



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES



Photo: WFP / Edmond Khoury

WFP Lebanon Situation Report

July 2023

Population | **5.7 million**
2021 Human Development Index | **112 out of 191**
Income Level (World Bank) | **Lower-middle**
2021 GNI per capita (US\$) | **3,450**

OPERATIONAL CONTEXT

Lebanon is now in its fourth year of a deep economic, political, and social crisis. In June 2023, Lebanon recorded the second highest food price inflation in the world with a nominal food price inflation rate of 280 percent (YoY), as reported by the World Bank.

After nine months of a presidential vacuum, Lebanon is facing another leadership vacuum as the terms of the Governor of Banque du Liban (BDL) ended in July 2023. Lack of political agreement to appoint a successor raises uncertainties over an already fragile system and further delays the implementation of an economic recovery plan.

The ongoing economic and political instability continues to have a detrimental impact on the food security of both Lebanese and Syrian households. The [second Integrated Food Security Phase Classification \(IPC\) for Lebanon](#), conducted in May 2023, estimates that 25 percent of the analysed population (1,411,000 individuals) are experiencing acute food insecurity.

Increased coverage of humanitarian food assistance, enhanced stability of the food supply chain, more employment opportunities for Lebanese nationals, and other factors led to a reduction of people experiencing acute food insecurity compared to September 2022 (37 percent of the analysed population). However, another 45 percent of the total population are struggling to maintain adequate food consumption, highlighting the urgency to take action to protect livelihoods and mitigate risks of a slide back into acute food insecurity.

WFP is at the forefront of the response to Lebanon's economic and refugee crisis, supporting over 1 million refugees and 700,000 Lebanese nationals to meet their food and other basic needs. In addition, WFP implements cash transfers for an additional 400,000 Lebanese individuals through the Government's Emergency Social Safety Net. Together with the World Bank, WFP is a key partner to the Government of Lebanon to strengthen national social safety nets.

FUNDING OVERVIEW

	% Funded	Available	Required
COUNTRY STRATEGIC PLAN (2023–2025)	9%	\$478 million	\$5.3 billion
2023 TOTAL REQUIREMENTS	27%	\$478 million	\$1.8 billion

Net Funding Requirements (Aug 2023 – Jan 2024)
US\$ 528.7 million

IN NUMBERS



3.1 M
people in need of food assistance
Food Security and Agriculture Sector, 2023



1.8 M
people assisted in July 2023



\$27.9 M
cash-based transfers made



3,141 MT
of food (US\$ 4M) distributed

The number of people assisted and amount transferred does not include ESSN beneficiaries or transfers.



\$11.9 M
cash transfers made to **428,000** people for the Government's Emergency Social Safety Net (ESSN) programme

SITUATION UPDATE

The cost of the full Survival Minimum Expenditure Basket (SMEB) for a family of five monitored by WFP reached LBP 27.7 million (US\$ 302) in June, registering an 11 percent monthly increase and a 240 percent annual increase.

The cost of the food basket alone increased by 12 percent between May and June 2023 to reach LBP 2.8 million (US\$ 30.5) per person/month. The cost of the non-food basket also increased by 9 percent for the same period.

The consumer price index (CPI) increased by 7 percent between May and June 2023 and by 254 percent since June 2022, while yearly food inflation reached 280 percent.

Following Russia's withdrawal from the Black Sea Grain Initiative (BSGI), it is expected that global food commodity prices will increase, including wheat, a staple food in Lebanon. As a result, the cost of state-subsidized bread bundles is likely to increase in the near term.



WFP RESPONSE



Cash Assistance for Refugees

In July, WFP provided cash assistance to 1,033,000 refugees through three modalities where people can redeem their assistance at ATMs, money transfer agents, or shops contracted by WFP.

The operational improvements observed in May and June cycles following the resumption of dual currency disbursement to Syrian refugees continued during the July cycle. Despite the substantial rise in the overall amount of assistance, the transfer values of cash assistance received by Syrian refugees are still not enough to sufficiently cover their food and other basic needs. Cash assistance covered 76 percent of food needs and only 19 percent of other basic goods and services. Read more [here](#).

Economic Crisis Response for Lebanese

In July, WFP supported 274,000 vulnerable Lebanese individuals (72,700 households) with food parcels as part of its response to the economic crisis. Four data collection companies were selected and trained by WFP to conduct a retargeting exercise in August 2023 aiming to reassess the eligibility of targeted households to continue receiving in-kind assistance.

School Meals

The academic year 2022-2023 ended in mid-July 2023. Through WFP's school meals programme, 20,600 students at 73 public schools received snacks and 3,500 students received cold meals prepared by 42 women volunteering at seven school kitchens. The distribution of sunflower oil was finalized during the month of July with 9,500 students receiving one litre of sunflower oil each.

For the second year in a row, WFP supported the Ministry of Education and Higher Education's Summer Catchup Programme which aims to make up for lost teaching days due to multiple strikes throughout the academic year. In July, WFP provided daily in-school snacks to 57,000 Lebanese and Syrian students in 214 schools enrolled in the Summer Catchup Programme.

Support to Social Protection Programmes

In July, WFP assisted 381,000 Lebanese individuals (69,450 families) through the National Poverty Targeting Programme (NPTP). In addition, 391,200 Lebanese individuals (93,300 families) received cash entitlements through the Emergency Social Safety Net programme (ESSN).

Livelihoods

WFP contracted six continuing cooperating partners to implement capacity building and asset construction and rehabilitation projects across Lebanon starting 15 July 2023.

As part of the Food Systems Summit+2 Stocktaking Moment, which took place in Rome during the last week of July 2023, WFP Lebanon was the only country office selected to showcase its achievements under the Food Systems Challenge project. WFP presented the various businesses supported by the Food Systems Challenge that is implemented by WFP's partner Berytech.

Nutrition

In July, WFP and the Ministry of Public Health organized a three-day study tour to learn about Jordan's experience in providing fortified bread to reduce malnutrition and improve health nationally. The tour provided valuable key takeaways that can be applied to improve the public health and nutrition situation in Lebanon amidst the current crisis.

GENDER & SOCIAL INCLUSION, PROTECTION & ACCOUNTABILITY TO AFFECTED POPULATIONS (AAP)

WFP received 43,000 claims in July through its call centre compared to 49,000 in June. 93 percent of the claims were resolved in the same month, down from 98 percent in June.

In July, 32 percent of claimants requested WFP assistance, 37 percent requested information on various topics, 18 percent expressed concerns mainly related to validation and distribution sites, 11 percent requested to update their personal data, and 1 percent of the calls were protection-related. Protection related claims were referred to relevant partners for gender-based violence case management, legal counselling, and shelter.

WFP organized an exposition on the International Day of Cooperatives, where eight Lebanese women-led cooperatives and MSMEs, showcased and sold their traditional homemade food provisions.

Also in July, WFP conducted a three-day training for members of the Food Security and Agriculture Sector (FSAS) in Lebanon. The training, jointly organized with the sector coordinator, UNWOMEN, FAO, CARE, and UNDP, focused on how to design and manage food security and agriculture projects with a gender-responsive approach.

WFP Lebanon and cooperating partners organized a month-long awareness campaign to celebrate July Disability Pride Month. The campaign included awareness sessions for people with disabilities and their families, as well as capacity building sessions for partners. WFP assistance reached 51,400 households with members with disabilities in July.

MONITORING & ASSESSMENTS

The re-introduction of dual currency redemption in May led to significant operational improvements, such as decreased waiting time, crowding, and need for replenishment at ATMs. These improvements continued to be observed in June, along with high satisfaction with the redemption process for assisted families.

For assisted Syrians, the average waiting time to redeem their assistance at an ATM in May and June was around 12 minutes, down from 41 minutes in April. For Lebanese, the average waiting time to redeem at an ATM has been around 19 minutes over the last three months.

Satisfaction with WFP cash assistance has increased across all modalities since May 2023. However, both Lebanese and Syrian families continue to cite the value of assistance as not being enough to afford essential goods as prices continue to rise.

KEY CHALLENGES

WFP is encountering challenges in securing adequate resources to sustain its operations at the necessary scale. Starting August 2023, WFP will distribute its in-kind food assistance every other month to avert a funding shortfall in October 2023.

WFP continues to advocate for funds to support the most vulnerable people in Lebanon, including through strategic engagements with key donors as well as exploring funding opportunities with new donors.

WFP COUNTRY STRATEGY

COUNTRY STRATEGIC PLAN (2023-2025)

Strategic Result 1: Everyone has access to food

Strategic Outcome 1: Economically-vulnerable and food insecure people in Lebanon, including refugees, meet their basic needs during and in the aftermath of crises.

Focus area: *Crisis response*

Activities: Provide unconditional assistance to crisis-affected people in Lebanon, including refugees

Strategic Result 1: Everyone has access to food

Strategic Outcome 2: Extremely poor and vulnerable people in Lebanon, including children, are more resilient through inclusion in national social safety nets throughout the year.

Focus area: *Resilience building*

Activities: Provide unconditional cash transfers to extremely poor Lebanese through national safety net programmes.
Provide nutritious school meals to Lebanon and refugee children.

Strategic Result 4: Development of sustainable food systems

Strategic Outcome 3: Individuals, households and communities vulnerable to economic and climatic shocks in Lebanon have more resilient livelihoods by 2025.

Focus area: *Resilience building*

Activities: Provide vulnerable Lebanese and refugee communities with integrated resilience and area-based livelihood support through conflict-sensitive and gender transformative approaches.

Strategic Result 5: Developing countries have strengthened capacity to implement the SDGs

Strategic Outcome 4: National institutions in Lebanon have increased capacity to manage social safety nets and other programmes by 2025.

Focus area: *Resilience building*

Activities: Provide technical expertise, capacity strengthening and policy advice to enhance Government capacity.

Strategic Result 8: Enhanced global partnerships

Strategic Outcome 5: Humanitarian stakeholders benefit from enhanced coordination and mandated services to deliver assistance during, in the aftermath, and in anticipation of crises.

Focus area: *Crisis response*

Activities: Provide sector coordination and mandated services to humanitarian partners.
Provide on-demand services, including resources transfers, to Government and other partners.

Donors

Australia, Austria, Canada, Cyprus, European Union, France, Germany, United Kingdom, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Lebanon's Presidency of the Council of Ministers, Malta, Norway, Poland, Private Donors, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Switzerland, USA

FOOD SECURITY & AGRICULTURE SECTOR

In **June**, WFP and 28 sector partners reached 1.81 million refugees and Lebanese through cash and food assistance. The estimated amount of cash disbursed is US\$ 27.3 million and LBP 646.8 million, while around 91,000 people were provided with ready-to-eat meals and partial food parcels. In addition, 107 farmers and 66 agricultural cooperatives, associations, and small businesses were supported through capacity building and/or inputs and assets provision. The estimated amount of cash disbursed for small-scale farmers to enhance agricultural production is US\$ 104,000.

ADVOCACY, COMMUNICATIONS & PARTNERSHIPS

WFP is actively working to strengthen its relationship with traditional donors and urge them to provide increased funding support. To this end, WFP held a donor meeting on 27 July to inform donors of the resourcing status and advocate for additional funding.

In addition, WFP organized a field visit with Belgium on 24 July to advocate for donor support, particularly for in-kind assistance. The delegation visited field sites to witness first-hand the impact of WFP's assistance on vulnerable populations. This visit aimed to reinforce WFP's call for sustained support from donors for in-kind assistance.

In July, WFP highlighted the findings of the latest Market Monitor Report published by WFP through a series of Twitter videos. The videos can be accessed [here](#).

Additionally, WFP supported the National Convenor's participation in the FSS+2 Stocktaking Moment in Rome and posted a series of videos about this event on WFP Lebanon's Twitter page. The videos can be accessed [here](#).



STORY WORTH TELLING

Photo: WFP/ Mustapha Ghabris

For Mohammad and his family of five, the assistance provided by WFP is crucial for survival. Mohammad explains that at the beginning of the month when they receive assistance via food e-card, the family stocks up on grains, coffee, sugar, and anything with a durable shelf-life.

"We are very grateful for the assistance provided as it helps us get by. Even though I do work, as a refugee, I struggle to find a job other than doing manual labour or running errands," says Mohammad.

WFP CASH & IN-KIND ASSISTANCE FOR REFUGEES AND LEBANESE

July 2023

