



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES  
CHANGING LIVES

## WFP Lebanon Country Brief April 2021



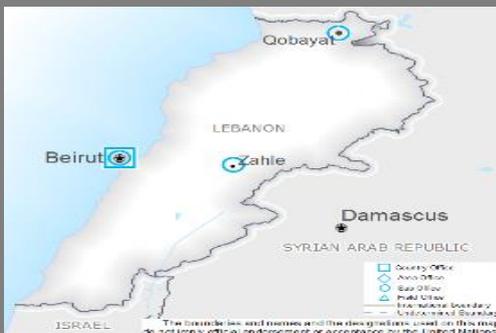
### Operational Context

In the years preceding the massive economic downturn that has affected Lebanon starting in 2019, high levels of extreme poverty and food insecurity were serious concerns primarily for the Syrian refugee population hosted by Lebanon. The situation, however, changed dramatically in 2020 as rising prices and the economic recession, compounded by the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic and the Beirut explosion have impoverished over half the Lebanese population and almost the entire Syrian refugee population and threatens to push many more into poverty.

Rising poverty is leading to more food insecurity in Lebanon. WFP surveys found that 23 percent of Lebanese, 50 percent of Syrian refugees, and 33 percent of refugees of other nationalities are food insecure. Food access and availability have become major issues, with food prices out of reach for most, and retailers facing serious challenges to restock and to keep their businesses afloat. As affordable food items become scarce, competition for basic resources and social tensions are also on the rise. The possible discontinuation of subsidies in the coming months is likely to make the situation much worse.

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**

## In Numbers



**1,206,987** people assisted in April 2021

**US\$21 m** cash-based transfers made

**US\$237.4 m** six months net funding requirements (June 2021 – November 2021)

### Operational Updates

- In April, WFP assisted a total of 1,206,987 beneficiaries through cash-based transfer modalities amounting to USD 21 million and through distribution of family food parcels as part of the COVID-19 and economic crisis response. The people assisted were 221,972 vulnerable Lebanese, 950,130 Syrian refugees, and 34,885 refugees of other nationalities.
- Given the continued economic challenges and increasing risks to market functionality, WFP will continue to distribute in-kind food assistance through December 2021 for vulnerable Lebanese affected by the COVID-19 and economic crises, instead of shifting the assistance modality to cash-based transfers in April as initially planned. WFP will expand the response from 240,000 individuals to reach an additional 160,000 individuals (total of 400,000 individuals). Meanwhile in April, WFP reached 64,000 of the most vulnerable Lebanese affected by COVID-19 and the economic crisis with food parcels, targeting those who did not receive assistance during February and March due to COVID-19 movement restrictions.
- Distributions of take-home rations for 14,000 families (84,000 individuals) whose students are enrolled in the 83 schools that are part of WFP's school feeding programme took place throughout April. Families receive a 30-kg food parcel of staple food items through staggered distributions at the schools.
- In April, WFP reached more than 20,000 beneficiaries through its livelihoods activities comprising of Food Assistance for Assets (FFA) and Food Assistance for Training (FFT).
- WFP assisted 105,000 vulnerable Lebanese (15,000 households) through the National Poverty Targeting Programme (NPTP) in April. As part of WFP's scale-up to reach 50,000 households, 5,600 new NPTP households received their food e-cards in April. As of May, NPTP beneficiaries will receive a cash top-up of LBP 200,000 per household to meet their additional food needs.

# WFP Country Strategy

Country Strategic Plan (2018-2021)	
Total Requirements (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)
<b>1.87 bn</b>	<b>1.42 bn</b>
2021 Requirements (in USD)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD) (June 2021 – November 2021)
<b>532 m</b>	<b>237.4 m</b>

## 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 lifesaving, 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 April, 98 percent of beneficiaries who received their cash-based entitlements redeemed their assistance through shops and ATMs.
- The latest assessment of market prices indicates that the food portion of the Survival Minimum Expenditure Basket (SMEB) reached LBP 220,524 in April, marking a sharp increase of 25 percent from March.
- As a clear sign of the increasing prices and overall deteriorating economic conditions, preliminary results of WFP’s Basic Needs Outcome Monitoring show a reduction in acceptable food consumption among all Syrian beneficiary households, despite receiving assistance. In response, WFP continues to advocate for

increased transfer values and resources to be able to fully meet beneficiaries’ food and other essential needs.

## A Story Worth Telling



*Kassem Jouni, WFP’s Programme Policy Officer, explains the importance of earthworms to people benefitting from WFP’s Livelihoods programme. Photo: WFP/Edmond Khoury*

Kassem Jouni, WFP Programme Policy Officer for Livelihoods, digs his hand into the soil with livelihoods participants at a WFP and Lebanon Reforestation Initiatives (LRI) forest management site in the North of Lebanon. There, hidden from plain sight, an earthworm appears – an “unsung superhero” as he likes to call it, as earthworms lead to an increase in nutrient availability and good soil conditions that are ideal for plant growth.

WFP’s forest management interventions are boosting livelihoods and preserving Lebanon’s greenery. Designed in collaboration with local authorities, such projects create common grounds for the participants, be they refugees or Lebanese, who find themselves working side by side, breaking social barriers in the process.

WFP’s livelihoods projects have already protected and preserved 467 hectares of Lebanese forests from the risk of fires. This was achieved through: land reclamation, training on innovation in agriculture, support to sustainable agricultural programmes and application of advanced techniques related to soil rehabilitation.

## Donors

Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Croatia, European Commission, France, Germany, Iceland, Italy, Japan, Netherlands, Norway, Private Donors, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Switzerland, UN CERF, United Kingdom, USA