

WFP LEBANON EMERGENCY RESPONSE

External Situation Report 12

12 December 2024

HIGHLIGHTS

- WFP completed its November emergency cash assistance cycle, leveraging existing safety nets to support an additional 36,000 Lebanese people affected by the conflict. In total, WFP provided **emergency cash assistance to 247,000 affected Lebanese people during the November cycle.**
- WFP responded swiftly to the urgent needs of **newly displaced individuals from Syria** by distributing ready-to-eat meals (RTEs) to 3,100 households, benefitting 17,100 people across 18 shelters in Baalbek-Hermel and delivering 3,600 meals in one shelter.
- The fall of the regime in Syria prompted dual movements:** many Syrian refugees returned to Syria, while around 30,000 Syrians most of whom are from religious minorities sought refuge in Lebanon, mainly in the Baalbek-Hermel region. **This has increased humanitarian needs** and further strained resources in these already affected areas.

IN NUMBERS



2 million

people assisted in November 2024*

335,200

conflict-affected
assisted people*

912,300

assisted people under
regular programmes

770,300

assisted people under
ESSN Programme



2.26 M cooked meals
1,568 mt
of food baskets



US\$ 26 M transferred cash
US\$ 19 M ESSN
transferred cash

2024 Emergency Response



661,800 conflict-affected
people assisted *since January 2024***



US\$ 28 million
needed until the end of 2024



*The total beneficiaries figure excludes overlap between food and cash assistance and includes ESSN figures.

**The total beneficiaries figure excludes overlap between the different phases of the emergency response.

SITUATION UPDATE

- Two weeks into the Israel-Hezbollah ceasefire, **violations persist, and the situation remains fragile.** Adding to the regional turmoil, the fraught shifting power dynamics in Syria since early December mark a pivotal moment for Lebanon. **Border security risks** may escalate as extremist groups exploit the power vacuum, while **uncertainties surrounding refugee repatriation** threaten to extend Lebanon's socio-economic strains.
- Many displaced families face challenges returning home due to destroyed homes, damaged infrastructure, limited access to basic needs and safety concerns, **with 179,000 of 900,000 internally displaced people still unable to return** as of 11 December 2024, as per [IOM](#).
- According to [UNHCR](#), 18,500 Syrians and 40,000 Lebanese have fled Syria to Lebanon between 27 November and 7 December. Since 7 December, **thousands of Syrians have reportedly returned to Syria** via the Masnaa border, with additional unofficial crossings reported in Wadi Khaled. In parallel,

movements into Lebanon from Syria continue, especially to Baalbek-Hermel, where Lebanese families and Syrian families mainly from religious minorities (70 percent Lebanese and 30 percent Syrian as per [UNHCR](#)) are sheltering in mosques, vehicles, and public buildings. Of the 41,400 Lebanese who fled to Iraq during the conflict 4,000 have returned to Lebanon as of 4 December. The Lebanese Government has kept **the two main border crossings with Syria, Aarida and Josiah closed** until further notice, following last week's Israeli airstrikes.

- The number of people in shelters further decreased this week, with **only 6,600 IDPs remaining in shelters** as of 12 December, a 97 percent reduction since pre-ceasefire levels.
- Lebanon's food insecurity is set to worsen**, further straining infrastructure and deepening the effects of the economic crisis. As per the World Bank, Lebanon's real GDP growth for 2024 declined by 6.6 percent in 2024, further deepening an economic contraction of over 38 percent in the past five years, equivalent to losing 15 years of growth.

WFP OPERATIONS



WFP Response

- In 2024, WFP, in collaboration with the Government of Lebanon and its partners, reached **661,800 people affected by the conflict** with one or several rounds of food and/or cash assistance, including **67,000 reached** since the ceasefire.
- On 6 December, **WFP completed its November emergency cash assistance cycle**, leveraging existing safety nets to support an additional 36,000 Lebanese people affected by the conflict (9,150 households), including 24,300 people (6,190 households) receiving assistance for the first time. In total, WFP provided emergency cash assistance to 247,000 affected Lebanese people (65,600 households) throughout November 2024.
- On 10 and 11 December, **WFP responded swiftly to the urgent needs of newly displaced individuals from Syria**. WFP distributed ready-to-eat meals (RTEs) to 3,100 households, benefitting 17,100 people across 18 shelters in Baalbek-Hermel and delivered 3,600 meals in one shelter.
- **Under the Climate Adaptation Innovation Accelerator Programme**, WFP Lebanon selected in September 2024 four innovative ventures to receive up to US\$ 200,000 in cash and technical support to develop their solutions further. [These ventures joined a MENA-region bootcamp from 24 to 30 November](#), fostering collaboration, co-creation, and idea exchange to address pressing climate adaptation challenges.



Supply Chain

- **WFP has dispatched 3,443 mt of WFP food assistance**, including light Ready-to-Eat (RTE) rations, regular RTEs, food parcels, bulk commodities, and bread packs, deploying more than 400 trucks since the escalation of the conflict on 23 September.

CLUSTERS AND COMMON SERVICES



Food Security and Agriculture Cluster

- The Food Security and Agriculture Cluster (FSAC) is revising its Partners' Joint Response Plan to address emerging needs and align priorities in the post-ceasefire context. Updates include refining geographic distribution to ensure sufficient support for returnees, **aligning resource allocation and beneficiary lists with the updated geographic focus**, and closely coordinating efforts with Lebanon's Disaster Risk Management (DRM) Unit.
- Since 23 September, Food Security and Agriculture Cluster partners, including WFP, have supported displaced people in shelters and outside shelters by

providing **more than 10.5 million hot and cold meals**, RTEs, bread, and food parcels. (View more [here](#)).



Logistics Cluster

- In addition to the 4,500 m³ of free storage in Beirut, the Logistics Cluster **expanded its storage capacity** in support of the humanitarian community with a new facility in Zahle. This hub will enhance support for humanitarian actors by facilitating emergency response and winterization efforts, ensuring timely assistance to vulnerable populations in critical areas. As of 11 December 2024, 700 m³ of storage capacity has been used, primarily for shelter and food security items, and 1,900 m³ of humanitarian cargo has been successfully dispatched.
- Between 6 and 12 November, the **Logistics Cluster facilitated its 15th humanitarian convoy** since 23 September. The convoy, of four trucks, supported one partner in delivering food assistance to conflict-affected individuals in Qlaiaa, Marjaayoun.

ASSESSMENTS AND MONITORING

- WFP's rapid assessment of contracted shops in early December highlighted **a widespread improvement in the operability of shops following the ceasefire**. Between early November and early December, functional shops surged in the South (43 to 89 percent) and Baalbek-El Hermel (63 to 100 percent) governorates, with Bekaa reaching full functionality (85 to 100 percent). Despite progress, challenges persisted in the Southern Suburbs of Beirut (45 to 55 percent) and El Nabatieh (16 to 40 percent), though areas like Bent Jbeil (29 percent) and El Nabatieh (44 percent) regained partial functionality after reporting zero percent of functional shops since late September.

Non-operability stemmed from conflict-related destruction, particularly in Marjaayoun (40 percent), Southern Suburbs of Beirut (20 percent), Tyre (15 percent), Bent Jbeil (14 percent), and El Nabatieh (11 percent). Additionally, shops in Bent Jbeil (57 percent), El Nabatieh (44 percent), and Marjaayoun (40 percent) remained closed despite reporting no major damage, underscoring broader challenges to market recovery.

ACCOUNTABILITY TO AFFECTED PEOPLE

- To mark the International Day of Persons with Disabilities, WFP School Feeding Cooperating Partner Development, Culture, and Leadership (DCL) held **awareness sessions in 10 WFP-supported schools in North and Akkar, reaching 36 participants**, including school directors and health educators. Feedback from participants highlighted the importance of the training in enhancing their understanding and addressing the needs of students with disabilities including protection concerns.

WFP EMERGENCY AND REGULAR RESPONSE | NOVEMBER 2024

