In Numbers

776,309 people assisted in March 2020

US$24.7 m cash-based transfers made

US$82 m six months net funding requirements (April-September 2020)

Operational Updates

- During March, WFP Lebanon assisted a total of 776,309 beneficiaries through cash-based transfer modalities amounting to USD 24.7 million. The people assisted include 108,979 vulnerable Lebanese, 645,665 Syrian refugees, 13,655 Palestinian refugees from Syria and 8,010 refugees of other nationalities.

- In mid-March, due to the COVID-19 outbreak, the Lebanese Government called for a nation-wide lockdown and general mobilization to help curb the spread of the virus. Accordingly, all card distributions, validation exercises, school meals programme and livelihoods trainings and programmes were suspended. To ensure the delivery of cash assistance to vulnerable beneficiaries, alternative card distribution modalities are being discussed with UNHCR.

- WFP assisted 105,226 vulnerable Lebanese through the National Poverty Targeting Programme (NPTP) in collaboration with the Ministry of Social Affairs (MoSA) and the Presidency of Council of Ministers (PCM) with a total cash-based transfer amounting to USD 2,399,922. This increase in number of beneficiaries is part of the scale-up of the NPTP food e-card programme with MoSA and the PCM. All new households enrolled in this programme have also received, in March, briefing material for them to better understand their entitlement and the process of redeeming their assistance in WFP-contracted shops.

- In response to the COVID-19 outbreak, and following an assessment of WFP Lebanon’s programme criticality, WFP put in place several contingency measures, and advised partners on implementing precautionary measures at distribution sites and validation points to ensure the wellbeing of beneficiaries and frontline workers.

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.


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Launching any business is no walk in the park yet these women make it seem so. At this women-led cooperative in Khiara, West Bekaa, participants joined forces and defied their hardships to contribute to the success of the cooperative.

WFP Lebanon partnered with the American University of Beirut’s (AUB) Environment and Sustainable Development Unit (ESDU) to support this cooperative by rehabilitating the kitchen and training the women on food safety, production and the marketing of dairy products. This project was funded by Germany’s Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ).

Mona, one of the participants, paid special attention to the maintenance of hygiene in the kitchen “Being productive and having a job is a very beautiful thing,” Mona said, adding “It keeps us energized.” “I became a part of this project and it became a part of me because we have been working [in it] for a long period of time.”

Rihab, another participant added: “We can give more. We want to give more.” She enjoys not just the work in the kitchen rehabilitated by WFP and its partners, but also the company. The women have become her second family.

In this kitchen, something more than a meal is being cooked. In this kitchen, you can find recipes not just for the food we eat but of womanhood, solidarity, hard work, and determination.

Mona and Rihab both shared their story to send a message to women across the world to celebrate International Women’s Day on 08 March.

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 preliminary results of the post distribution monitoring (PDM) of the National Poverty Targeting Programme (NPTP) were shared by the Council of Ministers on 23 March. The final report is expected to be completed in April while the next PDM is scheduled for June/July.

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<th>WFP Country Strategy</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Country Strategic Plan (2018-2021)</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Requirements (in USD)</td>
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<td>1.8 bn</td>
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<tr>
<td>2020 Requirements (in USD)</td>
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<td>463 m</td>
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**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 2:** 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 3:** 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

**Story Worth Telling**

Photo Header Caption: Participants working in a rehabilitated kitchen that is part of a Germany-funded livelihood programme in Khiara, east Lebanon. Photo: Malak Jaafar

Photo Caption: Mona working in the WFP-rehabilitated kitchen in Khiara, east Lebanon. Photo: Adeeb Farhat