



World Food Programme
Programme Alimentaire Mondial
Programa Mundial de Alimentos
برنامج الأغذية العالمي

Country strategic plan revision

This version: 12 October 2023

| Lebanon | country strategic plan (2023-2025), revision | 01 |

Gender and age marker code: | 4 |

	Current	Change	Revised
Duration	Jan 2023 - Dec 2025	N/A	Jan 2023 - Dec 2025
Beneficiaries	2 461 022	0	2 461 022
Total cost (USD)	5 311 257 433	- 2 162 472 808	3 148 784 626
Transfer	4 975 586 993	- 2 116 321 713	2 859 265 280
Implementation	67 319 271	10 207 690	77 526 960
Direct Support Costs	42 484 643	22 913 339	65 397 982
Sub-total	5 085 390 906	- 2 083 200 685	3 002 190 222
Indirect Support Costs	225 866 527	- 79 272 123	146 594 404

DELEGATION OF AUTHORITY FOR APPROVAL: ED

1. RATIONALE

- This budget revision (BR01) will make operational adjustments to Lebanon's country strategic plan (2023-2025) in line with new assessments. Changes include:
 - a reduction in the overall number of beneficiaries planned from October 2023 till the end of the CSP;
 - a reduction in the transfer values of cash based transfers;
 - and a revision of the food rations.
- Preliminary findings from assessments carried out in 2023 (for both refugees and Lebanese) have provided an evidence-base to support WFP's retargeting and prioritization of beneficiaries from October 2023 onwards. Specifically, preliminary findings from the 2023 Lebanon Vulnerability Assessment Panel (LVAP) indicates that 30 percent of the Lebanese population are food insecure compared to 46 percent in 2021.¹ Among Lebanese, after excluding assistance received, 32 percent live below the minimum expenditure basket (MEB), while 21 percent are unable to meet their household survival minimum expenditure basket (SMEB).²
- As for refugees, a marginal improvement in socio-economic indicators is confirmed by preliminary results of the 2023 Vulnerability Assessment of Syrian Refugees (VASyR), with 83 percent of Syrian refugee households living below the MEB, and 75 percent are living below the SMEB, compared to 93 and 90 percent respectively in 2022³.

¹ WFP Food Security and Vulnerability Analysis of Lebanese Residents(July 22) .

² Preliminary findings from the 2023 Lebanese Vulnerability Assessment Panel (World Bank)

³ UNICEF, UNHCR, WFP. Vulnerability Assessment of Syrian Refugees in Lebanon (Dec 2022)

4. The per capita gap in assistance, the difference between what households can afford through their own economic capacity and the SMEB, amounts to USD 33 for Syrian refugees and USD 29 for Lebanese populations.⁴ When disaggregated into food and non-food components, the food gap amounts to USD 18 per capita per month and the non-food gap to USD 76 per household per month for Syrian refugees, and to USD 16 and USD 65 respectively for Lebanese populations. This analysis informs the revision of WFP transfer values and the in-kind food baskets.

2. CHANGES

Strategic orientation

5. There is no change to the strategic orientation of the CSP.

CSP outcomes

Targeting approach and beneficiary analysis

6. Although the overall number of beneficiaries targeted for assistance under the CSP will not change, in line with assessment findings, from October 2023 onwards, under Activity 01 (general food assistance), the number of refugees targeted to receive CBT assistance will be reduced from 1.46 million to 1 million. While support to Palestinian refugees in Lebanon will be discontinued to avoid duplication of efforts,⁵ WFP will prioritize providing assistance to Syrian refugees, Palestinian refugees from Syria, and refugees of other nationalities living under the SMEB. This further reduces to around 0.9 million beneficiaries in 2025, assuming that refugees will gradually start returning to Syria.
7. Also under Activity 01 and in line with the 2023 LVAP, WFP will reduce the number of Lebanese targeted for in-kind food assistance from October 2023 from 400,000 to 300,000 beneficiaries, with further reductions to 200,000 and 120,000 in 2024 and 2025 respectively. Progressively, vulnerable households receiving in kind assistance will also be integrated into the Government's Social Safety Net System.
8. Gender, age and disability considerations will continue to be systematically factored into WFP targeting. Analysis shows that female headed households with at least one child and households with a member living with disability are more likely to be food insecure. Other determining factors include lower education levels of household heads, number of dependents, non-ownership of dwelling or household assets and lacking access of electricity. Vulnerability profiles with these characteristics will be prioritized for assistance in addition to those households unable to meet their SMEB.
9. Under Activity 02 (National Poverty Targeting Programme - NPTP), WFP will continue supporting 430,000 beneficiaries in 2024, reducing to 255,000 beneficiaries only in 2025, as WFP continues to support the integration of the NPTP within a unified National Social Safety Net System led by the Government of Lebanon. The integration process foresees a revision of the targeting methodology and update of the Proxy Means Testing formula based on the LVAP assessment jointly carried out with the World Bank and other partners.

⁴ Ibid.

⁵ Palestinian refugees in Lebanon fall under the direct mandate of and are accordingly supported by the United Nations Relief and Works Agency.

Transfer Modalities

10. Based on the gap analysis, WFP will revise transfer values for Activities 01 and 02, providing a transfer value equivalent to the 55 percent calculated gap, while the recommended non-food transfer value will be calculated according to the remaining 45 percent gap per capita for an average household of five members. Accounting for inflation and considering the operational capacity of WFP's cash redemption network, the value of cash-based food assistance will be set at USD 20 per person for food and USD 80 per household for non-food essential needs. This reflects a downward adjustment of the transfer value to cover the identified consumption gap only, rather than covering the entire SMEB, previously estimated at USD 33-39 per capita for the food portion and at USD 100-144 per household for the non-food portion.
11. Targeted Lebanese households affected by the economic crises will continue to receive nutrition-sensitive in-kind food assistance delivered as a monthly family food ration. The caloric intake will now provide 61 percent of energy requirements (1,291 kcal per person per day), sufficient to cover the estimated gap rather than the full food needs.
12. Under Activity 04 (livelihoods), the transfer value for livelihoods participants has been increased from USD 70 to USD 120 per month to align the transfer value to that agreed upon within the livelihood sector in Lebanon.

Country office capacity

13. WFP Lebanon conducted an organizational alignment exercise in 2023, which supported the country office in identifying structural and workforce gaps. Based on this exercise, the country office will work to strengthen key activity and support service areas through the addition or contract/grade adjustment of several positions.

Service Provision

14. In 2024 and 2025, the service provision budget will be reduced based on the forecast on the Emergency Social Safety Net extension which the Government of Lebanon is currently finalizing based on an additional loan from the World Bank and for which WFP is associated as a partner of implementation.

Risk Management

15. Strong communication mechanisms with beneficiaries and communities at large are in place to absorb distress related to reductions in beneficiary households and/or reductions in transfer value. A Grievance and Redress Mechanism (GRM), comprising a call center operating 6 days per week, and regular updates of messaging and expansion of pro-active communication channels with beneficiaries, form a core part of WFP's community feedback mechanism. In addition, as part of the support provided to the National Social Safety Net System reform, WFP is supporting the Ministry of Social Affairs to set up its own GRM call center. WFP continues to support reform efforts of the Social Safety Net System to better address the core needs of all vulnerable populations living in Lebanon and prioritize assistance in a fair and evidence based manner despite the volatile socio-economic/political context, so as to mitigate potential social tensions.

Beneficiary analysis

16. No change.

Transfers

CSP outcome	1		2			3
Activity	1		2		3	4
Beneficiary type	Syrian refugees and crisis-affected Lebanese	Syrian refugees considered the most vulnerable (multi-purpose cash)	Vulnerable Lebanese	Vulnerable Lebanese Considered the most vulnerable (multi-purpose cash)	Syrian and Lebanese children	Syrian refugees and vulnerable Lebanese
Modality (indicate food or CBT)	CBT / Food	CBT	CBT	CBT	Commodity Voucher / Food	CBT / Food
Rice	50.00				66.67	83.33
Wheat, bulgur	50.00				33.34	58.33
Pasta	66.67				83.33	83.33
Lentils	66.67				33.34	75.00
Beans	16.67				33.34	66.67
Chickpeas	16.67				66.67	66.67
Canned tuna	21.33					13.35
Vegetable oil - sunflower	30.67				32.00	38.50
Salt	8.33				8.34	4.16
Tomato paste	6.67				13.33	13.33
Sugar	16.67					17.00
total kcal/day (to be completed for food and cash modalities)	1,291				1,428	1,959
% kcal from protein	13.1				13.6	15
Cash (USD/person/day)	0.67	1.20	0.67	1.20	0.57	2.40
Number of feeding days per year	CBT/ Food: 360	360	360	360	CV: 140 days/ Food: 60 days	CBT: 60 days/ Food: 30 days

TABLE 3: TOTAL FOOD/CASH-BASED TRANSFER REQUIREMENTS AND VALUE						
	Current budget		Increase		Revised budget	
	Total (mt)	Total (USD)	Total (mt)	Total (USD)	Total (mt)	Total (USD)
Cereals	71 273	49 366 595	- 16 742	- 13 196 148	54 531	36 170 447
Pulses	64 715	75 750 586	- 23 673	- 28 390 958	41 043	47 359 627
Oil and Fats	11 645	19 760 761	- 2 171	- 3 907 390	9 474	15 853 371
Mixed and blended foods	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other	21 602	61 706 030	- 5 436	- 17 286 189	16 165	44 419 841
TOTAL (food)	169 235	206 583 971	- 48 022	- 62 780 685	121 213	143 803 286
Cash-based transfers (USD)		3 004 599 204		- 1 188 455 345		1 816 143 859
TOTAL (food and CBT value - USD)	169 235	3 211 183 175	- 48 022	- 1 251 236 029	121 213	1 959 947 145

3. COST BREAKDOWN

17. In line with assessments carried out, BR01 will significantly reduce the budget of the Lebanon CSP. The bulk of the reduction is under Outcome 01 (GFA), followed by Outcome 05 (service provision), while Outcomes 03 and 04 will incur minor increases in the budget to accommodate the adjusted transfer values for livelihood programming and staffing adjustments.

TABLE 4: COST BREAKDOWN OF THE REVISION ONLY (USD)						
	SDG Target 2.1 – WFP Strategic Outcome 1	SDG Target 2.1 – WFP Strategic Outcome 2	SDG Target 2.4 – WFP Strategic Outcome 3	SDG Target 17.9 – WFP Strategic Outcome 4	SDG Target 17.16 – WFP Strategic Outcome 5	Total
CSP outcome	01	02	03	04	05	
Focus area	Crisis Response	Resilience Building	Resilience Building	Resilience Building	Crisis Response	
Transfer	- 1 214 120 737	- 50 223 825	6 900 001	258 857	- 859 136 009	- 2 116 321 713
Implementation	17 877 834	511 965	777 877	258 857	- 9 218 842	10 207 690
Direct support costs	(no figures in the grey cells)					22 913 339
Subtotal						- 2 083 200 685
Indirect support costs						- 79 272 123
TOTAL						- 2 162 472 808

TABLE 5: OVERALL CSP COST BREAKDOWN, AFTER REVISION (USD)						
	SDG Target 2.1 – WFP Strategic Outcome 1	SDG Target 2.1 – WFP Strategic Outcome 2	SDG Target 2.4 – WFP Strategic Outcome 3	SDG Target 17.9 – WFP Strategic Outcome 4	SDG Target 17.16 – WFP Strategic Outcome 5	Total
CSP outcome	01	02	03	04	05	
Focus area	Crisis Response	Resilience Building	Resilience Building	Resilience Building	Crisis Response	
Transfer	1 443 006 046	593 958 753	89 895 486	8 190 272	724 214 722	2 859 265 280
Implementation	50 535 472	13 730 922	5 486 210	1 152 660	6 621 697	77 526 960
Direct support costs	31 527 201	13 374 177	2 255 002	221 693	18 019 910	65 397 982
Subtotal	1 525 068 719	621 063 852	97 636 698	9 564 625	748 856 328	3 002 190 222
Indirect support costs	99 129 467	40 369 150	6 346 385	621 701	127 700	146 594 404
TOTAL	1 624 198 186	661 433 002	103 983 084	10 186 326	748 984 028	3 148 784 626