Operational Context

Lebanon, long considered a middle-income country, is rapidly sinking into poverty as it faces a triple shock from the unprecedented economic crisis, the impact of COVID-19 on employment and public health, and the Beirut port explosion. It is also at the forefront of the Syrian crisis: as of September 2020, there are 879,529 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 deteriorated situation that has had 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. The latest World Bank report forecasts a 19 percent contraction of the economy in 2020, among the highest in the world. 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.


WFP has been present in Lebanon since 2012.
WFP Country Strategy

Country Strategic Plan (2018-2021)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total Requirements (in USD)</th>
<th>Allocated Contributions (in USD)</th>
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<tr>
<td>2020 Requirements</td>
<td>2021 Requirements (in USD)</td>
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<td>Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD) (Dec 2020 – May 2021)</td>
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**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)
- In-kind food assistance
- 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

Assessments & Monitoring

- The second round of the web survey assessing the impact of COVID-19 and the economic crisis on the socioeconomic situation in Lebanon confirms results from other assessments such as the mVAM and the Vulnerability Assessment of Syrian Refugees (VaSyR). An increasing number of households are borrowing money to cover their basic needs, and food security and healthcare access remain as major concerns. The Beirut area was slightly more impacted than other governorates as more people lost their jobs and livelihoods following the explosion.

- A technical, independent review of the cost and composition of the Survival Minimum Expenditure Basket (SMEB) and the Minimum Expenditure Basket (SMEB) was concluded in November to calculate and recommend a meaningful transfer value for assistance to Syrian refugees in Lebanon. According to this analysis, the revised SMEB food basket now costs LBP 118,000 while the non-food basket costs LBP 953,000.

A Story Worth Telling

WFP’s in-kind assistance came just in time for Hanaa whose daily job cleaning houses was put on hold due to the spread of COVID-19. This parcel will help her put food on the table.

Photo: WFP/Edmond Khoury

Using protocols to safely distribute food as COVID-19 continues to rapidly spread, WFP is reaching thousands of Lebanese families affected by the lockdown and the country’s socio-economic situation.

“Now instead of paying for food, I will use my remaining money to pay for rent, electricity, and perhaps medication when my children get sick. Whatever I save from one end, I pay in another,” says Hanaa who lives in Barr Elias with her recently unemployed husband and five children.

Thanks to support from donors like the United States, Ireland, Canada and Australia, WFP will continue providing emergency food assistance to families in need.

“This month I will finally be able to repay a part of my supermarket debt,” Hanaa adds as she collects her food

**Donors**

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

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