



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Lebanon Country Brief June 2020



In Numbers



854,896 people assisted in June 2020

USD 20.5 m cash-based transfers made

USD 122.3 m six months net funding requirements (August 2020 – January 2021)

Operational Context

With six million people living in a land area of just 10,000 square kilometres on the eastern Mediterranean coast, Lebanon is small and densely populated.

As of 31 January 2020, the number of Syrian refugees registered in Lebanon by UNHCR is 910,109 people. The massive influx of refugees has placed a significant strain on existing resources and host communities

The situation in Lebanon has continued to be volatile since the protests that started in October 2019. The financial crisis and the dramatic devaluation of the Lebanese currency precipitated a very serious economic crisis with rising inflation and higher prices of basic commodities and fuel, widespread electricity cuts, and deepening vulnerabilities. The COVID-19 outbreak and lockdown measures further exacerbated the already severe socioeconomic situation of hundreds of thousands across the country. Largely peaceful protests are ongoing, demanding the implementation of urgent economic reforms.

The Lebanon Country Strategic Plan, which came into effect in January 2018, is aligned with the Government-endorsed Lebanon Crisis Response Plan (2017–2020), the United Nations Strategic Framework (2017–2021), the Ministry of Agriculture Strategy (2015–2019). It positions WFP as a major partner of the Government and other United Nations agencies in crisis response and towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

WFP has been present in Lebanon since 2012.



Population: **6.0 million**

2019 Human Development Index: **93 out of 189**

Income Level: **Upper middle**

2019 Gross National Income per capita (PPP): **USD 14,655**

Operational Updates

- By the end of June there were over 1,700 COVID-19 cases in Lebanon.
- In June, WFP assisted a total of 854,896 beneficiaries through cash-based transfer modalities amounting to USD 20.5 million. The people assisted were 728,303 Syrian refugees, 13,652 Palestinian refugees from Syria, 7,701 refugees of other nationalities and 105,240 vulnerable Lebanese. Precautionary measures continued to be clearly communicated to all WFP-contracted shops and beneficiaries to avoid crowding and ensure safe redemption of assistance for beneficiaries at both shops and ATMs.
- WFP adjusted the transfer value of the food assistance component from LBP 50,000 to LBP 60,000 in June based on the average retail price of the food component of the Survival Minimum Expenditure Basket (SMEB) observed in Lebanon in order to fully meet beneficiaries' food needs. A steep increase of 109.4% was observed in the monthly average food component of the SMEB, from LBP 37,706 to LBP 78,954, further aggravating the economic and food security situation for most households in Lebanon.
- The procurement of the first batch of in-kind emergency food assistance has been finalized and food parcels will be dispatched to cooperating partners' warehouses early July. Cooperating Partners are collecting referrals of Lebanese households affected by the economic and COVID-19 crises from local institutions and actors, from which WFP will target the most vulnerable households per district. Distribution should start in the second half of July in all Governorates to 50,000 households. Assistance is being coordinated with the social assistance plans and policies of the Government of Lebanon.
- WFP is coordinating with the Ministry of Education and Higher Education (MEHE) for distribution in July of take-home family rations to the families whose children benefited from WFP's school feeding programme.
- Livelihoods activities are gradually resuming and scaling up with COVID-19 health and safety measures in place. Activities include both individual and community-level capacity development such as irrigation canal construction and forestry, vocational skills training in digital skills and agriculture, and climate-smart agricultural development.

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WFP Country Strategy

Country Strategic Plan (2018-2021)

Total Requirements (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)
1.8 bn	1.0 bn
2020 Requirements (in USD)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD) (August 2020-January 2021)
463 m	122.3 m

Strategic Result 1: Everyone has access to food

Strategic Outcome 1: Food-insecure refugees – including school-age children – and crisis-affected host populations have access to life-saving, nutritious and affordable food throughout the year

Focus area: Crisis response

Activities:

- Unconditional resource transfers to support access to food (CBTs)
- School meal activities

Strategic Result 1: Everyone has access to food

Strategic Outcome 2: Vulnerable women and men in targeted refugee and Lebanese communities sustainably improve their skills, capacities and livelihood opportunities by 2020

Focus area: Resilience-building

Activities:

- Individual capacity strengthening activities (CBTs)
- Asset creation and livelihood support activities (CBTs)

Strategic Result 1: Everyone has access to food

Strategic Outcome 3: Vulnerable populations in Lebanon are enabled to meet their basic food needs all year long

Focus area: Root causes

Activities:

- Unconditional resource transfers to support access to food (CBT)

Strategic Result 5: Developing countries have strengthened capacity to implement the SDGs

Strategic Outcome 5: National institutions and national and international humanitarian actors are supported in their efforts to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of their assistance

Focus area: Root causes

Activities:

- Institutional capacity strengthening activities

Monitoring

- With the easing of COVID-19 containment measures, physical monitoring activities such as shop monitoring have restarted. Basic Needs Outcome monitoring, including planned face-to-face activities, will take place in July.
- As of 30 June, 94 percent of beneficiaries who received their entitlements redeemed assistance through shops and ATMs.
- The WFP Vulnerability Analysis and Mapping (VAM) [web survey](#) found that two out of three Lebanese households suffered from a reduced income compared to the previous

year and nearly one out of three Lebanese now find themselves unemployed due to the economic crisis and containment measures for COVID-19. Lebanese women and young adults between 25-34 years of age have been particularly affected by reduced salaries.

Story Worth Telling



A taste of hope and home has made its way to Poland after WFP Lebanon supported six cooperatives across the country with training sessions and state-of-the-art machinery through funds from Germany's BMZ and in collaboration with the Polish Centre for International Aid. This support facilitated their access to the international market and enhanced their production capacity.

“Our stuffed vine leaves have reached Poland! We're now more confident about the continuity and development of our work,” said Mary, a member of the Andaqet Agricultural Cooperative in north Lebanon. Through this training, Mary expanded her knowledge and expertise on food safety, packaging and production techniques.



Vine leaves were not the only Lebanese specialty that made their way abroad as olive oil, zaatar, pickles, hummus, pomegranate molasses, rose water and stuffed eggplants also became a huge hit in the Polish market following the World Food Fair in Warsaw.

Donors

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