







WFP LEBANON

SITUATION REPORT – July 2022

A Lebanese family receiving cash assistance through the National Poverty Targeting Programme (NPTP). Photo: WFP/ Photo Library

IN NUMBERS

-  **3,563,300** people in need of assistance
-  **1,655,000** people assisted in July 2022
-  **USD 25m** cash-based transfers made
-  **2,715 MT** of food distributed

SITUATION UPDATE

- Growing frustration over the challenging living conditions continues to reverberate in Lebanon through sporadic protests and security incidents. On 11 August, an armed man held hostages in a Federal Bank in Beirut demanding a deposit to pay for medical fees, which have witnessed substantial increases since the beginning of the year. Meanwhile, crime rates continue to be on the rise as the economic crisis deepens, mainly theft.
- On the political level, the formation of a new government is currently at a standstill, particularly in the absence of consultations between President Michel Aoun and Prime Minister-designate Najib Mikati. Amid absence of reforms, prospects for improvements in the socio-economic situation remain slim. Meanwhile, the value of the national currency, which has been stabilized at LBP 29,000 to the dollar by the Central Bank through circular 161, is resuming its downward trend. As of 12 August, the informal market rate is trading at LBP 32,000/USD and is expected to keep depreciating in the coming period.
- Long queues in front of bakeries were witnessed throughout the country in July due to wheat shortages. The Lebanese Parliament on the other hand has approved the USD 150 million World Bank for wheat importation, which should allow Lebanon to secure enough wheat supplies for approximately eight months.

HIGHLIGHTS

- A number of businesses who benefitted from support through the Food System Challenge are launching new food products, including the Lebanese company Levant Beverage & Dairy Industries SAL, which launched its product line Dairiday.
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WFP RESPONSE

Cash Assistance for Refugees

- In July, WFP provided unconditional cash assistance to 1,045,300 refugees through 3 modalities:
 - *Multipurpose Cash* for food and other essential needs redeemable at ATMs: 234,000 Syrian refugees
 - *Food e-cards* for food needs redeemable at WFP-contracted shops: 352,500 Syrian refugees
 - *Cash-for-Food* for food needs redeemable at ATMs or shops: 453,000 Syrian refugees and 5,800 refugees of other nationalities
- WFP is planning to introduce an additional redemption channel in August through money transfer operators (MTO) for beneficiaries receiving cash assistance to reduce their travel time and costs. WFP has developed communication materials for beneficiaries and will conduct trainings for MTO agents to ensure safe and dignified access to assistance through this new channel.

Economic Crisis Response for Lebanese

- Through the emergency response to the ongoing economic crisis, WFP reached 78,200 vulnerable Lebanese households (around 300,000 individuals) with food parcels in July. Meanwhile, efforts are ongoing to target new households to receive in-kind food assistance through coordination with WFP's cooperating partners.

WFP RESPONSE

School Meals

- In July, 29,800 Syrian students registered in the afternoon shifts at 77 public schools benefitted from WFP's School Meals programme, following extension of the academic school year until mid-July. This includes more than 2,000 students who received cold meals prepared by students' mothers as part of the School Kitchens initiative.

Livelihoods

- A number of businesses who benefitted from support through the Food System Challenge are launching new food products, including the Lebanese company Levant Beverage & Dairy Industries SAL, which launched Dairiday. The new product line Dairiday includes various types of cheese, yogurt, and Labneh. The Food System Challenge, implemented by WFP and Berytech, aims at supporting small/medium enterprises and cooperatives working across the agriculture and agri-food sectors to address core food system challenges with maximum impact. Businesses selected to receive support through the challenges are benefitting from cash grants up to USD 100,000 per business.

Support to Social Protection Programmes

- WFP assisted 49,200 Lebanese households (around 280,600 individuals) through the National Poverty Targeting Programme (NPTP) in July and is planning to scale up assistance to reach 75,000 households by September.
- Meanwhile, preparations are underway to conduct two sets of training sessions for staff at the Ministry of Social Affairs (MoSA) on gender-related topics in August. The training will be implemented in coordination with WFP and UNWOMEN to increase the gender responsiveness of the NPTP and ensure it meets the needs of marginalized groups at risk.
- As of July, WFP delivered payments to 63,400 households (around 294,500 individuals) on behalf of the Government for the Emergency Social Safety Net (ESSN) and is continuing household verification visits to enable the Government to select ESSN beneficiaries.

Monitoring

- The basic needs outcome monitoring (BNOM) conducted in Q2 2022 shows that the number of assisted Syrian refugees who have acceptable food consumption has increased from 29 percent to 33 percent between 2021 and 2022. This is likely due to the gradual increase in the transfer value of cash assistance between July 2021 (LBP 100,000 per person per month) and July 2022 (LBP 500,000 per person per month).
- 372 Syrian and 131 Lebanese households receiving cash assistance were interviewed in July. Findings of the interviews show that the average time to withdraw assistance at ATMs is 22 minutes, with 40 percent of the responders mentioning crowding at the ATMs. In preparation for the increase of redemption points through MTOs in August, WFP has developed two monitoring tools to be used to interview beneficiaries after they redeem their assistance at MTOs.

Gender, Protection & Accountability to Affected Populations (AAP)

- In July, WFP received 33,774 claims through its call centre, with 57 percent of calls received from women and 62 percent from Lebanese. Nearly half of the claims were to request assistance, a third to request information, and the rest to provide feedback or express concerns. The timeframe of resolution continued to improve, with nearly all cases (97 percent) resolved during the same month.
- Jointly with UNICEF and UNHCR, WFP delivered trainings on protection and humanitarian principles to 37 branches of the money transfer operators BoB Finance in July. These branches will act as additional redemption points for refugees receiving cash assistance, alongside ATMs. In addition, WFP conducted protection assessments at these branches to ensure they will provide safe and dignified services to beneficiaries. This is complemented by developing communication materials to help beneficiaries identify and reach BoB Finance locations, as well as the redemption process.

Supply Chain & Retail

- In July, the retail unit finalized a new process to select new shops for the extension of the retail network. Subsequently, 42 additional shops were selected to be part of WFP's retail network, including 14 branches for Happy supermarket chain.
- International procurement of food parcels is challenging due to shipment delays. WFP is however countering the impact of these delays through local procurement to ensure parcels are ready ahead of distribution.

ADVOCACY, COMMUNICATIONS & PARTNERSHIPS

- In July, WFP accompanied Joanna Wronecka, UN Special Coordinator for Lebanon on a field visit to the North. The visit served to highlight WFP's work in Lebanon and the impact of its assistance on vulnerable families. Families visited were receiving assistance through the National Poverty Targeting Programme (NPTP), in-kind food parcels, and multi-purpose cash.
- In July, WFP produced visuals on WFP's data on [food insecurity](#), [rising food prices](#), and [livelihoods projects](#). A number of media interviews were also conducted to highlight WFP's assistance in Lebanon. (Link [here](#))

FOOD SECURITY AND AGRICULTURE SECTOR

- Overall, between January and June 2022, 32 sector partners including WFP assisted 1.9 million Lebanese and refugees through the Lebanese Crisis Response Plan (LCRP) and Emergency Response Plan (ERP). This includes in-kind food assistance to 495,000 individuals (including 391,500 Lebanese and 86,600 Syrian refugees) and cash assistance to 1.4 million individuals (including 282,000 Lebanese and 1,040,000 Syrian refugees).

FUNDING OVERVIEW

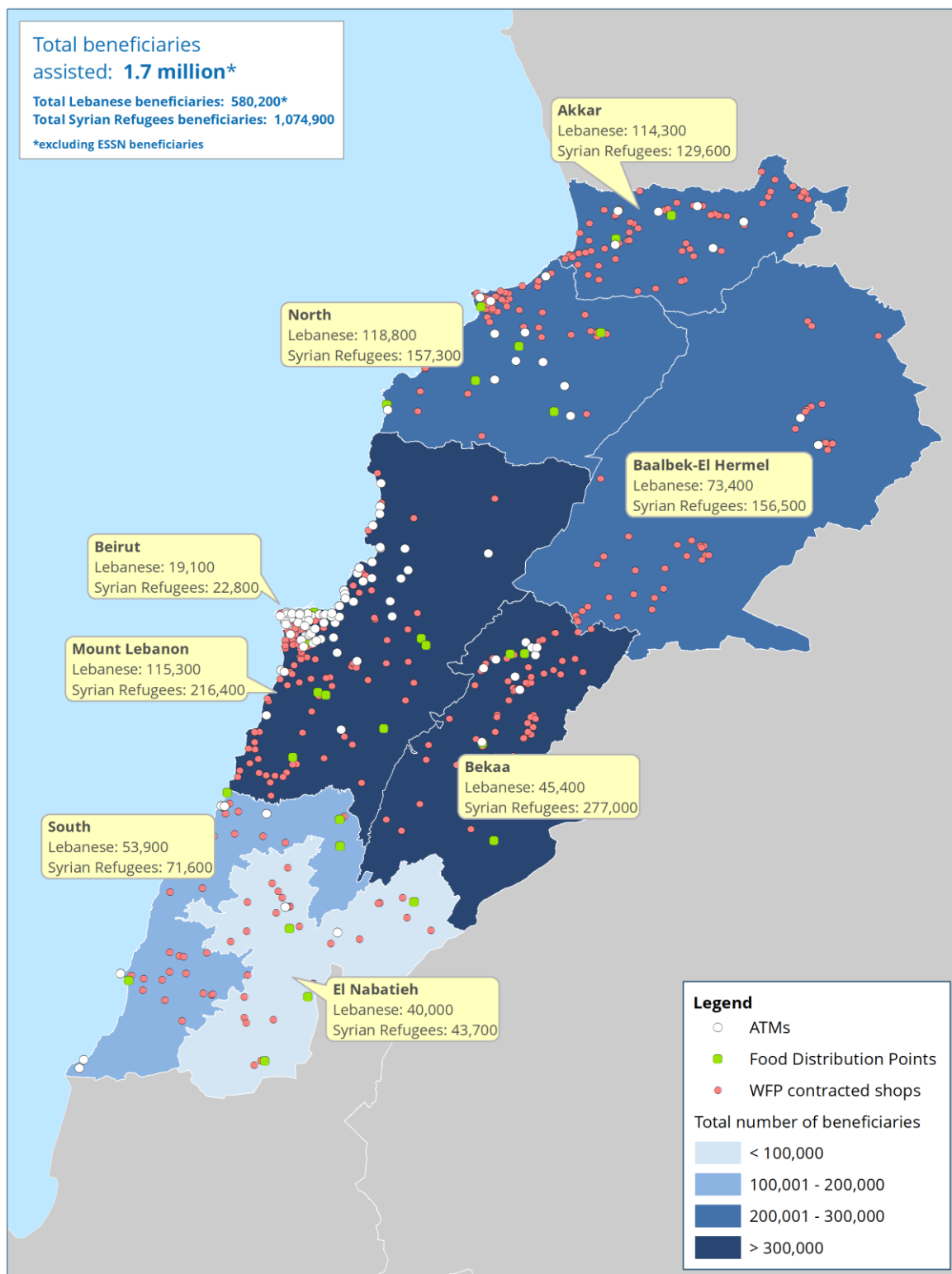


AUG 2022 - JAN 2023
NET FUNDING REQUIREMENTS **US\$ 422 million**



Lebanon

WFP Cash and In-kind Assistance for Refugees and Lebanese – July 2022



Donors

Australia, Canada, Cyprus, European Commission, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Lebanon's Presidency of the Council of Ministers, Lebanon Humanitarian Fund, Norway, Poland, Private Donors, Republic of Korea, Russia, Switzerland, UN CERF, United Kingdom, USA