



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Lebanon Country Brief June 2021



Operational Context

In the years preceding the massive economic downturn that has affected Lebanon starting in 2019, high levels of extreme poverty and food insecurity were serious concerns primarily for the Syrian refugee population hosted by Lebanon. The situation, however, changed dramatically in 2020 as rising prices and the economic recession, compounded by the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic and the Beirut explosion have impoverished well over half the Lebanese population and almost the entire Syrian refugee population and threatens to push many more into poverty.

Rising poverty is leading to more food insecurity in Lebanon. WFP surveys found that 22 percent of Lebanese, 50 percent of Syrian refugees, and 33 percent of refugees of other nationalities are food insecure. Food access and availability have become major issues, with food prices out of reach for most, and retailers facing serious challenges to restock and to keep their businesses afloat. The ongoing reduction of subsidies, and the imminent discontinuation in the coming months, is likely to make the situation much worse – as affordable food items and fuel become scarce, competition for basic resources and social tensions are on the rise.

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.

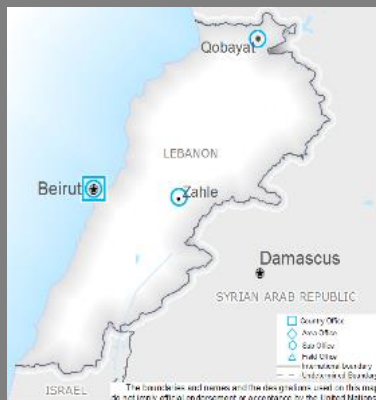
WFP has been present in Lebanon since 2012.

Population: **6.8 million**

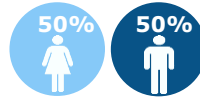
Income Level: **Upper middle**

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

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



In Numbers



1,405,106 people assisted in June 2021

US\$11.7 m cash-based transfers made

US\$115.9 m six-month net funding requirements (July 2021 – December 2021)

Operational Updates

- In June, WFP assisted a total of 1,405,106 beneficiaries through cash-based transfer modalities amounting to USD 11.7 million and through distribution of food parcels. The people assisted were 396,990 vulnerable Lebanese, 987,219 Syrian refugees, and 20,897 refugees of other nationalities.
- WFP maintained in June the food transfer value of cash assistance at LBP 100,000 per person per month and the non-food transfer value at LBP 400,000 per household per month in accordance with the Ministry of Social Affairs (MoSA). To provide adequate assistance to vulnerable Lebanese and refugee families, WFP continues to advocate with MoSA to increase transfer values in line with the survival minimum expenditure basket (SMEB). However, UN advocacy efforts with the government were successful in obtaining the market exchange rate in June for WFP and partners to disburse humanitarian cash assistance and fully realize the value of donor contributions.
- WFP resumed the distribution of food parcels to the most vulnerable Lebanese households affected by the economic crisis, benefitting 33,000 households (about 132,000 individuals) in June, and will continue to scale-up its crisis response to reach 100,000 Lebanese households by October. Outcome monitoring shows that households with acceptable food consumption increased by 9 percent and households were able to consume more staple food items without increasing their food expenditures.
- Distributions of take-home rations for more than 27,000 families whose students are enrolled in the 83 schools that are part of WFP's school programme took place throughout June. Families received a 30-kg food parcel of staple food items through staggered distributions at the schools.
- In June, WFP assisted 194,186 vulnerable Lebanese (31,591 households) through the ongoing scale-up of the National Poverty Targeting Programme (NPTP) – more than double the number of households assisted during the same period in 2020.
- WFP reached 14,000 beneficiaries in June through its livelihoods activities comprising of Food Assistance for Assets (FFA) and Food Assistance for Training (FFT).

WFP Country Strategy

Country Strategic Plan (2018-2021)

Total Requirements (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)
2.89 bn	1.43 bn
2021 Requirements (in USD)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD) (July 2021 – December 2021)
532 m	115.9 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 lifesaving, nutritious and affordable food throughout the year

Focus area: Crisis response

Activities:

- Unconditional resource transfers to support access to food (CBTs and 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

Strategic Result 8: Enhanced global partnerships

Strategic Outcome 6: Partners in Lebanon benefit from effective humanitarian coordination, expertise, services in the areas of logistics and procurement.

Focus area: Crisis response

Activities: Provision of Logistics sector and procurement services to all partners

Assessments & Monitoring

- As of 30 June, 98 percent of beneficiaries who received their cash-based entitlements redeemed their assistance through shops and ATMs.
- Based on the latest market and price monitoring, WFP found that the price of the food portion of the Survival Minimum Expenditure Basket (SMEB) reached LBP 234,316 in May, marking a 9 percent increase from April.
- The March/April 2021 Vulnerability and Food Security

assessment (m-VAM) finds that 22 percent of Lebanese households are food insecure, while 58 percent reported having food shortages compared to 55 percent in November and December. Overall, access to food and other basic needs has worsened as the economic crisis continues to deepen. The full report can be found [here](#).

A Story Worth Telling



Hamda, a Lebanese resident, receives her food parcel at a WFP distribution site. Photo: WFP/Edmond Khoury

As Lebanon and its people continue to be heavily affected by the country's socio-economic crisis exacerbated by COVID-19, WFP also continues to assist vulnerable families by providing them with in-kind food packages.

For Lina, a mother of six children, this assistance “could not have come at a better time.” As food prices are on the rise, “it is difficult to put food on the table, especially with a big family like mine,” she says. With six children out of school, Lina finds herself hopeless when it comes to their future, “their life is passing by without education, and we cannot do anything because of the economic situation.” However, Lina can rest her mind when it comes to feeding her little ones, “I am relieved from a significant concern now.”

For Abdallah, the parcels came at a very critical time as well. With his little girl Lamar, suffering from a severe health condition, the assistance helped a father who can barely keep up with his daughter's medical bills. “I could not be more thankful. The kids were not eating properly anymore because I am not working, so we had to rely on whatever we can get,” he says.

Donors

Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Croatia, European Commission, France, Germany, Iceland, Italy, Japan, Netherlands, Norway, Private Donors, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Switzerland, UN CERF, United Kingdom, USA