



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Lebanon Country Brief November 2020



WFP SAYS NO to GENDER BASED VIOLENCE

In Numbers



1,094,677 people assisted in November 2020

US\$33.8 m cash-based transfers made

US\$ 68.1 m six months net funding requirements (Dec 2020 – May 2021)

Operational Updates

- In November, WFP assisted a total of 1,094,677 beneficiaries through cash-based transfer modalities amounting to USD 33.8 million and through distribution of family food parcels as part of the COVID-19 and economic crisis response. The people assisted were 265,921 vulnerable Lebanese, 807,668 Syrian refugees and 21,088 refugees of other nationalities.
- WFP further expanded in November unrestricted multipurpose cash assistance to reach 71,155 of the most vulnerable people affected by the Beirut explosion. While most families received their assistance through Western Union or emergency prepaid cards, some families received the food portion of the transfer value in the form of a food e-card (vouchers).
- As of November, 22 organizations delivering multipurpose cash assistance to vulnerable people affected by the Beirut explosion joined the assistance coordination platform. This platform utilizes blockchain technology that allows for better coordination and for partners to avoid duplication of assistance in order to ensure maximum reach to families affected by the explosion.
- WFP and the Ministry of Social Affairs (MoSA) started data collection in the last week of November for the verification exercise to scale-up the number of vulnerable Lebanese families assisted through the National Poverty Targeting Programme (NPTP) from the current 15,000 families to 50,000 families by the first quarter of 2021.
- In November WFP distributed food parcels to 17,300 vulnerable Lebanese families, including for 98 Syrian families living in an informal tented settlement that was under complete lockdown.
- The family food parcel distributions planned for November for the families of Syrian and Lebanese children who attend public schools that are part of WFP's school feeding programme was delayed due to the nationwide lockdown. Distributions will instead take place in December. For the 2020-2021 school year, 19 new schools (12,000 new students) were added to the school feeding programme.
- Together with the Ministry of Agriculture, FAO, and IFAD, and with the support of EU MADAD, WFP is preparing to launch an in-kind agriculture voucher system to support vulnerable farmers.

Operational Context

Lebanon, long considered a middle-income country, is rapidly sinking into poverty as it faces a triple shock from the unprecedented economic crisis, the impact of COVID-19 on employment and public health, and the Beirut port explosion. It is also at the forefront of the Syrian crisis: as of September 2020, there are 879,529 Syrian refugees registered in Lebanon by UNHCR. The massive influx of refugees has placed a significant strain on existing resources and host communities.

The port explosion on 4 August exacerbated an already deteriorated situation that has had devastating effects on the economic vulnerabilities of households. The World Bank estimates that 45 percent of the Lebanese population are poor, while 22 percent of the Lebanese population (approximately 850,000 people) are extremely poor. The latest World Bank report forecasts a 19 percent contraction of the economy in 2020, among the highest in the world. A sharp increase in COVID-19 cases was recorded following the Beirut port explosion, where multiple health facilities sustained damage, further straining the country's health systems.

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), and Lebanon National Agriculture Strategy (2020 – 2025). 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: **6.8 million**

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

Income Level: **Upper middle**

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

WFP Country Strategy

Country Strategic Plan (2018-2021)

Total Requirements (in USD)		Allocated Contributions (in USD)
1.8 bn		1.28 bn
2020 Requirements	2021 Requirements (in USD)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD) (Dec 2020 – May 2021)
501.9 m	532 m	68.1 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)
- In-kind food assistance
- 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

Assessments & Monitoring

- As of 30 November, 99 percent of beneficiaries who received their entitlements redeemed their assistance through shops and ATMs.
- Results from the joint WFP and World Bank phone survey (mVAM) for September and October indicate a small improvement in respondents' access to markets and sufficient quantities of food to meet household needs compared to July-August results. However, fewer respondents were able to stockpile food and a further deterioration in food consumption was noted. This confirms once again that the multiple shocks facing the country continue to negatively affect Lebanese families.

- The second round of the web survey assessing the impact of COVID-19 and the economic crisis on the socioeconomic situation in Lebanon confirms results from other assessments such as the mVAM and the Vulnerability Assessment of Syrian Refugees (VaSyR). An increasing number of households are borrowing money to cover their basic needs, and food security and healthcare access remain as major concerns. The Beirut area was slightly more impacted than other governorates as more people lost their jobs and livelihoods following the explosion.
- A technical, independent review of the cost and composition of the Survival Minimum Expenditure Basket (SMEB) and the Minimum Expenditure Basket (SMEB) was concluded in November to calculate and recommend a meaningful transfer value for assistance to Syrian refugees in Lebanon. According to this analysis, the revised SMEB food basket now costs LBP 118,000 while the non-food basket costs LBP 953,000.

A Story Worth Telling



WFP's in-kind assistance came just in time for Hanaa whose daily job cleaning houses was put on hold due to the spread of COVID-19.

This parcel will help her put food on the table.

Photo: WFP/Edmond Khoury

Using protocols to safely distribute food as COVID-19 continues to rapidly spread, WFP is reaching thousands of Lebanese families affected by the lockdown and the country's socio-economic situation.

"Now instead of paying for food, I will use my remaining money to pay for rent, electricity, and perhaps medication when my children get sick. Whatever I save from one end, I pay in another," says Hanaa who lives in Barr Elias with her recently unemployed husband and five children.

Thanks to support from donors like the United States, Ireland, Canada and Australia, WFP will continue providing emergency food assistance to families in need.

"This month I will finally be able to repay a part of my supermarket debt," Hanaa adds as she collects her food assistance that is enough to feed a family of five for one month.

Donors

Australia, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Norway, Private Donors, Switzerland, United Kingdom, USA, EU MADAD, ECHO, Ireland, Denmark

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