





# WFP LEBANON


## SITUATION REPORT – August 2022

Through food e-cards, beneficiaries are able to buy the food they need at WFP's contracted shops. Photo: WFP/ Photo Library

### IN NUMBERS

 **3,563,300** people in need of assistance

 **1,570,000** people assisted in August 2022

 **USD 29m** cash-based transfers made

 **2,100 MT** of food distributed

### SITUATION UPDATE

- The price of the food basket monitored by WFP, the Survival Minimum Expenditure Basket (SMEB), increased from LBP 844,000 in June to LBP 860,000 in July and is expected to keep increasing in the coming period. Since the beginning of 2022, food prices have increased by 30 percent and since the start of the crisis in October 2019 by more than 2,000 percent, or 21-fold. The continuing rise in food prices, coupled with mounting challenges to access basic services and shrinking purchasing power, is making life increasingly difficult for the 54 percent of Lebanese and 88 percent of Syrian refugees who are vulnerable and in need of assistance.
- Internet and landline shutdowns hit several regions across Lebanon by the end of August after staff of the state-owned telecommunications company Ogero went on strike to demand higher wages. WFP is engaging with partners and service providers on their business continuity plans and potential mitigation measures to ensure continued delivery of assistance.

### WFP RESPONSE

#### Expansion of Cash Redemption Points

- Alongside the existing network of ATMs, WFP is expanding the number of cash redemption points to include branches of local Money Transfer Operators (MTOs). The expansion aims to help reduce travel time and transportation costs for people redeeming assistance.

### HIGHLIGHTS

- WFP expanded the number of cash redemption points to include branches of Money Transfer Operators (MTOs) for both refugee and Lebanese families receiving cash assistance. Beneficiaries who redeemed their assistance at MTOs reported lower transportation fees and reduced time to withdraw cash.
- The scale-up of the National Poverty Targeting Programme (NPTP) has reached over 80 percent of the target to provide 75,000 of the most vulnerable Lebanese families with monthly cash assistance for food and other basic needs. In August, 12,600 families received assistance through the NPTP for the first time.
- The pilot in August included four MTOs in the South and Bekaa for both refugees and Lebanese receiving cash assistance. Monitoring showed a smooth redemption process at MTOs for beneficiaries, who were satisfied with the reduced transportation costs, time of cash withdrawal, and dignified treatment by MTO staff. Following the successful pilot, WFP will expand the number of MTO branches and increase geographic coverage in September.

#### Cash Assistance for Refugees

- In August, WFP provided unconditional cash assistance to 1,055,200 refugees through 3 modalities:
  - *Multipurpose Cash* for food and other essential needs redeemable at ATMs: 234,200 Syrian refugees
  - *Food e-cards* for food needs redeemable at WFP-contracted shops: 355,000 Syrian refugees
  - *Cash-for-Food* for food needs redeemable at ATMs or shops: 460,300 Syrian refugees and 5,700 refugees of other nationalities.

#### Economic Crisis Response for Lebanese

- As part of the response to the ongoing economic crisis, WFP supported 139,000 vulnerable Lebanese individuals (44,900 households) with food parcels in August. Delays in releasing food parcels at the Beirut Port resulted in fewer people assisted in August compared to July, so households who did not receive a parcel in August will be prioritized for distribution in September.

## WFP RESPONSE

### School Meals

- The Ministry of Education and Higher Education launched a six-week summer 'catch-up' programme on 1 August to enhance students' preparedness for the upcoming academic year. WFP supported the Ministry's programme through the distribution of snacks to 27,700 refugee and Lebanese students at 136 schools. The snacks are locally produced and consist of either milk with a bag of apple chips or mixed nuts with dried fruits.
- Lebanon's education sector faces multiple challenges including stagnant public sector wages, electricity crisis, and increased transportation costs. Preparations are nonetheless ongoing for the start of the 2022-2023 academic year in October. For the upcoming school year, WFP plans to expand the number of students benefitting from the programme from 72,000 to 100,000 through the distribution of daily snacks and the implementation of the School Kitchens initiative.

### Livelihoods

- WFP finalized agreements with five cooperating partners to implement asset creation and capacity building projects across Lebanon for the remainder of 2022. The projects will target 2,000 Lebanese and Syrian participants (around 10,000 beneficiaries) and are aimed towards building the capacities of farmers and agri-food sectors in the food systems. The projects will also enhance natural resource management and improve farming efficiency through the rehabilitation of agricultural assets, including agricultural roads and irrigation canals.

### Support to Social Protection Programmes

- WFP assisted 62,000 Lebanese households (around 348,100 individuals) through the National Poverty Targeting Programme (NPTP) in August, including 12,600 households who received assistance for the first time as part of WFP's scale-up to reach 75,000 vulnerable Lebanese families by October 2022.
- As of August, WFP delivered payments to 74,600 households (around 315,000 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 additional ESSN beneficiaries.

### MONITORING

- All WFP beneficiaries interviewed in August reported successful redemption of their cash assistance but reported rising costs of transportation to reach an ATM. The average two-way cost of transport in August was LBP 87,000 compared to LBP 80,000 in June.
- While 44 percent of respondents experienced crowding at the ATMs, the majority appreciated that WFP and its partners' staff were present at the ATMs to provide support. Alongside crowd management, the MTO expansion is expected to reduce crowding and redemption times at ATMs.
- Thanks to WFP's coordination with its financial service provider to ensure the timely replenishment of ATMs, the percentage of beneficiaries reported visiting an out-of-cash ATM decreased from 6 to 3 percent between January and August 2022.

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

- WFP received 50,782 claims in August through its call centre, with 59 percent of calls received from women and 43 percent from refugees. 41 percent of the claims were to request assistance, 41 percent to request information, and the rest to provide feedback, express concerns, or relay protection issues. 95 percent of cases were resolved during the same month, while the rest are being resolved by WFP or awaiting provision of feedback to callers.
- WFP delivered a training to 29 staff from the Ministry of Social Affairs (MoSA) to strengthen MoSA's gender responsiveness and inclusivity of the NPTP programme through gender analysis and gender-sensitive monitoring and reporting, and enhance the engagement of key stakeholders in the design and delivery of assistance.
- Ahead of the expansion to money transfer operators, WFP produced and shared [a short video](#) to demonstrate the redemption process for beneficiaries using this redemption modality for the first time.

## SUPPLY CHAIN & RETAIL

- WFP contracted three additional transporters for the distribution network of the economic crisis response to increase geographical coverage and ensure faster distribution of parcels with more operating trucks.
- While the strike of the telecoms company Ogero has not caused major operational disruptions, 30 percent of WFP's retail network were affected as their point-of-sales (POS) are operated using landlines. To ensure operational continuity across the retail network, WFP is working with affected shops switch their POS network from landline to WiFi.

## ADVOCACY, COMMUNICATIONS & PARTNERSHIPS

- WFP presented the findings of the joint study with UN WOMEN on Gender and Social Inclusion Analysis of the NPTP in Lebanon to representatives of Canada and Norway. The study examines the impact of NPTP assistance on the lives women, girls, and other marginalized persons of concern, and the improvement of the programme's processes.
- On International Youth Day on 12 August, an event focusing on intergenerational solidarity brought together civil society organizations and participants of WFP livelihoods projects to dialogue on inclusion, employment, and other challenges facing youth in Lebanon. WFP also marked [World Breastfeeding Week](#) and [World Humanitarian Day](#), and continued to highlight rising [food insecurity in Lebanon](#).

## FOOD SECURITY AND AGRICULTURE SECTOR

- Between January and July 2022, 32 sector partners including WFP assisted 1.9 million people living in Lebanon: 674,000 Lebanese, 1.1 million Syrian refugees, and 125,000 Palestinians. The majority received cash assistance while 500,000 people received in-kind food, 4,105 individuals had access to temporary agricultural labour, and 256 smallholder farmers received financial and technical support.

## FUNDING OVERVIEW



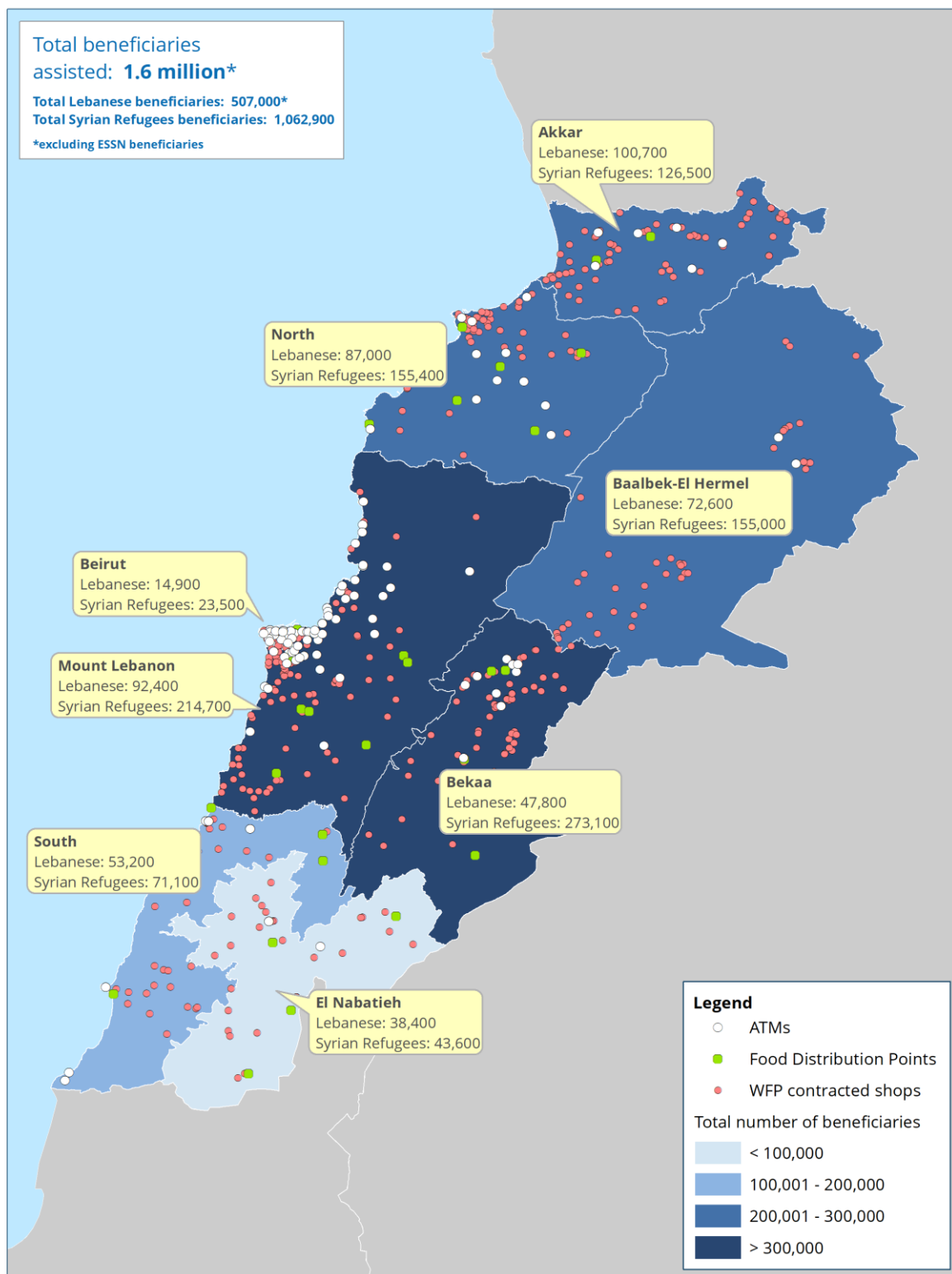
SEP 2022 – FEB 2023  
NET FUNDING  
REQUIREMENTS

US\$ 462 million



# Lebanon

WFP Cash and In-kind Assistance for Refugees and Lebanese – August 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