



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Lebanon Country Brief July 2020



In Numbers



944,156 people assisted in July 2020

USD 19.2 m cash-based transfers made

USD 91.3 m six months net funding requirements (Sept 2020 – Feb 2021)

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

The situation in Lebanon has continued to be volatile since the protests that started in October 2019. The financial crisis and the dramatic devaluation of the Lebanese currency precipitated a very serious economic crisis with rising inflation and higher prices of basic commodities and fuel, widespread electricity cuts, and deepening vulnerabilities. The COVID-19 outbreak and lockdown measures further exacerbated the already severe socioeconomic situation of hundreds of thousands across the country. Largely peaceful protests are ongoing, demanding the implementation of urgent economic reforms.

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**

2019 Human Development Index: **93 out of 189**

Income Level: **Upper middle**

2019 Gross National Income per capita (PPP): **USD 14,655**

Operational Updates

- By the end of July there were over 4,500 COVID-19 cases in Lebanon.
- In July, WFP assisted a total of 944,156 beneficiaries through cash-based transfer modalities amounting to USD 19.2 million. The people assisted were 783,102 Syrian refugees, 13,427 Palestinian refugees from Syria, 7,692 refugees of other nationalities and 139,935 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 60,000 to LBP 70,000 in July based on the average retail price of the food component of the Survival Minimum Expenditure Basket (SMEB) observed in Lebanon in order to fully meet beneficiaries' food needs. The basic assistance transfer value was also adjusted from LBP 320,000 to LBP 400,000 in July based on the increased average retail price of the non-food component of the SMEB.
- Distribution of food parcels to 50,000 Lebanese families affected by the economic and COVID-19 crises across Lebanon is planned for the second week of August. Assistance is being coordinated with the social assistance plans and policies of the Government of Lebanon.
- WFP completed the first round of food parcel distributions to 14,000 families through 52 schools that are part of WFP's school feeding programme. A second round is planned for August.
- Livelihoods activities continue to scale up across the country with the following health and safety measures in place: implementation of low congestion activities, increased handwashing and hygiene practices, and use of personal protection equipment. WFP also developed a new version of the Livelihood Vulnerability Assessment and is finalizing the updated Livelihoods Monitoring & Evaluation Framework.

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WFP Country Strategy

Country Strategic Plan (2018-2021)

Total Requirements (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)
1.8 bn	1.02 bn
2019 Requirements (in USD)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD) (Sept 2020 – Feb 2021)
463 m	91.3 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

Monitoring

- As of 30 July, 98 percent of beneficiaries who received their entitlements redeemed assistance through shops and ATMs.
- The Basic Needs Outcome Monitoring survey, formerly known as Food Security Outcome Monitoring, is ongoing throughout July through WFP Field Offices and cooperating partners with full COVID-19 precautionary measures in place.

Story Worth Telling



WFP staff members have been working around the clock to ensure that those benefiting from WFP's cash assistance can redeem it safely. They are on the ground near ATMs and shops, where people redeem their assistance, to provide help and ensure everyone is abiding by all COVID-19 precautionary measures.

"There are those who had jobs that paid by the hour to cover rent and medication and are now solely relying on humanitarian aid to make the necessary payments and put food on the table," said Philippe Sassine, who works to stay in touch with the people WFP serves so that everyone feels safe and remains updated. He adds: "My work has shaped my perspective on this emergency. Everyone is willing to lend a helping hand even if they are in dire need of assistance themselves". He recalls the day a programme participant handed him an umbrella to keep him safe from the sun.

"During this pandemic, we are regularly on the field to prevent families from resorting to negative coping mechanisms," says Rona Haddad, who stays in close contact with families receiving assistance through the National Poverty Targeting Programme (NPTP) through phone calls and in-person visits. Her colleague, Fatima Mouzahem, mirrored her thoughts and added that she cheers up the most when she notices improvements in the livelihoods and skills of the people benefiting from WFP programmes.

Donors

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Photo Caption: WFP staff are on the ground at ATMs and shops, where people redeem their modes of assistance, to provide support to beneficiaries and ensure everyone is abiding by all coronavirus precautionary measures.

Photo Credits: WFP Lebanon