



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES



Security Impact on WFP's Operation in the South

October 2023 to February 2024

The intensity of the conflict on Lebanon's southern borders continues to rise and has expanded to attacks in the Southern suburbs of Beirut. As a result, 306 people were killed (with at least 51 confirmed civilian deaths). To date, there are over 90,000 displaced. 112,200 people affected by the ongoing escalation of hostilities were assisted with one off emergency round of assistance. 1,090 individuals are currently residing in shelters while the remaining are staying with local families, secondary residences, or sub-par dwellings improvised as shelters. Further escalations could affect an additional 1 million people as the worst case scenario endorsed by the Humanitarian Country Team.



90,000
People Displaced

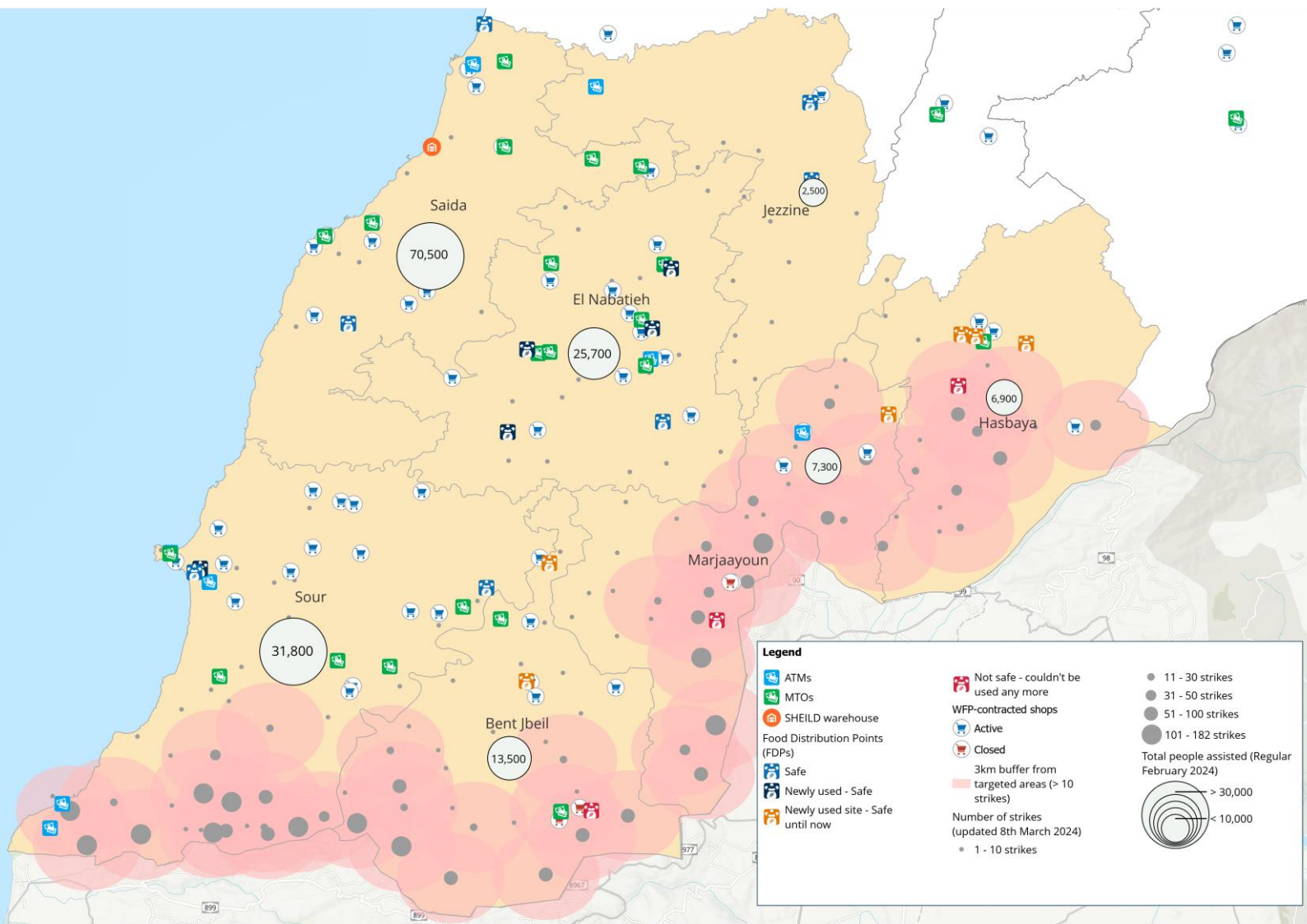
306
People Killed

51
at least confirmed
Civilian Deaths



158,200 People
Regularly assisted
by WFP

112,200 Affected People
Assisted with one off emergency
round of assistance





IN-KIND DISTRIBUTION

Challenges:

Three food distribution points located close to the border were deemed unsafe (one in each of the districts of Bent Jbeil, Marjaayoun, and Hasbaya). They are no longer being used for the regular in-kind distribution in December.

Many households relocated their place of residence, therefore, the show-rate at the distribution sites after the conflict was around 5% lower compared to previous months.

Actions Taken:

Ten other Food Distribution Points (FDPs) were identified and used in place of three that were deemed unsafe.

SMS messages were sent to all households and included the following messaging for beneficiaries: "In case you have relocated due to the current situation or if you have any inquiry, you can reach out to the call center at 1526." Call center operators were instructed to assist callers in the identification of suitable alternative distribution points.

An additional no-show distribution was conducted in the South which allowed for more people to receive their assistance.

Many distributions were conducted for IDPs in El Nabatieh and Sour. Households that receive in-kind assistance were allowed to receive their regular assistance in any FDP in the south or any other regular IDP distribution site all over the country.

The regular in-kind distribution plan was amended multiple times by the partner to account for ceasefire and other developments at the border – ensuring that as many people as possible receive assistance.

Until February 2024, WFP has provided Imam Sader Foundation (ISF)'s kitchen dry food commodities through its cooperating partner SHIELD to be able to prepare hot meals for Tyre shelters. A total of 4 metric tons has been given to ISF kitchen which is used to prepare food for around 1,000 IDPs on a daily basis.



CASH DISTRIBUTION

Challenges:

Redemption points: ATMs and MTOs remain functional, and the redemption rates remain unchanged compared to previous months and before the conflict.

Distribution of Cards/PINs: field offices managed to conduct the distributions and reach all beneficiaries, with some delay in some cases in 2023.

Actions Taken:

In coordination with UNHCR, the distribution of cards and PINs of Bent Jbeil and Marjaayoun has been moved and is now taking place in Sour and Hasbaya.

Distribution of cards and PINs in other districts was not affected, however, and depending on the situation, the distribution was sometimes delayed by a day or two in 2023. To note that the cash modality allows for flexibility where beneficiaries can redeem at any ATM or contracted retailer in the country while minimizing the impact on the transfer of entitlements to beneficiaries.



RETAIL

Challenges:

All retailers in the South are operational, except for 4 shops in El Nabatieh. Two of these shops are located near the border and were affected by bombing last month, while the remaining two ceased operations earlier this year due to the ongoing conflict along the border.

Actions Taken:

Beneficiaries were able to redeem their entitlements with minimal impact due to the flexibility in the programme where people still had access to nearby shops (eight active shops) in the districts where the non-operating shops were located.

WFP RESPONSE

In response, WFP reached around 13,000 displaced people in the South with one-time in-kind food assistance and enrolled them into a common inter-sector platform that will be used for coordination for potential future assistance.

Distributions to around 6,200 displaced people in the Beirut southern suburbs (ongoing).

In response to the developing humanitarian situation in southern Lebanon, WFP and UNHCR implemented a horizontal expansion of WFP's and UNHCR's cash assistance program for Syrian refugees living in the South. One-off cash assistance to around 77,500 affected Syrian refugees in coordination with UNHCR. Under this collaboration, WFP provided cash to 30,300 refugees..

In collaboration with MoSA, WFP reached an additional 53,000 affected Lebanese with one-off cash assistance and supported UNICEF in providing one-off cash assistance to 31,000 affected Lebanese.

Distributed school meals to 9,700 affected students in 10 additional schools.



LOGISTICS

There was no impact on WFP warehouses in the South. WFP has only one warehouse in Saida with its partner SHEILD. It is still up and running and will continue to be used normally in 2024.

SECURITY IMPACT ON REDEMPTION IN THE SOUTH

SYRIA RESPONSE AND NPTP

REDEMPTION PATTERNS

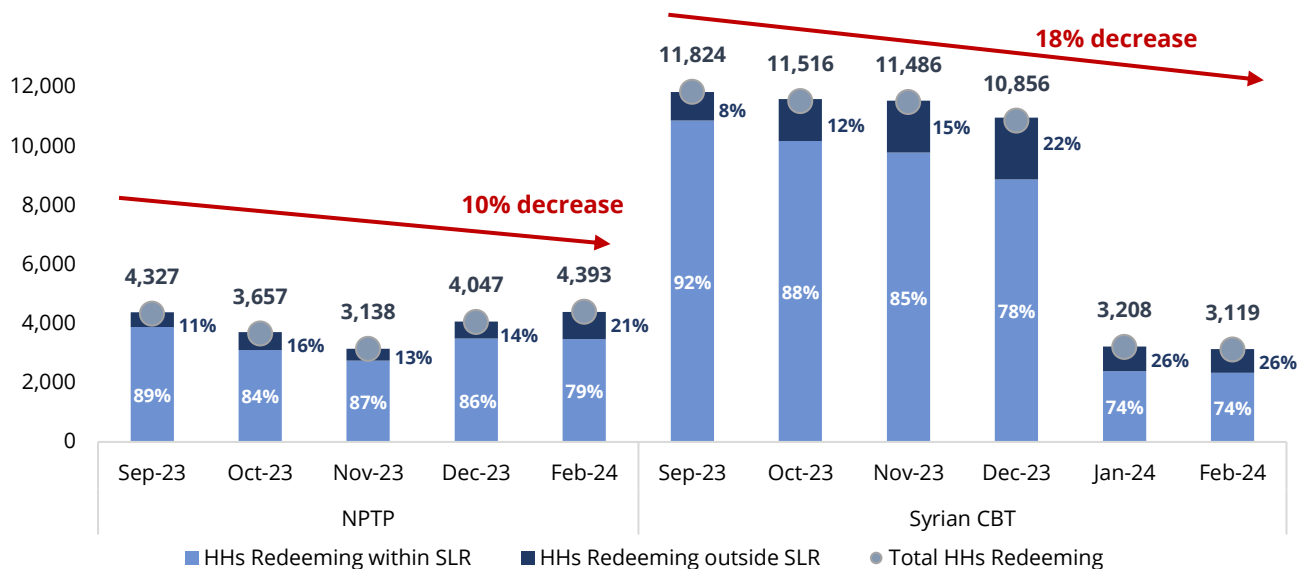
This analysis considers exclusively **households registered within the South Litani River area (SLR)**, covering Bent Jbeil, Hasbaya, Marjaayoun, and Sour.

In September, 92% of **Syrian refugees'** households redeemed their assistance **at SLR redemption points**, by February, the overall redemption percentage dropped to 74%, **reflecting an 18% decrease from September**. Additionally, 26% of SLR-registered households redeemed their assistance **outside SLR redemption points** in February, **a significant increase compared to the 8% recorded in September**.

The significant drop, in total redemption rates observed in January and February can be attributed primarily to the implementation of prioritization exercise finalized in December with UNHCR, alongside the conclusion of one-time assistance programs that were active solely during December.

In September, 89% of **NPTP households** registered in the South (SLR) area redeemed their assistance **at SLR redemption points**. By February, the overall redemption percentage dropped to 79%, **reflecting a 10% decrease from September**. Additionally, 21% of SLR-registered households redeemed their assistance **outside SLR redemption points** in February, **a significant increase compared to the 11% recorded in September**.

Redemption of HHs registered within SLR area



REDEMPTION TRAVELED DISTANCES

From September to February, **Syrian refugee households** in SLR areas increasingly redeemed benefits at greater distances. Notably, **within 0-15 km, rates dropped from 83% to 70%**, while **beyond 41+ km, rates rose steadily from 5% to 17%**. This suggests a trend of seeking safer zones further north.

This suggests that Syrian refugees tend to seek refuge or are displaced to safer zones that are as far north from the conflict area.

Notably, **within the 0-15 km radius, the percentage of NPTP households redeeming benefits decreased from 69% in September to 56% in February**. There is a noticeable increase in the proportion of households redeeming benefits beyond **26 km**: as of February, **20% of NPTP beneficiaries redeemed their entitlement in a 26-40 km radius compared to 2% in September**, and 12% redeemed their entitlement in the **41+ km category, which rose from 5% in September to 12% in February**.

For the exception of February, a significant percentage of NPTP households redeemed their benefits further than SLR areas but still within the South (between 16 and 40 KM).



SR Travel Distance

| Distance | SEP-23 | OCT-23 | DEC-23 | JAN-23 | FEB-23 |
|----------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| 0-15 km | 83% | 81% | 69% | 61% | 70% |
| 16-25 km | 10% | 9% | 11% | 8% | 8% |
| 26-40 km | 2% | 2% | 4% | 5% | 5% |
| 41+ km | 5% | 8% | 16% | 16% | 17% |



NPTP Travel Distance

| Distance | SEP-23 | OCT-23 | NOV-23 | DEC-23 | FEB-23 |
|----------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| 0-15 km | 69% | 56% | 58% | 52% | 56% |
| 16-25 km | 24% | 29% | 32% | 32% | 11% |
| 26-40 km | 2% | 4% | 3% | 5% | 20% |
| 41+ km | 5% | 11% | 8% | 11% | 12% |