



Photo: WFP/Khadija Dia

SAVING LIVES  
CHANGING LIVES

## WFP Lebanon

# Economic Crisis Response Food Assistance for Vulnerable Lebanese

*In the midst of a deep economic crisis and skyrocketing food prices, WFP's in-kind food assistance ensures 100,000 Lebanese families (400,000 people) do not go hungry*

Lebanon is now in its third year of an economic crisis that has driven millions of Lebanese and refugees into poverty and food insecurity. 53 percent of Lebanese, or 2.1 million people, are vulnerable and need assistance to cope with the increasingly difficult living conditions. 46 percent of the Lebanese are estimated to be food insecure and unable to access enough nutritious food to meet their dietary needs.

As national social safety nets gradually scale-up to help curve the repercussions of the financial downfall, WFP's in-kind food support has so far ensured that 100,000 Lebanese families do not go hungry.

Food parcels provide beneficiaries access to food at a time when inflation and currency depreciation have rendered basic commodities out of reach for many. Food prices have increased by more than 15 times since October 2019, while people's purchasing power has significantly decreased and unemployment rates have risen. Meanwhile, the global repercussions of the Ukraine crisis have had a notable impact in Lebanon - a country that heavily relies on food imports. Increased global prices of food, namely wheat and oil, coupled with increased fuel prices following the conflict in Ukraine, have entailed further inflation in Lebanon.

### MORE THAN JUST A PARCEL

At the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, in-kind food was chosen as the transfer modality for WFP's initial crisis response to mitigate the risk that people would not be able to go to shops or ATMs because of lockdown measures. Now, WFP provides in-kind food assistance to mitigate the risks of market volatility and threats to food availability and access.

In addition to providing beneficiaries with food, WFP's in-kind assistance helps families free up resources to cover other basic needs, such as medicine, rent, education, and otherwise. The in-kind modality also ensures that finite resources are maximized, especially given the continuing exchange rate fluctuations.

### A BETTER PARCEL, FOR EVERYONE

According to monitoring in the first quarter of 2022, beneficiaries were mostly satisfied with the quantity and quality of food items in the parcel. Households received a 62.4kg monthly food ration, enough for a family of four.

To further optimize parcel composition and quantity, as of July 2022 WFP is distributing parcels based on the size of each assisted family. The new parcels will include rice, bulgur, pasta, lentils, beans, chickpeas, tuna, oil, salt, vermicelli, tomato paste, and sugar, allowing WFP to provide the right amounts of nutritionally balanced food for families in need.

**2.1 MILLION**  
Lebanese need assistance  
(WFP Multi-dimensional Vulnerability Index)

**1,500%**  
Increase in the price of  
the WFP food basket  
(Oct 2019—June 2022)



Hamda, a Lebanese resident, receives her food parcel at a WFP distribution site. WFP/Edmond Khoury

## SAFE AND DIGNIFIED DISTRIBUTIONS

Distributions are organized with strict COVID-19 safety measures in place and are staggered to avoid crowding. WFP and partner staff are on the ground at each distribution to ensure the safety and dignity of families receiving assistance. In certain locations and for specific cases, such as beneficiaries with limited mobility, door-to-door distributions may also be organized.

## ENSURING THE RIGHT PEOPLE, EVERYWHERE, ARE REACHED

In order to reach the most vulnerable Lebanese families across Lebanon, WFP's cooperating partners collected referrals to the assistance programme directly through their hotlines and through local actors (including municipalities and Social Development Centres), NGOs, grassroots movements, and religious charities. A web-based self-registration form developed by WFP was also used to ensure maximum outreach to vulnerable people who may not have been referred to partners.

To ensure those most in need are reached, WFP employed household targeting using food security and economic vulnerability indicators through a questionnaire designed based on the results of the m-VAM survey conducted jointly with the World Bank.

WFP conducts post-distribution monitoring (PDM) and qualitative interviews to ensure that distributions go smoothly and to assess beneficiary feedback, preferences, and food security outcomes.

Vulnerable Lebanese, including WFP beneficiaries, are also able to request assistance, provide feedback, and share their concern regarding the assistance through the dedicated call centre. WFP takes into account what the callers have to say about the assistance and implements programmatic adjustments as necessary.

WFP will continue to provide in-kind food assistance to vulnerable Lebanese throughout and beyond 2022 as per the upcoming Country Strategic Plan for 2023-2025. In parallel, WFP is supporting efforts to implement and scale-up national social assistance programmes - the National Poverty Targeting Programme (NPTP) and the

## World Food Programme

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As Lebanon and its people continue to be heavily affected the country's socio-economic crisis exacerbated by COVID-19, WFP also continues to assist vulnerable families by providing them with in-kind food packages.

For Lina, a mother of six children, this assistance "could not have come at a better time." As food prices are on the rise, "it is difficult to put food on the table, especially with a big family like mine," she says. With six children out of school, Lina finds herself hopeless when it comes to their future, "their life is passing by without education, and we cannot do anything because of the economic situation." However, Lina can rest her mind when it comes to feeding her little ones, "I am relieved from a significant concern now."

For Abdallah, the parcels came at a very critical time as well. With his little girl Lamar, suffering from a severe health condition, the assistance helped a father who can barely keep up with his daughter's medical bills. "I could not be more thankful. The kids were not eating properly anymore because I am not working, so we had to rely on whatever we can get," he says.

Emergency Social Safety Net (ESSN). While the scale-up of assistance for these programmes is currently ongoing, WFP is planning to assist around 80,000 households on a monthly basis through the end of the year.

## 2022 AND BEYOND

Given the continued economic challenges and unabated inflation, WFP will continue to distribute in-kind food assistance to vulnerable Lebanese affected by the economic crisis through 2022 and beyond, with plans to continue this crisis response in the upcoming Country Strategic Plan for 2023-2025. This is particularly salient as the war in Ukraine is expected to lead to further inflation and increased food prices, as almost all wheat imports to Lebanon are sourced from Russia and Ukraine.

At the same time, WFP is also supporting efforts to implement and scale-up national social assistance and programmes, which will provide more sustainable social assistance to the families most in need.