



WFP Lebanon Country Brief

Highlights

- In September, WFP supported 671,211 Syrian refugees and 16,375 Palestinian refugees from Syria with basic food assistance. Additionally, 52,403 vulnerable Lebanese were assisted through the National Poverty Targeting Programme.
- Building on the BCG cash pilot study conducted in 2016, the WFP Lebanon extended the pilot of unrestricted cash in September. As a result, 170,000 Syrian refugees are now able to redeem their USD 27/person assistance at any ATM or WFP contracted shop throughout Lebanon.

WFP Assistance

Assistance to vulnerable refugees and host communities in Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, and Turkey (January 2017 – December 2018)	Total Requirements (in USD)	Total Received (in USD)	6 Month Net Funding Requirements (USD)*
	1.2 b	322.8 m (26%)	98.2 m

*Note: Figures include 2017 component (USD 337m) under the Regional PRRO 200987 and 2018-2020 budget (USD 890m) under the CSP/CPB. *October 2017 – March 2018, including confirmed pledges and solid forecasts*

GENDER MARKER 2A PRRO 200987

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 displaced Syrians and host communities.

WFP's primary form of assistance is provided through an electronic food voucher (e-card) system. E-cards can be used to purchase food from any of the over 500 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. WFP also provides support to 53,000 vulnerable Lebanese through the Ministry of Social Affairs' National Poverty Targeting Programme (NPTP) and to over 16,000 Palestinian refugees from Syria through a partnership with UNRWA.

As a means of transforming the crisis into a development opportunity, WFP is working with partners to provide income opportunities for vulnerable Lebanese and displaced Syrians by building productive community assets. WFP also builds links between small-scale producers and recipients of food assistance. WFP currently implements over 70 livelihoods activities throughout the country with the support of cooperating partners, with the aim to reach over 30,000 beneficiaries throughout 2017.

In 2016, WFP started to implement a cash for education programme jointly with UNICEF. The programme offers a monthly cash grant to around 50,000 refugee children aged 5 to 14+ enrolled in second shift public schools within Akkar and Mount Lebanon governorates. The assistance aims to offset the indirect costs of education and reduce reliance on negative coping strategies. Support provided by WFP (USD 6 per month per child) aims to cover the monthly costs associated with purchasing school meals.

To address short-term hunger and to improve childhood nutritional outcomes, WFP runs a small-scale public primary school snack programme for 16,610 vulnerable Lebanese and displaced Syrian children in 38 public schools selected by the Ministry of Education and Higher Education.

The Lebanon Country Office [Country Strategic Plan \(CSP\) 2018-2020](#) was approved by the WFP Executive Board during its June session. 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 to address the ongoing

In Numbers

739,989 people assisted in September 2017

USD 1.06 billion directly injected into the Lebanese economy by WFP since 2012 through cash-based interventions

People Assisted
September 2017



Main Photo Credit: WFP/Edward Johnson
Caption: At a validation site in Beirut, WFP and UNHCR are piloting cutting edge iris scanners alongside facial recognition to ensure beneficiaries' security.



September 2017

Cash-based Assistance

- Building on the cash pilot study conducted by the Boston Consulting Group in 2016, WFP began implementing unrestricted cash for a portion of the 680,000 assisted Syrian Refugees in September. Around 170,000 Syrian refugees received unrestricted cash transfers. Targeted households have the flexibility to redeem their entitlements in WFP-contracted shops, or to directly withdraw cash from any ATM, or a combination of both.

Vulnerability Assessment of Syrian Refugees

- The results of the 2017 Vulnerability Assessment of Syrian Refugees in Lebanon indicate that food insecurity rates remains stable from 2016, with 91 percent of Syrian refugee households presenting some level of food insecurity, compared with 93 percent in 2016. Household debt remains extremely high, as households depend on credit and borrowing to meet their basic needs. At least 28 percent of households also reported that WFP assistance was their main source of income, and 40 percent reported that WFP assistance is one of their top three sources.

Targeting

- UNHCR and WFP have partnered with the American University of Beirut to further refine the targeting formula in order to accurately identify the most vulnerable registered refugee households in Lebanon. The formula uses the latest data from the Vulnerability Assessment of Syrian Refugees (VASyR) and demographic data in UNHCR's ProGres database.
- Syrian refugee households are ranked based on their level of vulnerability. The households at the bottom of the ranking are prioritised for food assistance. As a result, 193,000 individuals have been found to be no longer eligible for assistance and were informed that starting from November 2017, they would no longer receive WFP food assistance.

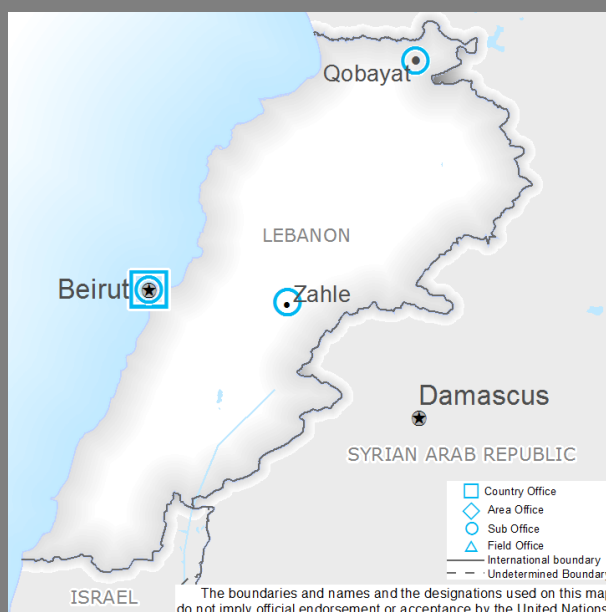
E-card Validation

- From September through December, UNHCR and WFP will undertake a joint country-wide e-card validation exercise, in order to ensure e-cards are in the hands of the right beneficiaries and that beneficiaries are still in country.
- The exercise will use facial recognition technology to validate beneficiaries (iris scanning will be piloted for validation purposes in select areas), and card readers will validate cards. Everyone entitled to WFP assistance will receive an SMS in September, October and November and December explaining when and where their validation exercise will take place.

Livelihoods

- In September, 2,309 Syrian refugees and vulnerable Lebanese participated in various Food for Assets and Food for Training projects, benefiting 11,545 beneficiaries. Thirteen farmers were trained to use mobile point-of-sale machines for the Jeb Jenin farmer's market, enabling beneficiaries (both vulnerable Lebanese and displaced Syrians) to utilize their e-cards to purchase fresh produce directly from the market. The [Jeb Jenin farmer's market](#) was launched by WFP in August, establishing linkages between small-holder farmers and markets in order to strengthen livelihoods, and enhance the resilience of food systems.

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 June, more than 1 million displaced Syrians 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**

Donors in 2017

Australia, Belgium, Canada, China, Denmark, Estonia, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Luxembourg, Mexico, Norway, Republic of Korea, Switzerland and the United States of America

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