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 1.5 million Syrian refugees hosted by Lebanon. The situation, however, has changed dramatically as the economic crisis, compounded by the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic and the Beirut explosion, has impoverished 78 percent of the Lebanese population and almost the entire Syrian refugee population and threatens to push many more into extreme poverty.

Now in its third year, the economic crisis, alongside a severe fuel and electricity crisis which crippled essential sectors and services, continues to render difficult living conditions even more dire. The lifting of subsidies on basic commodities in 2021 has led to even higher inflation and further economic decay. Access to basic necessities, including food, and basic services including healthcare and WASH, continue to be major issues for both the Lebanese and refugees.

As poverty continues to drive food insecurity in Lebanon, WFP surveys in 2021 found that 34 percent of Lebanese, 50 percent of refugees, and 33 percent of refugees of other nationalities are food insecure.

WFP remains at the forefront of the humanitarian response to Lebanon’s crisis, ensuring that 1 in 3 people have enough food to sustain themselves.


### In Numbers

- **1,559,399** people assisted in January 2022
- **US$16.9 m** cash-based transfers made
- **US$91 m** six-month net funding requirements (February 2022 – July 2022)

### Operational Updates

- In January, WFP assisted a total of 1,559,399 beneficiaries through cash-based transfer modalities amounting to USD 16.9 million and through distribution of family food parcels. The people assisted were 528,675 vulnerable Lebanese, 1,024,519 Syrian refugees, and 6,205 refugees of other nationalities.

- Through the emergency response to the ongoing economic crisis, WFP reached 71,600 vulnerable Lebanese households (around 289,000 individuals) with food parcels in January.

- WFP assisted 35,400 Lebanese families (around 214,000 individuals) through the National Poverty Targeting Programme (NPTP) in January, where beneficiaries were able to withdraw their assistance in USD at ATMs.

- In January, WFP assisted more than 20,000 Syrian and Lebanese students registered in 53 schools that are part of the WFP School Meals programme.

- 23,472 Syrians and Lebanese benefitted from WFP’s Livelihoods activities consisting of Food Assistance for Assets (FFA) and Food Assistance for Training (FFT) in January. This included 4,491 participants who engaged in individual skills building, value chain development, and construction of agriculture roads.

- Through the WFP Food System Challenge – a new project to support food systems – 10 small to medium Enterprises and cooperatives in the food sector were selected to receive support packages of business development services, technical assistance, and cash grants in USD. This support will enable enterprises to find solutions to improve food security and increase resilience in Lebanon by improving local production, transformation, and consumption. More information on the Food System Challenge can be found [here](#).

- In January, through the Logistics Sector established as part of the Lebanon Emergency Response Plan, WFP distributed 874,000 litres of fuel to 243 water and health facilities to ensure critical services are sustained for the most vulnerable communities across Lebanon.
**WFP Country Strategy**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country Strategic Plan (2018-2022)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Country Requirements (in USD)</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.88 bn</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2022 Requirements (in USD)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>814.4 m</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Allocated Contributions (in USD)</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>1.65 bn</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD) (February 2022 – July 2022)</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>91 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 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 2 February 2022, 99 percent of beneficiaries who received their cash-based entitlements redeemed their assistance through shops and ATMs.

- Results of the Basic Needs Outcome Monitoring (BNOM) for Syrian refugees show that acceptable food consumption levels dropped significantly from 50 percent in December 2020 to 24 percent in July 2021. By the end of December 2021, acceptable food consumption rose to 39 percent. This is likely due to the increase in transfer values of cash assistance in September 2021, demonstrating the importance of providing adequate assistance.

- Inflation continues to hinder people’s ability to afford food, including WFP beneficiaries. This comes as the price of the minimum food basket reached LBP 584,000 in December, based on the latest market assessment, marking nearly a thousand percent increase since October 2019.

- The 2021 Vulnerability Assessment for Syrian Refugees (VAsyR) has been published and can be accessed [here](https://www.wfp.org/countries/Lebanon). Findings of the VAsyR indicate that, similar to 2020, around half of Syrian refugee households were food insecure in 2021 and 90 percent of households were living below the Survival Minimum Expenditure Basket (SMEB).

**A Story Worth Telling**

When Khalil first registered for an embroidery class through WFP’s livelihoods programme, he never expected all the surprises and benefits that would come with it.

After moving from Syria to Lebanon’s Akkar governorate, he became homebound. Khalil suffered from a war injury in his leg that rendered him on crutches. The country’s difficult economic situation and Khalil’s injury prevented him from finding a job that would motivate him to leave the house. So, when the opportunity to learn a new skill online presented itself, Khalil went for it.

“My life consisted solely of eating and sleeping. After registering for the class however, it changed drastically,” Khalil explains. “I went from not working for almost six years, to finally being able to sell two products done by me; by my own hands.” In fact, what Khalil first saw as a ‘skill only for women’ eventually became a passion of his.

**WFP is able to provide assistance through the generous support of its donors:**

Australia, Belgium, Canada, European Commission, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Lebanon’s Presidency of the Council of Ministers, Lebanon Humanitarian Fund, Norway, Private Donors, Republic of Korea, Switzerland, UN CERF, United Kingdom, USA

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