



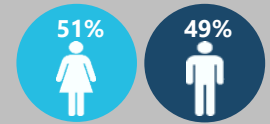
World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Lebanon Country Brief August 2020



In Numbers



955,479 people assisted in August 2020

US\$20.5 m cash-based transfers made

US\$170 m six months net funding requirements (October 2020 – March 2021)

Operational Context

Lebanon, long considered a middle-income country, is rapidly sinking into poverty as it faces a triple shock from the Beirut Port explosion; hyperinflation and an economic crisis; and the impact of COVID-19 on employment and public health. It is also at the forefront of the Syrian crisis: as of 31 May 2020, there are 892,310 Syrian refugees registered in Lebanon by UNHCR. The massive influx of refugees has placed a significant strain on existing resources and host communities.

The port explosion on 4 August has exacerbated an already deteriorating situation. Since the protests that started in October 2019, Lebanon has faced a wave of multiple crises – political, economic, fiscal, financial, monetary and public health – unprecedented in magnitude, with devastating effects on the economic vulnerabilities of households. The World Bank estimates that 45 percent of the Lebanese population are poor, while 22 percent of the Lebanese population (approximately 850,000 people) are extremely poor. A sharp increase in COVID-19 cases was recorded following the Beirut port explosion, where multiple health facilities sustained damage, further straining the country's health systems.

The Lebanon Country Strategic Plan, which came into effect in January 2018, is aligned with the Government-endorsed Lebanon Crisis Response Plan (2017–2020) and the United Nations Strategic Framework (2017–2021). 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

- In August, WFP assisted a total of 955,479 beneficiaries through cash-based transfer modalities amounting to USD 20.5 million and through distribution of family food parcels. The people assisted were 829,495 Syrian refugees, 13,427 Palestinian refugees from Syria, 7,650 refugees of other nationalities and 144,907 vulnerable Lebanese. The increased number of Syrian refugees reached in August was made possible by exchange rate gains over the last couple months.
- Following the explosions at Beirut Port WFP provided emergency in-kind food assistance to 11,000 of the most vulnerable people affected by the explosion through the distribution of 2,226 food parcels. WFP also provided food parcels to support communal kitchens serving 3,000 hot meals a day in the blast affected areas of Beirut. Emergency in-kind distribution has come to an end as WFP shifts to cash-based assistance for the most vulnerable blast-affected people.
- To fill an immediate gap in the wheat supply chain following the destruction of the grain silo at the Beirut Port, WFP brought in 12,500 metric tons of wheat flour which arrived in Beirut on 18 August. The wheat flour has been offloaded and will be distributed through a distribution network of millers and bakeries to support food security in Lebanon.
- WFP distributed family food parcels to 2,600 Lebanese families affected by the economic crisis and 100 Syrian families affected by COVID-19 and plans to assist up to 50,000 vulnerable families throughout Lebanon.
- WFP provided food parcels to 11,250 Lebanese and Syrian families in the second round of distributions for families whose children attend public schools that are part of WFP's school feeding programme.
- In response to the Beirut blast, 100 participants of a WFP and Lebanese Reforestation Initiative (LRI) livelihoods project supported relief efforts at the damaged Rosaire Hospital in Beirut. Thanks to the participants, the emergency room is once again functional.
- Forestry and agriculture infrastructure projects continued work on critical activities with the minimal number of participants on site and fully observing precautionary measures. Activities are expected to resume as normal in September following the COVID-19 lockdown measures in August.

WFP Country Strategy

Country Strategic Plan (2018-2021)

| Total Requirements (in USD) | Allocated Contributions (in USD) |
|-----------------------------|---|
| 1.8 bn | 1.08 bn |
| 2020 Requirements (in USD) | Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD) (Oct 2020 – March 2021) |
| 463.4 m | 170 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 31 August, 97 percent of beneficiaries who received their entitlements redeemed assistance through shops and ATMs.
- WFP monitoring of food prices and supply found that the price of the food Survival Minimum Expenditure Basket (SMEB) reached a record high in August 2020, crossing the LBP 100,000 threshold. In July, the Consumer Price Index and Food Price Index also registered the highest recorded annual increases (112 and 336 percent respectively) since the start of tracking of the indices.
- In addition to a second round of the web-based survey, WFP is partnering with OCHA and the Lebanese Red Cross (LRC) on a Multi-Sectoral Needs Assessment to further assess impact of the explosion on blast-affected populations in Beirut.

Partnerships

WFP has been advocating for funds for the Beirut explosion emergency response and so far has received USD 20.2 million in confirmed contributions, including over USD 2 million through the private sector and individual contributions. WFP also continued to advocate for the COVID-19 response for both Syrian refugees and vulnerable Lebanese and has received contributions to support livelihoods activities and the scale-up of the National Poverty Targeting Programme.

A Story Worth Telling



Hanan and her daughters collect and sell thyme for a modest amount as they try to make ends meet in marginalized district of Akkar.

Photo: WFP Lebanon

She opened the large cotton bag and the scent of thyme filled the air. The same scent that would take most Lebanese back to their childhood; the scent of homemade breakfast, family, and home. In this house, however, the smell of thyme carries a different meaning, as Hanan collects and picks the herb herself and sells each kilogram to a local tradesman for a modest amount - barely enough to cover her family's needs.

Hanan is a Lebanese woman who lives with her family of seven in the farthest district in the North of Lebanon, Akkar. Like many in that area, Hanan and her family were struggling to make ends meet as the rural and marginalized district of Akkar offered little opportunities for her and her children. Hanan's situation worsened with the lockdown measures following the spread of coronavirus and the ongoing economic crisis.

"Since my husband's hip injury, a couple of months ago, our living conditions have deteriorated quickly," said Hanan, adding: "Despite my son's work in the army, his paycheck is barely enough to support him alone."

Hanan's children attend a public school in the northern district of Akkar where WFP had run its school snack programme prior to the closure of schools due to the coronavirus. As a response to growing needs and the ongoing crisis, WFP amended its programme and began distributing food parcels to families of students who attend these public schools.

Donors

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

Contact info: Yein Kim, Head of Reporting (yein.kim@wfp.org)

Country Director: Abdallah Alwardat

Further information: www.wfp.org/countries/Lebanon