



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES



Member of a women-led cooperative attending a WFP training on food safety techniques.
Photo: WFP/Edmond Khoury

WFP Lebanon Situation Report

November 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

Despite continuing socioeconomic and political instability in Lebanon, some improvements were noted in 2023. Lebanon's [third Integrated Food Insecurity Phase Classification \(IPC\) analysis](#) revealed a decline in the prevalence of food insecurity from 25 to 19 percent between May 2023 and October 2023. Key factors contributing to this positive trend include increased humanitarian assistance, stabilized informal exchange rate, improved food supply chains, and more employment opportunities for Lebanese.

The overall situation remains concerning, exacerbated by persistent multiple crises and the latest clashes along Lebanon's southern borders. A prolonged political leadership vacuum continues to delay the execution of an economic recovery plan.

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 2023. In addition, WFP implements cash transfers for an additional 400,000 Lebanese individuals through the Government's Emergency Social Safety Net (ESSN).

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 unified social safety net programme.

SITUATION UPDATE

The cost of the full Survival Minimum Expenditure Basket (SMEB) monitored by WFP increased by 7 percent between September and October 2023, reaching LBP 34 million (US\$ 379) for a family of five. The cost of the food basket alone also increased by 6 percent for the same period and reached LBP 3.1 million (US\$35) per person per month.

FUNDING OVERVIEW

	% Funded	Available	Required
COUNTRY STRATEGIC PLAN (2023–2025)	17%	US\$ 548 million	US\$ 3.1 billion
2023 TOTAL REQUIREMENTS	41%	US\$ 548 million	US\$ 1.3 billion

Net Funding Requirements (Dec 2023 – May 2024)
US\$ 284.4 million

IN NUMBERS

3.1 M people in need of food assistance
Food Security and Agriculture Sector, 2023

1.7 M people assisted in November 2023

US\$ 28 M cash-based transfers made

3,150 MT of food (US\$ 3M) distributed

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

US\$ 1.9 M cash transfers made to **63,100** people for the Government's Emergency Social Safety Net (ESSN) programme

HIGHLIGHT: WFP RESPONSE IN SOUTH LEBANON

As a result of the clashes along Lebanon's southern border, 92 people were killed (with at least 13 confirmed civilian deaths) and over 55,000 individuals have been internally displaced as of 28 November. 980 individuals are currently residing in shelters while the remaining are staying with local families or in secondary residences.

The humanitarian pause in Gaza during the last week of November provided a fragile calm in Lebanon, allowing displaced residents to briefly visit their homes after almost seven weeks of clashes. With the expiration of the pause on 1 December, border clashes resumed in southern Lebanon.

In response, WFP reached around 4,000 displaced people in the South with one-time in-kind food assistance in November and enrolled them into a common inter-sector platform that will be used for coordination for potential future assistance.

WFP is in discussion with UNHCR, UNICEF, and government counterparts to leverage existing programmes to channel cash assistance to additional identified vulnerable families in affected areas in December.

WFP RESPONSE

Cash Assistance for Refugees

In November, WFP provided cash assistance to 1,016,000 refugees who can redeem their assistance at ATMs, money transfer agents, and/or shops contracted by WFP.

November 2023 was the last month of assistance for the 2022-2023 targeting cycle for refugees before implementing the joint annual targeting exercise by WFP and UNHCR, which reassessed the eligibility for Syrian refugees and Refugees of Other Nationalities (RONs) to receive cash assistance in the upcoming 2023/2024 assistance cycle.

Starting in December 2023, due to funding shortfalls, coverage of assistance to Syrian refugees will decrease by 30 percent while the most vulnerable RON families will only receive assistance from UNHCR in 2024.

Economic Crisis Response for Lebanese

WFP supported in November 261,000 vulnerable Lebanese individuals (69,900 households) with food parcels covering the November and December 2023 cycles. In November, WFP finalized the retargeting exercise to assess the eligibility of households to continue receiving in-kind food assistance in 2024. Based on the retargeting results, the number of assisted Lebanese households is expected to decrease by a third starting in January 2024.

School Meals

Through WFP's school meals programme at 63 schools, 28,000 Lebanese and Syrian students received snacks or cold meals prepared by volunteer women in November. In December, the programme will scale up to reach up to 100,000 students in 195 schools for the duration of the school year, including Syrian students whose registration period was extended to 6 December.

Support to Social Protection Programmes*

In November 2023, WFP reached 411,000 Lebanese individuals (73,900 households) through the National Poverty Targeting Programme (NPTP).

By the end of October 2023, WFP had delivered the last payments for 345,000 Lebanese individuals (75,600 households) who received their full entitlements under the Emergency Social Safety Net programme (ESSN). In November 2023, WFP delivered cash entitlements for an additional 63,100 individuals (18,400 households) through the ESSN.

Livelihoods

In November, WFP engaged 3,200 Syrian and Lebanese participants in livelihood activities ranging from technical training for farmers to rehabilitation of agricultural assets.

On 21 November, WFP and its cooperating partner Lebanon Reforestation Initiative (LRI) planted 3,000 native seedlings during a national reforestation day in North Lebanon, held under the patronage of the Minister of Agriculture with the participation of several municipalities and schools and universities students.

Nutrition

With the support of WFP to the Ministry of Public Health and under the UNICEF Health and Nutrition program, the data collection of the Lebanon Integrated Micronutrient and Anthropometry (LIMA) Survey was finalized in November 2023. This survey is the first national integrated assessment of the nutritional and micronutrient status of Lebanon's most vulnerable groups. The results are expected to be published by mid-2024.

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

WFP received 68,800 claims in November, more than double the number of calls received in October. The announcement of the retargeting exercise results for Syrian refugees led to an increase in calls seeking guidance on the results and the grievance redress mechanism to make claims for inclusion. 97 percent of the claims were addressed and closed in the same month.

In November, 62 percent of claimants requested information on various topics, 16 percent requested WFP assistance, 12 percent expressed concerns mainly related to distribution sites, 9 percent requested to update their personal data, and 1 percent of the calls were protection-related.

As part of the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence international campaign (25 November–10 December) that seeks to address and combat domestic violence and marginalized communities, WFP will conduct awareness sessions on the Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) and Gender Based Violence for male beneficiaries of the emergency response activities, women who work in school kitchens, retailers, and social workers.

In November, WFP conducted awareness sessions for 100 retailers, on gender concepts, disability inclusion, and the PSEA policy highlighting practical ways to integrate these concepts into their daily work.

In November, WFP assistance reached 52,000 refugee and Lebanese households with 117,000 members with disabilities.

MONITORING & ASSESSMENTS

On-site monitoring of redemption points in October showed 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 10 minutes in September to 8 minutes in October. For Lebanese, the average waiting time to redeem at an ATM dropped from 6 to 5 minutes during the same period, while the waiting time to redeem at an MTO remained the same at 7 minutes.

KEY CHALLENGES

WFP is facing challenges in securing adequate resources to maintain its cash assistance programs for Syrian and Lebanese families at a proper scale from January 2024 onwards. WFP continues to advocate for funds through strategic engagements with key donors and exploring funding opportunities with new donors.

* 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 **October**, WFP and 18 sector partners reached 1.2 million refugees and Lebanese with US\$21 million of cash assistance and ready-to-eat meals and food parcels.

In addition, 400 farmers and 16 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\$ 154,000.

As of 26 November, the Food Security and Agriculture Sector partners provided 98,000 daily meals to displaced people affected by the clashes at the southern borders who are residing in four collective shelters and distributed around 3,000 food parcels to IDPs hosted with relatives and collective shelters with cooking facilities.

ADVOCACY, COMMUNICATIONS & PARTNERSHIPS

In early November, WFP provided an update to donors on the funding situation, and the implication of shortfalls on its activities and advocated for additional resources. WFP also presented the preparedness measures it intends to implement should the tension in the South require a large-scale intervention.

On 30 November, a team from the Canadian Embassy visited a Lebanese family benefitting from National Poverty Targeting Programme (NPTP) assistance as well as a social development center in the North. The visit aimed to enable Canada to engage with beneficiaries and get a better understanding of the results achieved over the past years.

Also in November, WFP commemorated the International Day for Persons with Disabilities and released a video highlighting WFP Lebanon's digital tool. This tool is used by the call center to support assisted persons with disabilities in locating accessible sites by type of disability. The video can be accessed [here](#).



STORY WORTH TELLING

Kamal works at a WFP planting site in Kfar Bebnine, North Lebanon.

Photo: WFP/Edmond Khoury

In Kfar Bebnine in northern Lebanon, Kamal takes a quick break under the shy October sun. Through the collaboration of 125 WFP project participants from diverse backgrounds and neighbouring villages, a local garden has been established, transforming it into a shared green space. 1.71 km of trails were also paved in Kfar Bebnine's upper mountain area, emphasizing the eco-tourism potential of the mixed Cedar-Fir Forest. "This is more than just soil and trees. It's about a community coming together to protect what we have. Our love for our land made this happen," Kamal says.

Looking forward, the completed trail in Kfar Bebnine holds the promise of contributing significantly to sustainable eco-tourism opportunities, providing hikers access to explore Dunnieh's upper mountains and connecting to the Akkar upper mountains trail network.

WFP CASH & IN-KIND ASSISTANCE FOR REFUGEES AND LEBANESE

November 2023

