



WFP Lebanon Country Brief

WFP Assistance

Assistance to vulnerable refugees and host communities in Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, and Turkey PRRO 200987	Lebanon Total Requirements (in USD)	Lebanon 6-Month Net Funding Requirements (USD)*
(January 2017 – December 2018)	1.2 b	123.2 m

*November 2017 – April 2018, including confirmed pledges and solid forecasts.

GENDER MARKER PRRO 200987

In Lebanon, WFP is implementing its programmes under the regional [Protracted Relief and Recovery Operation \(PRRO\) 200987](#), which provides lifesaving food assistance to the most vulnerable individuals while also building the self-reliance of Syrians refugees and host communities.

WFP's primary form of assistance to Syrian refugees is provided through an electronic food voucher (e-card) system. E-cards can be used to purchase food from any of the over 500 WFP-contracted shops. Starting from late 2016, WFP, together with UNICEF, UNHCR and the Lebanon Cash Consortium introduced a common card, allowing a unified system for cash transfers.

Based on a WFP-commissioned [cash pilot study](#), which was conducted by the Boston Consulting Group in 2016, WFP began implementing unrestricted cash transfers in September for 170,000 Syrian refugees in Lebanon. The refugees have the choice to redeem their food assistance either at any WFP-contracted shops or withdraw cash from any ATMs throughout the country. Additionally, the most vulnerable Syrian refugees receiving monthly unrestricted cash also receive a monthly household cash top-up, which they can utilise for additional food and non-food expenses.

Moreover, WFP provides electronic food vouchers to 53,000 vulnerable Lebanese and 16,000 Palestinian refugees from Syria. This is done in partnership with the Ministry of Social Affairs and UNRWA.

Highlights

- In October, WFP supported 688,011 Syrian refugees and 16,401 Palestinian refugees from Syria with cash assistance. Additionally, 52,403 vulnerable Lebanese were reached under the National Poverty Targeting Programme.
- Approximately 90,000 of the most vulnerable Syrian refugees began receiving USD 27/person for their food expenses, as well as a monthly household top-up of USD 175, redeemable at any ATMs throughout Lebanon, to contribute towards additional food expenses and other non-food essentials.
- With the commencement of the 2017/2018 school year, over 51,000 children started receiving unrestricted cash to purchase school food and over 14,500 children started receiving daily school snacks.

As a means of transforming the refugee crisis into a development opportunity, WFP works with partners to provide income and skill-building opportunities for vulnerable Lebanese and Syrian refugees through community asset-creation activities. WFP currently implements over 70 livelihoods activities in 50 municipalities throughout the country, with the aim of reaching over 40,000 people throughout 2017.

To ensure no lost generation of Syrian refugee children, WFP, alongside UNICEF, runs a cash for education programme. WFP offers a monthly cash grant to 51,000 Syrian refugee children aged 5 to 14+ enrolled in second shift public schools within select governorates. The support aims to cover the monthly costs associated with purchasing food for school meals. UNICEF covers other indirect costs associated with refugee families sending their children to school.

To address short-term hunger and to improve childhood nutrition, WFP also runs a small-scale public primary school snack programme for 14,500 vulnerable children, both Lebanese and displaced Syrians.

In Numbers

756,815 people assisted in October 2017

USD 1.06 billion directly injected into the Lebanese economy by WFP since 2012 through cash-based interventions

People Assisted
October 2017

52%



48%



The Lebanon Country Office [Country Strategic Plan \(CSP\) 2018-2020](#) was approved by the WFP Executive Board in June this year. The CSP is aligned with the [Lebanon Crisis Response Plan \(LCRP 2017-2020\)](#), which has been endorsed by the Government of Lebanon, the [UN Strategic Framework \(2017-2020\)](#), the [Ministry of Agriculture's Strategy \(2015-2019\)](#) and [WFP's Vision 2020](#). The CSP focuses on four strategic outcomes to address the ongoing humanitarian and developmental challenges and supports the Government of Lebanon in achieving SDG 2 and 17.

Unrestricted Cash Assistance

- Approximately 90,000 of the most vulnerable Syrian refugees received unrestricted cash assistance (USD 27/person) to be used for their food expenses, as well as a household top-up (USD 175/per household) to contribute towards additional food expenses and other non-food essentials. The assistance is redeemable at any ATMs throughout Lebanon. The majority of the targeted households are in the Bekaa area.
- Data from September shows that 65 percent spent the total of their assistance at WFP-contracted shops, 22 percent only withdrew cash from ATMs, and 12 percent spent their assistance at WFP-contracted shops and withdrew from ATMs.

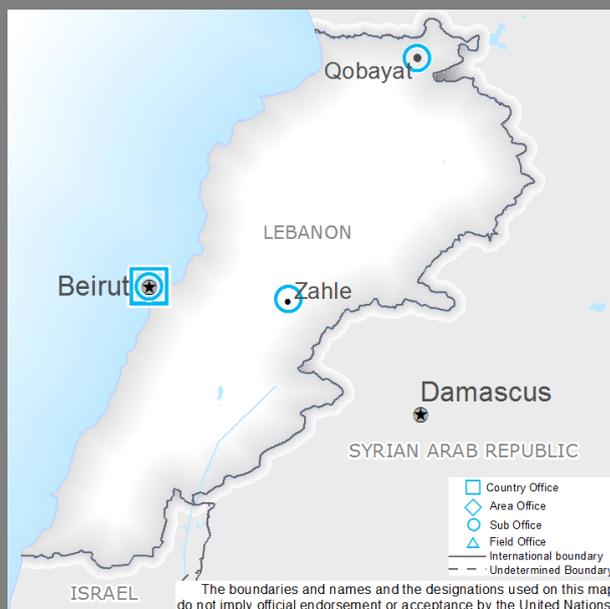
School Meals

- With the commencement of the 2017/2018 school year, WFP, in partnership with UNICEF began providing over 51,000 children enrolled in second shift high schools within select governorates with unrestricted cash for education to purchase food sold at schools and to cover other indirect costs associated with attending school.
- An estimated 14,500 children also started receiving daily school snacks and monthly nutrition education. [Learn more about this programme here.](#)

Livelihoods

- In October, 4,645 Syrian refugees and vulnerable Lebanese participated in various Food Assistance for Assets (FFA) and Food Assistance for Training (FFT) projects, benefiting 23,225 people. A number of Syrian and Lebanese women participating in FFT activities have received trainings on food safety, hygiene, food processing and packaging. Following the training cycle, women were given the opportunity to prepare their fresh produce. The final stage of the training included guidance on marketing, sales skills and building customer relations to further help the women generate income. [Learn more about this programme here.](#)

Country Background & Strategy



Lebanon is classified as an upper middle income country. The current Human Development Index (HDI) value is 0.763 – in the high human development category – positioning the country at 76 out of 188 countries and territories.

With 4.5 million people living in a land area of just 10,000 km square on the eastern Mediterranean coast, Lebanon is small and densely populated.

As of June, more than 1 million displaced Syrians have been registered in Lebanon by UNHCR. They represent 20 percent of Lebanon's population. The massive influx of refugees has placed significant strain on existing resources and host communities.

WFP and UNICEF support a UNDP-led rapid poverty assessment of the Lebanese population. The assessment will contribute towards the creation of a food security baseline of the Lebanese.

WFP has been present in Lebanon since 2012.

Population: **4.5 million**

2015 Human Development Index:
76 out of 188

Income Level: **Upper middle**

2015 Gender Inequality Index:
0.381

Donors in 2017

Australia, Belgium, Canada, China, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Luxembourg, Mexico, Norway, Republic of Korea, Switzerland, United Kingdom and the United States of America

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Further information: www.wfp.org/countries/lebanon

www.cdn.wfp.org/syriainfo/syria.html

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