



UPINION

Monitoring Lebanon's displaced population: Main challenges and reasons for moving

November 2024

Key findings

Conversation 1: displacement patterns and situation update (14/11/24 - 21/11/2024)

1. **Displacement patterns: 43%** (n=419) of respondents reported being displaced, with a slight increase from **38%** (n=456) in October. The highest displacement rates were observed among respondents originally living in Nabatiyeh, where all **11** respondents were displaced,¹ South Lebanon (**77%**, n=31), and Beirut (**59%**, n=82). Among the displaced, **64%** (n=170) had moved more than once, indicating the ongoing instability faced by many.
2. **Reasons for multiple displacements:** The primary reasons for secondary displacement were bombings in the area (**46%**, n=107), lack of basic services (**29%**), and shelter shortages (**29%**). Notably, Lebanese respondents were more likely to cite the lack of services and bombings as causes compared to Syrian respondents, who also highlighted eviction from shelters.
3. **Movement across regions: ?**
4. **Challenges faced by displaced populations:** Half of the respondents struggled to meet their families' and their own basic needs (n=164), with employment challenges being the third most cited issue. Discrimination in accessing shelter was relatively high among Syrian respondents (**39%**, n=89), but also mentioned by Lebanese respondents (**17%**, n=42). **21%** of Lebanese respondents reported feeling uninformed about the current situation and available services (mentioned by only **7%** of Syrian respondents), which could correlate with the higher number of Lebanese respondents being displaced a second time due to lack of access to services.
5. **Movements to Syria:** A small portion of the total respondents (**3%**, n=419) had relocated to Syria, with out of those **5** indicating they left due to deportation and another **5** choosing to return voluntarily (n=12). The main reasons for leaving were fleeing attacks, economic hardship, and social tensions.
6. **Satisfaction with information-sharing:** Upinion's situation update was well-received, with **67%** (n=297) of respondents rating it highly (**4 or 5 stars**). This reflects a strong demand for ongoing, accessible information on the current situation and available support. Upinion will continue gathering feedback from its online community to identify what their priority concerns are.

¹ These findings should be carefully interpreted given the low number of respondents.

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Introduction

Since the onset of the Israeli attacks of October 2024, Lebanon has endured more than 13,500 airstrikes, resulting in significant civilian casualties and widespread destruction. As of the latest reports, the attacks have claimed the lives of 3,516 individuals, with nearly 15,000 others wounded. The displacement of civilians has reached critical levels, with over 187,000 people seeking refuge in shelters, many of which have already reached their maximum capacity.²

Upinion's conversations

This report summarizes and interprets the results of the most recent conversation Upinion held with its Syrian and Lebanese communities in Lebanon. Previous insights were shared in our October short brief '*Staying informed in times of conflict: people in Lebanon share their priority needs*' which can be accessed [here](#). The conversation in this brief was launched on the **14th of November** and closed on the **21st of November 2024**. It aims to continue monitoring displacement status as well as movements at the Syria-Lebanon border, and share advocacy outputs Upinion produced back to the community. **419** respondents answered the first question of the main conversation. **402** completed the conversation.

Information-sharing

Using Upinion's two-way communication digital platform, we were able to send relevant information throughout multiple conversations. The conversations included an update on the current situation in Lebanon, including information retrieved from official channels, as well as useful social media accounts to follow to stay up to date with the situation and available services.

It is important to note that due to the sample size of the study, the following findings do not amount to a quantitative analysis, and thereby cannot be used as quantitative evidence, but rather serve as an indicator of possible patterns or emerging trends.

² <https://drmlleb.com/portal/apps/sites/#/daily-situation-report>

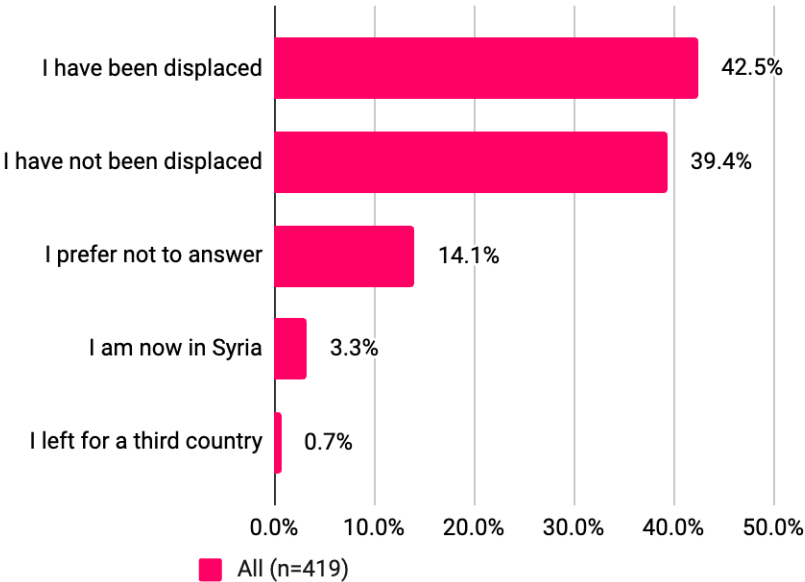
Data findings

Main conversation - Displacement patterns and situation update

1. Evolution of displacement status

As we continue to monitor displacement patterns, it can be noted that in this conversation, **43%** (n=419) of respondents indicated to have been displaced, for **39%** who have not. Compared to our findings from October where **38%** (n=456) of respondents had been displaced, the displacement ratio remains similar, with a **5%** increase this month.

Figure 1. We would first like to ask if your displacement status has changed since we last talked. - All respondents



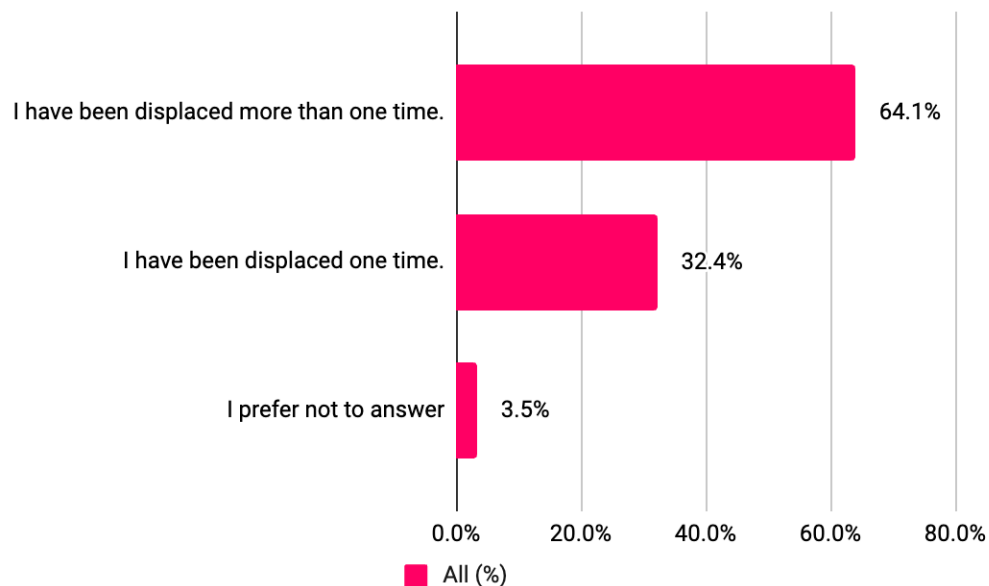
When considering displacement status per region, it must be noted that all respondents from Nabatiyeh but one have been displaced (n=11), as well as **77%** of respondents from South Lebanon (n=31)³, and **59%** of respondents from Beirut (n=82). These are the areas of origin showing the highest rate of displacement across participants' responses.

³ These findings should be carefully interpreted given the low number of respondents.

2. Number of times displaced

Amongst displaced respondents (n=170), **64%** have had to move more than once, showcasing the precarity and uncertainty of their situation.

Figure 2. Have you been displaced multiple times since you have left your own home? - All displaced respondents

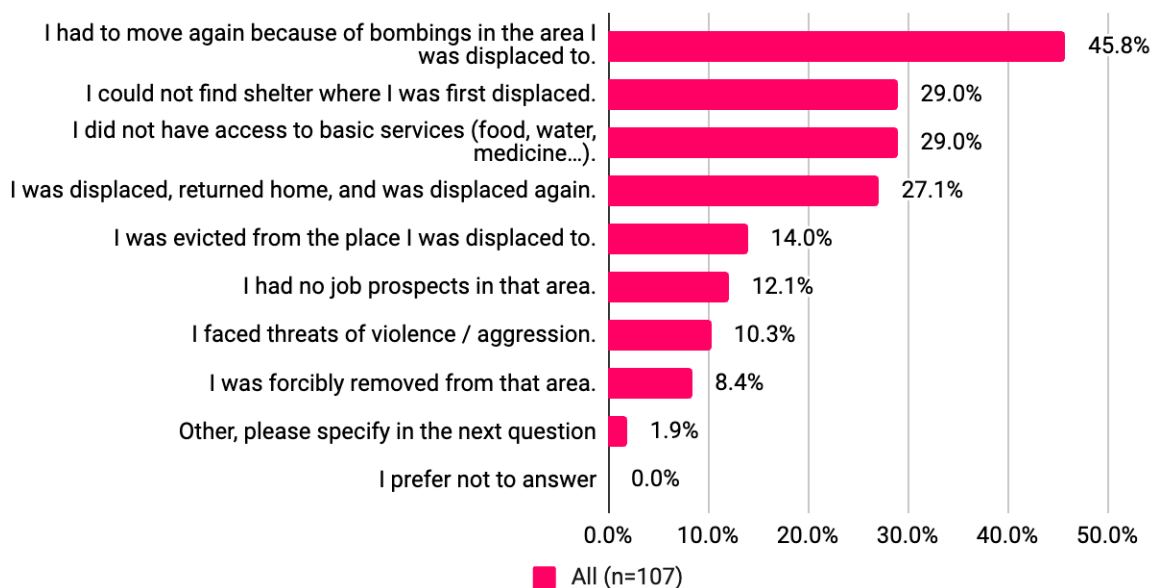


Indicatively, across Syrian respondents, **70%** (n=92) had to be displaced more than once, for **57%** (n=44) of displaced Lebanese.

i. Reasons for second displacement

When asked about the reasons behind their second displacement, respondents predominantly answered that they had to move again because of bombings in the area they were displaced to (**46%**, n=107), because of the lack of access to basic services such as food and water (**29%**), the lack of available shelter (**29%**), or because they returned to their homes and were displaced again (**27%**). To be noted that there could be a correlation between people being displaced because of bombings and because of returning home, as their first displacement was likely due to insecurity in their area of origin.

Figure 3. Could you share with us why you had to move more than once? - Respondents displaced more than once



Lebanese respondents indicated that they had to move again because of bombings in the area they were displaced to (**63%**, n=24) more than Syrians respondents (**43%**, n=63), and also designated the lack of access to basic services as a reason for moving more prevalently (**42%** versus **25%**). Simultaneously, a small group of Syrian respondents expressed that they had been evicted from the place they were displaced to (**19%**), which remains notably larger than for Lebanese respondents (**4%**).

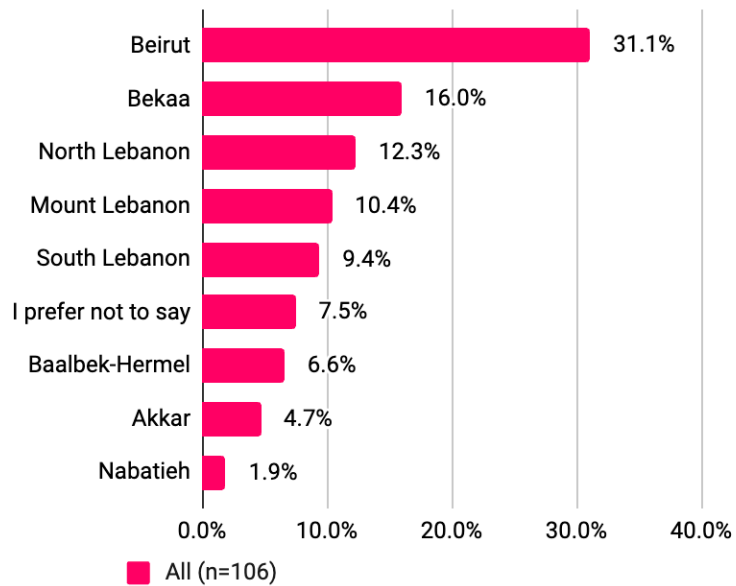
When asked to list other reasons for being displaced multiple times, respondents mentioned the lack of work opportunities as well as their financial situation forcing them to move from house to house.

"My problem is not internal displacement (...) but rather the issue is financial. I moved from house to house due to not paying house rents, and I mentioned how many nations I have been living in for ten years, and I am very old, and so is my wife, and I have a young man who is taking care of our treatment." - Syrian male living in Bekaa

ii. Area of first displacement

When asked to which area they had originally been displaced, Beirut came first with **31%** response (n=106), followed by Bekaa (**16%**), North Lebanon (**12%**), Mount Lebanon (**10%**), South Lebanon (**9%**), Baalbek-Hermel (**7%**), Akkar (**5%**), and Nabatieh (**2%**).

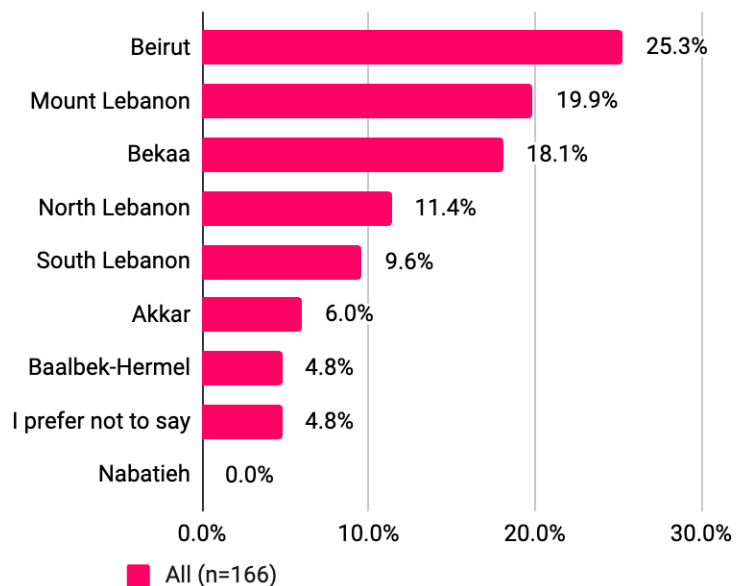
Figure 4. Could you let us know where you were first displaced - Respondents displaced more than once



iii. Current area of displacement

All respondents that had been displaced were then asked to share in which area they were currently living. **25%** said they were in Beirut (n=166), **20%** in Mount Lebanon, **18%** Bekaa, **11%** North Lebanon, **10%** South Lebanon, **6%** Akkar, and a last **5%** in Baalbek-Hermel.

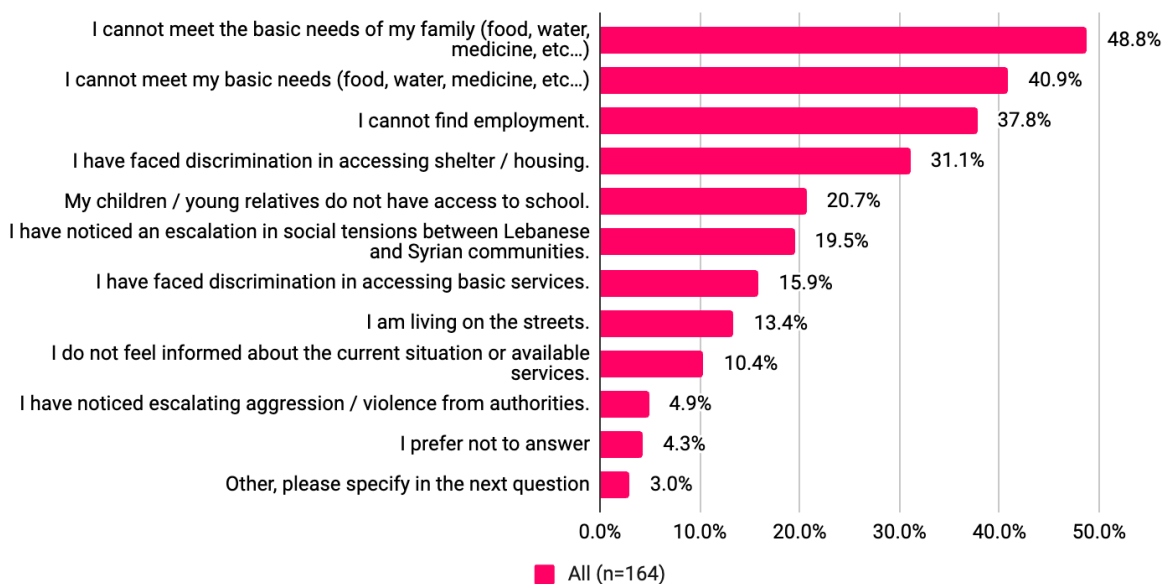
Figure 5. Could you specify in which area you find yourself? - All displaced respondents



iv. *Challenges in conditions and access to services*

When asked about challenges encountered, close to half of the respondents mentioned not being able to meet the basic needs of their family (**49%**, n=164) or their own basic needs (**41%**). Employment was the third most mentioned challenge (**38%**), followed by facing discrimination in accessing shelter (**31%**).

Figure 6. Could you let us know if you are experiencing any of the following challenges? - All displaced respondents



When disaggregating the data, **39%** of Syrian respondents (n=89) indicated that they had faced discrimination in accessing shelter or housing, which stands at **17%** for Lebanese respondents (n=42). This is reflective of existing trends of discrimination against Syrian refugees in accessing services or shelter.

Simultaneously, a larger proportion of Lebanese respondents indicated not feeling informed about the current situation and available services (**21%**) than Syrian respondents (**7%**), which, although still relatively low, could correlate with the higher percentage of Lebanese responses selecting the lack of access to basic services as a reason for moving a second time after their first displacement (see 2.i. *Reasons for second displacement*). This finding highlights the need for better mapping and information-sharing of basic services providers and how to access them (e.g. NGOs, CSOs, informal initiatives & networks, local businesses, etc...)

Respondents that chose to share other challenges they are facing all mentioned the taxing cost of their financial situation, and its repercussions on their livelihoods and prospects.

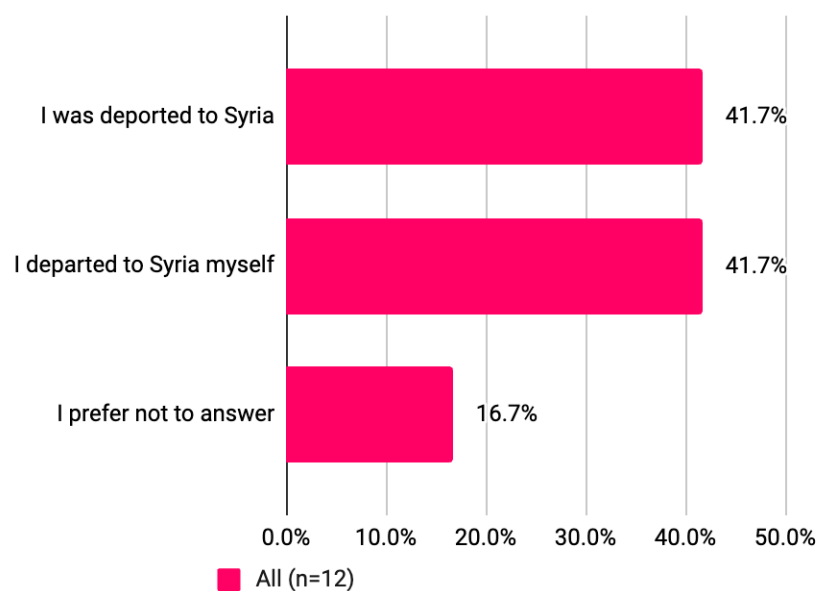
*Because of the current conditions and the bombing, of course, there is no job, no financial income, and high prices due to the crisis that the country is going through. - **Syrian male, living in Baalbek - Hermel***

*The prices are high in Shekin, including food, housing, water, and basic needs. - **Lebanese male, living in Bekaa***

3. Movements to Syria: deportation versus voluntary migration

3% (n=419) of the respondents indicated that they were now in Syria. Out of the **12** returnees, **5** were deported and **5** departed from their own will.⁴

Figure 7. Could you let us know under what conditions you left for Syria? - Respondents who are now in Syria

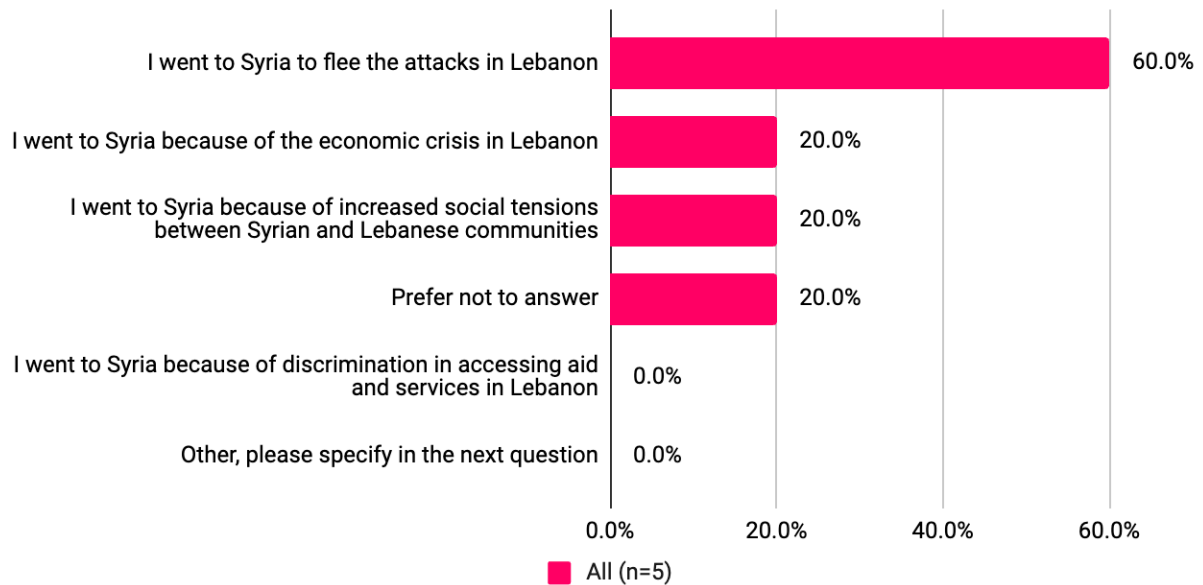


When questioned about the reasons behind their departure, **3** (n=5) specified they left for Syria to flee the attacks in Lebanon, **1** because of the economic crisis in Lebanon and **1** because of increased social tensions between refugees and host communities.⁵

Figure 8. Could you let us know what made you decide to go to Syria? - Respondents who are now in Syria

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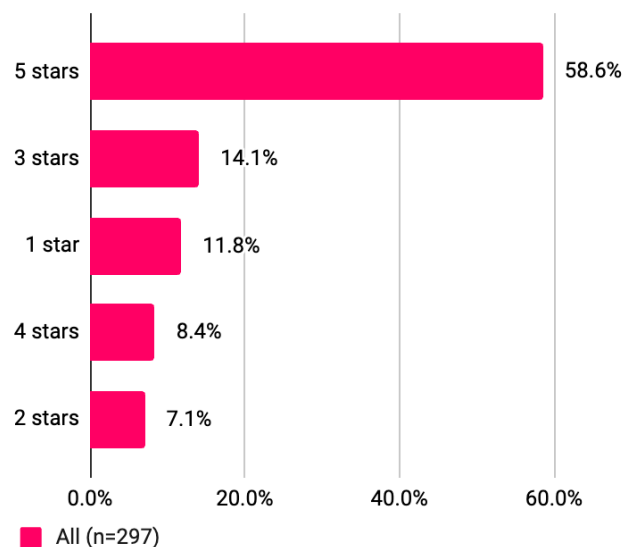


4. Information message: satisfaction rating

Respondents expressed in a previous conversation the will to receive weekly updates from Upinion summarizing in figures the situation in Lebanon. In this conversation, they were sent the aforementioned update as well as an information sheet with different social media accounts to follow, which are sharing useful resources or providing direct services. They were asked to rank the usefulness of the information provided via a 5 star ranking system.

67% (n=297) gave the information a 4 or 5 star. **12%** gave only a one-star rating.

Figure 9. You can now rate the quality of the information we just shared. - All respondents



Conclusion

The situation in Lebanon remains precarious, with ongoing displacement and significant challenges faced by both Lebanese and Syrian communities. As displacement patterns evolve, the need for continued monitoring and timely information-sharing becomes even more critical. The data gathered from Upinion's recent conversations highlights the uncertainty and repeated displacement many individuals face, with a high number of respondents displaced multiple times, primarily due to the ongoing bombings and lack of access to essential services or housing.

The findings underscore the widespread impact of the crisis on both Syrian refugees and Lebanese nationals, with financial strain, and discrimination in accessing shelter emerging as common concerns, the latter particularly affecting displaced Syrian respondents. Many respondents are also facing increasing barriers to meeting their basic needs, exacerbating their already fragile situations. The data further reflects a need for improved mapping of available services and better communication on how to access them, particularly for vulnerable populations.

In terms of migration trends, a small portion of respondents have either been deported or chosen to return to Syria, driven by the volatile security and economic environment in Lebanon. Albeit the current sample not being representative to draw statistical conclusions, observations from other humanitarian actors indicate that such movements may signal a shift in coping strategies, with individuals seeking safety and stability in Syria, despite the risks involved upon return.

As actors in the field continue their efforts, it is crucial that interventions remain adaptable, addressing both immediate humanitarian needs and the longer-term challenges of displacement and social integration. Enhancing communication channels, such as the provision of timely updates on available services, will ensure that communities are better informed and able to navigate the changing aid landscape.

At Upinion, we aim to continue offering through our conversation a communication pathway gathering direct insights from affected communities, in order to allow for decision-makers, NGOs, and other stakeholders to refine their strategies and ensure that interventions are responsive to the evolving needs of displaced and vulnerable populations in Lebanon. A coordinated, community-centered approach is essential to mitigating the effects of this crisis and fostering resilience among affected communities.