



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Lebanon Country Brief August 2022



In Numbers



1.6m people assisted in August 2022

US\$ 29m cash-based transfers made

2,100 MT of food assistance distributed

US\$ 462 m six months (September 2022 - February 2023) net funding requirements

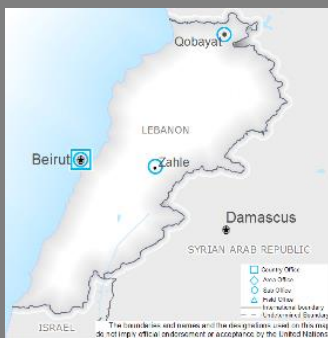
Operational Context

Once an upper middle-income country, Lebanon is now in its third year of a severe economic, political, and social crisis while also hosting the largest number of refugees per capita in the world. Record-high global food and fuel prices are adding to the already dire situation in Lebanon.

The human impact of these crises is sobering, with high levels of poverty and food insecurity amongst both Lebanese and refugee communities. 54 percent of the Lebanese (2.1 million people) were found to be vulnerable and in need of assistance in 2021. Food insecurity alone affected 46 percent of Lebanese by the end of 2021.

The multiple crises have also had a very negative impact on the 1.5 million Syrian refugees in Lebanon. Since 2020, 88 percent of Syrian refugees (1.3 million people) have been living in extreme poverty and require assistance, with food insecurity affecting half the refugee population in 2021.

WFP remains at the forefront of the response to Lebanon's economic and refugee crisis, planning to support 2.3 million of the most vulnerable Lebanese and refugees in 2022 to meet their food and other essential needs.



Population: **6.8 million**

2019 Human Development Index: **92** out of **189**

Income Level: **Lower middle**

2021 GNI per capita (US\$): **3,450**

Operational Updates

- In August, WFP assisted a total of 1,570,000 beneficiaries through cash-based transfer modalities amounting to USD 29 million and through distribution of food parcels. The people assisted were 507,000 Lebanese, 1,057,200 Syrian refugees, and 5,800 refugees of other nationalities.
- Alongside the existing network of ATMs, WFP is expanding the number of cash redemption points to include Money Transfer Operators (MTOs). The expansion aims to help reduce travel and redemption time and transportation costs for beneficiaries. The pilot in August included four MTOs in the South and Bekaa for both refugees and Lebanese receiving cash assistance. Monitoring showed a smooth redemption process at MTOs for beneficiaries, who were satisfied with the reduced transportation costs, time of cash withdrawal, and dignified treatment by MTO staff. Following the successful pilot, WFP will expand the number of MTO branches in September.
- WFP assisted 348,1000 Lebanese individuals (62,000 households) through the National Poverty Targeting Programme in August, including 12,600 households who received assistance for the first time as part of WFP's scale-up to reach 75,000 vulnerable Lebanese families by October 2022.
- As part of the response to the ongoing economic crisis, WFP supported 139,000 vulnerable Lebanese individuals (44,900 households) with food parcels in August. Delays in releasing food parcels at the Beirut Port resulted in fewer people assisted in August compared to July, so households who did not receive a parcel in August will be prioritized for distribution in September.
- The Ministry of Education and Higher Education launched a six-week summer 'catch-up' programme on 1 August to enhance students' preparedness for the upcoming academic year. WFP supported the Ministry's programme through the distribution of snacks to 27,700 refugee and Lebanese students at 136 schools.

Photo Caption: Ahmad, a participant in WFP's Livelihoods programme, plants trees in Lebanon's Majdel Anjar. *WFP/Mustapha Ghabris*

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Country Strategic Plan (2018-2022)

Total Requirements (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Percentage Funded
3.39 bn	2.07 bn	61 %
2022 Requirements (in USD)	2022 Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD) (September 2022 – February 2023)
1.33 bn	675 m	462 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.

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

Monitoring

- Between January and July 2022, the price of the minimum food basket monitored by WFP, the Survival Minimum Expenditure Basket (SMEB),

increased by 30 percent, rising from LBP 660,000 to LBP 860,000 respectively.

- 500 Syrian and Lebanese households receiving WFP cash assistance were interviewed in August and shared their experience and feedback. All beneficiaries successfully withdrew their assistance but reported rising costs of transportation to reach an ATM. While 44 percent of respondents experienced crowding at the ATMs, the majority appreciated that WFP and its partners' staff were present at the ATMs to provide support and crowd management. Thanks to WFP's coordination with its financial service provider to ensure the timely replenishment of ATMs, the percentage of beneficiaries reported visiting an out-of-cash ATM decreased from 6 to 3 percent between January and August 2022.

Story Worth Telling



The scenic Majdel Anjar, where participants in WFP livelihoods projects planted trees through the 'One Million Trees' initiative. Photo: WFP/ Mustapha Ghabris

Through its Food for Assets projects, WFP works to build individual resilience and livelihoods while also supporting the work to increase Lebanon's greenery and build community resilience to climate change.

This particular project is coordinated with the Ministry of Agriculture and the Food and Agriculture Organization as part of the '40 million trees' initiative set by the Ministry in 2015 to reduce the risks and impact of climate shocks. Since 2017, when WFP joined the initiative, 1 million trees have been planted across Lebanon by 15,000 participants of WFP's livelihoods activities.

Ahmad, one of the participants in this project, and his family of five came to Lebanon from Syria after the war. He was a farmer back home, and despite his leg injury, as soon as he saw the opportunity to do so again in Lebanon, he went for it.

Donors

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