### 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 January 2021, there are 865,531 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.

### Operational Updates

- In December, WFP assisted a total of 1,242,958 beneficiaries through cash-based transfer modalities amounting to USD 33.8 million and through distribution of family food parcels as part of the COVID-19 and economic crisis response. The people assisted were 358,736 vulnerable Lebanese, 849,067 Syrian refugees and 35,155 refugees of other nationalities.

- WFP further expanded in December unrestricted multipurpose cash assistance to support 72,828 of the most vulnerable people affected by the Beirut explosion to meet their basic needs, including their food needs. 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).

- In response to the impact of COVID-19 and the economic crisis, WFP supported nearly 30,000 vulnerable Lebanese families in December with food parcels. WFP and its partners continued outreach efforts across eight governorates and 32 districts to reach up to 50,000 of the most vulnerable Lebanese families.

- WFP adapted its school feeding programme to ensure children and their families are able to meet their food needs despite the continued COVID-19 restrictions, school closures, and the deteriorating economic situation in Lebanon, WFP started family food parcel distributions on 14 December, and continued throughout December for all 20,000 Lebanese and Syrian families that are part of the school feeding programme in 81 schools across the country.

- Together with the Ministry of Social Affairs, WFP is scaling up assistance to an additional 35,000 vulnerable Lebanese families through the National Poverty Targeting Programme (NPTP). Household enumeration to determine eligibility for the NPTP scale-up officially commenced in December 2020. The first batch of new eligible households are planned to receive their first round of food assistance in January 2021, provided food e-cards can be distributed on time despite COVID-19 restrictions across Lebanon.

### In Numbers

- **1,242,958** people assisted in December 2020
- **USD$33.8 m** cash-based transfers made
- **USD$55.7 m** six months net funding requirements (January – June 2021)

### Photo Caption

**Photo Caption:** WFP food parcels ready to be distributed to families of children who are part of WFP’s school feeding programme

**Photo:** WFP/Edmond Khoury
WFP Country Strategy

Country Strategic Plan (2018-2021)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Requirement</th>
<th>Total Requirements (in USD)</th>
<th>Allocated Contributions (in USD)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2021 Requirements (in USD)</td>
<td>1.8 bn</td>
<td>1.34 bn</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD) (January–June 2021)</td>
<td>532 m</td>
<td>55.7 m</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**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

- As of 31 December, 96 percent of beneficiaries who received their entitlements redeemed their assistance through shops and ATMs.
- WFP and the World Bank continued 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 second report covering the period of November and December will be shared in January.
- Remote data collection for the Basic Needs Outcome Monitoring (BNOM) took place in December, with the final report expected in February 2021.

A parent of a student attending a public school in Lebanon receives a food parcel after WFP adapted its school feeding programme.

Photo: WFP/Edmond Khoury

2020 has been a difficult year for everyone, especially for students in Lebanese public schools who could no longer benefit from WFP's school feeding programme, which provided them with a daily nutritious snack. However, and in true WFP spirit, the programme changed its modality and coped with the new circumstances, providing food parcels to students and their families on a monthly basis. Additionally, the programme also expanded its reach for the academic year 2020-2021 to include 50,000 students around the country.

Matthieu, a parent who receives a parcel, explains how the new modality helped him: “Instead of paying for food, I now spend the little salary I get on other essential household necessities like water, electricity, and medication for my sick wife.”

Now, students and their families no longer have to worry about how and if they are going to have their next meal.

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Contact info: Yein Kim, Head of Reporting (yein.kim@wfp.org)
Country Director: Abdallah Alwardat
Further information: www.wfp.org/countries/Lebanon