



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES



WFP Lebanon Situation Report

April 2023

Population | **6.8 million**
2021 Human Development Index | **112 out of 191**
Income Level (World Bank) | **Lower-middle**
2021 GNI CAPITA (US\$) | **3,450**

OPERATIONAL CONTEXT

Lebanon is entering its fourth year of a severe economic, political, and social crisis while also hosting the largest number of refugees per capita in the world. Record-high global food and fuel prices have added to the country's already dire situation.

These crises have led to high levels of poverty and food insecurity amongst both Lebanese and refugee communities. The first Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) for Lebanon in September 2022 found that a projected 1.46 million Lebanese and 800,000 Syrian refugees – 42 percent of the total population – are facing acute food insecurity (IPC Phase 3, *Crisis*, and Phase 4, *Emergency*) by April 2023 due to the worsening economic crisis and increase in food prices.

Basic living conditions are in continuous decline. The 2022 Vulnerability Assessment of Syrian Refugees found that 90 percent of Syrian refugee families were in need of humanitarian assistance to survive, with the most basic needs out of reach due to inflation.

WFP is at the forefront of the response to Lebanon's economic and refugee crisis, which supported 2 million of the most vulnerable Lebanese and refugees in 2022 to meet their food and other essential needs. WFP is maintaining its assistance to vulnerable communities in 2023, targeting 2.4 million people.

IN NUMBERS

3.5 M
people in need of assistance

1.8 M
people assisted in April 2023

\$19 M
cash-based transfers made

3,186 MT
of food (US\$ 2.2M) distributed

SITUATION UPDATE

Steep increases in the price of the Survival Minimum Expenditure Basket (SMEB) monitored by WFP were recorded in March, driven by currency depreciation. Between February and March 2023, the price of the food component of the SMEB increased from LBP 1.9 million to LBP 2.7 million, while the full cost of the SMEB increased from LBP 18.4 million to LBP 24.7 million.

The consumer price index (CPI) increased by 33 percent in March 2023, registering its largest rise since the start of the economic crisis. The CPI index has now risen for twelve months in a row. Between February and March 2023, food and energy prices increased by 38 percent and 39 percent respectively, while quarterly and yearly food inflation reached 115 percent and 352 percent.

APRIL HIGHLIGHT: SAFETY NET REVIEW

WFP together with the Ministry of Social Affairs and the World Bank completed a due diligence review of the National Poverty Targeting Programme (NPTP) and Emergency Social Safety Net (ESSN) programme in April 2023 to assess the best practices and challenges facing each programme. Currently, 735,000 vulnerable Lebanese individuals receive cash assistance through the two safety net programmes. The due diligence review recommends that the two safety nets are gradually and fully unified, with a unified governance structure, processes, and social registry linked to information systems.

[A brief on the safety net due diligence review can be found here.](#)

FUNDING OVERVIEW

	% Funded	Available	Required
COUNTRY STRATEGIC PLAN (2023–2025)	7%	\$375million	\$5.3billion
2023 TOTAL REQUIREMENTS	21%	\$375million	\$1.8billion

Net Funding Requirements (May – Oct 2023)
US\$ 442 million



WFP RESPONSE



Cash Assistance for Refugees

In April, WFP achieved its target of reaching a million people through its refugee crisis response for 2023. 1,029,000 refugees received cash-based assistance through 3 modalities:

- **Multipurpose Cash** for food and other essential needs redeemable at ATMs or money transfer agents: 290,600 Syrian refugees
- **Cash-for-Food** for food needs redeemable at ATMs, money transfer agents, or shops: 381,200 Syrian refugees and 7,800 refugees of other nationalities.
- **Food e-cards** for food needs redeemable at WFP-contracted shops: 349,400 Syrian refugees

In April, 148,000 people were newly included to receive cash-based assistance through the three modalities. In addition, 39,000 people started receiving either cash-for-food or multipurpose cash assistance instead of food e-cards, supporting them to meet both food and other essential needs.

Economic Crisis Response for Lebanese

WFP supported 278,000 vulnerable Lebanese individuals (74,000 households) with food parcels in April as part of its response to the economic crisis. High satisfaction rates with the quantity and quality of food were reported by people receiving food parcels in March.

School Meals

WFP reached 73,000 refugee and Lebanese schoolchildren at 127 schools through its School Meals programme in April. 65,000 students received daily snacks and 8,000 students were provided with fresh meals prepared by women volunteering at the school kitchens.

WFP also completed construction work and rehabilitation of two new school kitchens in West Bekaa and Baalbeck and delivered new equipment and appliances for preparation of in-school meals. Up to 2,400 additional students will receive meals in May as a result.

Support to Social Protection Programmes

In April, WFP assisted 368,000 Lebanese individuals (66,000 families) through the National Poverty Targeting Programme (NPTP), including 3,500 new people who received assistance for the first time in 2023 as part of the ongoing scale-up of the NPTP. In addition, as of April, 367,000 Lebanese individuals (80,000 families) received cash entitlements through the Emergency Social Safety Net programme.

Livelihoods

WFP reached 16,000 Syrians and Lebanese through livelihoods activities in April, ranging from trainings on farming and food processing, forest management and reforestation, and construction of irrigation canals and agricultural roads.

39,550 seedlings in 81 hectares were planted by participants through the Natural Resource Management project with WFP's partners Lebanese Reforestation Initiative (LRI) and the Association for Forests, Development and Conservation (AFDC).

30 small-medium enterprises (SMEs) supported through WFP's Food System Challenge attended the 4-day HORECA exhibition in Lebanon – the largest trade fair for businesses in the food and hospitality industry. Through showcasing their products at the event, SMEs were able to enhance their access to local and foreign markets, in addition to building connections across the food sector.

Supply Chain & Retail

The congestion at Turkey's Mersin port in April led to delays in the shipment of internationally procured food for in-kind distributions. WFP successfully procured food quantities from local suppliers to ensure all targeted families receive food parcels during the month.

GENDER, PROTECTION & ACCOUNTABILITY TO AFFECTED POPULATIONS (AAP)

WFP received 52,000 claims in April through its call centre, a notable decrease from March (61,000 claims) and February (69,000 claims). The decrease comes as the Grievance Redress Mechanism exercise was finalized and feedback shared with claimants during the past two months.

In April, 45 percent of claimants requested to be included for cash or food assistance (down from 61 percent in March), and 28 percent requested information on the eligibility criteria for assistance, when and how they would receive assistance, and validation process. Others called to amend their personal data or express concerns related to validation and distribution sites.

Protection-related claims (3 percent, similar to previous months) were referred to relevant partners for gender-based violence case management, legal counselling, and shelter.

91 percent of the claims were resolved in April, down from 98 in March as the claims related to card and pin issuance take longer to resolve than other claims.

WFP, in coordination with UNICEF, is looking to partner with a disability-inclusive school, where women with disabilities can volunteer at the school kitchens. This will complement the disability-inclusive schools already participating in WFP's programme and implementing the school snacks modality.

MONITORING & ASSESSMENTS

Increased travel costs were reported by refugees receiving cash assistance in March at an average LBP 160,000, up from LBP 110,000 in February. This is due to hikes in fuel prices following currency depreciation during the month. The average time to reach ATMs remained the same between the two months, at 29 minutes.

On-site monitoring shows a decrease in crowding at ATMs between February and March, from 31 percent to 25 percent, as seasonal assistance for refugees came to an end. In addition, tensions, mainly related to queuing issues, were observed in less than 1 percent of the visits and were referred to WFP for action, including referrals to protection partners and services where necessary.

An increase in satisfaction rates for both beneficiaries and shop owners was recorded for the withdrawal experience at money transfer agents. In addition, less than 1 percent of shop owners reported crowdedness at the time of withdrawal, following shop visits in March.

KEY CHALLENGES

Public sentiment and discrimination against refugees significantly increased in April, with increasing calls for their return to Syria to reduce pressure on resources amid the economic crisis. WFP continues to ensure that the most vulnerable people in Lebanon are supported to meet their essential food and other needs and collaborates with the Government of Lebanon to strengthen its capacity to provide social assistance.

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, 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 **March**, WFP and 18 sector partners reached 1.65 million refugees and Lebanese through cash and food assistance. In addition, over a thousand farmers and 5 agricultural cooperatives, associations, and small businesses were supported through capacity building and/or inputs and assets provision. The estimated amount of cash disbursed into the market is US\$ 18 million through financial service providers or shops and US\$ 118,000 to enhance agricultural production.

ADVOCACY, COMMUNICATIONS & PARTNERSHIPS

WFP continues strategic engagements with key donors and exploring funding opportunities through new funding streams. WFP's Country Director in Lebanon visited a number of key embassies in April, including the embassies of Italy, Germany, and Korea, to provide political and operational updates on WFP's work in the country and advocate for resource mobilization.

In April, WFP highlighted findings of the latest Market Monitor Report published by WFP through a series of Twitter videos. The videos can be accessed [here](#).

Following the visit of Chef Advocate Asma Khan to Lebanon in March, WFP's Twitter channel in the UK posted a video on cash assistance in Lebanon. During her visit, Khan gained insight into WFP operations and has been advocating for funding to Lebanon from the UK. The video was retweeted on WFP Lebanon's Twitter channel to further advocate for Chef Asma's cause. Link for the video [here](#).



STORY WORTH TELLING

Bissan, a 33-year-old woman residing in Akkar, North Lebanon, suffers from visual impairment. She holds a masters' degree in Psychology but is currently unemployed.

An avid and attentive learner since she was young, Bissan took part in WFP's livelihoods trainings and was newly introduced to the agricultural field. Through the training, she learned about the effective ways to plant seeds and grow vegetables.

"What I loved most about the WFP training is that it allowed someone like me (who has a disability) to register, while it was not possible with other trainings and jobs."

Despite being somewhat of a newcomer to the agricultural field, she was able to make use of both the knowledge and the monetary benefits that came with the training. "I mainly used the money I received to pay for medical expenses", Bissan says.

WFP CASH & IN-KIND ASSISTANCE FOR REFUGEES AND LEBANESE

April 2023

