



Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

Multiple devastating crises have undermined the resilience of the people of Lebanon. The decline in its currency's value has significantly reduced purchasing power and worsened poverty and food insecurity.

Objectives

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) is working with partners in the Food Security and Agriculture Sector to:

- Reduce rising food insecurity in the context of multiple crises.
- Improve the resilience of the agriculture sector to the impact of the crisis in the Syrian Arab Republic.

Activities



Strengthen agriculture- and agro-food-based livelihoods

agricultural input vouchers | agricultural technical school | good agricultural practices training | integrated pest management training | improved greenhouse design and farming practices | integrated water resource management | farmer registry system | women's agro-food cooperatives | business plans



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Lebanon

Crisis Response Plan 2021



to assist
418 475 people



FAO requires
USD 33.5 million



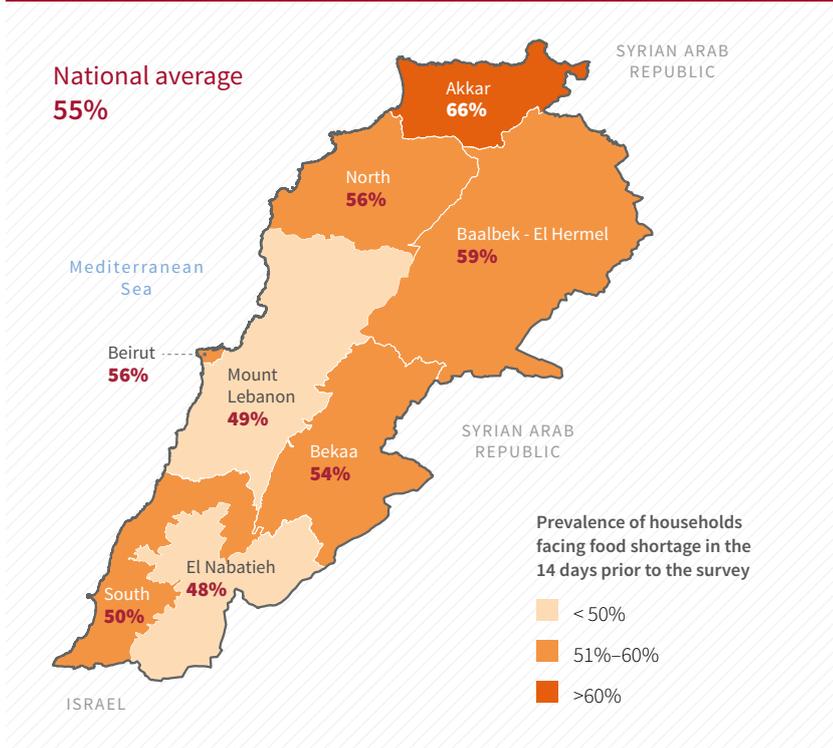
period
January–December 2021

Urgent action is needed to boost agricultural production and strengthen livelihoods to increase the resilience of vulnerable people amidst multiple crises.



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Households facing food shortage* (November–December 2020)



Source: World Food Programme. 2020. *Lebanon: m-VAM Vulnerability and Food Security Assessment, November–December 2020*. [online]. Rome, Italy. [Cited 17 February 2021]. <https://docs.wfp.org/api/documents/WFP-0000124175/download>

Situation analysis



2.3 million people in need of food security and agriculture assistance



Lebanese pound lost nearly **80%** of its value since October 2019



Estimated **30% reduction** in planted area nationwide

Impact on food security

Lebanon has endured an unrelenting onslaught of shocks since 2011 – the impact of the conflict in the Syrian Arab Republic, the financial and economic crisis followed by a political crisis and civil unrest, the outbreak of coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) and the explosion in the port of Beirut. These shocks have eroded the resilience of the Lebanese and the refugees who they host, and the dramatic decline in the Lebanese pound's value has severely diminished their purchasing power. As a result, poverty and food insecurity have become significantly more acute and widespread.

The cost of agricultural inputs increased by a staggering 400 percent so small-scale farmers have turned to 'low input' farming systems, sowing locally-grown seed with lower yields than imported certified seed. The higher input prices and/or their limited availability has forced small-scale farmers, especially those in remote rural communities who rely solely on agriculture, to plant less land and rear

fewer animals. Close to urban centres, farmers, who tend to cultivate part-time, are not able to access alternative sources of income in unskilled labour due to reduced investment in infrastructure and the closure of businesses and necessary movement restrictions put in place to prevent the spread of COVID-19. In the absence of government safety nets and with foreign reserves dwindling and subsidies being lifted, vulnerable households urgently need support.

Scaling up the provision of seed and other agricultural inputs combined with training will boost the production of vulnerable farmers and increase their income-generating potential. Furthermore, investments building women's cooperatives and improving water resources management will develop the agriculture and food sectors.

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