



SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Lebanon Country Brief December 2019

In Numbers

US\$24 m cash-based transfers made

US\$60.3 m six months net funding requirements
(February- July 2020)

773,305 people assisted
in December 2019



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 December 2019, 914,648 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 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 (2017–2020), the United Nations Strategic Framework (2017–2021), the Ministry of Agriculture Strategy (2015–2019). 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 December, WFP assisted a total of 773,305 beneficiaries through cash-based transfer modalities amounting to US\$24 million. The people assisted included 622,935 Syrian refugees, 27,207 Palestinian refugees from Syria, 8,512 refugees of other nationalities and 114,651 vulnerable Lebanese. As some banks continue to restrict 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 4 December to avoid overcrowding at ATMs and to provide banks with sufficient time to replenish ATMs. The NPTP food e-card was scaled up as newly targeted 2,927 households started receiving assistance in addition to the existing 9,965 households, after the successful distribution of cards to new beneficiaries which was conducted at Social Development Centres of the Ministry of Social Affairs with assistance from WFP. It is a timely intervention providing direct assistance to vulnerable Lebanese who are going through difficult situation due to the economic crisis. The information collection process to update household data is ongoing with the aim of reaching a total of 15,000 households by March 2020.
- Numerous agricultural infrastructure projects were completed with the end of 2019 through WFP's Food for Assets programmes that brought together both Lebanese and Syrian participants. Through these programmes, nearly 300,000 seedlings were planted, 281 hectares of forests were preserved, and 3,100 metres of agricultural roads and 3,000 metres of storm water drainage canals were completed, as well as the rehabilitation of one farmers' market.
- Following a pause due to the civil unrest, the distribution of school snacks was reinitiated in all participating schools, as well as in 18 additional schools that joined the programme on 16 December 2019. The number of students benefitting from this programme reached 32,200 students by the end of 2019. These students are enrolled in 55 WFP-assisted schools that offer both morning and afternoon shifts.
- WFP has implemented several contingency measures to ensure business continuity and critical programme delivery during the crisis, including addressing current bottlenecks in cash delivery.

Contact info: wfp.lebanon@wfp.org

Country Director: Abdallah Alwardat

Further information: www.wfp.org/countries/Lebanon

WFP Country Strategy

Country Strategic Plan (2018-2021)

Total Requirements (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)
1.76 m	904 m
2020 Requirements (in USD)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD) (February- July 2020)
440 m	60.3 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

Strategic Result 1: Everyone has access to food

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 continues to monitor the banking service provision (including ATM restrictions) as well as market functionality and prices through its retail network in order to make timely adjustments if necessary. In collaboration with its partners, including Ministry of Social Affairs, the World Bank and other UN agencies, WFP is exploring measures to assess and respond to the increasing vulnerability of the Lebanese population due to the economic crisis, currency devaluation, and an increase in food prices. The response measures include further expansion of the safety net programmes targeting vulnerable Lebanese households.

Monitoring

- As part of the December Food Security Outcome Monitoring (FSOM), WFP's Cooperating Partners collected a total of 1,000

surveys. Results will be reported in February.

- In order to better understand the impact of the economic crisis on local markets, households and communities, qualitative data collection through focus group discussion was conducted with beneficiaries, owners of contracted shops, owners of non-contracted shops. Data analysis is ongoing, and results will be ready in January.
- In December, the monitoring of UNHCR's winterization e-card distribution and NPTP distributions was prioritized while shop monitoring visits and school snack monitoring visits resumed. As for the livelihood baseline data collection, it was conducted and results to be reported mid-January.
- The NPTP profiling tool used for validation exercise in Open Data Kit, a digital data collection tool, is being finalized. A meeting with MoSA was conducted to update restrictions/conditions for easier data cleaning.
- Close monitoring by the retail team has shown that 90% of the shops have stocks for more than 2 weeks while 15% of shops witnessed disruption in receiving products from suppliers. 98% of shops also faced increase in their purchasing costs from suppliers varying from 0 to 10%.
- An important increase of +8.2% is noted in the monthly survival and minimum expenditure food basket prices increasing from approximately LBP 38,500 in October to 42,000 LBP in November. Moreover, Unofficial exchange rates progression is dominating the trade activities at WFP contracted shops in November 2019.

Story Worth Telling



"We had to carry all of our tools up the hill and all of the produce down the hill. Can you imagine how long it took us to harvest the crops?" Ghazi said, letting out a frustrated laugh. 63-year-old Ghazi is referring to the mountainous area of Chouf where he owns a small shop and sells produce that he plants himself.

Ghazi and 84 Lebanese farmers benefitted from WFP Lebanon's project in his village. Over several months, Lebanese and Syrians worked together to construct agricultural roads with supporting walls, irrigation canals and water reservoirs, all to help boost the local agricultural industry.

Ghazi's dream of a bustling shop is becoming a reality. He, along with other farmers, can better access and irrigate his fields.

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: At one of the WFP-supported livelihood projects. Photo: Mazen Hodeib