



World Food Programme

SAVING  
LIVES  
CHANGING  
LIVES

# Strengthening Government Institutions for Inclusive Food Systems Transformation in Lebanon

## KEY MESSAGES

- **WFP leverages its technical expertise, data analytics, and evidence-based programming** to foster inclusive, sustainable and resilient food systems.
- **WFP preserves food system functionality and protects food consumption** by providing cash or food assistance to crisis affected people, sustaining markets and limiting negative coping mechanisms.
- **WFP supports recovery and long-term solutions** by strengthening the capacities of SMEs to scale local alternatives to imports and enhance community resilience to climate shocks.
- **WFP advances government-led efforts** by scaling up social protection and school feeding, linking consumption to local production and strengthening national capacities for handover.

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## CONTEXT

Lebanon is facing a deepening food insecurity crisis. Recent hostilities disrupted livelihoods, displaced families, and strained already overstretched communities. Vital agricultural areas like the Bekaa and South regions suffered from production losses due to land contamination caused by military activities. This crisis is intensified by ongoing economic instability, heavy reliance on food imports, widespread poverty, and soaring food prices.

Inefficient value chains, limited market access for smallholder farmers, and environmental degradation, exacerbated by climate change, further weaken Lebanon's fragile food system.

The Government of Lebanon prioritizes food systems transformation, as outlined in the National Pathway for Food Systems Transformation, which focuses on boosting local production of nutritious foods, restoring ecosystems, expanding school feeding, and enhancing nutrition-sensitive social protection. Urgent, multi-sector solutions are needed to tackle the root causes of food insecurity and build a resilient, inclusive, and sustainable food system.

## WFP'S FOOD SYSTEMS APPROACH

**Preserving food systems functionality and protecting food consumption of vulnerable people** by delivering lifesaving in-kind food assistance to Lebanese and most of vulnerable Syrian refugees through unconditional monthly resource transfers. For 10 years, WFP has supported Lebanon's National Poverty Targeting Programme by providing monthly cash transfers to the poorest Lebanese families, injecting much-needed liquidity into the Lebanese economy, revitalizing the local market and limiting reliance on negative coping mechanisms.

**Supports recovery and long-term solutions** by strengthening the capacities of local food system actors to enhance the production and processing capacities of food system actors, as well as



improving market linkages across nutritious value chains - cereals, pulses, vegetables, dairy, citrus, and herbs. The Food Systems Challenge supports Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) with grants and capacity strengthening to scale local high-impact solutions that promote local alternatives to imports, and enhance access to water and energy, as well as create critical market linkages between actors across the value chain. WFP also contributes to community resilience to climate shocks by rehabilitating productive infrastructure such as greenhouses and storage facilities, promoting ecosystem restoration, and reducing disaster risk.

**Advancing government-led efforts by strengthening national systems** through the scale-up of the national school feeding programme using local sourcing models that link schools with local producers of fresh bread, dairy products, vegetables and fruits. A flour fortification pilot to enhance the nutritional value of bread used in school meals, set to scale in 2025–2026, also supports advocacy for a national wheat fortification policy. WFP supported the integration of the two largest cash transfer programmes into a unified National Safety Net System and continues to support the implementation and design of AMAN social assistance programme. To boost the government's decision-making capacities, WFP supported the establishment of a Food Security Analysis Unit within the Ministry of Agriculture to lead assessments, crop mapping, and IPC analysis.

## PARTNERSHIPS

WFP partners with key government bodies, the Ministries of Social Affairs, Agriculture, Education and Higher Education, Economy and Trade, Public Health, the Council of Ministers, and the National Council for Scientific Research, to implement and scale national programmes. WFP collaborates with UN agencies, including UNICEF,

UNHCR, UN Women, and FAO, to coordinate cash assistance, nutrition, education, emergency response, and resilience efforts. Engagement with local NGOs, CSOs, and the Lebanese Red Cross ensures community-based delivery. Private sector partnerships, such as the Food Systems Challenge, address value chain gaps. Donor support comes from the UK, Germany (BMZ), the USA (BHA), EU/DG NEAR, Australia, Switzerland, France, and others.

## SELECTED IMPACTS ON FOOD SYSTEMS IN 2024

### Preserving food systems functionality and protecting food consumption

- **1 million refugees** received **USD 149 million** in cash transfers for food and basic needs.
- **377,000 Lebanese** and **54,000 displaced Syrians** received emergency food assistance.
- **5.1 million meals** and **2,260 mt of food** parcels distributed to conflict-affected people.

### Supporting recovery and long-term solutions

- **100 greenhouses** and **400 dairy farmers** supported to **raise profits by 10–60%** and improve market access.
- **30 SMEs supported** with grants and technical assistance through the Food Systems Challenge since 2022.

### Advancing government-led efforts by strengthening national systems

- **194 schools** and **108,000 students** received local nutritious meals and snacks through expanded national school feeding.
- **760,000 vulnerable Lebanese** receive monthly cash transfers via the MoSA AMAN safety net, supported by WFP.
- **237,000 Lebanese** affected by conflict received emergency cash via the national shock-responsive safety net.

### WFP Lebanon

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[www.wfp.org/countries/lebanon](http://www.wfp.org/countries/lebanon)

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