



WFP Lebanon Country Brief September 2020

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 August 2020, there are 879,598 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 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), the United Nations Strategic Framework (2017–2021), and Lebanon National Agriculture Strategy (2020 – 2025). 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.



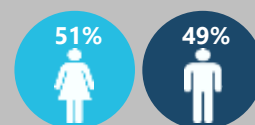
Population: **6.0 million**

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

Income Level: **Upper middle**

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

In Numbers



965,728 people assisted
in September 2020

US\$20.6 m cash-based transfers made

US\$45 m six months net funding requirements
(Oct 2020 – Mar 2021)

Operational Updates

- In September, WFP assisted a total of 965,728 beneficiaries through cash-based transfer modalities amounting to USD 20.6 million and through distribution of family food parcels as part of the COVID-19 and economic crisis response. The people assisted were 809,753 Syrian refugees, 13,567 Palestinian refugees from Syria, 8,013 refugees of other nationalities and 133,412 vulnerable Lebanese. Thanks to exchange rate gains, 11,816 previously unassisted beneficiaries received food e-cards in September.
- Following the explosions at Beirut port on 4 August, WFP started cash distributions to 4,280 explosion-affected vulnerable population who will receive a monthly transfer of 250 USD or LBP equivalent for a period of 6 months. By the end of September, 3,784 beneficiaries received notification to withdraw their entitlements from any of the Western Union sub-agents available throughout the country and 496 households received their emergency card that allows them to withdraw cash from any ATM of the contracted Financial Service Provider.
- The 12,500 metric tons of wheat flour brought by WFP to respond to the immediate gap in the wheat supply chain following the destruction of the grain silo at the Beirut Port is currently being dispatched to millers and bakeries with over 4,000 metric tons dispatched.
- WFP distributed food parcels to assist 4,235 vulnerable Lebanese people. The assistance aims to reach 50,000 most vulnerable Lebanese families affected by COVID-19 and the economic crisis for a period of six months.
- Preparation for the verification exercise of National Poverty Targeting Programme (NPT) for scale up of targeted households from the current 15,000 households to 50,000 households is on-going. Training of trainers have been conducted, and subsequent trainings for the enumerators will start in October.
- Livelihood activities restarted with COVID-19 health and safety measures in place. In September the Food Assistance for Assets (FAA) engaged with 2,851 participants (comprised of 1,511 vulnerable Lebanese and 1,340 Syrian refugees) in forestry and agriculture infrastructure asset creation activities. Through them, 15,348 beneficiaries (participant's family members) benefitted from WFP's assistance.

WFP Country Strategy

Country Strategic Plan (2018-2021)

Total Requirements (in USD)		Allocated Contributions (in USD)
1.8 bn		1.2 bn
2020 Requirements (USD)	2021 Requirements (USD)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD) (Oct 2020 – March 2021)
463.4 m	532 m	45 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

- Face to face data collection for the Vulnerability Assessment for Syrian Refugees in Lebanon (VASyR) 2020 exercise has been concluded. This survey comprises information from more than 4,000 households to understand the latest trends in terms of their economic vulnerability, their food security situation and protection issues among others. Data cleaning and analysis is currently ongoing.

Monitoring

- As of 30 September, 96 percent of beneficiaries who received their entitlements redeemed their assistance through shops and ATMs and 92 percent of beneficiaries who received their pre-paid card under the "Beirut Emergency Response" have successfully used it.

- WFP monitoring of food prices and supplies shows that the price of the food Survival Minimum Expenditure Basket (SMEB) in September 2020 was two and a half times higher than in October 2019, with the highest price found in Beirut.

Partnerships

- WFP is working with other UN and development partners on the development of the Recovery, Resilience and Reconstruction Framework (3RF) that will articulate immediate, short- and medium-term priorities to respond to the Beirut emergency with critical reforms for Lebanon.

A Story Worth Telling



A community kitchen in Beirut. Photo: WFP/Edmond Khoury

In the heart of old Beirut, A+ Initiatives is one of many organizations who received food parcels from WFP over the past two months following the blast at Beirut port. Cyril, the founder, says WFP's donation of food items are welcome.

Many communal kitchens have benefitted from WFP's distribution of 224 food boxes around Beirut. Thanks to support from Canada, Australia, Ireland, and the United States, this food was used to prepare around 3,000 hot meals a day in blast-affected areas. Each box contains enough to feed a family of five for one month.

Mario and his friend Danny start their distribution journey at noon and end at around 3pm. They begin with people whose houses are closest to the kitchen and then branch out to reach those farther away.

The distribution partners make sure they are wearing face masks, keeping a distance, and, most importantly, serve people with a big smile only their eyes can show.

Donors

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