



WFP/Elie Matar

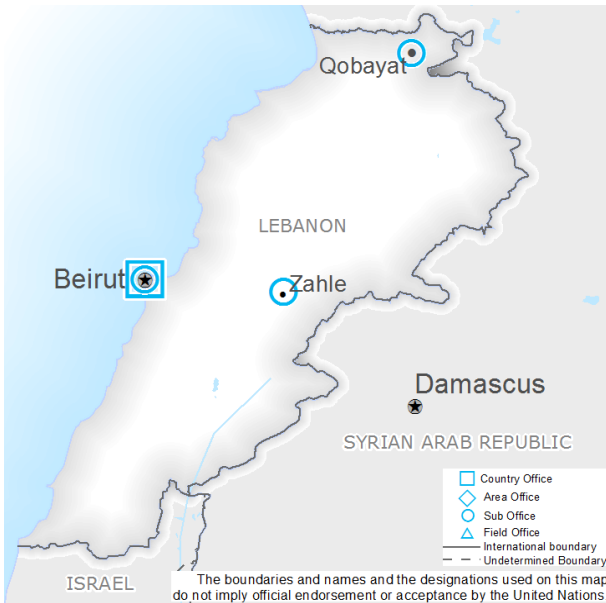


World Food Programme

Lebanon: Syria Crisis Response

Context and WFP Response

- UNHCR has registered over 1.1 million Syrians in Lebanon, representing the world's highest per capita concentration of refugees compared to its population. It is an influx that is placing significant strain on existing resources and host communities.
- As the Syria crisis continues, WFP - the world's largest humanitarian agency fighting hunger - is increasingly relied upon to provide life-saving assistance to an extraordinary number of refugees. However, massive regional funding gaps meant tough decisions were made to prioritise less assistance to the neediest refugee households. With sustained constraints, WFP will be unable to meet the basic food needs of those refugees.
- In Lebanon, WFP provides assistance to vulnerable Syrian refugees and Palestinian refugees from Syria through e-cards and cash transfers. E-cards are the principal modality of assistance as local markets are capable of providing sufficient food. Additionally, they allow beneficiaries to choose preferred foods. Since 2013, WFP has injected USD 527 million directly into the local economy.
- WFP provides technical assistance to the Ministry of Social Affairs through the National Poverty Targeting Programme (NPTP). Through it, vulnerable Lebanese receive US\$30 per person per month. In October and November, WFP is supporting the NPTP with funding from the Central Emergency Relief Fund and a generous contribution from Germany.



See WFP's dynamic map here: <http://bit.ly/1Wfu6W0>

Numbers

August: 763,705 people reached with USD 13.5

September: 635,482 people reached with USD 13.5

October: 616,950 people targeted with USD 13.5

Since 2013, WFP has directly injected **USD 527 million** directly into the Lebanese economy through the e-card programme.

WFP 2015 shortfall: USD 63.4 million

Highlights

- In September, severe funding shortfalls necessitated a change in distributions that would maximise the number of households assisted. WFP began 'capping' household sizes at five, therefore eligible households with more than five members only received five amounts of USD 13.5.
- In September, WFP assisted 635,482 vulnerable Syrian refugees with USD 13.5 e-card rations. In October, WFP plans to assist 616,950 people.

- The 2015 multi-sectoral *Vulnerability Assessment of Refugees (VASyR)* in Lebanon shows a continued deterioration of the food security situation across Lebanon compared to 2014. Specifically:
 - ◇ 70 percent of households are below the poverty line (US\$3.84/person/day), an increase from 50 percent;
 - ◇ 50 percent of households are below the survival expenditure basket, an increase from 29 percent;
 - ◇ 67 percent of households are applying severe and crisis coping strategies, an increase from 28 percent;
 - ◇ 7 percent of households are food secure, a decrease from 25 percent; and
 - ◇ 24 percent of households are moderately food insecure, an increase from 12 percent.

WFP Assistance

- In September, severe funding shortfalls necessitated a change in distributions that would maximise the number of households assisted. WFP began ‘capping’ household sizes at five, therefore eligible households with more than five members only received five amounts of USD 13.5.
- Additionally, WFP was forced to permanently suspend all assistance for ‘safety net’ cases, namely those over 60, children under two, pregnant women, nursing women and disabled individuals. Through thorough household assessments, WFP regrettably knows that those individuals belong to households which are not the most vulnerable, therefore their needs are expected to be managed by the overall household.
- In September, WFP assisted 635,482 vulnerable Syrian refugees with US\$ 13.5 e-card rations. WFP also assisted 20,498 Palestinian refugees through UNRWA’s ATM cards.
- In October, WFP plans to assist 664,658 people.

Food Security Sector

- The Food Security Sector Working Group is heavily involved in the planning of the 2016 Lebanon Crisis Response Plan document. The sector is liaising closely with the Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Social Affairs, FAO and NGO co-chair Action Contre La Faim (ACF). Further details will be shared next month.

Partnerships

- WFP works closely with the Government of Lebanon and has key relations with the Ministry of Social Affairs. WFP is planning to further develop partnerships with the Ministry of Agriculture and the Ministry of Education. Maintaining and building on these partnerships is key to WFP’s long-term planning as it looks at diversifying interventions.
- For its e-card activities, WFP works with seven non-governmental partners in Lebanon: ACF, Danish

Refugee Council, InterSOS, Mercy Corps, Première Urgence—Aide Médicale Internationale, Save the Children and World Vision.

- WFP formed a new partnership with the American University of Beirut (AUB) to enhance its targeting methodology.

Resourcing Update

- An additional USD 63.4 million is required to continue the operation until the end of 2015.
- WFP Lebanon’s biggest donors since 2012 are: Canada, Denmark, the European Commission, France, Germany, Japan, Kuwait, the Netherlands, Norway, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the United Kingdom, the United Nations Central Emergency Relief Fund and the United States of America.

Impact of Limited Funds

- With USD 13.5 rations, at a maximum of five per household, beneficiaries have been forced to adopt coping mechanisms with long term detrimental effects. They are reducing sizes and frequencies of meals, withdrawing children from school to work, begging, relying on debts and borrowing, searching for additional—illegal—employment often in high risk fields, or contemplating returning to Syria.

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WFP’s operation in Lebanon					
	Project duration*	Planned number of people	Total 2015 requirements (in USD)	Refugees assisted with e-cards	
				Reached (September)**	Planned (October)***
EMOP 200433	Jul 2012 — Dec 2015	2 130 228	63.4 million	655 980	664 658

* The project will be extended to December 2016
 ** Pending reconciliation
 *** Including 27,208 NPTP beneficiaries and half of UNRWA’s caseload (20,500) of Palestinian refugees
 The next report will be available in early November
<http://cdn.wfp.org/syriainfo/lebanon.html>