



World Food Programme

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WFP Lebanon

Food and Basic Assistance for Refugees in Lebanon

Over 10 years into the Syrian refugee crisis, WFP's cash assistance remains a lifeline of hope for over 1 million refugees in Lebanon

Since 2012, the World Food Programme has been providing assistance to Syrian refugees in Lebanon— first with food parcels, then paper vouchers, and since 2013 with cash-based assistance through electronic cards.

Today, with almost 90 percent of Syrian refugees in Lebanon living in extreme poverty, WFP and UNHCR's joint programming is more critical than ever to ensure the food and other essential needs of the most vulnerable are met.

WFP has also been providing assistance to refugees of other nationalities since 2019, and provided assistance to Palestinian refugees from Syria between 2014 and 2021.

Since the start of the crisis in October 2019, prices have increased 19 times for food and 6 times for other essential goods and services. WFP and UNHCR, in coordination with the Ministry of Social Affairs, have gradually increased the transfer values of cash assistance in local currency. Starting in February 2023, people will receive LBP 800,000 per person for food needs and LBP 1.6 million per household for other essential needs.

However, inflation has outpaced the increase in transfer values, which are not sufficient for beneficiaries to fully meet their essential needs. Cash assistance, which is often the sole source of income for recipients, only covers 50 percent of food and 20 percent of other essential needs.

As a result, food insecurity has substantially increased amongst the 1.5 million Syrian refugees in Lebanon: from 49 percent food insecure in 2021 to 67 percent food insecure in 2022 (2022 Vulnerability Assessment of Syrian Refugees). To prevent further decline into food insecurity and poverty, it is critical to ensure sufficient assistance is provided to enable people to meet their essential needs.



1.2 million refugees received cash-based transfers to support their food and other essential needs in 2022



US\$ 2.7 billion injected into the economy since the beginning of WFP's cash-based assistance since 2012

ONE CARD, THREE CASH MODALITIES

The amount of cash beneficiaries receive and degree of flexibility in the use of the e-card varies according to vulnerability, with all extremely vulnerable people receiving food assistance while families with greater needs receive additional support.

Food e-cards: LBP 800,000 per person/month for food needs that can be used to buy food at any of the 400+ WFP-contracted shops across the country. Shops are selected based on their ability to provide quality service, diverse and healthy food products, and accessible prices for both Syrian and Lebanese customers.

Cash for food e-card: LBP 800,000 per person/month for food needs for Syrian and other refugees, who can decide to withdraw cash from ATMs, money transfer operators (MTOs), or used at any shop, including WFP-contracted shops.

Multipurpose cash for essential needs e-card: LBP 800,000 per person/month for food needs + LBP 1.6 million per household/month for other essential needs that can be withdrawn from ATMs or MTOs. Families decide how best to meet their essential needs, including food.

EMPOWERING PEOPLE

Through cash-based assistance, families are empowered with the ability to buy the food they choose in shops and the freedom to withdraw cash from ATMs and use it as they see fit – whether for food, shelter, education, medical bills, or otherwise. WFP has found that when vulnerable families are provided with purchasing power, they make choices that improve their wellbeing and are less likely to sacrifice food security to meet other needs.

SUPPORTING THE LOCAL ECONOMY

By enabling people to spend cash on local goods and services, cash assistance also supports the local economy: over USD 2.5 billion has been injected into the Lebanese economy since the beginning of WFP's refugee crisis response. In addition, Lebanese shopkeepers and customers benefit from the capacity strengthening and trainings provided by WFP to improve retail standards and services.

ENHANCING HUMANITARIAN COORDINATION

Together, WFP, UNHCR, and UNICEF provide basic assistance to refugees through LOUISE, a unified system for cash transfers developed in collaboration with WFP's local financial service provider (FSP). Through this joint system, beneficiaries are able to access a variety of humanitarian cash assistance through a common card.

ENSURING IMPACT & ACCOUNTABILITY

WFP and partners rely on a joint assessment and targeting system, based on the annual Vulnerability Assessment for Syrian Refugees, Vulnerability Assessment for Refugees of Other Nationalities, and an econometric formula, to identify and rank refugees by vulnerability. This allows WFP and UNHCR to prioritize finite resources and assistance for the families most in need.

The Grievance Redress Mechanism is an accountability mechanism used to collect and address appeals related to exclusion errors during beneficiary targeting, with an emphasis on developing more inclusive eligibility criteria.

Beneficiary feedback and queries are received primarily through the WFP call centre. Other channels for communication with beneficiaries include SMS, outreach volunteers, and community representatives. Individuals who require specialized support (such as health, protection, etc.) are referred to UNHCR and NGO partners.

WFP uses the Basic Needs Outcome Monitoring (BNOM) to monitor the food security situation, food consumption and use of coping strategies among families receiving WFP assistance.

ADAPTING TO A CHALLENGING CONTEXT

WFP has been adapting its programme strategy and delivery in response to financial restrictions and exchange rate fluctuations.

- ❖ Regular market assessments are conducted to monitor the availability of food and non-food items, prices at WFP-contracted shops, and potential supply chain issues.
- ❖ E-cards are loaded with cash assistance in batches to avoid crowding at ATMs and to allow for replenishment of cash. Expansion of redemption points: Additional ATMs were installed and additional shops are being contracted to increase access points for beneficiaries. As of August 2022, branches of local money transfer operators (MTOs) are being added as additional redemption points for beneficiaries, to further reduce travel time and cost.
- ❖ WFP successfully negotiated a preferential exchange rate with the Central Bank, which is enabling WFP and partners to reach more refugees on a monthly basis as well as maximizing the value of contributions.

Cash assistance provides greater choice and agency, an important social, psychological, and cultural anchor for refugee families living in difficult times.



Photo: WFP/Giulio Origlia

For Roukati, a 40-year-old Syrian refugee mother of eleven children, WFP's cash assistance is the main source of income for her and her family.

As Roukati's husband suffers from a physical ailment which rendered him unable to work, she uses the cash she receives via her Multi-Purpose Cash (MPC) card to cover medication costs and other expenses.

"It is good to have unrestricted cash, because now we can compare prices in different shops and find the cheapest items," says Roukati, in reference to the daily fluctuations in prices. "This helps us a lot."

Roukati is also a caregiver to a son who suffers from permanent brain damage. The family fled Syria due to the war. As they struggle to make ends meet and put food on the table, Roukati's biggest concern remains the safety of her children.



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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 400,000 Lebanese residents (100,000 families) do not go hungry

Since 2019, Lebanon has faced a series of challenges that eroded people's ability to afford food, shelter, healthcare, and other essential needs across all populations in Lebanon. WFP's role in providing life-saving food assistance in Lebanon is no longer aimed solely towards the 1.5 million Syrian refugees and host communities, but to the hard-hit Lebanese as well.

The ability of Lebanese families to afford adequate and sufficient food, especially for the poorest and most vulnerable, has been drastically reduced due to food price inflation combined with overall inflation, depreciation of the Lebanese lira against the US dollar, unemployment, and stagnant wages.

Between October 2019 and November 2022, WFP recorded an increase of almost 2,000 percent in the price of the basket of basic food items. In other words, people now need 21 times the amount they would have needed before the crisis to purchase essential food items. Prices of other essential goods and services have meanwhile increased 6-fold. The lifting of subsidies for food, fuel, medicine, and telecommunications between 2021 and 2022 alone caused prices to rise between 200 and 300 percent.

Today, with the economic crisis and lack of adequate social safety nets to cushion the impact of multiple shocks, 1.3 million Lebanese are in a food crisis situation (IPC Phases 3 and 4, September 2022).



1.3 million Lebanese (33 percent) are food insecure (IPC Phases 3 & 4)



2,000% increase in the price of the WFP food basket (October 2019 – November 2022)

In order to protect the lives, livelihoods, and dignity of the poorest and most vulnerable during this crisis, WFP provides unconditional in-kind food assistance to 400,000 Lebanese residents (100,000 families) across the country. As more Lebanese residents, including those benefitting from WFP assistance, are enrolled into national social assistance programmes, WFP gradually scaled down the number reached with in-kind food assistance to 300,000 individuals each month.

At the start of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020, 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. As COVID restrictions eased, WFP continued providing in-kind food assistance to mitigate the risks of market volatility and ensure people had continued access to food.

For the next three years of WFP's Country Strategic Plan for 2023–2025, the in-kind response will be maintained both to provide for food needs as government safety net programmes scale-up; and to serve as a strategic contingency measure against any potential shock to the financial system that would risk the delivery of cash assistance for WFP's other programmes.

SAFE AND DIGNIFIED DISTRIBUTIONS

Assistance is delivered as a monthly family food ration designed to provide around 75 percent of the total individual energy requirement for a family of five. The 63 kg ration, mostly procured internationally for cost efficiency and to minimize impact on the local market, currently includes rice, pasta, bulgur, lentils, beans, chickpeas, canned tuna, vegetable oil, and salt, allowing WFP to provide nutritionally balanced food to reach as many families in need as possible.

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 and qualitative interviews to ensure that distributions go smoothly and to assess beneficiary feedback, preferences, and food security outcomes. Monitoring results since the implementation of the response in 2020 consistently show a high satisfaction rate of beneficiaries with the quality, quantity, and packaging of food parcels they received.

In addition, WFP launched its call centre in July 2021 to enhance accountability and provide a direct channel through which families receiving assistance can provide their feedback and concerns, as well as inquire about assistance. WFP also receives through the call centre requests for assistance from vulnerable Lebanese who are not currently enrolled in assistance programmes.

2023 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 its Country Strategic Plan for 2023-2025.

WFP is also working to adjust and optimize the parcel composition in-line with the feedback and nutritional intake needs of assisted beneficiaries.

At the same time, WFP is 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.

When a food parcel delivers hope

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.





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The National Poverty Targeting Programme of Lebanon

Established in 2011, the National Poverty Targeting Programme (NPTP) is Lebanon's first poverty targeted social assistance programme for the poorest and most vulnerable Lebanese families. The NPTP is implemented by the Ministry of Social Affairs (MoSA) and the Presidency of the Council of Ministers (PCM). Since 2014, WFP has been supporting the food assistance component of the NPTP through e-cards, redeemable at various access points.

LEBANON'S DEEPENING ECONOMIC CRISIS

The Lebanese pound has lost more than 94 percent since the start of the crisis, resulting in a drastic drop in purchasing power. Inflation by currency depreciation has been a major driver of increased poverty and food insecurity in the country, resulting in record-high prices of the food Survival Minimum Expenditure Basket (SMEB).

Between October 2019 and November 2022, WFP recorded an increase of almost 2,000 percent in the price of the basket of basic food items. In other words, people now need 21 times the amount they would have needed before the crisis to purchase essential food items. Prices of other essential goods and services have meanwhile increased 6-fold. The lifting of subsidies for food, fuel, medicine, and telecommunications between 2021 and 2022 alone caused prices to rise between 200 and 300 percent.

Reflecting the deepening crisis, the World Bank recently ranked Lebanon as a lower-middle-income country, downgrading from its upper middle-income status held for the last 27 years, with a gross national income (GNI) per capita of USD 3,450. The GNI per capita has seen a 55 percent decrease from 2018.

NPTP BENEFITS



430,000 beneficiaries to be reached in 2023



US\$ 20 per person/month for food +
US\$ 25 per HH/month for other essential needs

LEBANESE: STATUS QUO AND NEEDS

Today, with the economic crisis and lack of adequate social safety nets to cushion the impact of multiple shocks, 1.3 million Lebanese are in a food crisis situation (IPC Phases 3 and 4, September 2022).

By December 2021, over 90 percent of the Lebanese households reported to have employed at least one coping mechanism. The number of households who faced serious challenges in accessing food reached 57 percent in December 2021, up from 44 percent in June and 40 percent in December 2020. In this context, regular transfer value adjustment continues to prove indispensable for beneficiaries to meet their food needs.

THE NPTP IN 2023 AND BEYOND

As more and more people fall into poverty, social assistance programmes have continued to scale up. WFP together with MoSA and PCM has been significantly scaling-up NPTP e-card assistance: with an initial target of 5,000 households in 2014, the NPTP is expected to reach 75,000 households by the first quarter of 2023 (about 430,000 people), of which 64,000 households are already enrolled in the programme.

EVOLUTION & IMPACT OF NPTP ASSISTANCE

Since 2014, the transfer modality and value of NPTP assistance have frequently adjusted to better meet beneficiary needs and Lebanon's socioeconomic context. In November 2014, MoSA changed the food assistance modality from food baskets to food-restricted cash, redeemable in WFP contracted shops, to address rising poverty levels in communities hosting refugees and help mitigate social tensions. In May 2021, an unrestricted and unconditional monthly cash top-up was introduced to offset the negative impacts of the economic crisis. Then in September 2021, the NPTP shifted to an unrestricted transfer modality, where all cash assistance can be redeemed at ATMs and/or shops. At the same time, WFP began providing assistance in USD. Redemption patterns show clear preference of beneficiaries for ATM redemption (95%) over shop redemption (5%) and for USD redemption (93%) over Lebanese Pound (LBP) redemption (7%).

Due to rising food prices, WFP also regularly raised the transfer values – from 40,500 LBP in 2020 to 100,000 LBP in 2021 to USD 15 per household member in September 2021 with a USD 25 household top-up. More recently, in line with the Emergency Social Safety Net (ESSN)¹ programme's benefits, in April 2022 WFP increased the transfer value from USD 15 to USD 20 per person per month, while the non-food top-up transfer value remains at USD 25.

Post-distribution monitoring in 2021 showed that the increase in the amount of NPTP assistance was marked by a significant rise in the proportion of NPTP households with acceptable Food Consumption Scores (FCS): 64% of households in Q3 2021 compared to 51% of households in Q2 2021.

By July 2022, however, deteriorating living conditions and inflation contributed to a 24 percent decrease in the proportion of households with an acceptable FCS.

With regards to livelihoods coping strategies, the average index score for all households increased from an average of 4.5 in September 2021 to 7.4 in July 2022, specifically purchasing food on credit, borrowing money, selling household assets, and spending savings. In parallel, the number of households who resorted to using consumption-based coping strategies, such as reliance on less preferred/expensive food, reducing the number of meals per day and portion size, increased from September 2021 to July 2022.

ENHANCING THE EFFICIENCY OF THE NPTP

WFP is deepening its capacity strengthening and technical support to ensure the sustainability of NPTP systems and processes. A gender study was conducted by UNWOMEN in collaboration with MoSA and subsequent trainings were held to increase the gender responsiveness of the NPTP (see NPTP Gender Brief).

In addition, to improve the safety and access to NPTP cash-assistance, WFP began expanding the redemption points for the NPTP assistance through Money Transfer Operators (MTOs). While beneficiaries can still redeem their assistance at WFP's contracted shops and an expanding network of ATMs, inclusion of MTOs will decrease travel time and costs for beneficiaries and provide a wider network of redemption points as the programme continues to scale-up (see NPTP MTO Expansion Brief).

DESIGNING THE FUTURE OF SOCIAL ASSISTANCE IN LEBANON

WFP's strategic direction and priorities for the next three years, through the new Country Strategic Plan (CSP) 2023-2025, focus on ensuring the essential needs of vulnerable Lebanese and refugees and strengthening their resilience at household and community level, while also supporting the Government to build sustainable institutions and systems capable of providing adequate social safety nets against current and future shocks. WFP is working closely with the Government and the World Bank to align the NPTP and the ESSN and design a best-in-class, unified social safety net system.

As the political and socioeconomic uncertainty presents challenges for long-term planning, WFP has ensured flexibility in the design of the new CSP to be able to respond to immediate and increasing needs in the country while also laying the ground for short to mid-term recovery prospects, including capacity strengthening of national social protection systems.

WFP donors that support the NPTP primarily include Canada, the European Commission, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, and Norway. WFP is proactively advocating to secure funding to continue the operation into 2023 and beyond.



¹WFP is implementing the large-scale emergency social safety net project (ESSN) in coordination with the Government of Lebanon and the World Bank. The ESSN is designed as a shock-responsive social protection assistance that will expand and complement social assistance coverage primarily provided through the NPTP.



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School Meals Programme

WFP's school meals programme provides nutritious snacks for Lebanese and Syrian refugee children and encourages them to stay in school

WFP partnered with the Ministry of Education and Higher Education (MEHE) in 2016 to develop a school snacks programme with three components: the provision of nutritious daily school snacks, nutrition education, and health and nutrition summer camps.

WFP's intervention through the school meals programme aims to improve children's food consumption and dietary diversity and contribute to education outcomes by increasing students' ability to concentrate at school.

Even before the economic crisis that began in 2019, only 30 percent of Lebanese school-aged children attended public schools, and more than half of Syrian refugee children were unable to pursue their primary education due to economic hardships. Now, according to UNICEF, almost 700,000 Lebanese and Syrian children are at risk of not returning to school because of rising poverty.

MORE THAN JUST A SCHOOL SNACK

WFP's school meals programme acts as a safety net for vulnerable Lebanese and Syrian refugee children. A [2019 evaluation](#) highlighted that the overall dietary diversity score, school attendance and retention scores, sense of school community and belonging are higher among children in schools that are part of WFP's school meals programme compared to children attending other public schools. At the start of 2020, there was almost an equal number of boys and girls participating in WFP's school feeding programme with similar retention and drop-out rates between the two, while overall retention rates for the morning shift was nearly 100% and 94% for the afternoon shift.



700,000 Lebanese and Syrian school-aged children are at risk of not returning to school (UNICEF, 2022)



100,000 students to receive healthy snacks (fresh fruit in season plus UHT milk or baked nuts) or sandwiches

THE SCHOOL MEALS PROGRAMME FOR THE 2022-2023 SCHOOL YEAR

In coordination with MEHE and cooperating partners, WFP aims to reach 100,000 Lebanese and Syrian students through distribution of school snacks in 115 primary schools across Lebanon.

Participating schools are located in vulnerable communities across the country and typically offer the double-shift system. The morning shift primarily enrolls Lebanese students while the afternoon shift is designed to accommodate Syrian students. By targeting both vulnerable Lebanese and Syrian children, the programme promotes a healthy school environment for all communities.

Fresh, nutritious, and locally-produced snacks every day

The composition of the snack package aims to address dietary diversity and the double burden of malnutrition among targeted students. In addition, parents are relieved from budgeting for their children's lunches, freeing up much-needed financial resources to help meet other needs.

SCHOOL KITCHENS

Through the school kitchens project established in 2021, women volunteers, whose children attend schools that are part of WFP's school meals programme, prepare cold sandwiches made with local products for the students, who also receive a piece of fruit or vegetable. In 2022, 4,700 students were assisted through 6 different school kitchens.

To ensure the effectiveness of the programme, the snack distributions are monitored by WFP's partners in collaboration with school health educators, while a third-party company regularly monitors partners' warehouses and end-products to ensure food safety and quality.

2023 AND BEYOND

As more vulnerable families face challenges to maintain nutritious diets, WFP plans to scale-up its school meals programme (to reach 155,000 students over the next 3 years) to encourage healthy dietary practices and enrolment, as an increasing number of Syrian families are taking their children out of school. WFP will also develop a home-grown school feeding pilot to promote and increase the procurement of fresh, nutritious, locally produced food – benefiting local farmers, stimulating the local economy and strengthening local food systems.

WFP is supporting the Government of Lebanon and the Ministry of Education and Higher Education to develop a national roadmap for the establishment of a national school feeding programme aligned to the 5-year National General Education Plan (2021–2025). A critical component to build this national capacity will be to support the Ministry to develop and test cost-effective and sustainable school feeding modalities that can be adopted at a national scale.

In 2021 and 2022, WFP held workshops with the Government in 2021 to lay the foundation to conduct the SABER (Systems Approach for Better Education Results) exercise in 2023. This will support the Government to gather systematic and verifiable information about the quality of policies and systems in place relevant to establishing a national school feeding programme.

WFP is also supporting the engagement of the Government with the global School Meals Coalition. It is expected that in 2023, Lebanon can join more than 120 member states and partners towards ensuring that every child can receive a healthy and nutritious meal in school by 2030.



Through school snacks, WFP aims to support children to have better health and nutrition, perform better, and broaden their educational and future opportunities. Now, the school kitchens project also provides opportunities for women to gain work experience and provide for their families.

For the past 2 years, Abir has been the sole provider for her family and now, working beside her children in their school kitchen provides her with a special kind of joy. “I don't feel tired by the work as long as my children are near me. We prepare around 900 hummus, cheese, and labneh sandwiches and fruit for 450 students every day. All sandwiches and snacks are prepared with the utmost care, cleanliness, and attention.”

Abir is one of ten women who volunteer in the kitchen of Haouch el Oumara Mixed Public School in Zahle, Lebanon. The women receive a bi-weekly allowance that allows them to support themselves and their families. “My first allowance was used to pay the rent that I couldn't pay before. I also used the money to buy stationary for my children. It is a big responsibility being the sole-provider, but at least now I know that my children's needs will be met and the bills will be paid” says Abir.

Along with the financial benefits for the volunteers, the sandwiches provide students with much-needed energy to study. “Many parents can no longer provide their children with the proper breakfast they need for school, which is why these sandwiches are very important and beneficial to our students,” says Micheline Houry, the school's principal.



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Livelihoods and Resilience Programmes

Strengthening household and community food security and resilience in Lebanon

The economic crisis has put immense pressure on the livelihoods of women and men across Lebanon. Unemployment reached 30 percent by December 2021, while wages remain stagnant. Food availability and access in Lebanon – already at risk due to the economic crisis – is likely to decline further in the face of climate change, unless concerted action is taken immediately to support smallholder farmers and protect agricultural land.

WFP's main livelihoods programmes consist of **Food Assistance for Assets (FFA)** and **Food Assistance for Training (FFT)** activities, supporting community-level asset creation in 43 municipalities and individual skills training across 108 communities in Lebanon.

Lebanese and Syrian participants receive short-term conditional cash-based transfers (CBT) to support their food and other essential needs. Participants also receive vocational trainings to build their individual capacities and improve opportunities for sustainable livelihoods. Trainings include (but are not limited to) basic literacy, numeracy, digital, and other technical skills.

WFP interventions also include trainings for smallholder farmers and food producers on food handling, agro-food processing, and marketing to strengthen market linkages and agricultural value chains.

Meanwhile, people living in the municipalities where WFP has FFA activities benefit from new and/or rehabilitated long-term environmental and agricultural assets, such as irrigation canals and agricultural roads which contribute to the livelihoods of the wider community.

FOR INDIVIDUALS, COMMUNITIES, AND SYSTEMS

WFP delivers across the humanitarian to development spectrum to sustainably improve household food security and community resilience to economic and climatic shocks and stresses for vulnerable Lebanese and displaced populations, focusing on:

- ❖ Income generation and employment creation
- ❖ Strengthening of food systems
- ❖ Natural resource management
- ❖ Community asset creation

MEETING INDIVIDUAL AND LOCAL MARKET NEEDS

To ensure impact and relevance of interventions, WFP works in close partnership with Government counterparts (national Ministries and local municipalities), local and international cooperating partners, and the private sector to build capacity and skills and to construct and rehabilitate assets in communities.

WFP identifies local needs through vulnerability, market, and value chain assessments involving local government, community-based organisations, businesses, and Lebanese and Syrian individuals.

Outcomes of the programme are observed through Post-Distribution Monitoring. In 2021, the Livelihoods programme improved participants' job competitiveness and competencies for both formal sector employment and entrepreneurial endeavours.

INCLUSIVE, COMMUNITY-BASED, AND EMPOWERING

Through gender-sensitive and inclusive programming, WFP ensures the equitable participation of men and women in capacity strengthening projects.

In 2021, fifty percent of cooperatives and small businesses targeted through FFT were led by women. In parallel, 454 persons with disability, 89 percent of them women, participated in food for training activities through a WFP project with the Forum of the Handicapped Association, learning marketable culinary skills, food safety and more to enhance their livelihood opportunities.

INNOVATIVE APPROACHES TO SUPPORTING LIVELIHOODS

Following the success of the Food Systems Grant Facility project, through which WFP provided 222 small businesses affected by the Beirut Port explosion with grants totalling USD 590,000 to support their early recovery and continuation of operation, WFP launched the Food System Challenge for 2022.

Through this challenge, 30 small to medium enterprises and cooperatives in the food sector receive support from WFP for business development services, technical assistance, and cash grants in USD. This support will enable enterprises to find innovative solutions to improve food security and increase resilience in Lebanon. In addition, WFP is supporting 5,000 farmers with one-off vouchers to buy agricultural equipment as part of its plan to promote sustainable agricultural development.

At the request of the Ministry of Agriculture, WFP is also establishing a crop-type mapping system which would enable the Government to estimate agricultural production, particularly for wheat and other grains and cereals, and potentially support a strategy for increased local production.

2023 AND BEYOND

Over the next 3 years of WFP's Country Strategic Plan (2023 – 2025), WFP will scale up its activities to reach more women and men with short-term income opportunities, as well as strengthen the enabling environment of the agriculture and other key sectors to improve long-term self-reliance for vulnerable women and men to ensure improved food security and access to livelihood. As part of this approach, WFP and partners will work to strengthen the performance and inclusiveness of food systems, and enhance natural resource management and climate adaptation practices.

- ❖ *Increased Access to Employment and Income:* To enhance the employability of vulnerable individuals, WFP supports skills enhancement in climate smart agriculture, hospitality, food preparation and processing, and digital skills. Training packages consist of technical skills, soft skills, and essential life skills as well as market linkages connecting participants to employers and markets.
- ❖ *Enhanced Management of Natural Resources and Enhanced Climate Adaptation Practices:* To improve resilience to climate shocks, WFP supports forestry and pastureland rehabilitation and strengthens the capacity of community organisations to implement climate adaptation measures. To improve the use of land and resources, WFP supports communities with construction and rehabilitation of community assets including irrigation canals, water ponds, and agriculture roads.
- ❖ *Climate Change Action:* WFP is currently piloting climate change adaptation interventions, including training of livestock farmers on climate-smart practices and circular economy and agriculture and establishing agricultural labs.



WFP's vocational trainings are enabling participants to develop marketable skills and improve opportunities for sustainable livelihoods. Designed in collaboration with local authorities, such projects create common grounds for people, as both refugees and Lebanese participate and work together in groups— this, in turn, breaks down social barriers and enhances cohesion.

In addition to supporting the planet, WFP's livelihoods programme has become a backbone for thousands of vulnerable families in Lebanon, helping them put food on the table. In 2021 alone, 77,000 people benefited by securing their basic food needs through these short-term opportunities.

"When I heard about the training programme WFP offered in Beirut and Mount Lebanon, I immediately rushed to register myself to participate," Fatima tells us, adding that her main goal in life is to start a small business of her own.