



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES  
CHANGING LIVES



## WFP Lebanon | Situation Report January 2024

### OPERATIONAL CONTEXT

The [third Integrated Food Insecurity Phase Classification \(IPC\) analysis](#) conducted in October 2023, revealed a projected improvement in the food security situation in Lebanon - from 25 percent food insecure people in October 2023 to 19 percent in March 2024. The stable yet fragile economy and increased coverage of humanitarian assistance throughout the year were the key factors to these improvements. However, the IPC analysis highlighted that persistent multiple crises and projected decline in humanitarian assistance are likely to worsen the situation. It is expected that 21 percent or more of the population will experience high food insecurity from April to September 2024.

In December 2023, WFP reduced cash assistance to Syrian refugees by 30 percent due to funding constraints. Based on a retargeting exercise WFP also discontinued in-kind food assistance to 33 percent of assisted Lebanese households in January 2024. Due to the expected decline in funding for social safety net programmes, a reduction of cash assistance to Lebanese is anticipated in 2024. This reduction is likely to have a significant negative impact on families' food security. In 2024, WFP remains at the forefront of the response to Lebanon's economic and refugee crisis, supporting over 900,000 Syrian refugees and 700,000 Lebanese nationals to meet their food and other basic needs and implementing cash transfers for an additional 400,000 Lebanese individuals through the Government's Emergency Social Safety Net (ESSN).

### SITUATION UPDATE

The cost of the full Survival Minimum Expenditure Basket (SMEB) monitored by WFP remained almost the same between November and December 2023, standing at LBP 33 million (US\$ 378) for a family of five. Similarly, the cost of the food basket alone remained unchanged at LBP 3.1 million (US\$35) per person per month for the same period.

### FUNDING OVERVIEW

	% Funded	Available	Required
Country Strategic Plan (2023-2025)	20%	US\$ 629 M	US\$ 1.3 B
2024 Total Requirements	15%	US\$ 147 M	US\$ 960 M
Net Funding Requirements (Feb 2024 – Jul 2024)			
<b>US\$ 255.2 M</b>			

### IN NUMBERS



2.5 M

people in need of food assistance

*Food Security and Agriculture Sector, 2024*



1.1M

people assisted in January 2024



US\$ 12.5 M

cash-based transfers made



1,630 MT

(US\$ 2.5M) of food distributed

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



US\$ 1.47 M

cash transfers made to 49,400 people for the government's ESSN programme

### HIGHLIGHT: PREPAREDNESS MEASURES IN SOUTH LEBANON

As a result of the conflict at the southern border, 151 people were killed (of which at least 25 confirmed civilian deaths), and over 86,000 individuals have been internally displaced. 1,100 individuals are currently residing in shelters, while the rest are staying with local families, in secondary residences or sub-par dwellings improvised as shelters.

In addition to its regular activities in the South, WFP reached 53,000 people affected by the conflict. WFP distributed one-off in-kind food parcels to 13,000 affected Lebanese people, provided one-off cash assistance to 30,300 affected Syrian refugees, and distributed in-school snacks to 9,700 affected students in 10 additional schools.

Starting 1 February, WFP is reaching an additional 53,000 affected Lebanese with one-off cash assistance and supporting UNICEF in providing one-off cash assistance to 31,000 affected Lebanese, leveraging WFP's CBT delivery setup.

## WFP RESPONSE



### Cash Assistance for Refugees

In January, WFP provided cash assistance to 824,000 refugees through three modalities:

- Multipurpose Cash for food and other essential needs redeemable at ATMs or money transfer agents: 184,000 Syrian refugees.
- Cash-for-Food for food needs redeemable at ATMs, money transfer agents, or shops: 290,000 Syrian refugees.
- Food e-cards for food needs redeemable at WFP-contracted shops: 350,000 Syrian refugees.

### Economic Crisis Response for Lebanese

As a result of the retargeting exercise and to ensure that WFP assistance is reaching the most vulnerable Lebanese people, WFP reduced the coverage of in-kind food assistance to vulnerable Lebanese by 52 percent in January 2024, reaching 150,000 individuals (37,000 households) with food parcels.

### School Meals

Through its school meals programme, WFP reached 106,000 students in 189 public schools, out of which 94,200 received snacks and 11,800 students received cold meals. These meals were prepared by 67 women volunteering at nine school kitchens.

Following the successful piloting of a digital system, tracking the orders and deliveries of snacks from the suppliers to 15 schools in 2023, WFP launched the tool in all remaining schools. In January, WFP conducted training for 78 health educators and supervisors on its use.

### Support to Social Protection Programmes\*

Due to the lack of available resources, 410,000 vulnerable Lebanese assisted under the National Poverty Targeting Programme (NPTP) did not receive assistance in January 2024. WFP initiated a recertification exercise, in coordination with the Government and donors, to assess the eligibility of the households to continue receiving NPTP cash assistance in 2024. As for the Emergency Social Safety Net programme (ESSN), WFP delivered cash entitlements for 49,400 individuals enrolled in the programme.

Moreover, WFP in collaboration with UN Women conducted 10 training sessions for 165 social workers on Gender attitudes, Gender-Based Violence perceptions, Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse, and disability inclusion.

### Livelihoods

In January, WFP engaged 2,100 Syrian and Lebanese participants in livelihood activities, related to the rehabilitation of agricultural assets. WFP also contracted seven continuing cooperating partners to implement several projects across Lebanon starting in February 2024.

For 2024, WFP is shifting its activities towards building food systems capacity in Lebanon. The focus will be on strengthening food systems, environmental restoration, and disaster risk reduction to improve livelihoods and income generation along specific value chains. This will optimize resource utilization and foster synergies across interventions.

### Supply Chain & Retail

As part of the South emergency preparedness measures, WFP extended contracts with six existing retailers to support the delivery of commodities for meals in shelters or schools when needed and continued on-boarding the 23 shops, newly selected in December 2023, to ensure that they are fully operational by February 2024.

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

The announcement of the retargeting exercise results for Lebanese led to a 23 percent surge in Lebanese callers between December 2023 and January 2024 (from 52,600 to 53,200 claims respectively) seeking guidance on the results. 95 percent of the claims were addressed and closed in the same month.

In December, 29 percent of the claimants requested WFP assistance, 12 percent of the calls were mainly related to the programmes, 7 percent requested to update their personal data, 1 percent of the calls were protection-related, and 52 percent requested information on various topics. Protection-related claims were referred to relevant partners for Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV), child protection, threats, health, legal counseling, and shelter.

Moreover, WFP conducted a data protection session for 8 partner organizations in the Food Security and Agriculture Sector (FSAS) to improve coordinated emergency response, particularly for displaced populations in Southern Lebanon. Discussions are ongoing to streamline data sharing and minimize duplication of assistance among agencies.

In January, WFP assistance reached 46,500 people with disabilities.

### MONITORING & ASSESSMENTS

On-site monitoring of redemption points in December shows slight changes in the average waiting time at ATMs and Money Transfer Operators (MTOs).

The average waiting time at an ATM remained the same between November and December 2023 for both Syrian refugees (7 minutes) and Lebanese (6 minutes). The average waiting time for Lebanese to redeem at an MTO dropped from 9 to 8 minutes during the same period, while it increased from 7 to 8 minutes for Syrian refugees.

In December, one percent of Syrians reported facing issues during their travels to ATMs or MTOs including checkpoint stops and verbal harassment.

### KEY CHALLENGES

Due to funding shortfalls, WFP faces a dual challenge to sustain regular emergency programmes for Syrian refugees and vulnerable Lebanese at a proper scale while maintaining its additional response in the South. Without prompt funding solutions, the emergency response in the South cannot be sustained, refugee families would be further reduced in Q2, and Lebanese families would receive reduced cash assistance, which comes in a critical period exacerbated by winter challenges.

## 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 resource transfers, to Government and other partners.

## FOOD SECURITY & AGRICULTURE SECTOR

In December, WFP and 19 sector partners reached 1.6 million refugees and Lebanese through cash and food assistance. The estimated amount of cash disbursed is US\$ 12.5 million and LBP 536.2 billion, while around 82,200 people were provided with ready-to-eat meals and partial food parcels. In addition, 3,900 farmers and 22 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\$ 156,200.

WFP established an assistance platform to support the Food Security and Agriculture Sector in the enrolment of displaced people affected by the conflict in the South. This platform designed for a unified response, may extend to other sectors. As of the end of December, WFP, with 30 sector partners, provided 336,800 daily meals and distributed 13,300 food parcels, and 90 Ready-To-Eat meals to displaced people affected by the conflict in the South.

## ADVOCACY, COMMUNICATIONS & PARTNERSHIPS

In January 2024, WFP continued to hold bilateral meetings with its donors including Australia, Canada, Sweden, and Switzerland, to update them on its regular assistance and small-scale operation in South Lebanon. WFP also took the opportunity to advocate for additional support considering the reduced funding for 2024 and imminent pipeline breaks, particularly for cash assistance targeting Lebanese and Syrian refugees.

A press conference with the Ministry of Social Affairs and UNICEF was held on 31 January to announce the joint emergency one-time cash assistance to Lebanese people affected by the ongoing hostilities in South Lebanon. Additionally, WFP Lebanon highlighted the findings of the latest Market Monitor Report published by WFP through a series of Twitter videos. The video can be accessed [here](#).

## STORY WORTH TELLING



Photo: The women volunteers at WFP's supported school kitchen, wearing smiles while preparing sandwiches for the students.

During the vibrant recess at Aley Mixed Intermediate Public School, the school kitchen bustled with the heartfelt efforts of dedicated women volunteers. Among them, Hiyam, pouring her heart into WFP's school kitchens initiative, where she prepared wholesome sandwiches for the students. Hiyam cherishes every moment of this volunteering journey, "I'm thankful for this opportunity. I feel that my kids and other students are now enjoying healthy food, which holds immense importance. Children need to eat healthy; it's a top priority for all of us here. We convey this message to all our kids and students – no one is different; they all deserve the same nourishment." Established in 2021, the school kitchens project not only addressed the immediate need for nutritious meals but also created opportunities for women to gain valuable work experience. Beyond the sandwiches, the initiative fostered a sense of community and purpose among the volunteers, contributing to a brighter future for both their families and the students they served.

### Donors

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

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

JANUARY 2024

