



WFP Lebanon Country Brief

Highlights

- WFP distributed the one millionth school snack in March. The event was marked at the Sin El Fil Third school in Beirut and was attended by the Director General of the Ministry of Education and Higher Education.
- In March, WFP reached 719,643 people with food assistance: 692,907,000 Syrian refugees; 16,202 Palestinian refugees from Syria; 10,534 children with school snacks and 48,980 recipients were reached through cash for education. Resilience and livelihoods projects were not carried out in March as funding was not available.

WFP Assistance

Food assistance to vulnerable Syrian populations in Lebanon PRRO 200987 (Jan. 2017 – Dec. 2018)	Total Requirement (in USD)	6 Month Net Funding Requirements* (in USD)
	331 m	146.6 m (90%)

* April- September 2017, with contributions confirmed to date and solid forecasts. The operation is covered until June 2017.

GENDER MARKER 2A PRRO 200987

As a part of the regional Protracted Relief and Recovery Operation (PRRO) 200987, WFP Lebanon is providing lifesaving food assistance to the most vulnerable individuals while also building the self-reliance of refugees 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 486 WFP contracted shops. Starting from late 2016, WFP together with UNICEF, UNHCR and the Lebanon Cash Consortium introduced a common card through which cash based assistance is transferred to vulnerable populations, using the Lebanon One Unified Inter-Organizational System for e-Cards (LOUISE).

WFP prioritises food assistance for the most vulnerable Syrian refugees based on a targeting criteria built on the results of the 2016 Vulnerability Assessment for Syrian Refugees (VASyR). The assessment found that 93 percent of Syrian refugee households are food insecure to some degree.

WFP also provides support to 53,000 vulnerable Lebanese through the Ministry of Social Affairs’ National Poverty Targeting Programme (NPTP).

In 2016, WFP started to implement a Cash for Education programme jointly with UNICEF offering all refugee children aged 6 to 14 enrolled in second shift public schools within Akkar and Mount Lebanon governorates with a monthly cash grant. The grant

is intended to help Syrian refugee households send children to second shift Lebanese public schools by contributing towards the indirect costs of education and aiming to reduce reliance on negative coping strategies. Support provided by WFP (USD 6 per month for children aged 6 to 14) aims to cover the monthly costs associated with purchasing school meals.

Additionally, to address short-term hunger and to improve childhood nutritional outcomes, WFP runs a small-scale public primary school snack programme for 10,000 vulnerable Lebanese and displaced Syrian children in 22 public schools selected by the Ministry of Education and Higher Education.

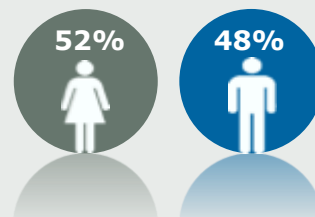
Finally, as a means of transforming the crisis into a development opportunity, WFP is working with partners to provide income opportunities for vulnerable Lebanese and displaced Syrians by building productive community assets. WFP also builds links between small-scale producers and recipients of food assistance.

In Numbers

719,613 people assisted in March

USD 851m directly injected into the Lebanese economy by WFP since 2012 through cash based interventions

People Assisted
March 2017



Main Photo Credit: WFP/Edward Johnson
Caption: Two young Syrian refugees in Bar Elias, Bekaa.



Operational Updates

- Starting from March 2017, WFP has been partnering with UNDP to build greater resilience for refugees and vulnerable Lebanese. Areas of cooperation include strengthening community resilience through income-generating labor activities that create and enhance productive assets, restoring livelihoods and contributing to socioeconomic development. A further area of cooperation will be the enhancement of local market linkages between small-scale producers and recipients of humanitarian assistance as well building sustainable marketable skills for the most vulnerable communities through vocational training programmes.
- In March, WFP distributed the one millionth school snack. The event was marked at the Sin El Fil Third school in Beirut and was attended by the Director General of the Ministry of Education and Higher Education.
- An expanded livelihood portfolio has been prepared and cooperating partners to support with implementation are being reviewed. The full-scale of projects are expected to commence in May once funding has been received.

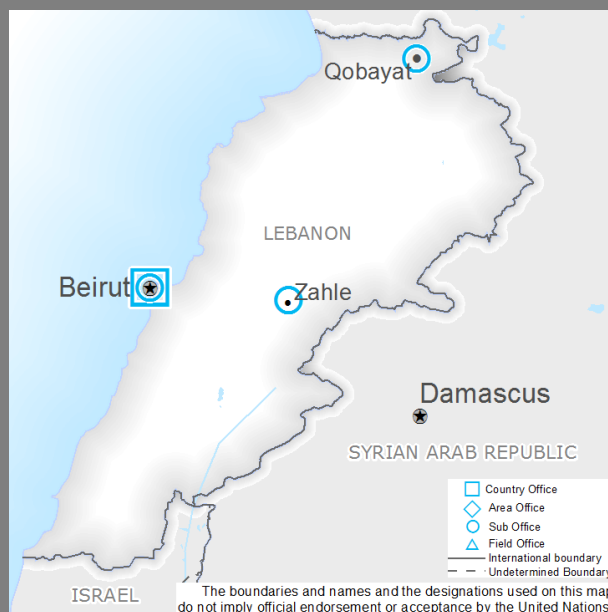
Gender

- WFP was selected as a part of the Food Security Sector to participate in the roll-out of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee Guidelines on Integrating Gender Based Violence Interventions in Humanitarian Settings. The process will start around June.

Partnerships

- WFP co-leads the Socio-economic Development pillar of the UN Strategic Framework in Lebanon (2017-2020) to better plan and coordinate resilience activities with other UN agencies.
- WFP is partnering with the Lebanese Ministry of Social Affairs for the development robust safety net management systems to support vulnerable Lebanese.
- WFP is also leading, together with FAO and Ministry for Agriculture the Food Security Sector to enhance the coordination among the different stakeholders involved providing food assistance (cash-based or food) and agriculture livelihoods support to vulnerable populations.

Country Background & Strategy



Lebanon is classified as an upper middle income country. It continues to show development in each of the Human Development Index (HDI) indicators. The current HDI value is 0.769 – in the high human development category – positioning the country at 67 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 March, one million 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 are continuing to 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:
67 out of 188

Income Level: **Upper middle**

Donors in 2017

Australia, Belgium, Canada, China, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Luxembourg, Mexico, Norway and the United States of America

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Further information: www.wfp.org/countries/lebanon

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