



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES  
CHANGING LIVES



# WFP Lebanon | Situation Report

## February 2024

### OPERATIONAL CONTEXT

The [third Integrated Food Insecurity Phase Classification \(IPC\) analysis](#) conducted in October 2023, projected an 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 2024, WFP remains at the forefront of the response to Lebanon's economic and refugee crisis. In February WFP supported 900,000 Syrian refugees and 700,000 Lebanese nationals to meet their food and other basic needs, while implementing cash transfers for an additional 400,000 Lebanese individuals through the Government's Emergency Social Safety Net (ESSN). However, due to funding constraints, since December 2023, WFP has reduced cash assistance to Syrian refugees by 30 percent and starting January 2024 WFP stopped in-kind food assistance to 50 percent of previously assisted Lebanese households. Moreover, due to the lack of available resources and in coordination with the Ministry of Social Affairs, WFP started reducing the frequency of cash transfers to all Lebanese beneficiaries under the National Poverty Targeting Programme (NPTP) in February 2024, thereby reducing the cash transfer value by 44 percent. This reduction is likely to have a significant negative impact on families' food security.

### SITUATION UPDATE

The cost of the full Survival Minimum Expenditure Basket (SMEB) monitored by WFP slightly decreased by 1 percent between December 2023 and January 2024, to reach LBP 34.8 million (US\$ 385) for a family of five. The cost of the food basket alone remained unchanged for the same period.

### FUNDING OVERVIEW

	% Funded	Available	Required
Country Strategic Plan (2023-2025)	22%	US\$ 697 M	US\$ 3.1 B
2024 Total Requirements	22%	US\$ 211 M	US\$ 960 M
Net Funding Requirements (Mar 2024 – Aug 2024)			
<b>US\$ 198.4 M</b>			

### IN NUMBERS



2.5 M

people in need of food assistance

*Food Security and Agriculture Sector, 2024*



1.55 M

people assisted in February 2024



US\$ 23.5 M

cash-based transfers made



1,639 MT

(US\$ 2.45M) of food distributed

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



US\$ 1.25 M

cash transfers made to 43,400 people for the government's ESSN programme

### HIGHLIGHT: WFP RESPONSE IN SOUTH LEBANON

Since the onset of the conflict at the southern border, over 90,000 individuals have been internally displaced. 1,500 individuals are currently residing in shelters, while the rest are staying with families, in secondary residences or sub-par dwellings improvised as shelters. Security challenges in the South also led to the closure of 50 public schools affecting more than 10,000 enrolled students.

In addition to its regular activities in the South, WFP supported in February around 100,000 people affected by the conflict, reaching a total of 142,500 individuals since October 2023. In February, WFP distributed one-off in-kind food parcels to 6,120 affected Lebanese people covering the basic food needs of one person for one month and provided daily in-school snacks to 9,700 affected students in 10 additional schools. Leveraging the national social safety net programme, WFP also reached an additional 53,000 affected Lebanese with one-off cash assistance and supported UNICEF in providing one-off cash assistance to 31,000 affected Lebanese using WFP's cash delivery setup.

## WFP RESPONSE



### Cash Assistance for Refugees

In February, WFP provided cash assistance to 829,000 refugees through three modalities:

- **Multipurpose Cash**, for food and other essential needs redeemable at ATMs or money transfer agents: 184,400 Syrian refugees.
- **Cash-for-Food**, for food needs redeemable at ATMs, money transfer agents, or shops: 291,300 Syrian refugees.
- **Food e-cards**, for food needs redeemable at WFP-contracted shops: 353,300 Syrian refugees.

### Economic Crisis Response for Lebanese

In February, WFP reached 156,000 Lebanese individuals (38,600 households) with food parcels. Due to resource constraints, WFP will introduce in March 2024 a revised food parcel excluding canned tuna chunks from the ration to reduce costs. The new parcel provides 1,262 kcal per person per day slightly lower than the previous 1,291 kcal, yet still meeting about 60 percent of the average daily calorie intake needs.

### School Meals

Through its school meals programme, WFP reached 105,200 students in 190 public schools, out of which 93,500 received snacks and 11,700 students received cold meals. These meals were prepared by 106 women volunteering at nine school kitchens.

In February, WFP conducted training for 278 health educators, supervisors, and directors from 106 schools on the use of the new digital system used by the schools to track the orders and deliveries of snacks from the suppliers. Moreover, WFP selected one of its supported small businesses under the [Food System Challenge](#), Agrifresh, to provide fresh produce to selected school kitchens. Agrifresh launched its operation in February delivering high-quality sanitized fruits and vegetables to seven WFP-supported schools. Check this [video](#) for more.

### Support to Social Protection Programmes\*

Following a pause in January 2024 due to a lack of available funds, NPTP cash transfers were reinstated in February reaching 412,000 Lebanese people (74,300 households) covering January and February cycles. In coordination with the Government of Lebanon (GoL), WFP continued to carry out the recertification exercise which started in January 2024. By the end of February, WFP had visited 70 percent of the 35,800 prioritized households to assess their eligibility to continue receiving NPTP cash assistance in 2024.

As for the Government's Emergency Social Safety Net programme (ESSN), WFP delivered the last cash entitlements from the initial tranche of the World Bank loan for 43,400 Lebanese individuals (8,200 households) enrolled in the programme. WFP is awaiting the agreement signature between the GoL and the World Bank to resume service provision of the second phase of the ESSN cash transfers aiming to progressively reach 700,000 Lebanese people (160,000 households) in 2024.

### Livelihoods

In February, WFP hosted its first trade show, bringing together WFP-contracted shop retailers, suppliers supported by the [Food System Challenge](#), cooperatives, and local businesses. The event aimed to foster a networking platform for retailers and suppliers to cultivate long-term business relationships and reduce market knowledge gaps.

WFP contracted five continuing cooperating partners to implement several projects across Lebanon starting in March 2024.

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

The WFP call center received 44,700 claims in February, compared to 53,200 in January 2024. 97 percent of these claims were addressed and closed in the same month.

In February, WFP conducted seven sessions on Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) and general protection for 189 WFP-contracted retailers across Akkar, Tripoli, Beirut, and Zahle districts. The sessions focused on humanitarian principles, effective communication, beneficiaries' rights, potential risks, and child labor policies.

WFP Lebanon also delivered a comprehensive two-day training session focused on gender equality and Gender-Based Violence (GBV) risk mitigation in humanitarian action for 28 participants from the Food Security and Agriculture Sector in Lebanon.

As part of the gender training initiative, WFP, in partnership with UNWOMEN, organized 27 sessions on disability inclusion engaging 455 social workers from the Ministry of Social Affairs (MoSA). These sessions aimed to enhance awareness and foster inclusive communication skills concerning disability-related matters within the social safety sector. In February, WFP's assistance reached 56,320 people with disabilities.

### MONITORING & ASSESSMENTS

On-site post-distribution monitoring of cash redemption points in January 2024 showed that the average waiting time at ATMs and Money Transfer Operators (MTOs) for Syrian refugees remained the same, at eight minutes, in comparison to the previous month. Additionally, one percent of Syrian refugees reported facing issues during their travels to ATMs or MTOs including checkpoint stops and verbal harassment. From June to November 2023, satisfaction with the quantity of WFP food parcels notably rose from 7.8 to 8.9 out of 10. However, by January 2024, the score declined to 8.4 out of 10. Dissatisfied individuals mentioned insufficient quantity to feed their families or a desire for more variety in the food basket.

### KEY CHALLENGES

Due to funding shortfalls, WFP faces a dual challenge to continue regular emergency programmes for Syrian refugees and vulnerable Lebanese, without interruption and at the scale needed, while also maintaining its additional emergency response in the South of Lebanon. Without additional funding, the emergency response in the South cannot be sustained, and the number of assisted refugee and Lebanese families would be further reduced, exacerbating the crisis even further.

\* 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)

#### SDG Target 2.1: 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

#### SDG Target 2.1: 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.

#### SDG Target 2.4: 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.

#### SDG Target 17.9: Capacity building

**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.

#### SDG Target 17.16: 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 January, WFP and 13 sector partners reached 1.4 million refugees and Lebanese people through cash and in-kind food assistance. The estimated amount of cash disbursed was US\$ 17.5 million, while around 1,000 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 was US\$ 12,400.

As of the end of February, WFP, with 28 sector partners, distributed more than 418,000 daily meals and 24,814 food parcels to displaced people affected by the conflict in the South, and provided one-time cash assistance to more than 35,000 affected households; in addition to 180 farmers whose agricultural livelihoods were impacted by the conflict.

## ADVOCACY, COMMUNICATIONS & PARTNERSHIPS

In February 2024, WFP had the opportunity to meet with Niels Annen, Parliamentary State Secretary to BMZ, and present WFP's resilience operations in Lebanon. WFP also participated in a call with ECHO Director, Andreas Papaconstantinou, to discuss ongoing initiatives and address the current humanitarian landscape. Furthermore, considering the reduced funding forecast and challenges to WFP's regular operations in Lebanon, WFP held a high-level meeting with Ambassadors and representatives of the donor community.

In February, WFP Lebanon covered the trade show event that was meant to link WFP-contracted retail shops across Lebanon with local small and medium food enterprises. The video of the event can be accessed [here](#). Moreover, WFP Lebanon highlighted on its social media the visit to an in-kind distribution site in Beirut where people displaced from the South were receiving assistance. The [voice note](#) from a displaced woman, Fatima, and the [video](#) of the visit can be accessed [here](#).

## STORY WORTH TELLING



Photo: Two women at Fnaidek cooperative, working together in processing apples to produce jam and dried fruits

In the heart of Fnaidek Village, Lebanon, Fadwa spearheads a movement of empowerment and resilience. Her journey, a testament to determination and inclusion, inspires her community and celebrates her unbreakable spirit despite physical challenges.

"Agriculture is the main source of income in our region," Fadwa asserts, challenging patriarchal norms. Through her leadership, the COOP flourishes, buzzing with energy as women reclaim their roles in farming.

Supported by the World Food Programme, Fadwa envisions a future where their products grace international markets, symbolizing both economic prosperity and gender equality. "Mark my words, you will see products from our small COOP in Fnaidek all over Europe, God willing."

### Donors

Australia, Austria, Canada, European Union, Finland, France, Germany, United Kingdom, Ireland, Italy, 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

FEBRUARY 2024

