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.


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>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2.86 bn</td>
<td>1.46 bn</td>
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<tr>
<td>2021 Requirements (in USD)</td>
<td>Six-Month Net Funding Requirements</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>708.3 m</td>
<td>(in USD) (Aug 2021 – Jan 2022)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>107.4 m</td>
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</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 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 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 3:** Developing countries have strengthened capacity to implement the SDGs

**Strategic Outcome 4:** 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 5:** 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

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### 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

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

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### 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.

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**WFP Lebanon Country Brief**

July 2021