



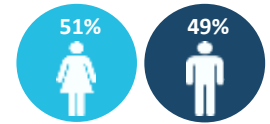
World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Lebanon Country Brief October 2020



In Numbers



1,011,520 people assisted in October 2020

US\$26.4 m cash-based transfers made

US\$ 51.9 m six months net funding requirements (Nov 2020 – Apr 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 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.



Operational Updates

- In October, WFP assisted a total of 1,011,520 beneficiaries through cash-based transfer modalities amounting to USD 26.4 million and through distribution of family food parcels as part of the COVID-19 and economic crisis response. The people assisted were 169,799 vulnerable Lebanese, 820,277 Syrian refugees and 21,444 refugees of other nationalities.
- For the Beirut explosion response, WFP further expanded unrestricted multipurpose cash assistance to reach 52,120 of the most vulnerable people affected by the explosion who were registered either by WFP's cooperating partners or by using the online self-registration website. While most families received their assistance through Western Union or emergency prepaid cards, some families received the food portion of the transfer value in the form of a food e-card (vouchers).
- WFP also made available to the humanitarian community a platform using blockchain technology that allows for better coordination and for partners to avoid duplication of assistance in order to ensure maximum reach to families affected by the explosion. This platform has the potential to be expanded for use in other interventions, particularly any interventions planned to assist vulnerable Lebanese.
- By the end of October, 10,000 of the 12,500 MT of wheat flour that arrived in Beirut on 18 August was distributed to millers across the country to support food security in Lebanon following the explosion. This wheat flour served to increase the weight of the subsidized bread package from 900 to 1,000 grams which means all families in Lebanon will get two extra loaves of bread for the same price for a period of 62 days.
- As most schools have not resumed in-person learning due to COVID-19 measures, WFP will resume food parcel distributions in mid-November to the families of Syrian and Lebanese children who attend public schools that are part of WFP's school feeding programme. WFP plans to continue the in-kind distributions until the beginning of 2021 and until students return to in-person learning.
- Food for training (FFT) livelihoods activities resumed in October with full COVID-19 precautionary measures in place. FFT projects had been on hold since April due to COVID-19 related restrictions.

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

WFP Country Strategy

Country Strategic Plan (2018-2021)

| Total Requirements (in USD) | | Allocated Contributions (in USD) |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------|---|
| 1.8 bn | | 1.23 bn |
| 2020 Requirements (in USD) | 2021 Requirements (in USD) | Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD) (Nov 2020 – April 2021) |
| 463 m | 532 m | 51.9 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

- The preliminary results of the Vulnerability Assessment for Syrian Refugees in Lebanon (VASyR) 2020 confirm the deteriorated economic situation. Approximately 88% of surveyed Syrian refugees fall below the Survival Minimum Expenditure Basket (SMEB) compared to 55% of Syrian refugees in 2019, and almost 1 of 2 Syrians are food insecure. The ongoing analysis of the VaSyR results will provide a greater understanding of the latest trends in terms of their economic vulnerability, their food security situation and protection issues among others.
- WFP and the World Bank continue to carry out phone surveys using the mVAM approach to obtain updated household-level information on food security, vulnerability, and livelihood situation of the Lebanese population. The next edition covering September and October will be shared in November.

Monitoring

- As of 31 October, 98 percent of beneficiaries who received their

entitlements redeemed their assistance through shops and ATMs.

- Results from the Basic Needs Outcome Monitoring (BNOM) report for July 2020 indicate a general deterioration in the food security and economic situation for all beneficiaries regardless of assistance modalities, reflecting the general deterioration of the country's economic situation. Results from the post distribution monitoring of Lebanese families assisted through the NPTP in July 2020 also indicate a general deterioration in their food security and economic situation as compared to previous cycles.

A Story Worth Telling



"This project's impact is indescribable," says Bachir standing in front of a door that has been blocked with bricks to stop the entry of water.

Photo: WFP/Edmond Khoury

The people of Majdal Anjar were particularly hard hit by the winter storms in Lebanon, as they watched rainwater invade their homes, businesses and cars. In response, WFP in collaboration with World Vision constructed a storm water drainage canal to support the residents of Majdal Anjar and neighboring areas in avoiding another catastrophe.

WFP livelihoods activities in Majdel Anjar not only created a productive community asset, but also supported Syrian refugees and vulnerable Lebanese to meet their food needs. Based on the number of hours worked, participants receive a cash-based transfer to buy food in over 500 shops or withdraw cash at ATMs across Lebanon, which has the added benefit of supporting local businesses.

"In addition to protecting businesses from floods and supporting vulnerable households, this project supports farmers and their lands," says Dana Kanaan WFP's Livelihoods Programme Policy Officer. "The community's improved water management means that channeled water can be used for irrigation, there is less loss of fertile soil and erosion, and reduced damaged to orchards during heavy seasonal flooding."

Donors

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