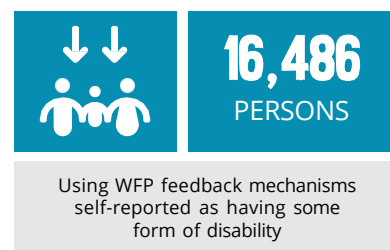
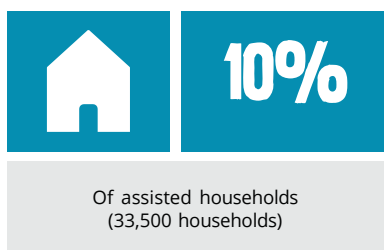
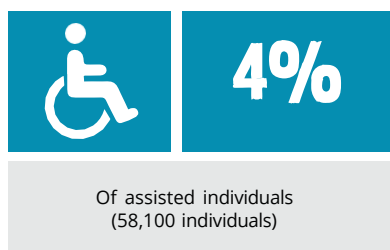


# DISABILITY INCLUSION FACTSHEET

DECEMBER 2024

The World Food Programme (WFP) has taken important steps to progress disability inclusion across its programming and operations. This commitment is reflected in WFP's targeted initiatives aimed at breaking down barriers to food access, ensuring that food assistance programmes are designed to be inclusive, and advocating for policies that support the needs of persons with disabilities. In Lebanon, where 10-15 percent of the population has disabilities, the country faces significant challenges, including a lack of accessible infrastructure, limited access to specialized services, and widespread societal stigma. These issues are compounded by ongoing economic and political instability, making it even more difficult for persons with disabilities to secure their rights and live with dignity. To address these challenges and enhance inclusion within WFP Lebanon, an action plan was developed building on the findings of a 2023 disability inclusion study.

## ASSISTED POPULATION WITH DISABILITY 2024



## WALKING THE TALK

The WFP Disability Inclusion Action Plan is aligned with the WFP Lebanon Country Strategic Plan (2023-2025), ensuring that disability inclusion is mainstreamed across all programmes and activities. To achieve this, several measures have been implemented focusing on the following:

### PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION

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

- Provide door-to-door validation and distributions to eligible individuals with severe mobility challenges such as the elderly, chronically ill, and persons with disabilities.
- Assess redemption and distribution sites regularly –including ATMs and MTOs to ensure that most sites are accessible for people with physical disabilities.
- Support, in partnership with UNICEF and the Ministry of Education and Higher Education, out-of-school children including those with disabilities through the Dirasa Programme by providing school meals in ten private free schools reaching 240 students with disabilities out of 4,300 students 46 percent of whom are girls.

### TARGETING METHODOLOGY AND EVIDENCE-BASED PROGRAMMING

- WFP enhanced its targeting approaches by integrating additional vulnerability indicators, including efforts such as verification visits and enhancing targeting appeal processes to reach the most vulnerable households with members with disabilities.
- WFP Lebanon consistently collected disability-disaggregated data during assessments and monitoring, mainly in the form of the Washington Group Questions (WGQs). These included the Vulnerability Assessment of Syrian Refugees (VASyR) and the national health and nutrition assessment.
- WFP consulted 159 people with disabilities to understand their needs. Key reported challenges included high transportation costs, inaccessible infrastructure, stigma and security concerns. Most preferred cash assistance over food parcels for flexibility.

### CAPACITY STRENGTHENING

WFP trained 25 Disability Inclusion (DI) champions from its staff and WFP cooperating partners staff through a Training of Trainers (ToT) programme. The DI Champions delivered 16 sensitization sessions to WFP staff, partners, community volunteers and assisted populations, reaching 202 participants. These trainings strengthened the integration of inclusive practices across all programming levels.

Additionally, WFP conducted 27 awareness sessions for 455 social workers from the Ministry of Social Affairs who are taking part in identifying vulnerable families. Participants gained essential skills enabling them to apply a gender lens in their role, make safe referrals and use unbiased ways of determining disabilities, especially non-physical, using the WGQs. WFP also provided 16 sessions on DI concepts, WGQs, inclusive hiring, and IASC Guidelines for WFP staff and cooperating partners.



## PARTNERSHIP AND INTER-AGENCY COORDINATION

As a member of the Inclusion Committee on Disability, Gender, and Age led by Humanity and Inclusion, WFP delivered training on inclusive humanitarian action to 30 INGOs and NGOs.

- WFP mapped contingency plans for 12 organizations of persons with disabilities (OPDs) and disability-focused organizations actively involved in the South emergency response to ensure inclusive emergency services.

- WFP hosted the organization of the Disability and Older Age Working Group (DaOAWG) National Meeting attended by over 85 participants including OPDs, NGOs, universities, UN agencies, and ministry representatives.



## SUPPORT SERVICES

As part of its dedication to fostering a more inclusive workplace, WFP has taken significant steps to enhance support for candidates with disabilities:

- WFP has refined its recruitment practices to better accommodate individuals with disabilities and has upgraded evacuation protocols by acquiring specialized evacuation chairs.

- WFP has conducted sensitization sessions for security personnel to ensure they are well equipped to assist individuals with disabilities during emergencies.



## 2025 AND BEYOND

As part of its Disability Inclusion Action Plan, WFP will prioritize five key areas in 2025 and beyond. These include analyzing the vulnerabilities of families with multiple disabilities to improve targeting methods, adapting nutrition and food security interventions based on findings from the UN Women study on food, nutrition, and health needs of vulnerable groups of the National Poverty Targeting Programme (NPTP) and Lebanon Integrated Micronutrient and Anthropometry (LIMA) survey, and enhancing livelihood opportunities for persons with disabilities through new strategies and partnerships with OPDs. WFP will partner with three OPDs in Lebanon to consult on WFP activities and integrate disability inclusion into emergency efforts, livelihoods, social protection, and school feeding programs to support students with disabilities. WFP will continue to mainstream disability inclusion through regular training on accessibility and reasonable accommodation to overcome access difficulties for WFP staff and assisted population while upholding commitments under the 2023-2025 UNSDCF Disability Action Plan. This includes facilitating inclusive social protection programmes and partnering with UNICEF and ILO under the National Social Protection Policy to enhance food security and nutrition for persons with disabilities.



## STORY FROM THE FIELD

### Adapting Assistance to Needs

Laila, a 56-year-old woman with a physical disability, lives alone in Beirut and has been receiving WFP in-kind assistance since June 2022. Initially, she relied on friends or neighbours to collect her food or hired costly transport when no one was available. Carpooling wasn't an option, as she needed extra space for her wheelchair. While she appreciated the porters at WFP distribution sites who helped load parcels into cars, reaching the site remained challenging. On one occasion, Laila couldn't collect her food at all. When WFP's partner, SHEILD, followed up, she explained her mobility challenges. This led to an assessment for door-to-door delivery, a targeted intervention for those unable to access distribution sites.

Since then, Laila's food has been delivered directly to her doorstep, removing the physical and financial burden of transportation. She describes the initiative as vital, offering lifesaving assistance in a dignified manner that doesn't require her to depend on others. Laila remains deeply grateful for this support, which has significantly eased her daily struggles.



WFP LEBANON

For more information:

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