



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES



Photo: WFP/ Mustapha Ghabris

WFP Lebanon Situation Report

August 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 ten 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. The lack of political agreement to appoint a successor raises uncertainties 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. Another 45 percent of the total population is 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.

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* (a reduction approx., at 37 percent).

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.

*The first IPC conducted in September 2022 estimated that 1.98 million people were experiencing acute food insecurity.

IN NUMBERS



3.1 M

people in need of food assistance

Food Security and Agriculture Sector, 2023



1.8 M

people assisted in August 2023



\$29 M

cash-based transfers made

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



\$2.6 M

cash transfers made to **75,700** people for the Government's Emergency Social Safety Net (ESSN) programme

SITUATION UPDATE

The cost of the full Survival Minimum Expenditure Basket (SMEB) monitored by WFP reached LBP 30.47 million (US\$ 332) for a family of five in July, registering an 8 percent monthly increase and a 260 percent annual increase.

The cost of the food basket alone reached LBP 2.78 million (US\$ 30) per person per month, a 1 percent monthly decrease. The cost of the non-food basket increased by 16 percent for the same period mainly driven by the increase in rent cost.

The consumer price index (CPI) increased by 7 percent between June and July 2023 and by 252 percent since July 2022, while yearly food inflation reached 278 percent.

FUNDING OVERVIEW

	% Funded	Available	Required
COUNTRY STRATEGIC PLAN (2023–2025)	9%	\$485 million	\$5.3 billion
2023 TOTAL REQUIREMENTS	27%	\$485 million	\$1.8 billion

Net Funding Requirements (Sep 2023 – Feb 2024)
US\$ 572.1 million



WFP RESPONSE



Cash Assistance for Refugees

In August, WFP provided cash assistance to 1,021,100 refugees through three modalities:

- **Multipurpose Cash** for food and other essential needs redeemable at ATMs or money transfer agents: 292,100 Syrian refugees
- **Cash-for-Food** for food needs redeemable at ATMs, money transfer agents, or shops: 375,600 Syrian refugees and 7,100 refugees of other nationalities.
- **Food e-cards** for food needs redeemable at WFP-contracted shops: 346,300 Syrian refugees

WFP's latest Basic Needs Outcome Monitoring (BNOM) results show a positive effect on the food security of assisted refugee families which could be potentially attributed to the reintroduction of dual currency redemption among other factors. Between Q1 and Q2 2023, the percentage of assisted families classified as food insecure substantially decreased from 55 percent to 34 percent.

Economic Crisis Response for Lebanese

Based on the new modality of distributing in-kind food assistance every other month to prevent a funding shortfall in October 2023, the food distribution did not occur in August 2023.

During this month, WFP launched the data collection of the retargeting exercise aiming to reassess the eligibility of 65,000 targeted households to continue receiving in-kind assistance. By the end of August 2023, 25,000 households were successfully visited and assessed.

School Meals

During August 2023, spanning 15 school days, WFP continued its support of the Ministry of Education and Higher Education (MEHE)'s Summer Catchup by providing more than 830,000 snacks to 68,300 students enrolled in 259 schools across Lebanon.

Support to Social Protection Programmes

In August 2023, WFP assisted 73,100 Lebanese households (406,000 individuals) through the National Poverty Targeting Programme (NPTP).

Additionally, after concluding in July 2023 the payments for 72,900 Lebanese families (331,200 individuals) assisted under the Emergency Social Safety Net programme (ESSN), WFP processed in August the cash entitlements for an additional 20,950 families (75,700 individuals) assisted under this programme.

Livelihoods

WFP provided cash incentives amounting to US\$ 300 to 1231 Lebanese wheat farmers across Lebanon to support post-harvest handling. Moreover, WFP launched its livelihood activities in August ranging from technical trainings for farmers to reforestation activities and construction of irrigation channels.

Nutrition

In collaboration with its cooperating partners, WFP provided in August 2023, 31 specific awareness sessions on Infant Young Child Feeding Practices to a group of 313 assisted women. The session was well perceived by the participants highlighting the importance of such awareness sessions in educating mothers and caregivers to improve and support the health and nutrition of children below 2 years old.

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

In August, WFP received 42,000 claims through its call centre compared to 43,000 in July. 84 percent of the claims were addressed and closed in the same month, down from 93 percent in July.

Thirty-seven percent of claimants requested information on various topics, 31 percent requested WFP assistance, 19 percent expressed concerns mainly related to validation and distribution sites, 12 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 a one-day Gender Equality and Social Inclusion advocacy workshop with cooperating partners, to discuss upcoming advocacy campaigns and develop basic materials and a joint action plan for the upcoming 16 Days of Activism campaign.

Moreover, WFP launched the "Disability Inclusive Sites" online dashboard enabling WFP call centre operators, frontline staff, and partners, to support assisted people with disabilities to locate accessible ATMs, MTOs, distribution and validation sites by type of disability. In August, WFP assistance reached 49,980 households with members with disabilities.

MONITORING & ASSESSMENTS

Four months following the reintroduction of dual currency disbursement, the enhancements in operational efficiency and the improved experience and satisfaction of assisted households continue to be maintained. The issues encountered at ATMs by Syrian refugees, particularly tensions and crowdedness dropped by 90 and 70 percent respectively, between April and July 2023.

For assisted Syrians, the average waiting time to redeem their assistance at an ATM in July was around 22 minutes, down from 41 minutes in April. For Lebanese, the average waiting time to redeem at an ATM dropped from 20 to 15 minutes during the same period.

Moreover, a majority of 80 percent of assisted Syrian refugees expressed high satisfaction with the overall shopping experience at WFP contracted shops, a notable progress compared to the assisted families' satisfaction level prior to dual currency redemption.

KEY CHALLENGES

As the new academic year is one month away, the education of around 300,000 students in Lebanon's public schools is at risk due to the lack of agreement on teachers' salaries. This impending uncertainty threatens the planned start of the WFP school meals program.

Moreover, WFP is encountering challenges in securing adequate resources to sustain its cash assistance programs for Syrian and Lebanese families from October 2023 onwards and thus prevent their regression into higher food insecurity levels. WFP continues to advocate for funds through strategic engagements with key donors and 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 **July**, WFP and 16 sector partners reached 1.7 million refugees and Lebanese through cash and food assistance. The estimated amount of cash disbursed is US\$ 24.7 million, while around 128,000 people were provided with ready-to-eat meals and partial food parcels. In addition, 285 farmers and 34 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\$ 124,300.

ADVOCACY, COMMUNICATIONS & PARTNERSHIPS

WFP's Country Director in Lebanon met with the Ambassador of the Republic of Korea (RoK). RoK is a valued donor and long-standing partner providing support for Lebanese and Syrian refugees. WFP will continue its advocacy and engagement efforts to mobilize resources at local and global levels to maintain assistance for people in need.

At the beginning of August, WFP's newly appointed Deputy Executive Director Carl Skau visited WFP Lebanon and spoke to staff about WFP's global direction and priorities, underscoring the important work being done in the country. Moreover, an interview with the Associated Press took place at the Lebanon office, covering the DED's visit and the latest updates.

Also in August, WFP released a video showcasing essential insights into the organization's work in Lebanon. The video can be accessed [here](#). Furthermore, WFP created a video highlighting the WFP and MEHE's summer school catch-up program. The video can be accessed [here](#).

STORY WORTH TELLING



For Khayrat Beqaana, Lebanese Mouneh is a staple. Located in West Bekaa, and funded by BMZ Germany, through WFP, this cooperative produces all kinds of homemade agro-food products, such as jams, kishk, and labneh, by using environmentally friendly methods. It also aims to achieve self-sufficiency and create job opportunities by incorporating local producers, farmers, and staff in their production process, especially local women. In addition to providing them with job opportunities, the cooperative aims to provide its staff with the proper trainings pertaining to food safety and preparation. One of the participants in these trainings, Rana, says: "Before joining the cooperative, I didn't have the full knowledge when it came to certain preparations of food and 'Mouneh'. However, after joining, I learned the preparation processes in full; from start to finish."

WFP CASH & IN-KIND ASSISTANCE FOR REFUGEES AND LEBANESE

August 2023

