



WFP LEBANON

COUNTRY BRIEF
February 2026

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- Amid heightened tensions along Lebanon’s southern borders, WFP continued to support over 622,000 vulnerable people across the country to meet their food and basic needs in January, while providing support to the Ministry of Social Affairs in advancing its digital transformation plan.
- With rising needs outpacing available resources, WFP urgently requires USD 131 million for the next six months to expand critical assistance to over 1.2 million vulnerable Lebanese and Syrian refugees.

IN NUMBERS



622,000 people assisted in January 2026



48%
Male



52%
Female



646 mt food distributed



USD 12.9 M cash transferred



USD 131 M (Feb – Jul 2026) net funding requirements

Photo Caption & Credit: WFP staff distribute ready-to-eat rations to families affected by the floods in Akkar. ©WFP Library

SITUATION OVERVIEW

- As 2026 unfolds, Lebanon continues to navigate a highly complex security environment. Tensions with Israel remain elevated, while evolving regional diplomatic dynamics further contribute to concerns over a potential escalation.
- In January 2025, 552,500 Syrian refugees were inactivated from UNHCR’s records due to verified or presumed returns, while an estimated 115,000 Syrians entered the country since December 2024. According to UNHCR, return intentions in 2026 remain cautious, shaped by perceptions of access to housing, services and livelihoods. Inside Syria, damaged homes, limited services, and scarce jobs continue to constrain reintegration, so returns are expected to remain modest, and largely seasonal.
- Food security in Lebanon continues to be undermined by the persistent economic crisis, slow reconstruction and widening funding gaps. As per Lebanon [IPC Acute Food Insecurity Analysis November 2025 - July 2026](#), 874,000 people (17 percent of the analysed population) are experiencing acute food insecurity. This is projected to rise to 961,000 people (18 percent) between April and July 2026.
- WFP remains committed to addressing urgent humanitarian needs in Lebanon, responding to the economic and refugee crises and the additional needs linked to the conflict escalation since October 2023.

OPERATIONAL UPDATES

Assistance for Syrian Refugees

- In January, WFP assisted 366,000 individuals (78,100 households) out of 412,000 prioritized individuals (88,700 households). Around 12,000 eligible households remain on hold pending verification by UNHCR.
- WFP provided emergency food assistance to 41,100 arrivals from Syria. Through six commercial kitchens and four rehabilitated TVET school kitchens, WFP delivered hot and cold meals to 31,200 people (7,800 households) across 147 shelters and distributed monthly food parcels to around 9,900 individuals (2,500 households) outside shelters.

Economic Crisis Response Supporting Lebanese

- Due to funding shortfalls, WFP scaled down its regular in-kind food assistance, reaching 49,000 (9,800 households) in January 2026, down from 100,000 individuals (22,000 households) in December 2025. In parallel, the food parcel was topped up with two kgs of Korean-donated rice, meeting 67 percent of the daily calorie needs.
- In January, heavy rain and a snowstorm caused three building collapses in Tripoli and severe flooding in Akkar, displacing vulnerable families. WFP provided immediate food assistance, supporting 100 displaced Lebanese staying in a school with hot meals, cold meals, dry rations, and RTE rations. In Akkar, WFP conducted an emergency distribution in Semmaqiye village, assisting 400 flood-affected people (100 households) with dry and ready-to-eat (RTE) rations.

School Meals for Lebanese and Refugees

- In January, WFP reached 116,000 Lebanese and Syrian students in 319 public primary schools, with in-school snacks and healthy cold sandwiches prepared in 51 school kitchens.
- In collaboration with the Ministry of Education and Higher Education (MEHE), WFP selected ten additional schools for kitchen refurbishment to serve up to 40 nearby schools. WFP began procuring equipment and solar systems for these ten kitchens, with rehabilitation underway and operations expected to start by March 2026.

Support to Social Protection Programmes for Lebanese

- In January, WFP advanced its support to the Ministry of Social Affairs (MoSA) under the Digitization Project, by installing a resilient power solution for MoSA's server room, ensuring continuity during outages and emergencies. Six servers have been delivered, including servers for the Management Information System and Integrated Beneficiary Registry. WFP also finalized the handover of Internally Displaced People's data to MoSA, transferring full hosting and data management.
- In January, WFP disbursed November's Shock-Responsive Social Safety Net (SRSN) emergency cash assistance for 59,100 conflict-affected Lebanese (15,800 households).

Livelihoods for Lebanese and Refugees

- WFP in collaboration with FAO and the Ministry of Agriculture, conducted training sessions on soil health and land rehabilitation for 1,100 conflict-affected farmers in South Lebanon and Baalbek.

Accountability to Affected Populations

- In January, WFP's call centre received 54,100 claims with 96 percent addressed in the same month. Fifty-three percent of the claims were requests for assistance, mainly cash support from Syrian refugees and in-kind food assistance for Lebanese previously discontinued from assistance.
- WFP Lebanon launched its public [WhatsApp Channel](#) in January to share updates on operations and counter misinformation. The channel quickly gained over 30,000 subscribers accessing information on WFP activities, data-driven targeting, fraud awareness, redemption processes, and feedback mechanisms.

Nutrition

- In January, WFP screened 40 children under five and ten pregnant and breastfeeding women for malnutrition at nine in-kind food distribution points. Only one child was identified at risk of malnutrition and referred to nutrition partner for supplementation. Among women, no malnourished or at risk of malnutrition cases were identified.

Assessment and Monitoring

- Field assessments and community testimonies of WFP's flood management intervention in Semmaqiyeh, Akkar highlighted a major improvement in flood behavior. By upgrading the Saroud channel with new box culverts, reinforced concrete canals, and community-led flow enhancements, the intervention greatly boosted hydraulic performance. These upgrades increased discharge capacity up to sixteenfold, reduced flood severity fivefold, lowered peak water levels, enabled faster drainage, and kept roads accessible. Despite remaining cross-border and downstream constraints, the intervention protected agricultural livelihoods, improved mobility, and boosted community resilience after the January 2026 floods.

Food Security and Agriculture Sector

- In 2025, the Food Security and Agriculture Sector (FSAS) partners, including WFP, reached 2.4 million individuals across Lebanon, through food assistance, cash-based transfers, and agricultural support. In-kind food assistance reached 758,000 people, while 1.6 million vulnerable individuals received cash assistance. In addition, 14,700 farmers and 242 agriculture cooperatives and Small and Medium Enterprises were supported through capacity building and/or input and assets provision and 214 public-sector staff benefited from capacity-building activities.

Advocacy, Communications and Partnerships

- Regional Directors from WFP, UNHCR and UNICEF completed a joint mission to Jordan, Syria and Lebanon, with the Resident Coordinator in Lebanon meeting senior officials, donors and affected communities. Discussions with authorities, partners, refugees and returnees recognized host-country investments and recent progress on returns, while highlighting persistent return barriers such as shelter, basic services, livelihoods, debt and security. In Syria, extensive destruction and unmet needs were evident, with some returnees returning back to host countries. The agencies will develop a coordinated plan to strengthen complementarities, data-driven targeting and regional engagement.

When Disasters Hit, WFP Arrived First



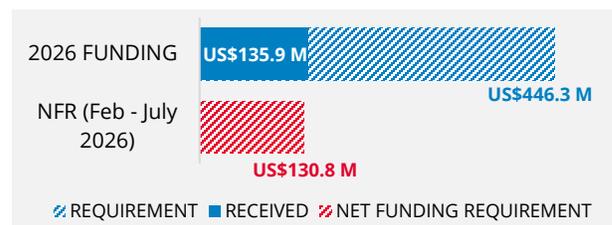
Each year in Akkar, seasonal flooding puts communities at risk. As rivers overflow, families brace for the impact, unsure of what the next storm may bring. In January 2026, heavy floods submerged entire areas, forcing many families to leave their homes and informal shelters in search of safety. WFP Lebanon was among the first responders, providing immediate assistance to affected families.

"I was terrified. They told me to calm down, but the river could have swept us away," said Iman, a mother of four.

Iman lives with her family in an informal tented settlement in northern Lebanon, like many others in Akkar. She explained that the fear of flooding has followed her since moving to the area, and this is the second time her family has been directly affected. "How can I feel at ease when my children's lives are at risk?" She added. As families sought shelter, WFP and its partners mobilized quickly, delivering dry and ready-to-eat rations to more than 400 people.

FUNDING OVERVIEW

Country Strategic Plan (2023-2027)



Donors:

Australia, Austria, Canada, Cyprus, European Commission, France, Germany, Ireland, Japan, Luxembourg, Malta, Norway, Poland, Private Donors, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, UN and other funds, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, USA.