



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Lebanon Country Brief September 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**

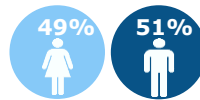
Income Level: **Upper middle**

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

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



In Numbers



1,690,921 people assisted in September 2021

US\$47 m cash-based transfers made

US\$191.9 m six-month net funding requirements (October 2021 – March 2022)

Operational Updates

- In September, WFP assisted a total of 1,690,921 beneficiaries through cash-based transfer modalities amounting to USD 47 million and through distribution of family food parcels. The people assisted were 491,944 vulnerable Lebanese, 1,177,169 Syrian refugees, and 21,808 refugees of other nationalities.
- The transfer value of cash assistance was increased from LBP 100,000 to LBP 300,000 (USD 17.6) per person per month for food, and from LBP 400,000 to LBP 800,000 (USD 47) per household per month for other needs – this led to an increase in the total amount of cash transferred in September compared to previous months.
- In September, as part of its response to the ongoing economic crisis, WFP reached 67,770 vulnerable Lebanese households (about 266,719 individuals) with food parcels. Post-distribution monitoring results for in-kind food assistance showed a high satisfaction rate for beneficiaries with the quality, quantity, and packaging of the food parcels.
- Assistance through the National Poverty Targeting Programme (NPTP) e-cards benefited 35,626 households (215,891 individuals) in September as part of the ongoing scale-up of the NPTP, including 679 households (4,025 individuals) who received their assistance for the first time. As of September, WFP began distributing cash assistance under the NPTP in US dollars, whereby beneficiaries can withdraw their entitlements from ATMs in USD or LBP at a preferential rate.
- In September, WFP reached 14,222 beneficiaries through its livelihoods activities comprising of Food Assistance for Assets (FFA) and Food Assistance for Training (FFT). WFP concluded its intervention to support local farmers' markets in Mount Lebanon through facilitating and organizing the market sites, where more than 100 farmers benefited from these markets.
- WFP distributed more than 321,000 litres of fuel to 89 water and health facilities to ensure critical services are sustained for the most vulnerable communities. WFP plans to maintain its support to these vital sectors for 3 months.

WFP Country Strategy

Country Strategic Plan (2018-2022)

Total Requirements (in USD)		Allocated Contributions (in USD)
2.86 bn		1.52 bn
2021 Requirements	2022 Requirements (in USD)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD) (October 2021 – March 2022)
708.3 m	805.5 m	191.9 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 5 October, 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 387,434 in August, marking a 628 percent increase from October 2019 – the

price of the basket is expected to continue rising in the coming months following the ongoing lifting of subsidies.

- Recent monitoring results show increased crowding at ATMs, which is causing prolonged waiting times for beneficiaries withdrawing their assistance. This comes as WFP continues to expand its assistance to reach more vulnerable Lebanese and Syrian refugees through cash-based transfers, coupled with frequent electricity outages resulting from the ongoing fuel crisis. To lessen crowds at ATMs, WFP loaded two months of assistance for half the unrestricted cash beneficiaries in September and is working with the financial service provider to explore various solutions to this issue.

A Story Worth Telling



Having sustained damage from the Beirut Port explosion, Dalida is back on her feet working in her family-owned grocery shop.

Photo: WFP

In the wake of the blast at the Beirut port, WFP realized the need to use different approaches in its humanitarian response to businesses affected by the explosion as well as the worsening of food security in Lebanon. To keep businesses from closing and thereby mitigating job loss and maintaining services to the community, WFP launched a new initiative — the Food Systems Grant Facility (FSGF).

Having provided grants to 222 businesses affected by the Beirut port explosion, the WFP Innovation Accelerator and WFP Lebanon are further developing the FSGF to address some of the root causes affecting the country's food systems. WFP is rolling out the Food Systems Challenge: a grant-making mechanism that identifies innovative small and medium enterprises and provides them with the financial and business development support they need to succeed. For the next 18 months, WFP and its local partner Berytech will select 30 innovative businesses to receive up to USD 100,000 each.

Donors

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