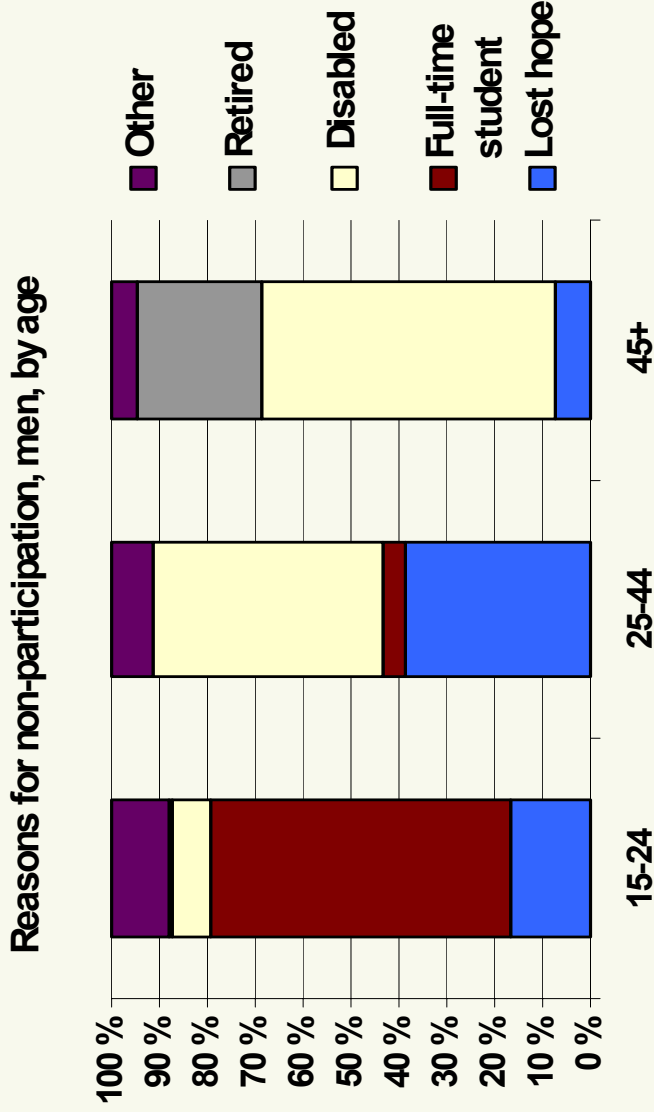
## Low labor force participation rates (42 %)

- **Mainly caused by low female participation rate (17 %)**
- **Unemployment is high at 17 % overall**



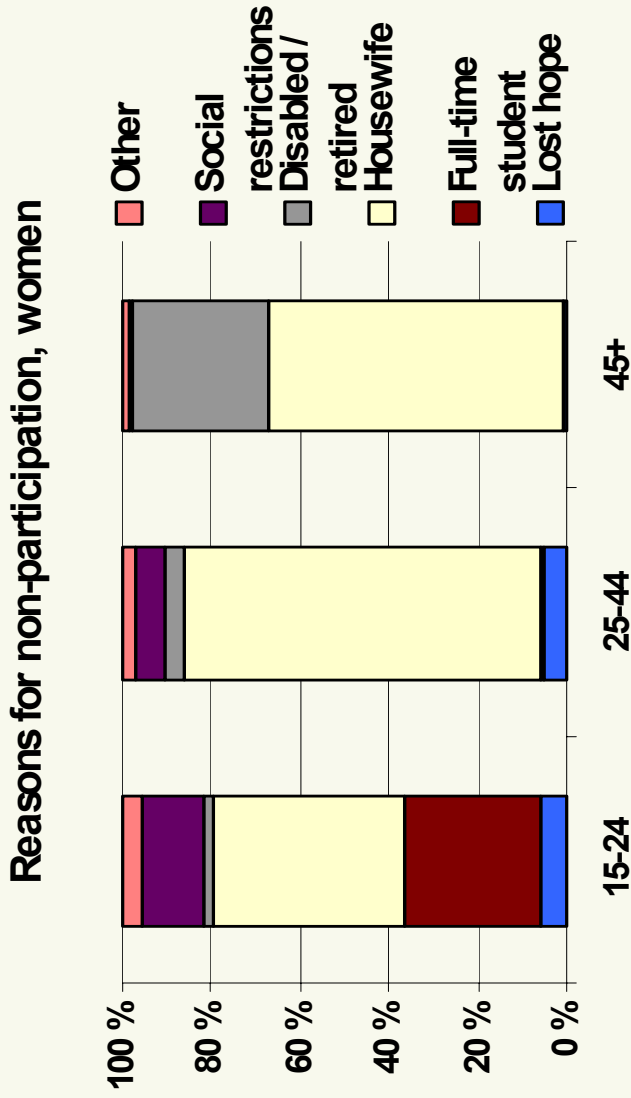
## Health and discouragement are major causes of non-participation for MEN aged 25+

- Half of the inactive men aged 25-44 report sickness or disability factors
- Nearly 40% of the inactive aged 25-44 have lost hope of finding a job
- In the age group 45+ more than 60% give health reasons for not working



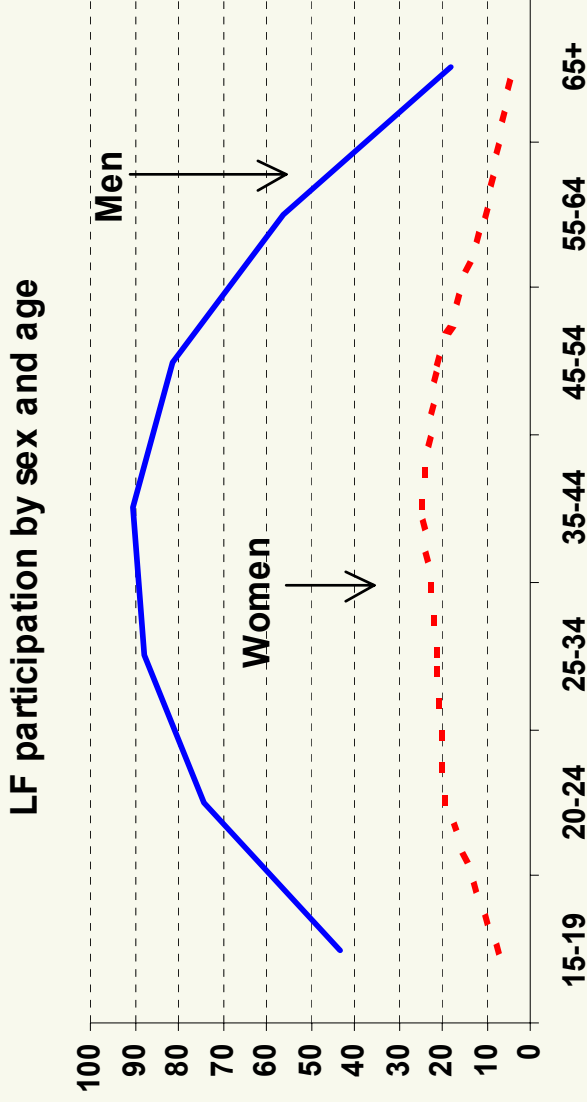
## Housework is the main reason for non-participation among WOMEN

- But it varies by age
- Social restrictions is important: 14% of women below 25 and 7% aged 25-44 cite this reason
- As for men, health reasons are important among the old, studies among the young



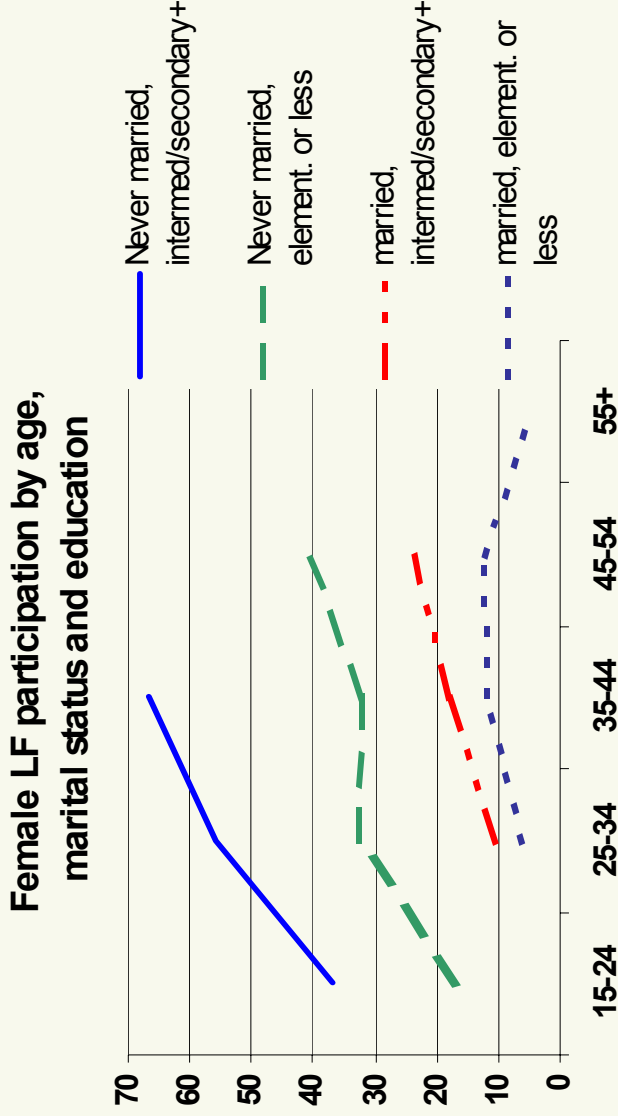
# Early exit for men and low overall participation for women

- Male participation not exceeding 90%
- But rapid decline from age 45 - an effect of health
- Female participation low at all ages



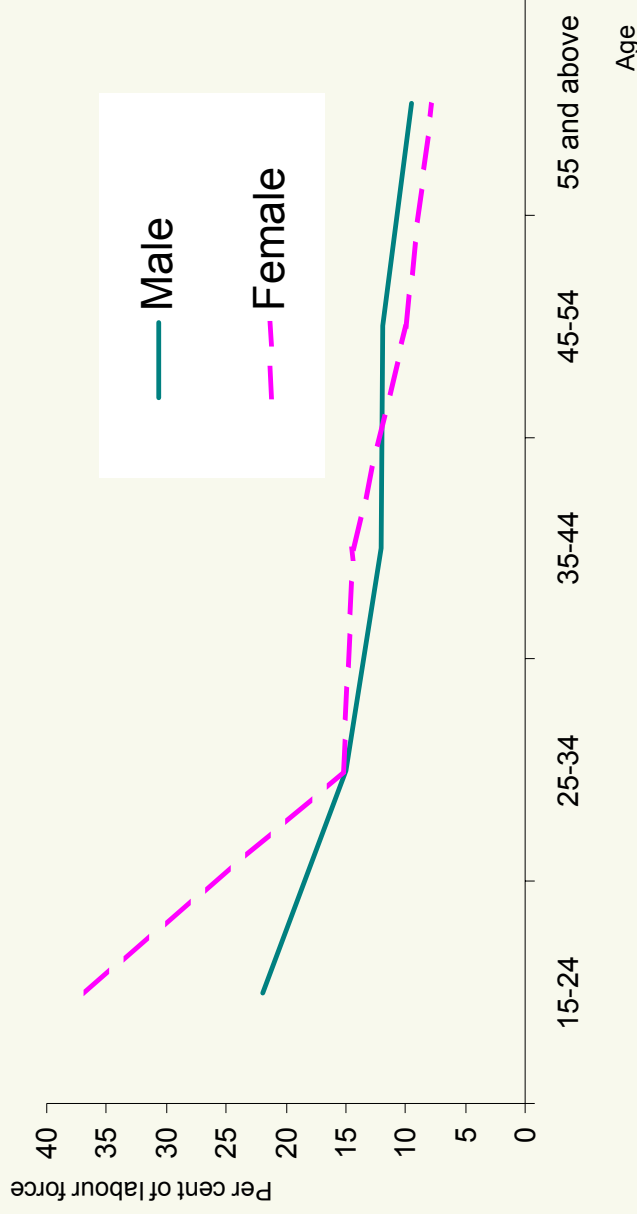
# FEMALE participation increases with education but ...

- **Marriage moderates the effect of education on female participation**
- **For MEN, both factors increase participation**



## High unemployment rates among the young

- **Decreasing with age for both sexes**
- **Education little effect on unemployment rates**
- **Higher unemployment in Beirut than elsewhere**

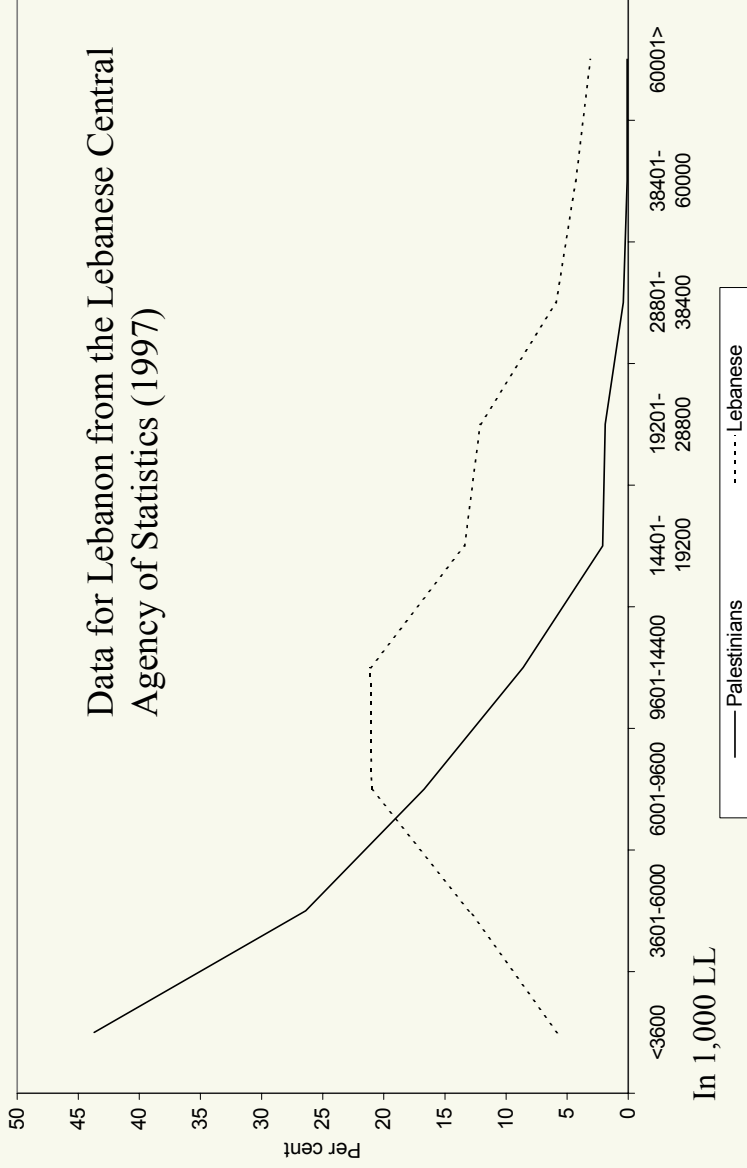


LIPRIL

**Income and poverty**

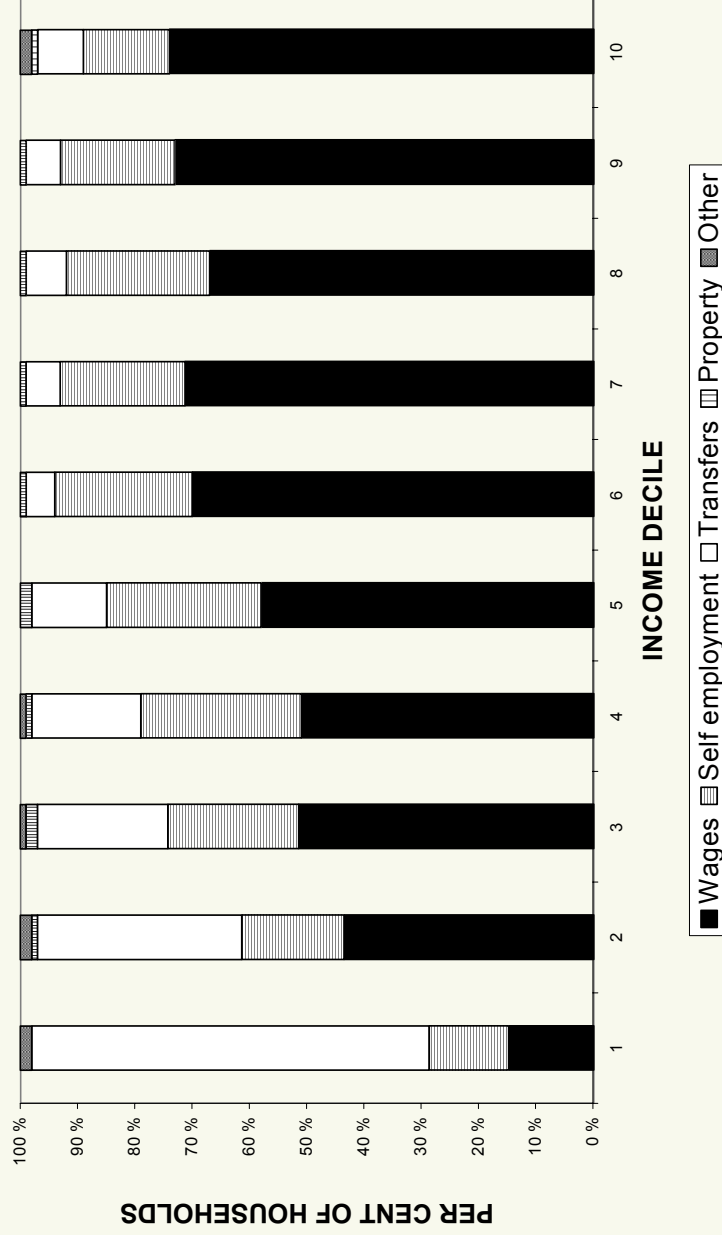
"LIPRIL: Glimpses  
from a household survey"  
Launching of report  
Beirut, 6 June 2003

## Palestinian refugees are considerably poorer than the Lebanese population



- **Skewed income distribution within the refugee population:**
  - The 10% with the lowest income earn 0.8% of the population's total income.
  - The top 10% earners make 36% of total income

# Most households rely on employment income (80%); transfer important for the poorest households



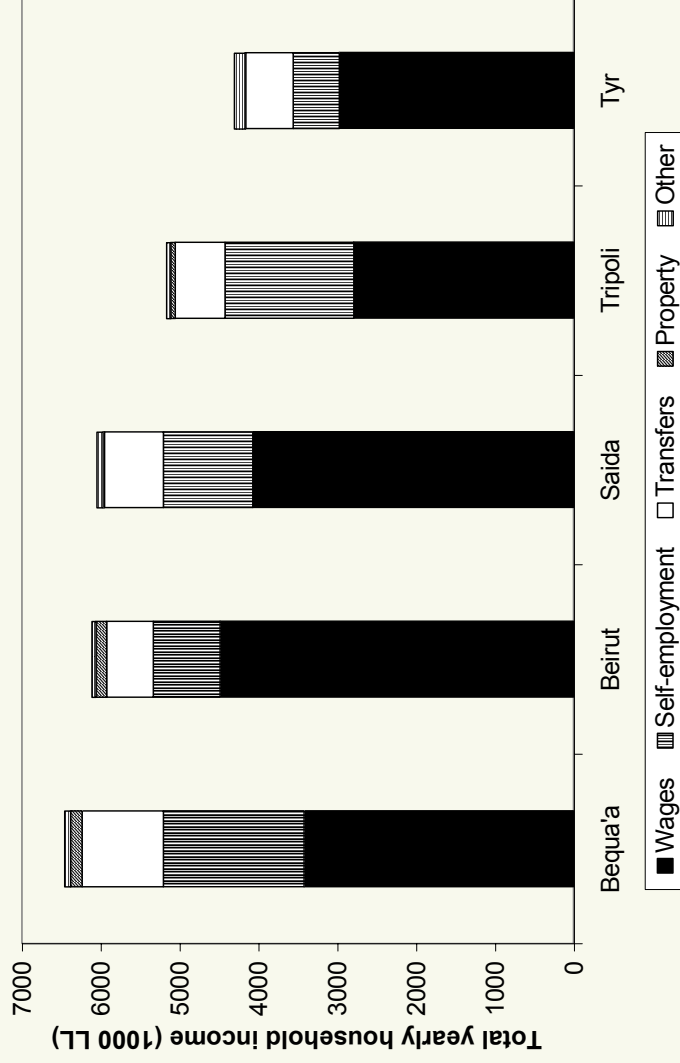
- **“Transfer” in the poorest families most often is social support**
- **In the wealthiest households, “transfer” most often consists of remittances from abroad**

## Income varies by region ...

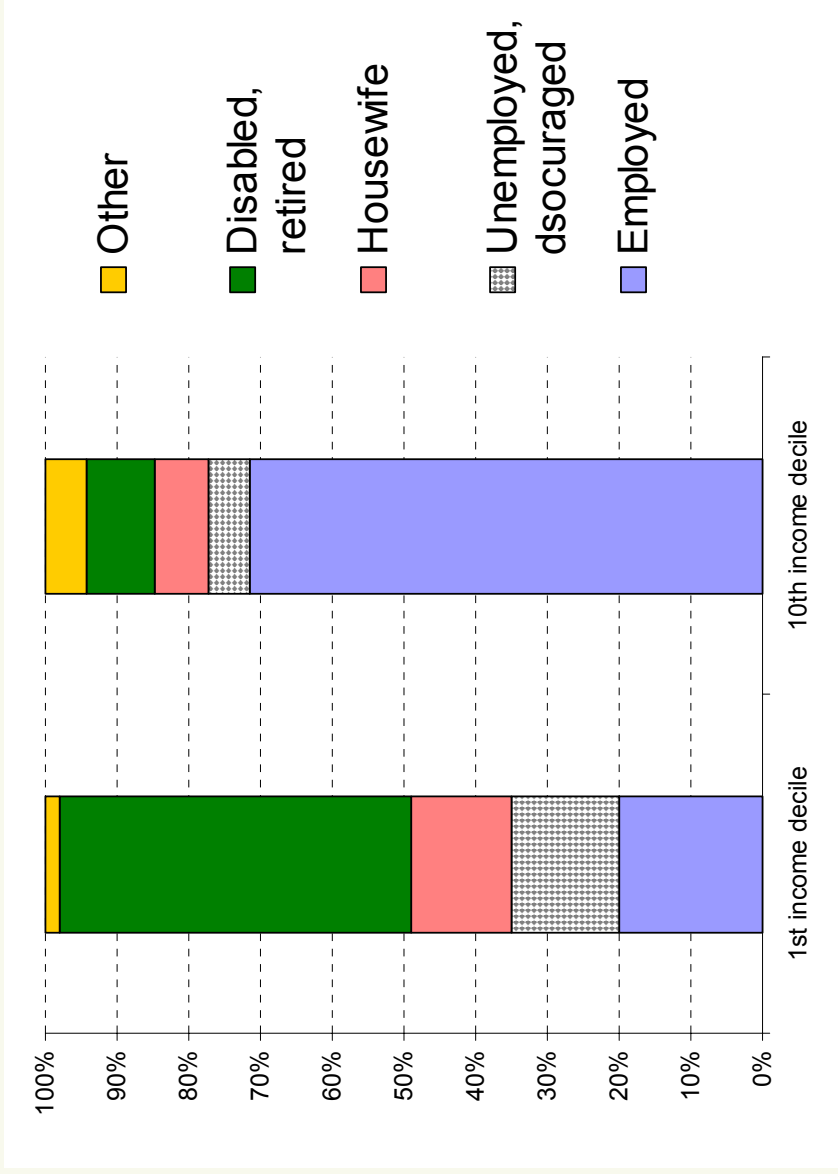
- ... and education:

In the lowest income decile, **70% of household heads have not completed elementary and 1% have higher education.**

In the highest decile, **only 29% of heads have not completed any education and 26% have a post-secondary degree**

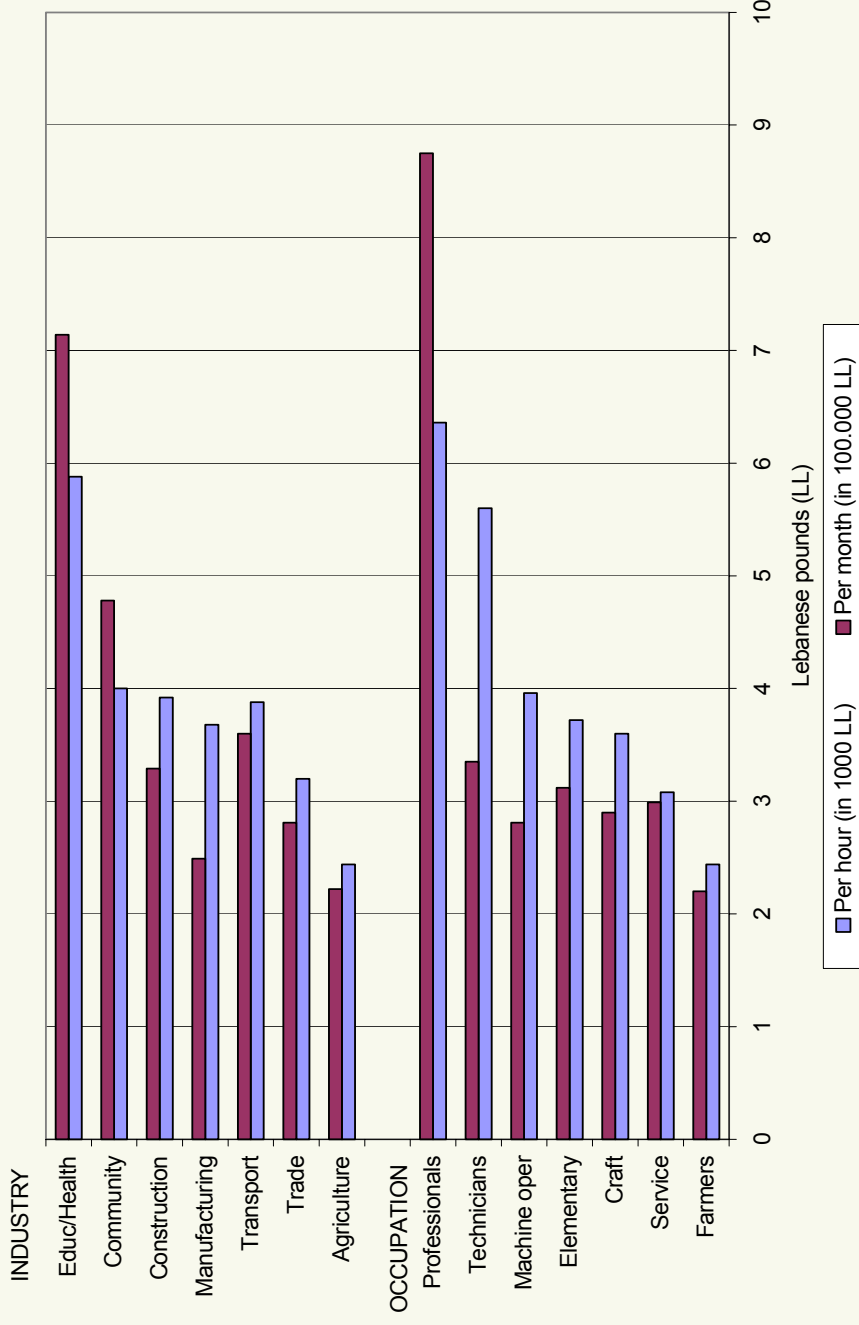


# The poorest households are weakly attached to the labour market



- **Health failure and retirement with significant negative effects on income**

## Little income differentiation in the labour market



# LIPRIL

**End of presentation**

"LIPRIL: Glimpses  
from a household survey"  
Launching of report  
Beirut, 6 June 2003