

MIDDLE EAST REGIONAL ESCALATION
EMERGENCY RESPONSE

Situation Report #10

10 May 2026

IN NUMBERS



650,000 displaced people assisted in **Lebanon** with food and cash to date.



125,274 displaced people received date bars at **Syria** crossings.

33,820 refugees in settlement supported with food and cash assistance in **Iran**.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- As the Strait of Hormuz crisis deepens amid persistent uncertainty, regional escalation continues to disrupt food systems, trade routes and humanitarian access, with rising fuel and food prices reinforcing each other across the region, further constraining access to food in crisis-affected settings and undermining vulnerable households' access to basic needs.
- In Iran, WFP assistance supports more than 33,000 refugees across 20 settlements while inflation, and pressure on household food affordability continue to intensify.
- In Lebanon, WFP is sustaining emergency assistance while needs remain severe despite the ceasefire, with continued insecurity, renewed displacement, pressure on host communities, and nearly a quarter of the population facing acute food insecurity.
- The G2G Jordan-Lebanon humanitarian corridor is strengthening WFP's cross-border deliveries under severe access constraints, enabling the continued movement of critical food supplies and reinforcing the continuity of the emergency response.

Global Food Insecurity Impact

- The Middle East escalation continues to unfold in a highly volatile and uncertain environment, marked by a fragile ceasefire alongside heightened tensions across key regional flashpoints. While diplomatic efforts have opened a narrow window for de-escalation, instability in the Strait of Hormuz and across the Gulf underscore the risk of renewed escalation. The crisis - now entering its third month - continues to disrupt critical energy and trade routes, driving up fuel and food prices, constraining supply chains, and placing sustained pressure on humanitarian operations and access to food and other basic services across the region and beyond.
- Humanitarian logistics operations are adapting under a challenging environment, with disruptions to key corridors, and intermittent port access increasing transit times and costs. Despite these constraints, diversified routes, strengthened coordination and stock prepositioning are helping sustain the delivery of critical assistance, although fuel volatility and rising food prices continue to exert pressure on operations.
- Food inflation remains acute in crisis-affected settings, and is increasingly visible in staple markets. Food Minimum Expenditure Basket (MEB) cost has increased most sharply in Gaza (+64 percent), while wheat flour price has surged to around 74 percent since the onset reflecting severe market disruption and rapidly eroding access to basic food. More moderate wheat flour increases in Egypt (12.6 percent) and Iraq (11 percent) are nonetheless tightening affordability for vulnerable households heavily dependent on bread.
- MEB increases are also evident in Iran (+18.6 percent), Lebanon and Syria (both +9 percent) since the escalation, while sharp fuel price rises - particularly in Lebanon (+65.5 percent) and Ukraine (+38 percent) - are driving higher transport and production costs, accelerating the spillover of inflation into food markets.

WFP Response

WFP continues to support affected people across the Middle East, leveraging contingency planning and pre-positioned food stocks; amid escalating needs, critically low funding and pre-existing unmet humanitarian demands.

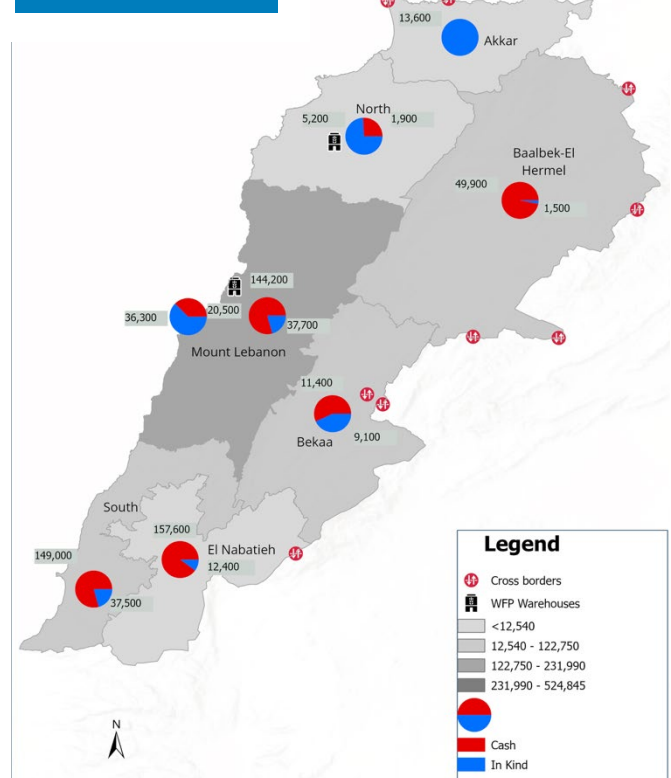
Iran

- According to the Government of Iran, approximately [3.2 million people](#) (around 800,000 households) have been internally relocated, one of the largest internal movements in the country in recent decades. An estimated 75 percent are in Tehran, currently accommodated in temporary facilities, including schools, guesthouses, and sports halls. In some locations, nearly 17 percent of the population lacks access to clean water due to overcrowding.
- Cross-border movements remain limited, with nearly 220,000 people crossing into neighboring countries, primarily Türkiye, though many movements may reflect routine activities, or considered temporary or precautionary.
- Official data from Iran indicate that inflation accelerated in April, with year-on-year inflation reaching 73.5 percent - among the highest levels in decades. Monthly inflation rose sharply to 7 percent, driven largely by food prices, approximately 2.5 times higher than in March.
- The cost of a basic food basket (11 food items for a household of four members) has increased significantly, now exceeding USD 134, marking a 62 percent increase compared to November 2025, and absorbing around 85 percent of a minimum-wage household's income. In response, the Government has expanded the food assistance voucher programme, alongside additional measures to support the supply of basic goods; however, food prices increase of over 32 percent since the scheme's expansion has partially offset its impact.
- WFP assistance in Iran remains uninterrupted, assisting 33,818 refugees across 20 settlements. As part of the ongoing inclusion of 7,000 newly referred refugees in WFP assistance, 829 refugees were added to the wheat flour recipient list in April, bringing the total number of beneficiaries to 1,600 since March 2026, with additional eligible individuals expected to be incorporated progressively. CAFIA, the Iranian authorities handling refugee status, paused documentation processing temporarily due to the escalation of the conflict, but the process for administrative processing has now resumed.
- Beneficiaries receive food and cash including daily bread through WFP-supported bakeries and wheat flour distributions (9 kg of wheat flour per person per month) supporting home-based baking in smaller locations. CBT value is set at IRR 8 million (USD 5.7) for male-headed households and IRR 9 million (USD 6.5) for female-headed households.

- Due to prevailing insecurity and the shift to remote learning, school feeding continues through take-home rations for around 9,000 school children.
- **For the next six months (May – August 2026), WFP requires USD 20.7 million** to sustain its regular operations and emergency response in Iran.

Lebanon

Emergency Response



- Despite the ceasefire, sustained targeted military activity continues in southern Lebanon, with relative calm in Beirut contrasted by persistent insecurity in border-adjacent areas, including recent demolitions and infrastructure disruptions. Strikes extending beyond 30 km into Tyre and Nabatieh are driving renewed displacement and placing additional strain on already fragile host communities and public services.
- Displacement dynamics remain highly fluid following the ceasefire, with over 1.05 million internally displaced people, 35 percent of whom are children, as reported by UNICEF. The number of internally displaced people residing in shelters has increased to 124,231 across 625 shelters, while expanded evacuation warnings continue to drive pendular movements, with 19 percent of those previously in collective shelters having left.
- WFP continues to respond to the urgent needs of people affected by the ongoing conflict. To date, **WFP has reached 650,000 conflict affected people with food and cash assistance in shelters and across communities** since 2 March, including 153,450 people reached with food assistance and 536,000 people supported through cash assistance (*Figures by modality reflect overlapping assistance as some*

individuals have received support through more than one modality). Of those:

- WFP provided food assistance to 161,000 displaced individuals in 483 shelters across Lebanon. This includes the distribution of 4.3 million hot meals, and thousands of cold meals, light Ready-to-Eat (RTEs), packages of bread, food parcels (dry rations) and snacks.
- Outside shelters, WFP provided food assistance to almost 50,000 conflict-affected people in host communities or hard-to-reach areas.
- Cash assistance, in coordination with the Ministry of Social Affairs, through the Shock Responsive Social Safety Net supported 427,000 conflict affected Lebanese (110,000 households), while 109,000 Syrian refugees (26,700 households) affected by the conflict have been reached through a separate horizontal expansion of the cash assistance programme. In total, WFP has transferred almost USD 17 million in emergency cash-based assistance so far.
- On 30 April, the Logistics Cluster successfully facilitated, with the support of WFP, two convoys of 14 trucks, on behalf of partners and WFP, to Borj El Moulouk, Marjayoun district and Fardis, Hasbaya district, delivering humanitarian assistance to support 11,620 conflict-affected people (2,905 households).
- Since the beginning of the escalation, 18 convoys have been completed, assisting almost 81,460 affected people (20,365 households) in hard-to-reach areas. However, almost 55 percent of WFP planned missions (20 out of 38 convoys) have not been completed due to negative or absent responses on deconfliction requests.
- Building on the established government to government (G2G) humanitarian corridor between Jordan and Lebanon, coordinated by WFP and supported through the Logistics Cluster, an inland shipment of 3 trucks carrying 50 mt of RTEs from Jordan is scheduled to arrive in Beirut via the Al Masnaa border crossing by mid-May, supporting the continuity of Lebanon's emergency response.
- Based on WFP's latest emergency planning assumptions for May–August 2026, **the response requires USD 44.1 million per month** to sustain cash, food, and fuel assistance for conflict-affected populations, bringing total requirements over the four-month period to USD 176 million.

Syria

- As of early May, more than 372,000 people crossed into Syria from Lebanon since the escalation, including over 306,000 Syrians and nearly 65,000 Lebanese. Among the Syrians, 83,374 have expressed an intention to return permanently (UNHCR). Most

crossings occurred through Jdeidet Yabous (Rural Damascus) and Jousieh (Homs) crossings. Informal crossings are also reportedly being used, though figures remain unverified. Priority humanitarian needs have included food supplies, due to the lack of food at the border crossings, safe drinking water, shelter and non-food items (NFIs) and transportation. As of 30 April, WFP distributed 40,520 date bars at Jousieh and 85,000 at Jdeidet Yabous BCPs respectively.

- In addition, Lebanon returnees are being tracked through UNHCR community centers via government-led convoys in locations such as Afrin and supported under WFP May–June distributions in Camps.
- For the next six months (May–October 2026), **WFP Syria requires USD 191 million to sustain its regular operations.**

Afghanistan

- About 294,400 refugees have [returned](#) to Afghanistan from Iran since 28 February.
- The closure of the Afghanistan–Pakistan border since 12 October 2025, compounded by the escalation in Iran, have disrupted the Dubai–Iran supply route, further driving up food prices and deepening already high food and nutrition insecurity. As a result, WFP has a complete stock outage of specialized nutritious food essential for women and children recovering from malnutrition, lasting until end of May.
- To mitigate disruptions and reduce reliance on the southern corridor, WFP is scaling up alternative routes: A planned shipment of 400 mt of fortified biscuits from Indonesia to Afghanistan was rerouted overland via Dubai through nine countries including Türkiye (397 mt received), alongside alternative movements of vegetable oil via Azerbaijan (with partial arrivals) and an 80 mt trial of wheat–soya blend by rail through Iran to sustain supply continuity.
- Despite persistent humanitarian needs, available resources no longer allow WFP to maintain planned levels of assistance across all programmes. As a result, from mid-May, WFP will no longer be able to sustain its returnee response at five key border points. This means families arriving back in Afghanistan will lose access to vital food assistance and nutrition support at the very moment they need it the most. In light of the intensified conflict along the Afghanistan–Pakistan border and the broader Middle East escalation, **WFP urgently requires USD 15.2 million to assist 320,000 people** - 140,000 IDPs and 180,000 returnees from Iran - through food and nutrition support.

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