In Numbers

792,406 people assisted in February 2020

USD 24.6 m cash-based transfers made

USD 82 m six months net funding requirements (March-August 2020)

Operational Updates

- In February, WFP has assisted a total of 792,406 beneficiaries through cash-based transfer modalities amounting to USD 24.6 million. The people assisted were 654,745 Syrian refugees, 13,644 Palestinian refugees from Syria, 8,432 refugees of other nationalities and 115,585 vulnerable Lebanese.

- WFP continues to implement the scale-up of the National Poverty Targeting Programme (NPTP) food e-card component in collaboration with the Ministry of Social Affairs (MoSA). In February 2020, a total of 102,022 Lebanese beneficiaries received food assistance through the Food e-card with total cash-based transfers amounting to USD 2.4 million. This represents a total of 14,612 Lebanese households.

- In view of the deterioration in the economic situation in Lebanon and at the request of Ministry of Education and Higher Education (MEHE), WFP has started working on an urgent expansion in the school snacks programme to cover 12,000 additional students in public schools.

- The validation exercise, which confirms the right beneficiary has the right assistance card, began for the first quarter of 2020 on 07 January. Nearly 90,000 households have been validated in February, out of a total of 112,000 invited for validation. In March 2020, WFP will follow up on those who did not get validated yet.

- Three school kitchens started providing sandwiches and fruits/vegetables to 2,169 children on 17 February, in Akkar, Tripoli and Zahle. Mothers have been called to volunteer to join the kitchens teams and have received training on food safety and organizational skills during the first week of February. Three additional schools will be launched in March.

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, the number of Syrian refugees registered in Lebanon by UNHCR reached 914,648 people. The massive influx of refugees has placed a significant strain on existing resources and host communities. Since October 2019, the largely peaceful protests have witnessed increasing yet intermittent 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.


WFP has been present in Lebanon since 2012.

Contact info: wfp.lebanon@wfp.org
Country Director: Abdallah Alwardat
Further information: www.wfp.org/countries/Lebanon
Story Worth Telling

Nasmat, a Lebanese woman living in the town of Khiara, close to the border with Syria, has one dream: for her daughters to have the education she never received.

Nasmat is one of the many women who were part of the Germany-funded livelihood programme which aimed to invest to enhance skills and resources of rural women to help them generate income and expand their knowledge.

She worked in a communal kitchen in Khiara. Nasmat was trained on food safety, and to properly prepare dairy products in addition to learning climate-smart food preservation techniques.

The kitchen Nasmat and other women worked in was also rehabilitated by WFP’s partners and has been used by them to prepare meals for Syrian refugees in the area.

“Nasmat today is not the same as Nasmat who first joined this programme,” Nasmat said, adding: “I want to give my daughters everything I never had. Their father passed away so I have to be both their mother and father and with this support, I can and I am.”

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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.

Monitoring

• The first Post Distribution Monitoring (PDM) for 2020 for Activity 5 was completed on 13 February in collaboration with the Ministry of Social Affairs (MoSA). The analysis is ongoing with the Presidency of the Council of Ministers (PCM) and results will be shared in March.

• WFP is working to roll out a systematic approach to monitoring at high-use ATMs, taking into consideration risks for the staff of WFP’s partners while undertaking this activity. WFP will also continue to monitor the functionality of markets by conducting frequent interviews with retailers, price monitoring, and wholesale monitoring.