



World Food Programme

SAVING
LIVES
CHANGING
LIVES



WFP Lebanon Country Brief November 2019

In Numbers

US\$23 m cash based transfers made

US\$32.5 m six months (January-June 2018) net funding requirements, representing 64% of total

717,659 people assisted
in November 2019



**WFP
SAYS
NO to
GENDER
BASED
VIOLENCE**

Operational Context

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 October 2019, 919,974 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.

Since 26 November, the largely peaceful protests have [witnessed](#) increasing violence and sectarian tensions. 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.

The Lebanon Country Strategic Plan, which came into effect in January 2018, is aligned with the Government-endorsed Lebanon Crisis Response Plan (2017–2021), 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 189**

Income Level: **Upper middle**

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

Operational Updates

- In November, WFP's Executive Board approved a budget revision to increase the support to Lebanon's National Poverty Targeting Programme (NPTP). The support aims at strengthening the capacity of the government's system and provides coverage for additional families with monthly assistance, with the aim to reach 43,000 Lebanese families by 2021. The vision is included in the extension of the current Country Strategic Plan (CSP) 2020 – 2021 and in line with the United Nations Strategic Framework in Lebanon, allowing WFP to continue operating in alignment with national priorities and in cooperation with the other UN agencies.
- Despite the challenges faced due to the ongoing civil unrest, WFP has assisted a total of 717,659 beneficiaries through cash-based transfer modalities amounting to US\$23 million in November. As some banks restricted access to ATMs to their customers only, monthly loading on e-cards for multipurpose cash and cash for food was staggered into four batches over four days starting on 5 November to avoid crowding at ATMs and to provide banks sufficient time to replenish ATMs. The people assisted were Syrian refugees, Palestinian refugees from Syria, refugees of other nationalities and vulnerable Lebanese through the NPTP.
- Although distribution of school snacks for vulnerable Lebanese and Syrian children continued to be disrupted due to the closure of some schools and sporadic roadblocks, most of the 39 WFP-supported schools had re-opened by the end of November. The implementation of WFP's livelihoods projects was also marginally affected throughout November, but most activities have resumed.
- Preparations for the NPTP Food e-card scale-up were finalized jointly with Ministry of Social Affairs (MoSA) and Presidency of the Council of Ministers (PCM) in November. A total of 5,000 new households will be receiving Food e-cards over the coming months. The first batch, consisting of 2,876 households, have received their Food e-card and beneficiary orientations in the first week of December.

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WFP Country Strategy

Country Strategic Plan (2018-2021)

Total Requirements (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)
1.76 bn	869 m
2019 Requirements (in USD)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD) (January- June 2020)
418 m	32.5 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 5: Developing countries have strengthened capacity to implement the SDGs

Strategic Outcome 5: National institutions and national and international humanitarian actors are supported in their efforts to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of their assistance

Focus area: Root causes

Activities:

- Institutional capacity strengthening activities

- WFP has implemented a number of contingency measures to ensure business continuity and critical programme delivery during the crisis, which includes addressing current bottlenecks in cash delivery. WFP continues to closely monitor the banking service provision (including ATM restrictions) as well as market functionality and prices through its retail network to be able to make further timely adjustments if necessary.
- In collaboration with its partners, including the MoSA, the World Bank and other UN agencies, WFP is exploring additional measures to respond to the worse-case scenarios considering an economic crisis, currency devaluation, and an increase in

food prices. This includes further expansion of the safety net programmes targeting vulnerable Lebanese households.

- The Joint Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) Fund for 2019-2022 for UN in Lebanon was approved on 28 November 2019. The Programme was developed by WFP jointly with UNICEF, ILO, UNDP, and UN Women to support the development of a comprehensive Social Protection Framework for Lebanon. WFP will be directly implementing the technical assistance component to NPTP under this Joint Programme.

Monitoring

- A total of 1,531 households who received their unconditional assistance (food e-card, cash for food and multipurpose cash) in November were contacted to check whether they were able to access shops and ATMs to redeem their assistance and understand their situation vis-à-vis the civil unrest. The result showed various difficulties beneficiaries are facing in accessing cash at ATMs.
- The process monitoring activities resumed in mid-November following the unblocking of roads which had hindered the movement of monitoring staff.

Story Worth Telling



"I once ate nothing but labneh and makdous for six months straight," Ghada, a Lebanese living in Beqaa said, adding, "I always made sure to have coffee around the house though. What if we had visitors come over? I know I don't have much to give but I don't want anyone coming in and leaving without at least having had coffee in my house."

Ghada is one of the 8,161 women who were part of the WFP's BMZ-funded livelihood programme which aims to equip these women with skills to generate their own income.

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 Header Caption: Children enjoy a meal in Bekaa, east Lebanon. Photo: Mazen Hodeib

Photo Caption: Ghada, one of the many Lebanese women who were part of the WFP's livelihood programmes displays the only meal her family ate prior to receiving assistance. Photo: Mazen Hodeib