



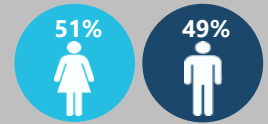
World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Lebanon Country Brief April 2020



In Numbers



794,592 people assisted in April 2020

US\$22.7 m cash-based transfers made

US\$147.4 m six months net funding requirements (June - November 2020)

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 31 January 2020, the number of Syrian refugees registered in Lebanon by UNHCR is 910,109 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 delays in implementing urgent economic reforms caused 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. Recently, the COVID-19 outbreak and lockdown measures further exacerbated the worsening economic situation of thousands across the country.

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: **USD 13,312**

Operational Updates

- As of end of April, the number of COVID-19 cases in Lebanon exceeded 700.
- In April, WFP assisted a total of 794,592 beneficiaries through cash-based transfer modalities amounting to USD 22.7 million, despite the movement restrictions put in place due to the COVID-19 outbreak. The people assisted were 113,230 vulnerable Lebanese, 646,290 Syrian refugees, 27,122 Palestinian refugees from Syria and 7,950 refugees of other nationalities. Precautionary measures had been clearly communicated to all WFP-contracted shops and beneficiaries to avoid crowding and ensure safe redemption of assistance for beneficiaries at both shops and ATMs. Livelihoods and school snacks programmes continue to be on hold, but alternative ways of maintaining assistance are being prepared. Small scale card distributions have resumed in coordination with UNHCR and partners.
- As of April, WFP adjusted the transfer value of the food assistance component from LBP40,500 to LBP 50,000 in order to align the transfer value with the average retail price of food component of Survival Minimum Expenditure Basket (SMEB) observed in Lebanon in the last three months and to allow beneficiaries to fully meet their food needs.
- WFP is planning emergency food assistance to save lives and to protect the livelihoods of 50,000 poor and vulnerable Lebanese households affected by the economic and COVID-19 crises, in collaboration with the Lebanese Red Cross and other actors. Assistance will be coordinated with the social assistance plans and policies of the Government of Lebanon. In addition, WFP is preparing for pre-positioning in-kind food stocks for 40,000 households in case refugees are prevented from accessing shops or ATMs due to quarantine measures or possible decisions by local authorities.

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)
1.803 billion	943 m
2019 Requirements (in USD)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD) (June – Nov. 2020)
463 m	147.4 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

Partnership

- Discussions have been initiated with donors on the rising vulnerability of populations residing in Lebanon which were impacted by both the economic crisis and COVID-19. Based on negative GDP per capita growth projections in 2020, the World Bank estimates extreme poverty (food poverty) at 22 percent (up from 16 percent in 2019). This means that in 2020, Lebanon could count as many as 335,000 poor households, including 163,000 extremely poor households. For Syrians, 1,245,000 refugees could find themselves under the SMEB in 2020, compared to 825,000 in 2019, according to WFP's projections based on the Vulnerability Assessment of Syrian Refugee

(VASyR) household data, and factoring in the combined effects of income loss due to COVID-19, the economic crisis and inflation. To be able to continue reaching 80 percent of refugees below SMEB (as in the case in 2019), WFP should increase its food assistance caseload by 341,000 additional beneficiaries if resources are made available.

Monitoring

- Due to the COVID-19 outbreak, monitoring activities that require physical site visits were put on hold and other activities were shifted to remote practices such as household process monitoring and follow up on shop issues, both of which were conducted through the phone. During the loading period, the Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) team with WFP's partners ran a daily monitoring of ATM locations to ensure that COVID-19 hygiene measures were being implemented and that vulnerable households can withdraw their assistance. As of 29 April, 97% of refugees were able to reach ATMs or shops to redeem their entitlements for April.
- As for the Vulnerability Analysis and Mapping (VAM), the country office is currently managing two remote data collection surveys to better understand the impact of the current economic crisis and COVID-19 lockdown measures on vulnerable households. A web-based survey is currently online and initial results are expected in May. The second survey is phone-based and will be launched at the beginning of May. This survey is part of the larger vulnerability assessment of Lebanese that is conducted in partnership with the World Bank.

Story Worth Telling



WFP and its partners are working to ensure that all beneficiaries who redeem their assistance at WFP-contracted shops do so safely. Products, shelves, counters and trolleys are regularly disinfected as shop owners follow hygiene measures to ensure everyone returns home safely with their needed assistance.

Donors

Australia, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Norway, Private Donors, Switzerland, United Kingdom, USA, EU MADAD, ECHO, Ireland, Denmark

Photos Caption: WFP-contracted shops have been implementing precautionary measures to ensure the safety of staff and beneficiaries amidst the COVID-19 outbreak. Photo: Qobayat Field Office