



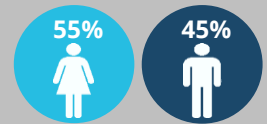
World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES  
CHANGING LIVES



## WFP Lebanon Country Brief October 2019

## In Numbers



**730,717** people assisted  
in October 2019

**US\$ 23.5 m** cash-based transfers made

**US\$27.7 m** six months December 2019 – May 2020) net funding requirements

## Operational Context

Lebanon is classified as an upper middle-income country. The current Human Development Index (HDI) is 0.757 – in the high human development category – positioning the country at 80 out of 189 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 30 September 2019, 919,578 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.



Population: **6.0 million**

2018 Human Development Index:  
**80 out of 188**

Income Level: **Upper middle**

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

## Operational Updates

- Since the 17 October, Lebanon has been witnessing a civil unrest with thousands taking the streets to protest against increasing tax hikes and deteriorating economic situation. Since then, the Prime Minister has resigned and no transitional government has been formed. The situation remains volatile as failure to implement urgent economic reforms could cause the devaluation of the Lebanese currency and precipitate in a very serious economic crisis, resulting in scarcity of basic commodities and fuel, inflation, and deepening social crisis/unrest.
- Despite the challenges faced due to the ongoing civil unrest, in October WFP has assisted a total of 730,717 beneficiaries through cash-based transfer modalities amounting to US\$23.5 million. The people assisted were: Syrian refugees, Palestinian refugees, refugees of other nationalities, vulnerable Lebanese through the National Poverty Targeting Programme (NPTP), Syrian and Lebanese through livelihoods activities, and children through the school feeding programme.
- Monthly cash assistance to refugees as well as vulnerable Lebanese remained unaffected for October as the cash transfer was loaded onto e-cards on 5 October, and 95 percent of this amount was withdrawn from ATMs or redeemed in shops before the civil unrest began. Moreover, the distribution of cards for the newly-targeted households for the November re-targeting exercise for refugees was completed before the unrest began. However, most Livelihoods, School Meals, and WFP biometric validation activities for refugees were severely disrupted after 17 October due to closure of schools and roadblocks throughout Lebanon. The beneficiary outreach in November will likely be affected. Card issuance and distribution for new Livelihoods participants have also been delayed due to the inability of staff members to reach offices, closure of banks, and roadblocks.

## WFP Country Strategy

### Country Strategic Plan (2018-2021)

Total Requirements (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)
<b>1.76 bn</b>	<b>823 m</b>
2019 Requirements (in USD)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD) (Dec2019 – May 2020)
<b>418 m</b>	<b>27.7 m</b>

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

- WFP is closely monitoring the banking service provision as well as market functionality and prices through its retail network to be able to make timely adjustments if necessary, with the aim of ensuring that our assistance will reach beneficiaries. Contingency plans for various scenarios are also being developed taking into consideration the risk of an economic crisis, currency devaluation, and an increase in food prices.
- Preparations for the scale up of the NPTP, which was undertaken jointly with the Ministry of Social Affairs

(MoSA), is ongoing. Due to the current situation which slowed down various processes, the first scale-up is scheduled to take pace in December.

## Monitoring

- Due to the civil unrest, WFP conducted a set of phone calls with participants in the livelihood programmes as well as Syrian refugees and refugees of other nationalities (RON) to assess their current situation and their ability to reach ATMs.
- Data collection for the impact study food e-card and multipurpose cash started in October; however, it was halted due to the civil unrest. To avoid any delays, WFP continued data collection through phone calls. Preliminary results are to be generated in December.

## Story Worth Telling



### More than a source of income

Suzan knows no other home than her village in Sahel Akkar, north Lebanon. Her five children and herself depend on whatever daily income her husband brings in to get through the month.

She was one of the 8,161 women who were part of the WFP's livelihood programme which aims to equip these women with skills to generate their own income.

But for Suzan, being part of the programme was more than just a tool to financially support her family. "I became a happier person, I didn't even know I had this happiness in me", Suzan said, adding "I learned a lot here, but this training also helped my mental state and self-esteem. I made friends and found myself smiling often. You can't measure this happiness, can you?"

**Photo Header Caption:** A young girl sits in her kitchen as her mother who is part of the WFP livelihood programme makes kibbe. WFP/Mazen Hodeib

**Photo Caption:** Suzan in her home in Akkar, north Lebanon. WFP/Mazen Hodeib

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