



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

Photo: WFP / Dana Houda

WFP Lebanon

Bissan, a 33-year-old woman with visual impairments participating in a WFP livelihoods training

Towards More Disability Inclusive Programming

COMMITMENT TO INCLUSIVE PROGRAMMING

Persons with disabilities are among the most marginalized individuals in communities affected by crises and face a higher risk of food insecurity and exclusion from assistance.

In Lebanon, an estimated 10 to 15 percent of the population has physical, sensory, intellectual, or mental disabilities. The legal framework on the rights of persons with disabilities lacks enforcement, resulting in gaps in education, health services, and inclusive environments. From a social perspective, persons with disabilities face adverse political, cultural, and economic conditions.

The continued economic and institutional deterioration in Lebanon threatens to worsen the situation of persons with disabilities, struggling to meet their basic needs and access essential services. WFP Lebanon has stated its commitment to Disability Inclusion through its Country Strategic Plan (2023-2025) with dedicated indicators to meet or exceed the global UN Disability Inclusion Strategy (UNDIS) in several areas.

BUILDING UNDERSTANDING OF NEEDS

In May 2023, WFP completed a study to better understand the needs and vulnerabilities of assisted populations with disabilities.

The study shows that 95 percent of participant households resorted to severe livelihood coping strategies such as selling productive assets and reducing the expenditure on health and education and 91 percent had to reduce their food consumption as a coping strategy. The unemployment rate among assisted households with persons with disabilities reached 82 percent and 85 percent of the households live in debt.

The study also highlighted gaps in meeting the nutritional needs of children and adults with severe or complex disabilities.

The full study can be accessed [here](#).

WALKING THE TALK

WFP call centre plays a vital role in gathering information about individuals with disabilities and delivering targeted responses, ensuring that their needs are prioritized and addressed appropriately. In 2022, the call centre received over 36,500 claims (6% of total claims) from persons with disabilities who voluntarily disclosed their status.

Assisted Population with Disability - 2022



4% of assisted individuals
(82,000 individuals)



16% of assisted households
(50,000 households)

WFP has taken significant steps to ensure the inclusion of persons with disabilities in its activities:

- Provide door-to-door validation and food packages distributions to the elderly and persons with disabilities as needed and feasible
- Increase physical accessibility and availability of accessible distribution/collection outlets
- Ensure that cooperating partners' staff are available at ATMs to facilitate the withdrawal process if required
- Apply reasonable adjustments to work patterns and include training in livelihoods programmes to accommodate participants with disabilities
- Integrate disability disaggregated data collection into assessment and monitoring tools

2023 AND BEYOND

Findings from the study resulted in a three-year action plan for WFP Lebanon to enhance disability inclusion in its activities. The plan focuses on six areas:

- Working with other agencies and supporting the government to prioritize disability inclusion
- Meaningful participation and engagement with persons with disabilities and their representatives
- Targeted response that effectively reaches the most vulnerable households with members with disabilities
- Establishing core accessibility criteria and minimum standards for each assistance modality to ensure that persons with disabilities have equal access to WFP's assistance
- Scaling up the participation of persons with disabilities in transformative initiatives such as livelihoods programmes
- Positively influencing increased access to education for children with disabilities by working with the government and other partners