

FOOD AND BASIC ASSISTANCE FOR REFUGEES

WFP LEBANON



880,000
TOTAL BENEFICIARIES
ASSISTED IN 2024



51% FEMALE



4% PERSONS WITH DISABILITY



5% AFFECTED BY THE SOUTH
CONFLICT



\$ 2.4 B
CASH TRANSFERRED
SINCE 2012

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.

Vulnerability levels amongst the refugee population remain high following years of persistent crises, with 84 percent of Syrian refugees in Lebanon unable to meet their essential needs.

The dire situation of Syrian refugees was further exacerbated by the escalating conflict along Lebanon's southern border since October 2023. The average reported income of refugees, amounting to LBP 7,890,000 (equivalent to US\$ 84), falls significantly short of the latest value of the Survival Minimum Expenditure Basket (SMEB), which stood at US\$ 414 in May 2024.

As the effects of the economic, financial and political crises persist, WFP and UNHCR's joint programming is more critical than ever to ensure that the food and other essential needs of the most vulnerable people are met. However, in light of funding shortfalls and following a thorough retargeting exercise to prioritize the most vulnerable families with available funds, **WFP, in close coordination with UNHCR, had to reduce the transfer value** for a family of five from USD 125 to USD 115 and to **reduce the number of assisted Syrian refugees by 39 percent** from December 2023 onwards, reaching only 627,000 refugees on a monthly basis from June 2024 onwards. Additionally, WFP halted assistance to 9,000 vulnerable Refugees from Other Nationalities (RON) who continue receiving assistance from UNHCR.

As a result, **34 percent of Syrian refugees are estimated to be experiencing acute food insecurity** between April and September 2024 (Integrated Phase Classification, March 2024), compared to 27 percent between October 2023 and March 2024.

ONE CARD, THREE CASH TYPES

Cash-based assistance empowers families to choose how to spend their money, whether on food, shelter, education, medical bills, or other necessities. WFP has found that when vulnerable families have purchasing power, they make choices that improve their well-being and are less likely to sacrifice food security to meet other needs.

The amount of cash received by assisted families and the degree of flexibility in using the e-card varies according to vulnerability. All assisted families receive food assistance, while more vulnerable families receive additional cash assistance for non-food needs.

Food e-cards: Up to a maximum of US\$ 75 can be used to buy food at any 300+ 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 Syrian and Lebanese customers.

Cash for food e-card: multipurpose cash assistance jointly provided with UNHCR, with WFP covering food-related needs. Total value of multipurpose cash up to a maximum of US\$ 115 for a family of five to support them in meeting their food and other essential needs. Recipients can decide to withdraw cash from ATMs, money transfer operators (MTOs), or use the card at any shop, including WFP-contracted shops.

Multipurpose cash for essential needs e-card: Up to a maximum of US\$ 115 for a family of five to support them in meeting their food and other essential needs. Families can choose to withdraw from ATMs or MTOs and decide how best to meet their essential needs, including food.



SUPPORTING THE LOCAL ECONOMY

By enabling people to spend cash on local goods and services, cash assistance also boosts the local economy: **over USD 2.4 billion has been injected into the Lebanese economy** since the beginning of WFP's refugee crisis response in 2012.

This in turn provides more livelihood opportunities for Lebanese. In addition, Lebanese shopkeepers and customers benefit from the capacity strengthening and trainings provided by the WFP to improve retail standards and services.

ENHANCING HUMANITARIAN COORDINATION

Together, WFP, UNHCR, and UNICEF provide cash assistance to refugees through **LOUISE, a joint platform for cash transfers** developed in collaboration with WFP's local financial service provider. This platform allows LOUISE partners to coordinate their humanitarian cash transfers to assisted families, who can access their assistance through one common e-card rather than multiple different payment instruments.

ENSURING 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 limited resources and assistance for those families that are most in need and helps to ensure that assistance is distributed fairly and equitably.

The **Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM)** is an **accountability mechanism** used to collect and address appeals related to the initial beneficiary selection. Through the GRM, WFP and UNHCR continue to refine the eligibility criteria of the programme and to address any exclusion errors.

Feedback and queries from assisted families and community members are received primarily through **the WFP call centre**. Individuals who require specialized support (such as health, protection, etc.) are referred to UNHCR and NGO partners. Other channels for communication include SMS, outreach volunteers, and community representatives.

ADAPTING TO A CHALLENGING CONTEXT

- **Monthly Market Assessments:** conducted to monitor the availability of food and non-food items, prices at WFP-contracted shops, and potential supply chain issues.
- **Staggered loading of cash assistance:** to avoid crowding at ATMs and allow cash replenishment for adequate liquidity, in addition to reintroducing dual currency disbursement in May 2023, has decreased waiting times for assisted populations.
- **Expansion of redemption points:** In 2024, WFP expanded redemption points by installing 177 ATMs and contracting additional shops. WFP also expanded the number of local money transfer operators (MTOs) to 133, up from 42 in 2022, reducing travel time and costs for assisted families.
- **Swift response to evolving humanitarian emergency in South Lebanon:** In December 2023, WFP and UNHCR expanded cash assistance to non-assisted refugees in southern Lebanon affected by the South conflict. Flexible budget reallocation enabled continued support for previously discontinued refugee families, while top-ups were provided to assisted families to address additional needs caused by the escalation. As of July, WFP reached around 48,000 affected refugees with one or more cash assistance cycles.

IMPACT OF ASSISTANCE & FUNDING REDUCTION

The Decentralized Evaluation Report of the UNHCR and WFP joint cash assistance to vulnerable Syrian refugees in Lebanon issued in July 2023 exhibited the **positive impact of the joint programme on the living conditions of assisted refugee households** during multiple crises since 2019 and the importance of sustaining this support to mitigate potential catastrophic effects of similar crises on refugees.

Food security indicators of assisted Syrian refugee households improved in 2023 compared to 2022 but declined after assistance cuts in late 2023. **The reduction in coverage of vulnerable households** through WFP's assistance in 2024 translated into 510,000 Syrian refugees projected to be acutely food insecure (IPC 3 and above) between April and September 2024, **a significant 7.1 percent increase since October 2023**.

Moreover, WFP monitoring results highlighted a **decline in assisted families with acceptable food consumption** from 68 percent in Q4 2023 to 65 percent in Q1 2024, which could be attributed to the reduction in transfer value. Among non-assisted eligible families cut from assistance in Q1 2024, 9 percent had poor food consumption, while only 61 percent had an acceptable food consumption.

Between Q4 2023 and Q1 2024, the percentage of households having the economic **capacity to meet essential needs also decreased** from 37 percent to 32 percent for assisted families and from 59 percent to only 39 percent among WFP's food e-card voucher recipients, who faced the steepest decrease in assistance.



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ECONOMIC CRISIS RESPONSE: FOOD ASSISTANCE FOR VULNERABLE LEBANESE

WFP LEBANON



183,000

TOTAL BENEFICIARIES
ASSISTED IN 2024



58x

(INCREASE IN THE PRICE OF THE
FOOD BASKET (OCTOBER 2019 -
MAY 2024))



115,000 MT

OF DISTRIBUTED FOOD
SINCE 2019

At the start of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020, in-kind food assistance was chosen as the transfer modality for WFP's initial crisis response to mitigate the risk that Lebanese 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 the reduced purchasing power of assisted families and ensure people had continued access to food.

Since the start of the economic crisis in October 2019, **the ability of Lebanese families to afford adequate food, especially for the poorest and most vulnerable, has been drastically reduced.**

The price of the food basket in local currency monitored by WFP, has increased 58 times since 2019. Prices of other essential goods and services have meanwhile increased 29-fold. The lifting of subsidies for food, fuel, medicine, and telecommunications between 2021 and 2022 alone caused prices to rise between 200-300 percent.

In 2023, food security in Lebanon improved, driven by the increased coverage of humanitarian assistance by WFP, the Government, and partners, as well as slight improvements in some economic indicators during the summer period. However, the overarching and persistent economic and political crises coupled with funding gaps are putting at risk the food security gains witnessed so far. Starting April 2024, **683,000 Lebanese are projected to face acute food insecurity (Integrated Phase Classification, April 2024).**

WHY IN-KIND ASSISTANCE?

WFP plans to maintain the in-kind assistance both to cater for urgent food needs in the current volatile geo-political context 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.

Since 2020, national social safety nets have scaled up to support the most vulnerable Lebanese with cash assistance, including those families not benefitting from WFP assistance. By December 2023, around 25,300 assisted families were transitioned from the in-kind programme into the Government's safety nets. As more marginalized Lebanese were enrolled in national social assistance programmes, while others were able to gradually recover their coping mechanisms after multiple economic shocks, WFP gradually reduced the number of people receiving monthly in-kind food assistance in 2023 from 400,000 (around 100,000 families) to 309,000 individuals, corresponding to 78,200 families.

As a result of the retargeting exercise conducted in late 2023 to ensure that WFP assistance is reaching the most vulnerable Lebanese people, WFP reduced its coverage of in-kind food assistance to vulnerable Lebanese by 50 percent in January 2024, **reaching 154,000 individuals (38,000 households) with food parcels** between January and June 2024. Following a second retargeting exercise in May 2024, WFP **further reduced food assistance** to Lebanese to around **140,000 individuals (35,000 families)** for the second half of the year.

Since the onset of the conflict along Lebanon's southern border in October 2023, spurred by the escalation in Gaza, WFP has provided multiple rounds of in-kind food assistance to **an additional 28,700 Lebanese (7,000 households) affected by the conflict**, as of July 2024.



A TAILORED FOOD BASKET

Assistance is delivered as a monthly family food ration designed to provide around 60 percent of the total individual energy requirement.

The food ration is delivered to families in 20 kg boxes that currently include **10 commodities**: rice, pasta, bulgur, lentils, beans, chickpeas, sunflower oil, tomato paste, sugar, and salt.

Given the improved exchange rate stability in the second half of 2023, WFP has **shifted to full local food procurement offering cost efficiency, risk mitigation, and alignment with local food production initiatives.** Since September 2023, locally produced pasta and bulgur have been added to food parcels.

IMPACT OF ASSISTANCE

In 2024, WFP Lebanon launched an **Impact Evaluation (IE) for the in-kind food assistance programme**. The study assesses different targeting approaches in terms of expected outcomes like food security and satisfaction, and the effect of scaling down operations.

WFP also conducts regular 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 assisted households** with the quality, quantity, and packaging of food parcels they received.

In 2023, **83 percent of assisted households had an acceptable food consumption score**, up from 55 percent in December 2022.

However, 89 percent of households still had to resort to at least one livelihood coping behaviour to meet their non-food basic needs, out of whom **9 percent resorted to emergency coping strategies** such as begging, compared to less than 3 percent in September 2022. **Assisted families reduced expenses on health and education to free up resources to buy food.**

REACHING THE RIGHT PEOPLE EVERYWHERE

To reach the most vulnerable Lebanese families across Lebanon, **WFP's cooperating partners collected referrals** directly through their hotlines and local actors (including municipalities and Social Development Centres), NGOs, grassroots movements, and religious charities. A **web-based self-registration** form developed by WFP in 2020 was also used to ensure maximum outreach to vulnerable people who may not have been referred by partners. This tool is currently being revisited for potential use in the context of emergency preparedness to the ongoing conflict.

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.

To ensure those most in need are reached, WFP employs **household targeting** using food security and economic vulnerability indicators through a questionnaire designed based on the results of the Lebanon Vulnerability Assessment Panel (LVAP), conducted jointly with the World Bank.

SAFE AND DIGNIFIED DISTRIBUTIONS

Distributions 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 families with specific needs, such as individuals with limited mobility, **door-to-door distributions** may also be organized.



SCHOOL MEALS PROGRAMME

WFP LEBANON



26%

OF HOUSEHOLDS HAVE CHILDREN NOT ATTENDING SCHOOL (UNICEF, 2023)



100,000

STUDENTS TO RECEIVE HEALTHY SNACKS OR SANDWICHES LOCALLY PRODUCED AND PROCURED IN THE 2023-2024 SCHOOL YEAR



1.1 million

IN-SCHOOL SNACKS (FRESH FRUIT IN SEASON PLUS UHT MILK OR BAKED NUTS) DISTRIBUTED MONTHLY

95,000

SANDWICHES (PITTA BREAD FILLED WITH DAIRY PRODUCTS OR HUMMUS) DISTRIBUTED MONTHLY

To address access to primary education and healthy nutrition for vulnerable Lebanese and refugee children, WFP has partnered with the Ministry of Education and Higher Education (MEHE) since 2016 to develop and implement Lebanon's first school meals programme. This initiative delivers integrated education and nutrition services while ensuring local production and sustainable energy linkages. The programme aims to improve children's food consumption and dietary diversity and enhance education outcomes by increasing students' ability to concentrate at school.

In 2021, WFP initiated the school kitchens project, engaging volunteer mothers whose children are enrolled in WFP-supported schools. These dedicated women prepare locally sourced cold sandwiches for students, served with fresh fruits or vegetables. Throughout the academic year, WFP not only empowers caregiver mothers by enhancing their skills but also provides monthly incentives. In March 2023, WFP launched a **new 'Satellite School Kitchen' modality**, where existing school kitchens expand the production of cold meals to additional students in nearby schools. WFP's partners in collaboration with school health educators, along with a third-party company, **regularly monitor the programme to ensure food safety and quality.**

Based on a recent assessment conducted by the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), **almost 26 percent of households have children not attending school.** Among Syrian refugee households, this percentage surged to an alarming **52 percent.**

MORE THAN JUST A SCHOOL SNACK

Since 2016, almost an equal number of boys and girls have been participating in WFP's school meals programme, with **overall retention rates of nearly 100 percent for both the morning and the afternoon shifts.** Participating schools are located in vulnerable communities and typically offer **a 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.

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.

In June 2023, WFP conducted a comprehensive assessment of the school meals programme, which confirmed its **positive impact on various levels.** Caregivers of students enrolled in the programme reported that their children enjoy the snacks and cold meals, attributing the programme's success to assisting parents in financial crises while providing nutritious and healthy food. Student feedback revealed a great desire for the programme continuation with **60 percent reporting improved access to nutritious food and 23 percent enhanced focus.**



THE SCHOOL MEALS PROGRAMME 2023-2024 SCHOOL YEAR

During the 2023-2024 academic year, WFP reached **96,000** Lebanese and Syrian **students at 190 public and private free schools** who received daily snacks or cold meals, sourced from local providers or prepared by **105 women volunteering at nine school kitchens.** Notably, **92 percent of student-consumed food is procured locally,** including 68 percent from local fruits and vegetables.

In response to Lebanon's southern border clashes, WFP supported MEHE's Emergency Response by distributing school meals to an additional **12,000** affected students hosted in **14 additional schools.** Overall, the WFP school meals programme supported **108,000** students during the academic year with **11,700 students** assisted across nine different school kitchens and eight nearby schools.

FROM FARMS TO SCHOOLS

Aiming to optimize the procurement process of the school kitchens model, WFP initiated a pilot project in May 2023, testing decentralized and direct procurement of cold meal ingredients by school kitchens through WFP-supported retail shops using Cash Based Transfer (CBT) Cards. After a successful pilot with approximately **26 percent annual cost savings**, the decentralized approach was expanded in the 2023-2024 school year to all nine school kitchens serving 17 schools and sourcing ingredients locally from six WFP-contracted retailers.

Moreover, as part of its commitment to promote the Home-Grown School Feeding (HGSF) model, WFP launched in 2024 a pilot project **connecting school kitchens with local agri-food businesses** supported by the WFP Food System Challenge or other emerging local agri-businesses. Four small and medium enterprises (SMEs) were identified, with Agrifresh, a WFP-supported SME, selected to supply fresh produce to designated school kitchens. WFP plans to enhance the remaining SMEs' capacity to meet food safety standards and integrate them with school kitchens by the year's end. This initiative **benefits local farmers, stimulates the local economy, and strengthens local food systems**. (Read more [here](#)).

SUPPORTING THE LEBANESE GOVERNMENT TOWARDS A NATIONAL SCHOOL FEEDING PROGRAMME

WFP is supporting the Government of Lebanon and the Ministry of Education and Higher Education (MEHE) to **develop a national roadmap for the establishment of a national school feeding programme** aligned with the 5-year National General Education Plan (2021–2025). In pursuit of this goal, WFP provided essential technical assistance to MEHE staff, specifically focusing on enhancing their proficiency in monitoring and reporting on school meals programmes.

Recognizing the need for streamlined data management, WFP developed a digital tracking system of school meals to gather meal distribution data. To ensure the effective implementation of the system, WFP trained 432 health educators, supervisors and directors on its use. The system is successfully used by all trained school staff in 164 schools, significantly **improving information accuracy and accessibility and enabling MEHE and WFP to monitor the orders and delivery of snacks with near-real-time data**.

WFP also supported the **engagement of the Government with the global School Meals Coalition**. In 2023, Lebanon joined the coalition of more than 120 member states and partners by signing the commitment to advance school feeding in Lebanon and develop a National School Meals Policy by 2025.

In 2024, WFP, MEHE, UNICEF, and the French Development Agency (AFD) conducted **the first national assessment of school nutrition and food environments in Lebanese public schools**. The study aims to understand students' dietary behaviors, preferences, and purchasing habits, informing the long-term vision for a national school feeding policy and aligning with Lebanon's commitments to the Global School Coalition. To this end, **429 health educators and supervisors from all public schools were trained** to support the data collection exercise across public schools in May 2024. The assessment results will be published by the end of 2024.

To further mainstream inclusion of people living with disabilities, WFP signed in May 2024 a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with MEHE and UNICEF to expand the School Meals Programme to 10 private free schools hosting the Dirasa programme. The Dirasa programme aims at **bringing out-of-school children including children with disabilities back into classrooms**.



BUILDING RESILIENCE & SUPPORTING LIVELIHOODS

WFP LEBANON



IN NUMBERS - 2023



27,600

ASSISTED LEBANESE AND SYRIAN REFUGEES WITH FFA AND FFT (38% WOMEN)



\$ 2 M

TRANSFERRED CASH



20 AGRI-FOOD SMALL BUSINESSES (8 LED BY WOMEN) RECEIVED TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND CASH GRANTS OF USD 1.3 MILLION



7 COOPERATIVES AND 19 MICRO ENTERPRISES SUPPORTED WITH BUSINESS KNOWLEDGE TRAININGS



1,400 FARMERS (20% WOMEN) SUPPORTED IN POST-HARVEST HANDLING THROUGH CASH INCENTIVES OF US\$ 300



Since 2019, Lebanon has been grappling with a profound economic crisis marked by **hyperinflation, currency devaluation, and unemployment, particularly affecting youth**. With the ongoing crisis, there's a growing interest in enhancing domestic agricultural production in Lebanon. However, the country faces challenges with low agricultural productivity, relying heavily on costly imported inputs. This poses difficulties for smallholder farmers, particularly women, who are adversely affected by shrinking access to finance and markets.

Additionally, the impact of climate change acts as a risk multiplier, worsening existing development and food security challenges, including water scarcity, urbanization, and land degradation. **Climate-smart agriculture solutions and measures** will become increasingly crucial for smallholder farmers and producers to withstand better weather and climatic fluctuations such as drought.

WFP'S APPROACH

WFP's Livelihood and Resilience Programme aims to enhance the resilience of marginalized Lebanese, refugees, and communities to economic and climatic shocks. Partnering with governments, UN agencies, NGOs, institutions, donors, and communities, WFP bridges humanitarian action with long-term resilience building through:

- **Environmental restoration and disaster risk reduction:** Community-based disaster risk management, land and water conservation, and early warning systems are implemented to mitigate environmental risks. These initiatives engage local communities in disaster preparedness, and sustainable agriculture practices, and protect natural resources, reducing vulnerability to shocks.
- **Strengthening Food System:** by promoting sustainable production practices, climate-smart agriculture, building efficient value chains, and improving market access. The programme strengthens agribusinesses, developing food processing and preservation capacities and linking smallholders and MSMEs to local and international markets, thereby transforming the food system.
- **Livelihoods and income generation:** focusing on increasing employability by offering direct employment opportunities through community engagement in asset creation and public works, providing market-driven skills development, and stimulating local economic recovery by supporting MSMEs. Special emphasis is placed on empowering women- and youth-led enterprises.

IMPACT OF ASSISTANCE

Based on WFP's monitoring surveys, **45 percent of the participants in livelihood projects had acceptable food consumption** in 2023 compared to 36 percent in 2022. Interviewed households headed by women, had a better capacity to meet their essential needs compared to 2022. Notably, 30 percent of households resorted to severe livelihood coping behaviours, such as reducing expenses on health and education to free up resources to buy food.

As for the **Food For Assets (FFA) interventions**, land and water resources are better managed, including flood control, soil stabilization, and better water percolation in the most vulnerable areas. Satellite imagery analysis conducted in 2023 of areas where WFP's FFA projects supported the creation of agricultural assets showed that **63 percent of the created assets were visible and maintained** and 32 percent of these assets improved vegetation and soil conditions.

THE FOOD SYSTEM CHALLENGE

WFP launched the Food System Challenge in 2021 to **support small businesses in the agri-food sector** to address challenges with access to raw materials and energy and encourage import substitution. Since 2021, WFP supported **20 Lebanese small and medium enterprises (SMEs)** operating in the agriculture and agri-food sectors through technical assistance and grants, addressing diverse food system challenges. These businesses have received cash grants of up to US\$100,000, technical assistance for product and business development, and customized coaching. An impact **assessment of eight SMEs** assisted by the programme in 2023 **revealed positive outcomes**, including enhanced skills among 58 SME employees, the creation of 102 new jobs, increased productivity of ten food and non-food commodities, and prevention of 398 tonnes of food waste, showcasing the SMEs' connections to over 200 farmers.

In 2024, efforts were made to **connect at least two of these enterprises with the school meals programme**, promoting healthier student diets, supporting the local economy, and reducing carbon footprint.

In 2024, WFP launched **an innovative two-track grant matching system to support Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises (MSMEs)**. Track one provides grants to established MSMEs with a required upfront matching contribution, either in cash or in-kind. Track two supports less mature MSMEs with a mix of direct and reimbursable grants, allowing them to scale with flexible repayment terms over 12 months.

WFP is actively collaborating with the national convener to **drive awareness and support for Lebanon's National Food Systems Transformation priorities**. Key initiatives include establishing an informal coordination and monitoring mechanism aligned with the UNSDCF, developing an action plan to legislate the draft "Right to Food" law, and conducting a "True Cost Accounting" exercise to advance the Food System Transformation pathway.

COMMITMENT TO GENDER EQUALITY AND INCLUSIVITY

Under the livelihood activities, forestation projects were designed to enable the participation of women by providing transportation, childcare and nursing services. Additionally, livelihood activities included **trainings for women participants** focused on agricultural skills and vocational and digital skills to enhance women's job market competitiveness.

In 2023, WFP also organized a training session to promote inclusivity within the WFP Food System Challenge supporting small businesses. The training had immediate positive outcomes, with participant businesses showing a heightened awareness of the importance of **hiring people with disabilities**

PARTNERSHIP

To maximize benefits for communities and individuals, improve the cost efficiency of the livelihood support programme and promote resilience, WFP has worked with **a wide range of partners**, including government ministries, international and local NGOs, UN agencies, the private sector, financial service providers, technical and academic institutions, and donors and most importantly with communities.

WFP continues to strengthen its **engagement with communities** by placing them at the centre of the planning and implementation of programmes and activities to harness local expertise and knowledge, improve coordination and enhance ownership of the programme's output and outcomes.

WFP's Resilience and Livelihood assistance programmes are further augmented by partnerships with other United Nations organisations. **FAO, IFAD and WFP** are partnering through joint programmes and funding arrangements to improve the livelihoods and build long-term resilience of beneficiaries and communities. WFP also engages with **the American University of Beirut (AUB) and other research institutions** in a dynamic collaboration to improve effectiveness, advance the operational and technical capacity, and generate evidence and influence policy decisions.

