Overview

Currency depreciation and sharp increases in prices, especially for food, continued to erode purchasing power and left 54 percent of Lebanese and 88 percent of Syrian refugees vulnerable and in need of assistance.

In 2021, WFP expanded its assistance to support one in three people living in Lebanon to put food on the table and make ends meet in a time of severe crisis.

WFP adapted its response in a complex, changing environment to ensure more people had safe and dignified access to assistance through multiple, fit-for-purpose modalities, including alternative take-home rations and ATM redemption in local currency or USD, increased transfer values of cash assistance, and capacity strengthening for national institutions. WFP's assistance in 2021 acted as a safety net for 2.1 million Lebanese and refugees, and this lifesaving assistance will be continued in 2022 along with continued advocacy and support towards strengthening national social safety nets.

WFP also enabled humanitarian response in Lebanon across the health and WASH sectors through fuel delivery and supported capacity strengthening for the Government and other partners.
FOOD BRINGING HOPE IN A TIME OF CRISIS

“Before COVID-19 and all that is happening, everything in Lebanon was somehow affordable. Now, going to the supermarket for a few basic items means spending the monthly minimum wage.” – Mona

Every sunrise carries a new challenge for Mona and family. Mona never expected she would need assistance to stay afloat. In fact, neither did most of the one in three people in Lebanon who now rely on support from WFP to make ends meet.

Living conditions for Khaled, a Lebanese national and father of seven, also became extremely difficult, forcing him to give up on his family business. “I used to fix cars for a living but had to close my repair shop due to the current situation,” Khaled says, who at one point also sold his furniture and other household items to buy food.

The price of the food basket monitored by WFP has increased eleven-fold since October 2019 when the civil unrest and economic meltdown began. With prices increasing by the day – and sometimes by the hour – people are forced to borrow money or food or sell their belongings just to afford food.

As more people live meal to meal and worry about necessities such as food, rent and medicine, WFP increased its support to vulnerable Lebanese families in 2021 while also maintaining support for 1.4 million refugees. All this has made a real difference in people’s lives.

“The parcel is saving us a lot of money. It contains all the important food items every household needs, and most importantly it leaves my children well-nourished,” adds Khaled.

As she sneaks a quick glance at one of her children, rocking on his chair next to her, Mona says with a smile: “When we were informed that our family is eligible for aid, we immediately felt happy. I’ve been hoping to get the WFP food e-card for a very long time. Children benefit the most when fed with nutritious food. Food keeps children healthy, protects them from diseases and helps them grow right in front of our eyes.”

STRATEGIC OUTCOME 1 CRISIS RESPONSE FOR REFUGEES & LEbanese
• 1.3 million refugees received cash-based transfers to meet their food and other basic needs.
• Increased cash transfer values led to improvements in food security outcomes for Syrian refugees.
• WFP’s economic crisis response expanded to reach 309,000 vulnerable Lebanese with in-kind food assistance.
• 164,000 students and their families received take-home rations during remote learning, while 64,000 students received nutritious school snacks once schools opened.

STRATEGIC OUTCOME 2 LIVELIHOODS & RESILIENCE
• 76,467 Syrian refugees and Lebanese received cash transfers through Food Assistance for Training and for Assets activities.
• 222 food-related small businesses impacted by the Beirut Port explosion received cash grants to help rebuild their businesses.
• 816 Lebanese smallholder farmers received value vouchers and 225 cooperatives and 7 agricultural value chains were supported to meet growing demand for locally produced food.

STRATEGIC OUTCOME 3 SUPPORTING THE NATIONAL POVERTY TARGETING PROGRAMME
• The coverage of the National Poverty Targeting Programme (NPTP), Lebanon’s largest national social protection programme, doubled in 2021, reaching 217,000 vulnerable Lebanese (36,000 families) with cash assistance for food and other basic needs.
• Increased cash transfer values led to improvements in food security outcomes and economic capacities to meet essential needs for NPTP beneficiaries.

STRATEGIC OUTCOME 4 INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITY STRENGTHENING
• 500 social workers from the Ministry of Social Affairs and 50 coordinators trained and equipped for household verification for the NPTP scale-up.
• Monitoring tool and systems were developed to support evidence-based programming and decision-making of the Ministry of Social Affairs.
• WFP supported the Ministry of Agriculture to rebuild the food safety laboratory destroyed during the 2020 Beirut port explosion.

STRATEGIC OUTCOME 5 ENABLING HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE
• 7.7 million litres of fuel distributed to 581 health and WASH facilities across Lebanon.
• WFP signed a Technical Assistance Agreement with the Government of Lebanon in support of the Emergency Social Safety Net (ESSN).