



WFP Lebanon Country Brief

WFP Assistance

Lebanon, Country Strategic Plan (CSP)	Total Requirements (in USD)	6-Month Net Funding Requirements (USD)*
(January 2018 – December 2020)	889.6 m	100.1 m

*January 2018 – June 2018.



In Lebanon, WFP is implementing its programmes under the regional [Protracted Relief and Recovery Operation \(PRRO\) 200987](#), which provides lifesaving food assistance to the most vulnerable individuals while also building the self-reliance of Syrians refugees and host communities.

WFP's primary form of assistance to Syrian refugees is provided through an electronic food voucher (e-card) system. E-cards can be used to purchase food from over 450 WFP-contracted shops. Starting from late 2016, WFP together with UNICEF, UNHCR and the Lebanon Cash Consortium introduced a common card, allowing a unified system for cash transfers.

Based on a WFP-commissioned [cash pilot study](#), which was conducted by the Boston Consulting Group in 2016, WFP began implementing unrestricted cash transfers in September for 170,000 Syrian refugees in Lebanon to meet their basic food needs. The refugees have the choice to redeem their basic food assistance either at any WFP-contracted shop or withdraw cash from any ATM throughout the country. Additionally, in October approximately 90,000 of the most vulnerable Syrian refugees began receiving a monthly package of multi-purpose cash to meet their food and other basic needs (in December, 133,072 Syrian refugees benefited from this modality). This assistance is redeemable at any ATM throughout the country.

Moreover, WFP provides electronic food vouchers to more than 52,000 vulnerable Lebanese and 16,000 Palestinian refugees from Syria. This is done in

Main Photo Credit: WFP/Edward Johnson
Caption: Harba, a WFP livelihoods programme participant showcasing her home garden after participating in a micro-gardening training.

Highlights

- WFP supported 652,671 Syrian refugees and 16,251 Palestinian refugees from Syria with basic food assistance. Additionally, 52,246 vulnerable Lebanese were reached under the National Poverty Targeting Programme.
- As of December, WFP Lebanon directly injected USD 1 billion into the Lebanese economy since 2012, through its cash-based transfer programming.
- In December 133,072 of the most vulnerable Syrian refugees received a package of multi-purpose cash to meet their food and other basic needs. This assistance is redeemable at any ATM throughout the country.
- In 2017, WFP livelihoods programme implemented 111 projects across the country, benefiting a total of 43,969 vulnerable Lebanese and Syrian refugees.

partnership with the Ministry of Social Affairs and UNRWA.

As a means of transforming the refugee crisis into a development opportunity, WFP works with partners to provide income and skills-building opportunities for vulnerable Lebanese and Syrian refugees through various Food for Assets (FFA) and Food for Training (FFT) projects. Throughout 2017, WFP implemented over 111 livelihoods activities in 80 municipalities throughout the country with the support of cooperating partners, reaching 43,969 people in 2017, compared to just 5,445 reached in 2016.

To ensure there is no lost generation of Syrian refugee children as well as to ensure nutrition and educational needs are met, WFP in close partnership with UNICEF, run a cash for education programme. WFP offers a monthly cash grant to more than 44,000 Syrian refugee children aged 5 to 14+ enrolled in second shift public schools within select governorates. The support aims to cover the monthly costs associated with purchasing food for school meals. UNICEF covers other indirect costs associated with refugee families sending their children to school. To address short-term hunger and to improve childhood nutrition, WFP also runs a small-scale public primary school snack programme for 14,500 vulnerable children, both Lebanese and Syrian refugees.

In Numbers

721,168 people assisted in December 2017

USD 1 billion directly injected into the Lebanese economy by WFP since 2012 through cash-based interventions

52%



48%



People Assisted
December 2017

December 2017



Operational updates:

The Lebanon Country Office [Country Strategic Plan \(CSP\) 2018-2020](#) was approved by the WFP Executive Board in June this year. The CSP is aligned with the [Lebanon Crisis Response Plan \(LCRP 2017-2020\)](#), which has been endorsed by the Government of Lebanon, the [UN Strategic Framework \(2017-2020\)](#), the [Ministry of Agriculture's Strategy \(2015-2019\)](#) and [WFP's Vision 2020](#). The CSP focuses on four strategic outcomes: providing more affordable and nutritious food to food-insecure refugees; helping vulnerable men and women improve their livelihood opportunities; enabling vulnerable populations to meet food needs throughout the year and; supporting government and other humanitarian organisations in their work. Each of these is intended to address the ongoing humanitarian and developmental challenges and support the Government of Lebanon in achieving SDG 2 and 17.

Livelihoods:

- In 2017 WFP scaled-up its livelihood opportunities for vulnerable Lebanese and Syrian refugees through various Food for Assets (FFA) and Food for Training (FFT) projects. These projects supported 43,969 people (a scale-up from 5,445 in 2016). Throughout 2017, 111 livelihoods activities were implemented in 80 municipalities throughout the country with the support of various UN, ministry, and cooperating partners.
- The livelihoods programme accomplished a great deal in 2017, some of the highlights include planting 113,000 cedar and pine trees across 1.2 million square metres in five governorates; reconstructing 45 kilometres of farmers' roads, irrigation channels and storm drains, thereby boosting local agricultural production; and establishing a farmer's market in the Bekaa Valley.

School Snacks:

- In December, the WFP school snacks programme reached the milestone of delivering the 2 millionth school snack, since the programme's inception in March 2016.

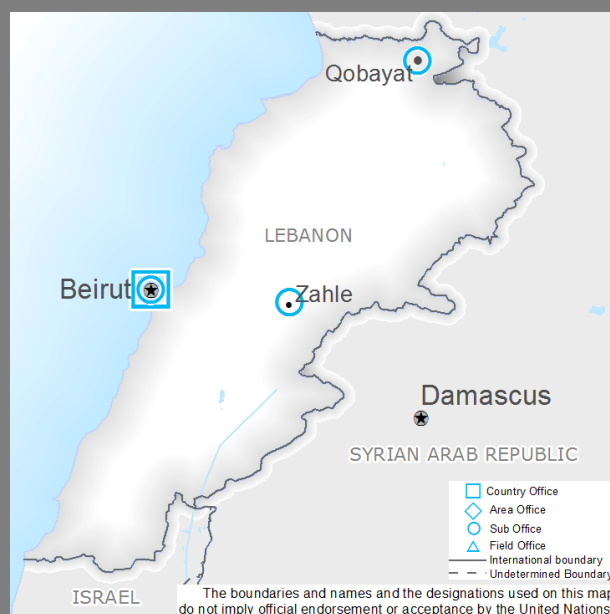
Cash-Based Transfers:

- As of December, through its cash-based transfer programming which began in 2012, WFP Lebanon has directly injected USD 1 billion into the Lebanese economy.
- In December, 133,072 of the most vulnerable Syrian refugees received multi-purpose cash assistance to meet both their food (USD 27/person) and other basic needs through a household top-up of USD 175/per household (a scale-up from approximately 90,000 individuals in November). The assistance is redeemable at any ATM throughout Lebanon. The majority of the targeted households are in the Bekaa area.

Funding:

- WFP's programmes in Lebanon currently face a funding shortfall for the first quarter of USD 100.1 million. Without sufficient funding, WFP will be forced to further prioritise assistance among the most vulnerable, significantly impacting the humanitarian assistance that other less-vulnerable refugees depend upon for survival.

Country Background & Strategy



Lebanon is classified as an upper middle income country. The current Human Development Index (HDI) value is 0.763 – in the high human development category – positioning the country at 76 out of 188 countries and territories.

With 4.5 million people living in a land area of just 10,000 km square on the eastern Mediterranean coast, Lebanon is small and densely populated.

As of November, 997,905 Syrian refugees have been registered in Lebanon by UNHCR. They represent 20 percent of Lebanon's population. The massive influx of refugees has placed significant strain on existing resources and host communities.

WFP and UNICEF support a UNDP-led rapid poverty assessment of the Lebanese population. The assessment will contribute towards the creation of a food security baseline of the Lebanese.

WFP has been present in Lebanon since 2012.

Population: **4.5 million**

2015 Human Development Index:
76 out of 188

Income Level: **Upper middle**

2015 Gender Inequality Index:
0.381

Donors in 2017

Australia, Belgium, Canada, China, Denmark, European Commission, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Kuwait, Luxembourg, Mexico, Norway, Private Donors, Republic of Korea, Switzerland, United Kingdom and the United States of America

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