



Photo: WFP/Giulio Origlia



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES  
CHANGING LIVES

## WFP Support to National Social Protection Systems

*As the economic crisis continues unabated, WFP will provide cash assistance through the National Poverty Targeting Programme to 75,000 of the most vulnerable Lebanese families (350,000 people) to help meet their food needs.*

The National Poverty Targeting Programme (NPTP) is Lebanon's first targeted social safety net programme assisting Lebanese living in poverty.

Formally launched in 2011 with the Ministry of Social Affairs (MoSA) and the Presidency of the Council of Ministers (PCM) as leading implementers, the NPTP provides a package of benefits that includes health, education, and food assistance to families selected based on an objective targeting methodology. The assistance comes in the form of hospitalization subsidies, school fee waivers, books, e-vouchers and cash to support basic food needs.

Poverty rates amongst the Lebanese began rising over the past few years, threatening people's ability to afford food and other basic needs. Today, with the multiple shocks of the economic crisis, COVID-19 pandemic and the Beirut Port explosion, the NPTP's role in keeping the most vulnerable Lebanese away from hunger is more crucial than ever.

### WFP'S EXPANSION OF THE NPTP E-CARD

10,000 FAMILIES  
IN 2019

15,000 FAMILIES  
IN 2020

75,000 FAMILIES  
IN 2021



### FOOD ASSISTANCE THROUGH THE NPTP

Since 2014, WFP has been supporting the food assistance component of the NPTP through e-cards which can be used in more than 400 WFP-contracted shops to buy food. Now, families also receive LBP 200,000 which can be withdrawn at ATMs or used in shops to meet additional food needs. As a result, the most vulnerable Lebanese families are enabled to meet their basic food needs all year long.

Today, WFP is expanding its assistance to reach 75,000 of the poorest Lebanese families (or 350,000 people) in 2021 and also supports the NPTP by:

*Securing funding for food assistance:* While the Government finances the health and education components, WFP advocates for and secures continuing support for the food assistance component.

*Extending use of WFP's systems to deliver cash-based assistance:* The NPTP uses the same cash transfer platform and network of shops that WFP established for the refugee response. Beneficiaries can use their e-cards to buy food at any of the 400+ WFP-contracted shops across the country.



LBP 100,000 PER PERSON/MONTH FOR FOOD  
+ LBP 200,000 PER HOUSEHOLD/MONTH TO  
HELP MEET THEIR ADDITIONAL FOOD NEEDS.



A Lebanese family receiving NPTP assistance gather for lunch at their home in North Lebanon. Photo: WFP/Giulio ORIGLIA

## STRENGTHENING THE CAPACITY OF THE GOVERNMENT FOR EFFECTIVE IMPLEMENTATION



As WFP collaborates with the Government for the implementation of the NPTP, it also ensures that national institutions are supported in their efforts to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of their programmes. Direct operational support is being provided for the expansion of the NPTP, including support for staffing, training, and beneficiary communication. In 2020, WFP supported MOSA and PCM with the necessary equipment (e.g. tablets and the NPTP server) to enhance Government capacity to collect household data, monitor activities, and manage data.

## SUPPORTING TARGETING & MONITORING



To target the most vulnerable individuals, MoSA's social workers collect household-level data, while results are captured through Post-Distribution Monitoring (PDM). WFP led the preparation and development of the digital PDM data collection tool in 2019. Following mobility restrictions due to COVID-19, WFP adapted the PDM tool to allow for remote monitoring through phone surveys.

WFP is also supporting the update of the NPTP targeting methodology. As a new Household Budget Survey is not yet on the horizon, WFP is in the meantime working with other partners, namely the World Bank, to undertake a vulnerability assessment for the Lebanese population. The assessment will provide an updated socioeconomic picture of Lebanese especially in light of the economic crisis, and potentially inform policies and design of future interventions.

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"What's important is that my children never go to bed hungry," says Khaled, a father of nine from the Beqaa region. "With this card, we're buying rice, beans, fruits and vegetables to feed the family."

Khaled also explains how having the e-card removes the temptation of breaching lockdown restrictions to search for work. "I only left the house once or twice a month to go to the shop and buy food," he says. "I didn't have to go out every day and risk catching the virus or breaking the measures in order to find a job to feed my family."

For Mayyada, a widowed mother of six, the card also means that all her family can enjoy a full meal. "We buy oil, burghul, lentils, rice, tea and as we prepare the meal we try to make it last for two days," she says. "Inflation and a lack of jobs have hit us hard but everyone in my family is able to eat and benefit from this card."

Mayyada's youngest child is three years old and one of her other children, who is barely 10, has chronic kidney disease. "I can't face sending my children to sleep without a meal," she says.

## ENHANCING ACCOUNTABILITY TO AFFECTED POPULATIONS



WFP will integrate gender equality outcomes in the capacity building plan for the scale-up of the NPTP in 2021, and evidence-based programming will be enabled by a baseline gender analysis, conducted together with UN Women. Additionally, WFP is launching a call centre where vulnerable Lebanese receiving WFP assistance will be able to provide their feedback, complaints, as well as inquire about the assistance, which in turn will enhance accountability outcomes.



## 2021 AND BEYOND

WFP started its scale-up of the NPTP in May 2021 and aims to effectively expand its assistance to reach 75,000 of the most vulnerable Lebanese families (about 350,000 people) by the end of 2021. WFP is also deepening its capacity strengthening and technical support to ensure the sustainability of NPTP systems and processes.

WFP is also working with the World Bank and the Government on the preparations to launch the large-scale Emergency Social Safety Net (ESSN) programme, which is dedicated to supporting Lebanon's poorest and most vulnerable families.