



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES  
CHANGING LIVES



## WFP Lebanon | Situation Report

September 2024

This report covers all WFP activities under the Country Strategic Plan. Follow this [link](#) for more details about the emergency response.

### OPERATIONAL CONTEXT

The catastrophic escalation in hostilities between Israel and Hezbollah in September 2024 exacerbates Lebanon’s already fragile state, which is grappling with a multifaceted governance, economic, and financial crisis. Food insecurity is expected to further deteriorate with already more than 1 million people being food insecure.

Lebanon experienced more than 2,000 deaths (around 1,000 occurred over the last ten days of September alone) and over 8,700 injuries since October 2023. Increased military operations have impacted over 1.2 million people, most of whom are displaced from southern Lebanon and Beirut’s southern suburbs. By the end of September, around 163,000 displaced people stayed in 880 shelters while others stayed with their families, in rented houses, in public or private places, or fled to Syria (around 300,000 people in September 2024). Impacted refugees face worsening conditions as they have limited access to UNRWA shelters, most of which reached their maximum capacities. Schools serving as shelters have delayed the school year, worsening educational access for children.

### WFP RESPONSE

WFP has continued to respond to needs under its regular activities in addition to scaling-up its emergency response linked to the escalating situation in South Lebanon since October 2023. In September, under its regular CSP activities, WFP assisted **674,000** Syrian refugees and around **221,000** Lebanese nationals\*. However, due to funding constraints and based on retargeting exercises, WFP had to reduce assistance to both refugees and Lebanese by up to **52** percent, reaching around **1 million** individuals during the first half of 2024 (compared to **2.1 million** in November 2023).

\*Excluding 150,000 students who received school meals during the academic year, which concluded in June.

### FUNDING OVERVIEW

	% Funded	Available	Required
Country Strategic Plan (2023-2025)	<b>26%</b>	US\$ 793 M	US\$ 3.1 B
2024 Total Requirements	<b>31%</b>	US\$ 293 M	US\$ 960 M
<b>Net Funding Requirements (Oct 2024 -Mar 2025) US\$ 279.3 M</b>			

### IN NUMBERS - SEPTEMBER 2024



**2.5 M**

people in need of food assistance

*Food Security and Agriculture Sector, 2024*



**893,000**

people received WFP assistance



**US\$ 11.2 M**

cash-based transfers made



**1,140 mt**

of food distributed

### HIGHLIGHT: WFP EMERGENCY RESPONSE

In addition to its regular programmes in the South, WFP has supported over 240,000 people affected by the conflict between October 2023 and 23 September 2024, with food and cash assistance.

Following the recent escalation of the conflict between Israel and Hezbollah on 23 September which resulted in a massive wave of displacement, WFP swiftly reached, through its cooperating partners, around **82,600 individuals staying in 286 shelters across Lebanon** or in secondary residences, with food assistance.

As part of its broader effort to provide shock-responsive social safety nets and in close coordination with the Ministry of Social Affairs (MoSA), WFP also delivered **emergency cash assistance to 45,700 Lebanese** individuals (9,950 households) affected by the conflict, initially residing in the seven most affected districts in the South of Lebanon.

## WFP RESPONSE

### Cash Assistance for Refugees

In September, under its regular programme, WFP provided unconditional cash-based assistance to **673,000 Syrian refugees** (121,000 households) who can redeem their assistance at ATMs, money transfer agents, and/or shops contracted by WFP.

### Economic Crisis Response Supporting Lebanese

Due to the escalating conflict since 23 September, regular in-kind food distributions in seven southern and four Bekaa districts were suspended due to safety concerns. An SMS was sent to all beneficiaries in these areas requesting location updates to ensure they can receive assistance in October. Thus, in September, WFP reached **98,000 individuals** (22,500 households) with food parcels across all remaining districts.

### Support to Social Protection Programmes\* for Lebanese

In July 2024, WFP's cash assistance under the National Poverty Targeting Programme (NPTP) ended for 400,000 Lebanese individuals set to be gradually moved to the Government's Emergency Social Safety Net (ESSN). In August, WFP, the Ministry of Social Affairs (MoSA), and the Presidency of the Council of Ministers (PCM) completed the NPTP recertification for 89,900 NPTP applicants and assisted households. The final results show that 74,500 households (84 percent) are eligible to be integrated into ESSN. However, delays in releasing ESSN funds left 400,000 ESSN beneficiaries without expected payments in July, August and September postponing the gradual transitioning of NPTP households into ESSN.

In September, the MoSA call centre answered around 14,400 calls from beneficiaries, with 94 percent closed during the same month. Notably, 88 percent of the callers requested more information about the delayed ESSN and NPTP assistance, while the rest of the calls were to report programme issues, request assistance, and change their personal information. One percent of calls reported protection issues.

### School Meals for Lebanese and Refugees

Amid escalating hostilities in Lebanon, the Ministry of Education and Higher Education (MEHE) has postponed the start of the academic year in public schools until 4 November. Education Sector data shows that approximately 505 public schools are currently being used as shelters, impacting access to education for around 145,000 enrolled children. Additionally, about 115,600 public school students have been displaced. WFP is actively monitoring the situation in coordination with MEHE and the Education Sector to adjust its school meals programme accordingly.

### Livelihoods for Lebanese and Refugees

In September, WFP engaged 600 Syrian and Lebanese participants in reforestation and forest management activities. The escalation of the conflict after 23 September has disrupted WFP's livelihood and resilience projects, especially in the South and Bekaa. Bombings have caused forest fires and damaged greenhouses supporting vegetable farmers, while farmer displacement is widespread.

Under the Climate Adaptation Innovation Accelerator Programme, WFP Lebanon selected three innovative ventures who will have the chance to attend a bootcamp in Munich and receive up to US\$ 200,000 in cash and technical support to develop their solutions further. The selected innovations include vermicomposting systems, solar-powered ovens, and mobile applications for animal production and farming.

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

WFP's call centre received 31,800 claims in September compared to 36,400 in August 2024. Of those, 95 percent were addressed and closed in the same month. Thirty-four percent of the claimants requested WFP assistance, 13 percent of the calls were related to programmes (e.g. distribution and validation issues), while the remaining asked to update their personal data, requested information on other topics or were calls related to protection

Since the conflict escalated on 23 September, the call centre received nearly 1,000 claims, mostly from displaced refugees (91 percent). Notably, 51 percent asked for food or cash assistance, 42 percent of the callers sought shelter assistance and were referred to shelters.

In response to the emergency, WFP partnered with Organisations of People with Disabilities (OPDs) in Lebanon to assess the needs of displaced persons with disabilities, especially in schools. WFP provided food assistance to an OPD affected by the conflict, while continuing to prioritize disability inclusion, reaching **43,300** people with disabilities in September.

In September, staff of WFP's cooperating partners conducted three targeted awareness sessions for 45 beneficiaries (30 women and 15 men), to improve their understanding of Gender-Based Violence and prevention strategies.

### MONITORING & ASSESSMENTS

Following the conflict escalation on 23 September, WFP developed a remote emergency distribution monitoring tool. This tool monitored 15 distribution sites for displaced people, with nine providing Ready-to-Eat meals and six offering hot meals. The distribution processes ran smoothly with no packaging issues, and WFP provided on-site guidance to cooperating partners to enhance the efficiency of emergency distributions.

### NUTRITION

The first national Integrated Micronutrient Survey (LIMA), assessing nutrition among pre-school children, adolescents, and women in Lebanon, was published in September. It revealed a doubling of national stunting rates (14 percent) since 2021 and widespread micronutrient deficiencies, including anaemia (17 percent). Acute malnutrition among children under six months reached 6 percent, highlighting the need for intensified efforts to combat food insecurity and improve diet diversity.

*\* 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.*

## FOOD SECURITY AND AGRICULTURE SECTOR

Since the onset of the conflict in South Lebanon in 2023, Food Security and Agriculture Sector partners have distributed more than **one million** daily meals, and **77,200** food parcels and 43,200 RTE meals to people affected by the crisis (as of the end of September). The sector also collectively provided one-time or multiple rounds of cash assistance to more than **67,000** affected households and **290** farmers whose agricultural livelihoods were impacted by the conflict.

Following the escalation of the conflict on 23 September, the Food Security and Agriculture Sector (FSAS) partners, including WFP, distributed around **155,000 hot meals, RTEs and food parcels to 85,200** displaced people residing in shelters and provided cash assistance to 45,700 affected Lebanese.

## ADVOCACY, COMMUNICATIONS & PARTNERSHIPS

WFP urgently appeals for additional funding for the emergency response, to meet urgent needs arising from the escalating conflict. Without additional resources, WFP will not be able to respond effectively to the challenges posed by the ongoing conflict, putting many lives at risk.

In September, WFP's Executive Director (ED), Cindy McCain, visited Lebanon. During her visit, the ED met with government officials to emphasize the need for ongoing support for displaced families, visited a WFP in-kind distribution operations and met with a Syrian refugee family.

## KEY CHALLENGES

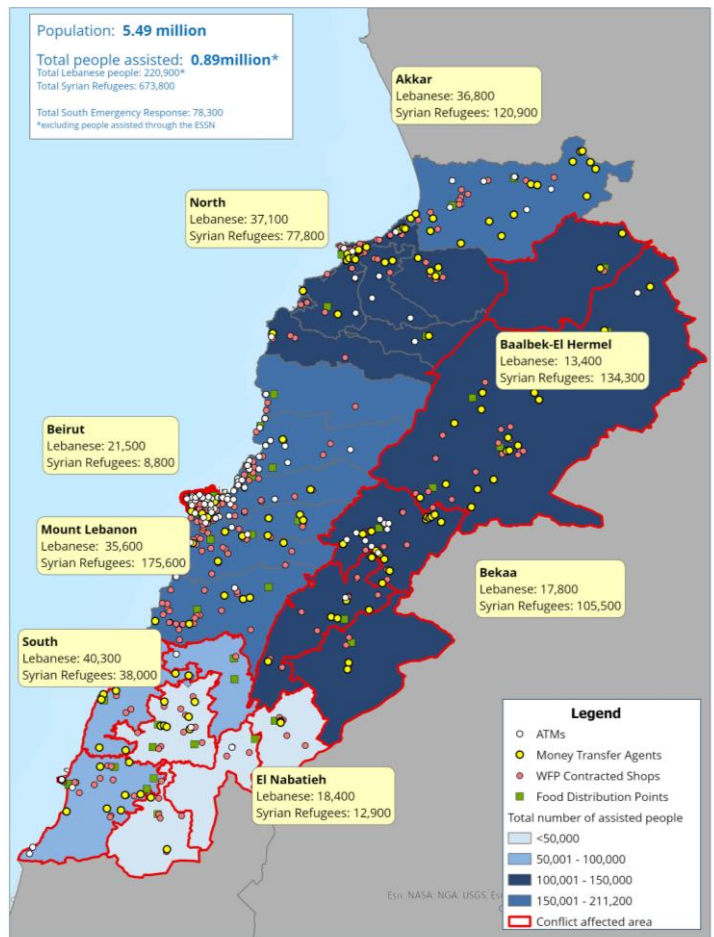
As the conflict intensifies and humanitarian needs rise, WFP urgently requires US\$ 105 million in funding through the end of the year to sustain its emergency operations. This funding is critical to support not only displaced individuals in shelters but also to expand assistance to over 1 million affected people.

The escalating conflict is disrupting WFP's regular activities and emergency operations in affected areas, making it essential to prioritize access and the safety of field staff to ensure the continued delivery of assistance where it is most needed.

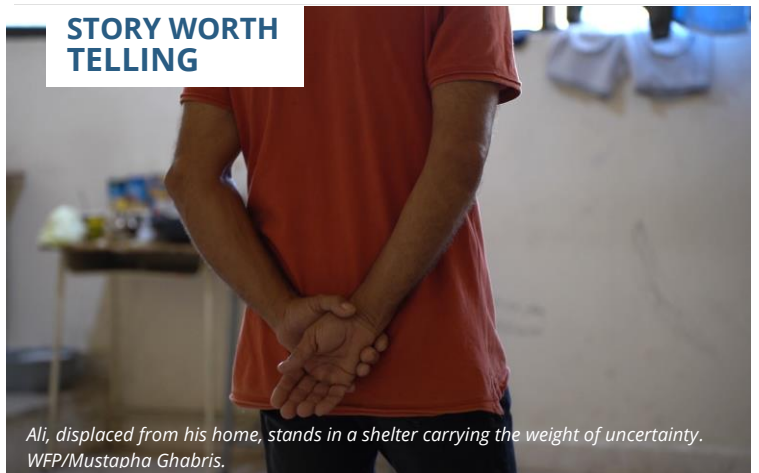
## Donors

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

## WFP CASH & IN-KIND ASSISTANCE FOR REFUGEES AND LEBANESE – SEPTEMBER 2024



## STORY WORTH TELLING



Ali, displaced from his home, stands in a shelter carrying the weight of uncertainty. WFP/Mustapha Ghabris.

Ali, a Lebanese affected by the conflict, 43, has been displaced four times before. This time, the sound of bombing grew too close, forcing his family to flee once again. They packed what little they could carry and began a 10-hour journey, not knowing where they would end up. The road was long and after hours of exhaustion, they arrived at a school transformed into a shelter, where they were welcomed with kindness and compassion.

Sitting in the shelter, Ali reflected on everything they had lost and yet remained grateful. "We do not know what has happened to our home," he said, "I thank God we are safe for now. That's what matters most. I just want my family to stay well."

In Lebanon, over one million people have been displaced from the south and the southern suburbs of Beirut, resulting in a significant humanitarian crisis. WFP has been on the ground since day one, delivering essential food assistance to the most vulnerable during these incredibly challenging times.