



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Lebanon Country Brief

August 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 (2017–2021), 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**

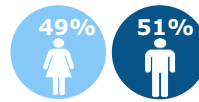
Income Level: **Upper middle**

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

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



In Numbers



1,680,629 people assisted in August 2021

US\$10 m cash-based transfers made

US\$135.6 m six-month net funding requirements (September 2021 – February 2022)

Operational Updates

- In August, WFP assisted a total of 1,680,629 beneficiaries through cash-based transfer modalities amounting to USD 10 million and through distribution of family food parcels. The people assisted were 488,841 vulnerable Lebanese, 1,170,268 Syrian refugees, and 21,520 refugees of other nationalities.
- In accordance with the Ministry of Social Affairs (MoSA), WFP maintained the food transfer value of cash assistance in August at LBP 100,000 per person per month and the non-food transfer value at LBP 400,000 per household per month. However, following WFP's continued advocacy efforts with the government, the food transfer value will be increased to LBP 300,000 per person per month and the non-food transfer value to LBP 800,000 per household per month for refugees, applicable starting September. The higher transfer values will increase the purchasing power of beneficiaries in light of inflation and the hike in food prices.
- In August, as part of its response to the ongoing economic crisis, WFP reached 68,000 vulnerable Lebanese households (about 268,000 individuals) with food parcels. The latest Post-Distribution Monitoring (PDM) results for in-kind assistance show a high satisfaction rate of beneficiaries with the quality, quantity, and packaging of the parcels.
- Assistance through the National Poverty Targeting Programme (NPTP) e-cards benefited 34,762 households (211,445 individuals) in August as part of the ongoing scale-up of the NPTP, including 476 households (2,589 individuals) who received their assistance for the first time in August. WFP plans to reach around 60,000 Lebanese households through the NPTP by the end of 2021.
- In August, WFP reached 12,498 beneficiaries through its livelihoods activities comprising of Food Assistance for Assets (FFA) and Food Assistance for Training (FFT).

WFP Country Strategy

Country Strategic Plan (2018-2022)

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) (September 2021 – Feb 2022)
708.3 m	135.6 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 5 September, 94 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 349,533 in July, marking a significant increase in less than a month – in June the basket cost LBP 268,258.

- The latest findings of the Basic Needs Outcome Monitoring (BNOM) indicate that the average food consumption decreased in July for Syrian refugee households receiving WFP assistance, as well as for households not receiving WFP assistance. Meanwhile, food consumption for Lebanese households receiving in-kind food assistance also decreased between March and July, reflecting the deteriorating economic conditions, coupled with higher inflation on basic and food commodities.

A Story Worth Telling



Mona's household is one of many that found itself needing humanitarian assistance just to survive.

Photo: WFP/Giulio Orgilia

From a bird's view, Hay Al Tanak, which translates to "The Tin Neighbourhood", looks exactly like a maze. Mona lives on the edge of the maze, and each sunrise brings her and the people she must feed a new challenge. Mona never expected that she would need assistance to stay afloat, neither did most of the 1 in 6 people in Lebanon who now rely on support from WFP to make ends meet.

"Before COVID-19 and all that is happening, everything in Lebanon was somehow affordable," Mona tells us as she stares at a blank wall and drifts off in her thoughts to early 2019 when a supermarket visit did not equate to spending minimum wage on a couple of staple items.

Now that she receives assistance from WFP, she is able to feed her children. "Children benefit the most when fed with nutritious food," Mona tells us as she sneaks a quick glance at one of her children, rocking on his chair next to her. "Food keeps children healthy, immune to diseases and helps them grow right in front of our eyes."

"When we were informed that our household is eligible for aid, we immediately felt happy," Mona recalls. "No one could believe how glad I was. I've been wanting the WFP food e-card for a very long time."

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