



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES  
CHANGING LIVES

Fouzeyya's family residing in Bekaa in Lebanon benefits from WFP's in-kind food assistance  
Credit: WFP 2023

# WFP Lebanon Situation Report

October 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. The situation has been compounded by a year-long presidential vacuum delaying 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](#) in May 2023 estimates that 25 percent of the analysed population (1.4 million individuals) are experiencing acute food insecurity while another 45 percent are struggling to maintain adequate food consumption. These results highlight the urgency to take action to protect livelihoods and mitigate risks of a slide back into acute food insecurity.

Despite continuing high levels of food insecurity, some improvements were noted between the first IPC conducted in September 2022, with the prevalence of food insecurity declining from 37 percent to 25 percent between September 2022 and May 2023. This is possibly through increased humanitarian assistance, improved food supply chains, and more employment opportunities for Lebanese.

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 and integrate national social safety net programmes into a single coherent social safety net programme.

## SITUATION UPDATE

The cost of the full Survival Minimum Expenditure Basket (SMEB) monitored by WFP increased by 1 percent between August and September 2023, reaching LBP 31.75 million (US\$ 355) for a family of five. The cost of the food basket alone also increased by 1 percent for the same period and reached LBP 2.95 million (US\$33) per person per month.

## FUNDING OVERVIEW

	% Funded	Available	Required
COUNTRY STRATEGIC PLAN (2023-2025)	<b>10%</b>	US\$ 526 million	US\$ 5.3 billion
2023 TOTAL REQUIREMENTS	<b>30%</b>	US\$ 526 million	US\$ 1.8 billion

Net Funding Requirements (Nov 2023 - Apr 2024)  
**US\$ 599.4 million**

## IN NUMBERS



**3.1 M**

people in need of food assistance

*Food Security and Agriculture Sector, 2023*



**1.7 M**

people assisted in October 2023



**US\$ 29 M**

cash-based transfers made

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



**US\$ 2.25 M**

cash transfers made to **69,800** people for the Government's Emergency Social Safety Net (ESSN) programme

## HIGHLIGHT: PREPAREDNESS MEASURES IN SOUTH LEBANON

As a result of the clashes along Lebanon's southern border, over 29,000 individuals have been internally displaced as of 26 October. 900 individuals are currently residing in shelters while the remaining are staying with local families or in secondary residences.

WFP has in place a contingency plan to support up to 1 million potentially displaced individuals with hot meals, in-kind food, and/or cash assistance in case of escalation of tensions:

In coordination with the Food Security and Agriculture Sector (FSAS) and its partners, WFP will support via provision of hot meals and food parcels when required, using its prepositioned stocks of bulk commodities and food parcels stored in WFP's partners' warehouses.

Moreover, WFP along with key sectors (FSAS, Basic Assistance, Health, etc.) are supporting the Government of Lebanon to develop an emergency preparedness plan to leverage the existing national social safety net for a rapid large-scale emergency response in case this should be required.

## WFP RESPONSE



### Cash Assistance for Refugees

In October, WFP provided cash assistance to 1,025,000 refugees, who can redeem their assistance at ATMs, money transfer agents, and/or shops contracted by WFP.

WFP and UNHCR completed the annual targeting exercise to reassess the eligibility of Syrian refugees and Refugees of Other Nationalities (RONs) to receive cash assistance for food and essential needs in the upcoming 2023/2024 assistance cycle. As a result, and due to funding shortfalls, coverage of assistance to refugees will decrease from 90 percent to approximately 60 percent of the Syrian refugee population while the most vulnerable RON families will only receive assistance from UNHCR in 2024. Refugee households were notified about the outcome of the targeting process between 30 October and 2 November.

### Economic Crisis Response for Lebanese

Based on the new modality of distributing in-kind food assistance every other month, food distribution did not occur in October 2023. WFP continued to carry out the retargeting exercise that started in August 2023. By the end of October, WFP visited 94 percent of the 65,000 targeted households to assess their eligibility to continue receiving in-kind assistance in 2024.

### School Meals

The academic year in Lebanese public schools started gradually on 9 October for the morning shifts for Lebanese students with registrations ongoing until 26 October. Registrations for the afternoon shifts for Syrian students started on 30 October and will be open until 23 November. WFP will start its school meals activities for the 2023/2024 academic year in November.

With the support of WFP, Lebanon joined the global School Meals Coalition in August 2023. In October, the technical team of the Ministry of Education and Higher Education attended the School Meals Coalition First Global Summit that took place in Paris and highlighted the importance of the school meals programme within Lebanon's context and underlined the ministry's commitment to establishing a National School Meals policy and programme.

### Support to Social Protection Programmes\*

In October 2023, WFP assisted 410,100 Lebanese individuals (73,850 households) through the National Poverty Targeting Programme (NPTP).

By the end of September 2023, WFP concluded the payments for 339,100 Lebanese individuals (74,500 households) assisted under the Emergency Social Safety Net programme (ESSN) and in October 2023 processed the cash entitlements for an additional 69,800 individuals (19,700 households).

### Livelihoods

In October, WFP engaged 7,650 Syrian and Lebanese participants in livelihood activities ranging from technical training for farmers to rehabilitation of agricultural assets. Due to the tensions at the southern borders, some planned activities in the South were postponed. Also in October, under the [Food System Challenge](#), WFP continued to support 10 Lebanese small and medium enterprises operating in the food processing sector, primarily through the provision of technical assistance.

### Supply Chain & Retail

As part of its contingency plan for potential escalation at the southern borders and to ensure a timely response to the evolving situation, WFP continued to closely track the pipeline of parcels and bulk purchasing of commodities, revised its existing contracts with local vendors, and registered bakeries to produce and deliver bread to emergency shelters.

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

WFP received 32,400 claims in October through its call centre down from 39,200 in September. 94 percent of the claims were addressed and closed in the same month.

In October, 40 percent of claimants requested information on various topics, 31 percent requested WFP assistance, 15 percent expressed concerns mainly related to distribution sites, 12 percent requested to update their personal data, and 2 percent of the calls were protection-related. Protection-related claims were referred to relevant partners for gender-based violence and child protection case management, legal counselling, healthcare support, and shelter.

Moreover, WFP engaged with the Food Security and Agriculture Sector along with other organizations representing Persons with Disabilities and NGOs. The objective was to guide the integration of protection measures into their emergency preparedness plans, in anticipation of potential tensions escalating in southern Lebanon.

In October, WFP assistance reached 42,740 refugee and Lebanese households with 83,880 members with disabilities.

## MONITORING & ASSESSMENTS

On-site monitoring of redemption points in September shows fewer crowds and continuous improvement in the average waiting time at ATMs and Money Transfer Operators (MTOs).

For assisted Syrians, the average waiting time at an ATM and an MTO dropped from 12 minutes in August to 10 minutes in September. For Lebanese, the average waiting time to redeem at an ATM dropped from 8 to 6 minutes during the same period, while the waiting time to redeem at an MTO remained the same at 7 minutes.

The average two-way travel cost to redemption points reported by Lebanese receiving NPTP cash assistance decreased by 10 percent between August and September. For Syrian refugees, the travel cost to redemption points increased by 13 percent for the same period.

## KEY CHALLENGES

Following the confrontations at the southern border and subsequent displacements, tensions between host communities and displaced Syrian refugees have escalated. This includes concerns about anti-refugee sentiments and actions, including restrictions on the reception of displaced Syrians and apartment occupancy.

WFP formulated the budget requirements for its preparedness plan, navigating significant funding shortfalls for already existing cash programmes for refugees and Lebanese. WFP is in discussions with donors for additional resources in 2023 and beyond.

\* The NPTP is funded by WFP donors and the ESSN programme is funded through a World Bank loan to the Government of Lebanon, with WFP implementing cash transfers as a service provider.

## 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, Private Donors, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Switzerland, USA

## FOOD SECURITY & AGRICULTURE SECTOR

In **September**, WFP and 16 sector partners reached 1.8 million refugees and Lebanese through cash and food assistance. The estimated amount of cash disbursed is US\$ 25 million, while around 132,000 people were provided with ready-to-eat meals and partial food parcels. In addition, 3,000 farmers and 10 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\$ 732,000.

Between **10 October and 10 November**, as part of the emergency response in the South, the Food Security and Agriculture Sector partners delivered 60,000 hot meals to internally displaced persons hosted in collective shelters.

## ADVOCACY, COMMUNICATIONS & PARTNERSHIPS

On 11 October, a team of experts from the European Union Delegation (EUD) met with two Lebanese and two Syrian households receiving assistance from WFP and other humanitarian agencies to gather insights into the use of existing systems. Additionally, accompanied by WFP, UNICEF, and ILO representatives, the EUD visited a Social Development Centre where Lebanese beneficiaries access essential services, providing them with a direct understanding of the support they receive.

Furthermore, initial discussions were held with Australia, Canada, Germany, Ireland and the USA to update on the current situation, outline WFP's preparedness measures, and highlight potential funding needs in the event of WFP's response activation. WFP will continue updating donors on the developments through regular bilateral meetings.

Also in October, WFP global channels shared slides on social media emphasizing the persisting food price challenges in Lebanon, which continue to endure four years after the onset of the economic crisis. The slides can be accessed [here](#). Additionally, WFP Lebanon released a video highlighting France's support for the school feeding program, featuring school children's voices. The video can be accessed [here](#).



### STORY WORTH TELLING

Fouzeya, a Lebanese woman benefits from WFP food in-kind assistance

Forty-five-year-old Fouzeya resides with her sister in a humble apartment. To contribute to their family's expenses, Fouzeya works in agriculture, and earns a daily wage of only 130,000 LBP equivalent to less than US\$2 dollars. Occasionally, her sister also takes on work to help cover the costs of electricity and medication. However, for food, the sisters heavily rely on in-kind food parcels provided by WFP. Prior to 2020, Fouzeya and her siblings did not need assistance. However, after the pandemic and economic crisis hit, and after Fouzeya found herself out of a job, she called the WFP hotline and registered herself, as well as her brother. "My sister and I rely a lot on the food parcels as they help us get by month to month. I am afraid without them we would go to bed hungry more often," she says.



# WFP CASH & IN-KIND ASSISTANCE FOR REFUGEES AND LEBANESE

October 2023

