



World Food Programme

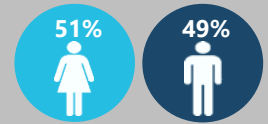
SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Lebanon Country Brief

May 2020



In Numbers



756,293 people assisted
in May 2020

USD 14.8 m cash-based transfers made

USD 134.3 m six months net funding requirements (July–December 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 910,256 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

- By the end of May there were over 1,200 COVID-19 cases in Lebanon.
- In May, WFP assisted a total of 756,293 beneficiaries through cash-based transfer modalities amounting to USD 14.8 million. The people assisted were 640,203 Syrian refugees, 7,729 refugees of other nationalities and 108,361 vulnerable Lebanese. Precautionary measures continued to be 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.
- WFP adjusted the transfer value of the food assistance component from LBP 40,500 to LBP 50,000 in April and May to align the transfer value with the average retail price of the food component of Survival Minimum Expenditure Basket (SMEB) observed in Lebanon in order to meet beneficiaries' food needs in full.
- Procurement of the first batch of in-kind emergency food assistance is underway and should be available in June for distribution to 50,000 poor and vulnerable Lebanese households affected by the economic and COVID-19 crises. Assistance will be coordinated with the social assistance plans and policies of the Government of Lebanon. In addition, WFP is preparing to pre-position in-kind food stocks in case Syrian refugees are prevented from accessing shops or ATMs due to quarantine measures or other possible decisions by local authorities.
- The Ministry of Education and Higher Education (MEHE) has announced primary schools will remain closed during the current school year which ends in June. WFP in coordination with MEHE is preparing for distribution of family ration to the families whose children benefited from WFP's school feeding programme.
- Livelihoods activities which were suspended due to movement restrictions have gradually resumed during the 2nd half of May in line with government announcements of gradually lifting movement restrictions due to COVID-19.

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WFP Country Strategy

Country Strategic Plan (2018-2021)	
Total Requirements (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)
1.8 bn	986 m
2020 Requirements (in USD)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD) (July – December 2020)
463 m	134.3 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

Partnership

- WFP continues to advocate for funds for the COVID-19 response for both Syrian refugees and vulnerable Lebanese and has agreed with donors on the way forward for the scale-up of beneficiaries to address the rising vulnerabilities of populations in Lebanon due to COVID-19 and the economic crisis.

Monitoring

- Due to the COVID-19 outbreak, monitoring activities that require physical site visits were put on hold and other activities such as household process monitoring and follow up on shop issues were conducted remotely through the phone until end of May. With the easing of security measures, monitoring is planned to gradually move back to physical visits during the

month of June. As of 28 May, 97 percent of beneficiaries who received their entitlements redeemed assistance through shops and ATMs.

- Initial findings from a WFP Vulnerability Analysis and Mapping (VAM) web survey indicate that the livelihoods of all survey respondents (over 3,000 Lebanese, Syrians, and Palestinians) have been heavily impacted as a combination of COVID-19 and the economic crisis. Training and preparations have been ongoing for the phone-based vulnerability assessment (m-VAM) of Lebanese households conducted in partnership with the World Bank, and pilot calls are planned for the first week of June with preliminary results expected in July. This phone survey is part of the larger Lebanese Vulnerability Assessment (LVA).

Story Worth Telling



"I love the great outdoors more than anything. Being surrounded by fresh air and greenery means the world to me," said Elie, 1 of 19 participants who planted more than 9,000 cedars, wild apple and pear tree seedlings as part of WFP Lebanon's forest management activities in Ehden, north Lebanon, that are funded by Germany's BMZ.

These activities are in line with WFP and its partners' objectives to continue expanding the reserve's capacity to 40,000 shrubs while supporting local livelihoods impacted by the economic crisis and COVID-19 lockdown measures along the way.

"In times like this, working outside in a clean, green environment definitely makes me calmer," says Diana, another participant, adding: "This isn't just about a source of income, it's also about our general wellbeing and the wellbeing of our natural environment."

Donors

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Photos Caption: While maintaining a safe distance from others and ensuring all precautionary measures are implemented, WFP's partners, the Horsh Ehden Nature Reserve (HENR) and Lebanon Reforestation Initiative (LRI) worked to ensure that the seeds did not go to waste and were planted on time. Photos: HENR/LRI