

SAVING LIVES CHANGING LIVES

# WFP Lebanon **Country Brief** September 2019

## **Operational Context**

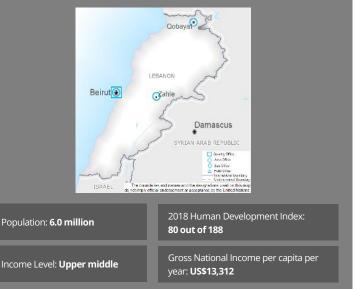
Lebanon is classified as an upper middle-income country. The current Human Development Index (HDI) value is 0.763 – in the high human development category – positioning the country at 80 out of 188 countries and territories.

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 July 2019, 926,717 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.

The Lebanon Country Strategic Plan, which came into effect in January 2018, is aligned with the Government-endorsed Lebanon Crisis Response Plan (2017-2020), the United Nations Strategic Framework (2017–2020), the Ministry of Agriculture Strategy (2015–2019) and WFP's Vision 2020. It positions WFP as a major partner of the Government and other United Nations agencies in crisis response and towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

WFP has been present in Lebanon since 2012.



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# In Numbers



724,239 people assisted in September 2019

US\$23.5 million distributed through cash-based transfers

US\$78.5 million six months net funding requirements (November 2019 – April 2020)

# **Operational Updates**

- Following the finalization of the WFP-UNHCR joint targeting list, the new WFP multi-purpose cash, cash for food and food e-card eligible beneficiary list has been completed, and SMS informing targeted refugees were sent in early September. Currently World Food Programme (WFP) with its partners is planning to reach approximately 654,000 beneficiaries every month.
- In parallel, WFP Lebanon has finalized the list of eligibility for non-Syrian refugees using the latest vulnerability criteria, jointly established with UNHCR, with a target of 10,000 vulnerable households monthly.
- In September 2019, WFP has successfully assisted a total of 724,239 beneficiaries through its cash-based transfer modalities amounting to US\$23.5 million in total. This consisted of 640,826 Syrian refugees, 13,845 Palestinian refugees, 7,699 refugees of other nationalities, 57,462 vulnerable Lebanese through National Poverty Targeting Programme (NPTP) and 6,352 Syrian and Lebanese through livelihoods activities.
- The quarter 3 cycle of WFP biometric validation which started in July in over 140 locations has been completed. The validation allows WFP to ensure that the right people are still in the country and in possession of their cards to receive the monthly assistance from WFP.
- WFP launched the call for proposals for the selection of partners for WFP's Direct Food and Basic Assistance for 2020 - 2021 on 30 September. Activities partners will carry out include card/PIN distributions, assessment and monitoring of validation sites, household visits for outcome monitoring and vulnerability assessments. Implementation of the projects in January 2020.
- A verification exercise of the 5,000 households targeted for the scale up was undertaken jointly with the Ministry of Social Affairs (MoSA) in August and September. The validation instrument was coupled with a tool to collect baseline information for post-distribution monitoring of the new beneficiaries on food security, expenditures, and other cross-cutting indicators to measure the effects of the NPTP food assistance component. New NPTP food ecard beneficiaries are scheduled to receive their food assistance in November.

# **WFP Country Strategy**

Country Strategic Plan (2018-2021)	
Total Requirements (in US\$)	Allocated Contributions (in US\$)
1.76 bn	822.1 m
2019 Requirements (in US\$)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in US\$) (November 2019 – April 2020)
418 m	78.5 m

WFP Lebanon's CSP is currently active until December 2020. An extension of the CSP until December 2021 is scheduled for approval by the WFP Executive Board in Q4 2019.

**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

**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
- A total of 931 children participated in the third wave of health and nutrition summer camps launched in six schools from 19 August until 06 September. Children benefiting from the summer camps ranged from ages 11 until 14; 49.8 percent females and 50.2 percent males; 39.5 percent Lebanese, 59.6 percent Syrian and 0.9 percent other nationalities. The camps covered overall health and nutrition knowledge and a variety of games, crafts, physical or social activities.New Food for Assets-Agriculture Infrastructure and forestry projects were launched in September. Implementation will be done

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through seven Cooperating Partners (six national and one international) in Dunnieh, Akkar, Bekaa and Baalbeck-Hermel, which would engage a total of 4,747 Syrian refugees and vulnerable Lebanese participants. The activities include construction and rehabilitation of irrigation canals, agricultural roads, storm water drainage canals, and rehabilitation of a market. Forestry activities include planting 500,000 native seedlings across Lebanon.

# Monitoring

- As part of the capacity strengthening of National Poverty Targeting Program (NPTP), Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) unit conducted a training for Minister of Social Affairs (MoSA) technical staff on data cleaning and data quality checks for the profiling exercise. The training was coupled with live examples on how to clean the data, which would result in improved quality of the data collected. The second Food Security Outcome Monitoring (FSOM) is planned for release in October 2019. Data collection for the third FSOM is set to take place in November 2019.
- The baseline data collection for (Food for Assests) livelihoods activities started alongside the social cohesion questionnaire. Data collection is expected to end on the 10th of October.

# **Story Worth Telling**

### As busy as 50,000 bees

22-year-old Mohammad has been as busy as his 50,000 bees since graduating from the WFP's beekeeping training. He is one of 15,694 participants who took part in the WFP's German-funded livelihood programme. Born and raised in south Lebanon, Mohammad took part in the beekeeping training programme which provided him with the opportunity to expand his knowledge, grow his business and generate a larger income.

"I didn't know much about bees before, about their diseases and how to treat them," Mohammad said, adding: "Recently many bees were sick, but we knew how to treat them because of this training." Equipped with his knew training and ambition, Mohammad has plans to grow his business with as much love as he has for the bees. "Right now I have 10 beehives, but hopefully I'll have 50 or even 100 one day."

You can watch Mohammad's story here.

### Donors

Australia, Canada, Denmark, Estonia, European Union, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Kuwait, Mexico, Norway, Republic of Korea, Private Donors, Switzerland, United Kingdom and the United States of America.

**Photo Caption:** Mohammad with his beehives in south Lebanon. *WFP/Mazen Hodeib*