



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Lebanon

Country Brief

October 2018



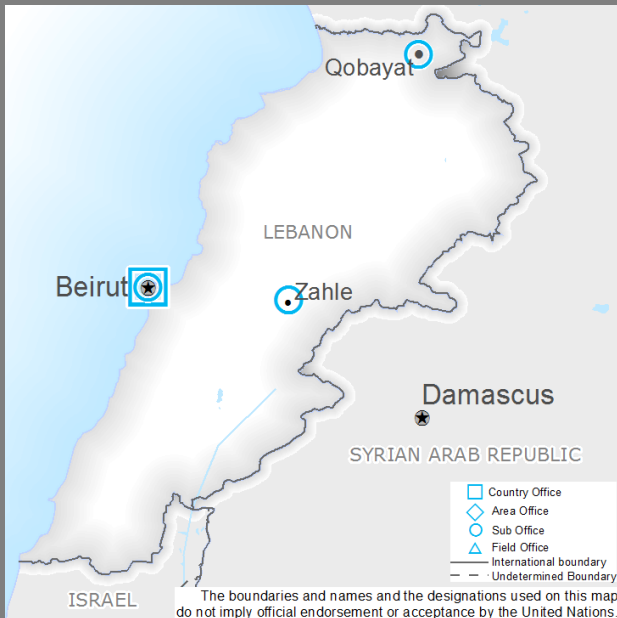
Operational Context

Lebanon is classified as an upper middle-income country. The current Human Development Index (HDI) value is 0.763 – in the high human development category – positioning the country at 80 out of 188 countries and territories.

With six million people living in a land area of just 10,000 square kilometres on the eastern Mediterranean coast, Lebanon is small and densely populated.

As of September 2018, 952,562 Syrian refugees have been registered in Lebanon by UNHCR. The massive influx of refugees has placed a significant strain on existing resources and host communities.

WFP has been present in Lebanon since 2012.



Population: **6.0 million**

2018 Human Development Index:
80 out of 188

Income Level: **Upper middle**

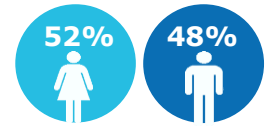
Gross National Income per capita:
US\$13,312

In Numbers

US\$21.4 m cash-based transfers made

US\$82.0 m six months (November 2018 –April 2019) net funding requirements

691,180 people assisted
in October 2018



Operational Updates

- Throughout October 2018, WFP conducted a joint e-card validation exercise with UNHCR, targeting Syrian refugee families receiving cash assistance to ensure that the correct beneficiaries are still in possession of the right e-cards. The exercise was carried out across the country and utilised biometric technology (both facial recognition and iris scanning) to validate beneficiary identity. In 2019, WFP will be moving towards conducting even more regular e-card validation exercises to ensure beneficiaries are still in possession of their e-cards and are in-country.
- WFP, in partnership with the Ministry of Social Affairs (MoSA), continued operationalizing the results of the 2018 recertification exercise for the National Poverty Targeting Programme (NPTP). Vulnerable Lebanese households eligible to receive food assistance from NPTP were requested by MoSA Social Development Centers (SDC) to collect their new NPTP food e-cards to begin receiving their entitlements.
- Throughout October, WFP resumed the school snack programme with the commencement of the 2018/2019 academic year. With the new school year, the programme has scaled up from 17,000 children to targeting 24,000 Syrian refugee and vulnerable Lebanese children in 40 public primary schools implementing the double-shift system across Lebanon, in partnership with the Ministry of Education and Higher Education (MEHE). During each school day, participating students receive a nutritious snack of locally grown fruits, UHT milk and nuts.
- October marked the one-year anniversary of WFP Lebanon implementing the multi-purpose cash for essential needs e-cards modality of cash assistance for Syrian refugees. Beneficiaries receive USD 27/person as well as USD 175/household each month to contribute towards their food and other essential needs. This assistance is redeemable at an ATM throughout Lebanon. Currently, WFP is reaching 135,000 Syrian refugees with this modality, with the goal of scaling up to 180,000 in 2019. *Learn more about this modality and its outcomes throughout the last year [here](#).*

Country Strategic Plan (2018-2020)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD) (November 2018-April 2019)
885.5 m	419.2 m	82.0 m

Strategic Result 1: Everyone has access to food

Strategic Outcome 1: Food-insecure refugees – including school-age children – and crisis-affected host populations have access to life-saving, nutritious and affordable food throughout the year

Focus area: Crisis response

Activities:

- Unconditional resource transfers to support access to food (CBTs)
- School meal activities (cash and in-kind)

Strategic Result 3: Smallholders have improved food security and nutrition through improved productivity and incomes

Strategic Outcome 2: Vulnerable women and men in targeted refugee and Lebanese communities sustainably improve their skills, capacities and livelihood opportunities by 2020

Focus area: Resilience-building

Activities:

- Individual capacity strengthening activities (CBTs)
- Asset creation and livelihood support activities (CBTs)

Strategic Result 1: Everyone has access to food

Strategic Outcome 3: Vulnerable populations in Lebanon are enabled to meet their basic food needs all year long

Focus area: Root causes

Activities:

- Unconditional resource transfers to support access to food (CBT)

Strategic Result 8: Sharing of knowledge, expertise and technology, strengthen global partnership support to country efforts to achieve the SDGs

Strategic Outcome 4: National institutions and national and international humanitarian actors are supported in their efforts to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of their assistance

Focus area: Crisis response

Activities:

- Institutional capacity strengthening activities

Partnerships

- On 21 October, WFP Executive Director David Beasley hosted a one-day mission to Lebanon with Parliamentary representatives from Germany. The delegation met with members from the Government of Lebanon, including Prime Minister H.E. Saad Hariri and Speaker of the House H.E. Nabih Berri. The delegation also visited WFP livelihoods projects as well as Syrian refugee and vulnerable Lebanese families receiving assistance from WFP, with the support of Germany.
- From 24-27 October, WFP Lebanon hosted a field mission of the WFP Executive Board. The 11-member delegation

participated in field visits to WFP programmes throughout the country, including visits to: an e-card validation site, a school benefiting from the school snack programme, an informal tented settlement to meet with Syrian refugee families receiving cash assistance, a WFP-contracted grocery store; and a reforestation project and the digital skills training, as a part of WFP livelihoods programme.

Beneficiary Story: 'You can't imagine having nothing until you have nothing'

Hussein and his wife Samira are two of thousands of Syrian refugees living in informal tented settlements in the Bekaa valley of Lebanon. A few months after arriving from Syria, Hussein and his wife Samira began receiving support through the WFP food e-card which is loaded with USD 27/person each month and redeemable at any WFP-contracted grocery store.

"The first time we went to the shop, we bought our son Mohamad a chocolate bar just because we could. Before then, it was just bread and handouts," explained Samira.

The stability offered by the e-card is essential for refugee families like theirs. WFP knows that without a reliable source of income for food, families are forced to adopt extreme measures to source food such as begging, sending children to work and reducing the number and frequency of meals often at the expense of their well-being. "You can't imagine having nothing until you have nothing," explained Samira, "but the e-card is everything," for her and 695,000 other Syrian refugees in Lebanon targeted by WFP for food assistance.



Photo caption: Using sign language, Mohamad describes his ideal snack—a huge rolled flatbread sandwich and a cup of tea. WFP/Edward Johnson

Click [here](#) to read the family's story.

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