



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Lebanon Country Brief July 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 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**

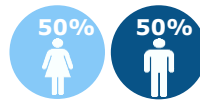
Income Level: **Upper middle**

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

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



In Numbers



1,403,021 people assisted in July 2021

US\$9.6 m cash-based transfers made

US\$107.4 m six-month net funding requirements (August 2021 –January 2022)

Operational Updates

- In July, WFP assisted a total of 1,403,021 beneficiaries through cash-based transfer modalities amounting to USD 9.6 million and through distribution of family food parcels. The people assisted were 472,050 vulnerable Lebanese, 910,099 Syrian refugees, and 20,872 refugees of other nationalities.
- WFP and partners' continued advocacy efforts with the government in July were successful in obtaining an exchange rate closely mirroring the market rate for the disbursement of humanitarian cash assistance. In accordance with the Ministry of Social Affairs (MoSA), WFP maintained 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, but continues to advocate to increase cash transfer values in order to provide adequate assistance to the most vulnerable.
- In July, as part of its response to the ongoing economic crisis, WFP reached 63,971 vulnerable Lebanese households (255,884 individuals) with food parcels. WFP plans to reach 100,000 Lebanese households with in-kind food assistance by December.
- For the academic year 2020-2021, which ended in June, WFP successfully completed 5 rounds of distributions of take-home rations as part of its COVID-19-adapted school meals programme. More than 27,000 families whose students are enrolled in the 83 schools that are part of WFP's school meals programme received take-home rations. Preparations for the upcoming academic year 2021–2022 are ongoing to ensure that beneficiaries continue to be assisted either through regular school snacks or through take-home rations.
- Assistance through the National Poverty Targeting Programme (NPTP) e-cards benefited 34,313 households (210,303 individuals) in July as part of the ongoing scale-up of the NPTP. This includes 2,264 households (13,566 individuals) who received their assistance for the first time in July.
- In July, WFP reached 8,029 beneficiaries 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)
2.86 bn	1.46 bn
2021 Requirements (in USD)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD) (Aug 2021 – Jan 2022)
708.3 m	107.4 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 4 August, 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 268,258 in June, marking a significant increase in less than a year – in August 2020, the same basket cost LBP 100,000.

A Story Worth Telling



WFP's assistance allowed Dalida to renovate and restock her shop with all the needed products.

Photo: WFP/Photo Library

After 40 years of closure, Dalida's family-owned shop in Gemmayze finally reopened in 2015. Through the help of her family and friends, Dalida was able to garner the financial means to renovate the shop and supply it with the necessary products. However, Dalida's dream to keep the shop running was short-lived. Five years after the opening, and as Dalida started paying off her debts, the devastating explosion at Beirut's port happened, damaging the entirety of her shop. "We found everything outside. All of the goods were scattered on the ground," she explained. "Five years' worth of hard work and loans were gone to waste."

Nevertheless, full of hope and determination despite being injured, Dalida began renovating her shop the next day. Through WFP support, she was able to not only refurbish the shop, but also stock it with new items that she could not afford in the past. As part of WFP's new initiative to support small and medium-sized businesses that were affected by the blast, WFP is providing these businesses with the resources they need to cover wages, repair damages, and restock their shelves with the proper merchandise.

"The assistance from WFP came at just the right time, when it was most needed," said Dalida as she recounted the days after the blast. Thanks to contributions from Germany's Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), WFP's intervention is currently providing assistance for 222 hard-hit businesses that play a key role in supporting food security in Lebanon.

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