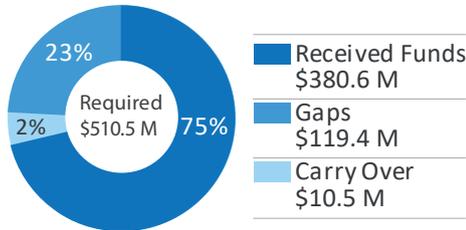


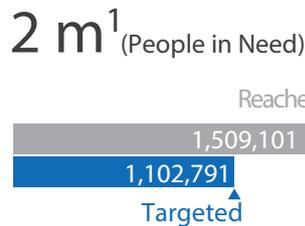


The dashboard summarizes the progress made by partners involved in the Lebanese Crisis Response Plan and highlights trends affecting people in need. The Food Security and Agriculture sector in Lebanon is working to: OUTCOME 1) Promote food availability; OUTCOME 2) Promote food accessibility; OUTCOME 3) Promote food utilization; OUTCOME 4) Promote stabilization.

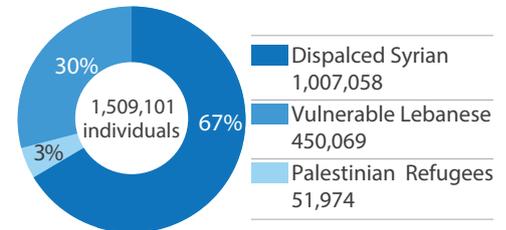
2020 Funding Status (including Carry-over)



Targeted Population groups

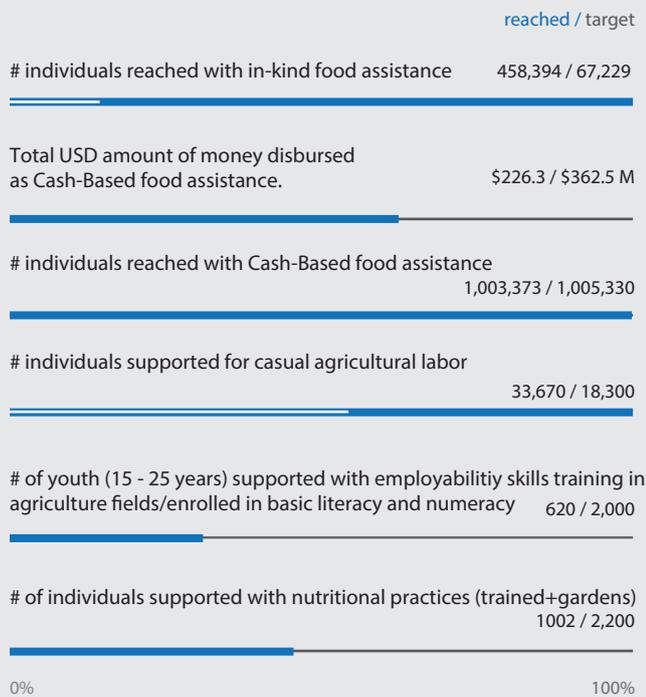


Population reached by cohort

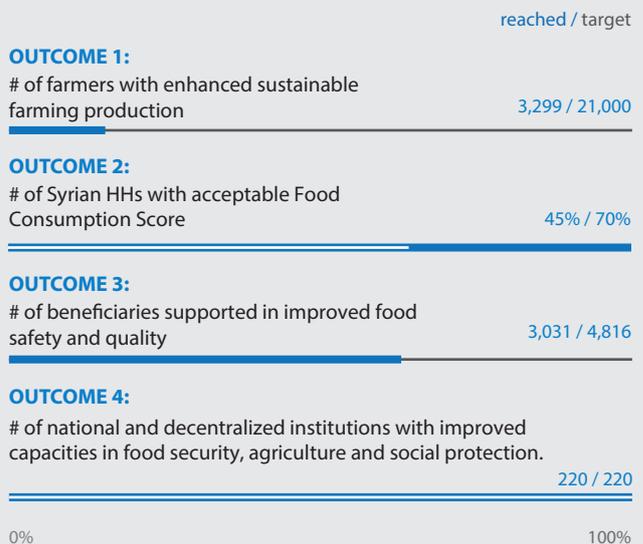


Progress against targets

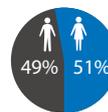
Key Achievements



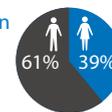
Outputs/Outcomes



Age/Gender breakdown



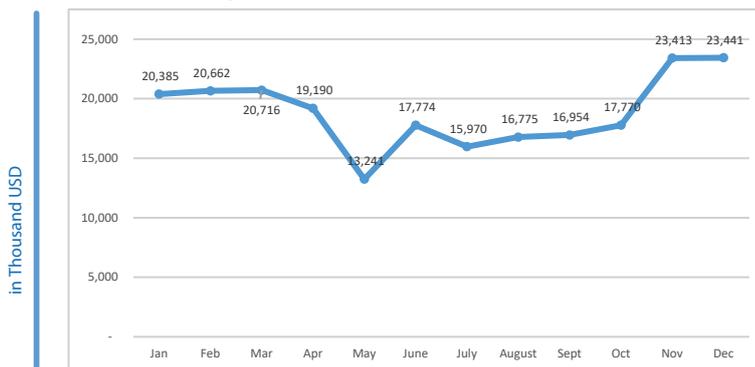
Gender breakdown of vulnerable people reached with cash based food assistance



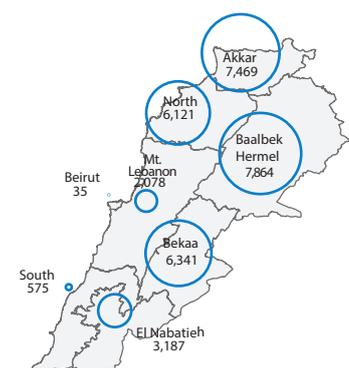
Gender breakdown of youth supported with employability skills training in agriculture fields/ enrolled in basic literacy and numeracy

Analysis

Amount of USD injected in the cash based food assistance system through various modalities (e-cards, ATMs, food vouchers..)



of individuals supported for seasonal agricultural labor/casual labor



1. Escalating food and non-food prices inflation and the lack of job opportunities in Lebanon have driven a marked increase in the number of people living in extreme poverty and in need of assistance, to an estimated 2 million across population cohorts.

Sources: FSS working group WFP/VAM presentation April 2020 and World Bank FACTSHEET APRIL 21, 2020



1. ANALYSIS OF ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE SECTOR AT THE OUTPUT LEVEL AND CHALLENGES

2020 was a very difficult year for Lebanon. Starting with social unrest, rising prices and widespread loss of livelihoods and income, the year saw a deepening of the economic crisis exacerbated by the COVID-19 outbreak and the Beirut Port explosions. These multiple crises have further eroded people's ability to access food and other essential needs across all population cohorts in Lebanon, adding up to the strains from the impact of the Syria crisis, that has been ongoing since 2011.

Several Food Security and Agriculture sector partners carried out thematic needs assessments and/or surveys tackling topics related to food availability and food access, status of employment, impact of the crisis on the agriculture sector, in addition to surveys on prices and markets, allowing the identification of bottlenecks of food insecurity within vulnerable population.

Against this dire backdrop, the Food Security and Agriculture sector continued to have two overarching objectives in 2020: i) reduce food insecurity, and ii) improve the resilience of the agricultural sector to the impacts of the Syria crisis.

Sector interventions were aimed at improving food availability, access and utilization for affected populations. Food availability is achieved, among others, through the provision of in-kind food assistance and agriculture production support, while food access is achieved through cash-based food assistance and agricultural livelihoods interventions. In 2020, the interventions described in the sections below, helped to cushion the impact of the above-mentioned crises on the most vulnerable refugees and host community.

Sector results on food assistance

In response to the multiple crisis and growing food needs, in 2020 sector partners supported a total of 1,461,767 individuals from all population cohorts with food assistance. More beneficiaries were reached with food assistance than in previous years, exceeding the 2020 sector target of 1,072,559 individuals, by 38 per cent. However, this achievement remains insufficient to cover the increased food needs, and in June 2020, the sector's people in need were therefore revised, reaching an estimated total of 2 million across all population cohorts, including 1.3 million Syrian refugees.²

Individuals benefiting from food assistance include 1,003,373 individuals (W: 51 per cent; M: 49 per cent) receiving cash-based assistance and 458,394 individuals (W: 52 per cent; M: 48 per cent) receiving in-kind assistance (food parcels). In addition to the regular food parcels distribution, Syrian refugees, Palestinian Refugees from Syria (PRS), Palestine Refugees in Lebanon (PRL) and vulnerable Lebanese households also benefitted from ready-to-eat meals and hot meals. Furthermore, food parcels were distributed to the families of the children attending the schools where school feeding programmes were implemented. These results are directly improving the food availability for the most vulnerable. In addition, during the month of Ramadan, an additional 43,679 individuals (65 per cent Syrians, 52 per cent women) received food parcels, which allowed them to cover the food and dietary needs of their households during this period.³

In 2020, 990,133 Syrian refugees were able to cover their food needs through cash-based and in-kind assistance, of which 51 per cent were women receiving cash-based transfers. Syrian refugees remained the largest beneficiary cohort as the escalating inflation and the lack of job opportunities have pushed almost 90 per cent of them below the Survival Minimum Expenditure Basket (SMEB).

In addition, 44,000 Palestinian refugees from Syria (51 per cent women) could cover their food needs through cash-based assistance, food vouchers and food parcels.

As more Lebanese slipped into poverty in 2020, sector partners reached four times more vulnerable Lebanese than in 2019 by increasing the number of people included in existing programmes, such as the National Poverty Targeting Program (NPTP),⁴ and through new activities in response to the economic crisis and COVID-19, mainly through in-kind assistance under which more than 300,000 Lebanese (52 per cent women) received food parcels. It is important to note that women and girls represented more than half of the beneficiaries, under every food assistance modality.

2. Escalating food and non-food prices inflation and the lack of job opportunities in Lebanon have driven a marked increase in the number of people living in extreme poverty and in need of assistance, to an estimated 2 million across population cohorts. Sources: FSS working group WFP/VAM presentation April 2020 and World Bank FACTSHEET APRIL 21, 2020 & WFP VAM & Supply Chain Unit Lebanon National FSSWG–Situation Analysis Monitoring Results for FSSWG Meeting, 13 October 2020

3. This amount is not included in the output 1.1 figures

4. From 91,239 Lebanese in 2019 to 105,485 in 2020.

The sector faced several challenges in 2020. With skyrocketing increases in food prices, one key challenge was to ensure that partners were providing meaningful assistance. The (national) average cost of the food SMEB registered an increase of 183 per cent between October 2019 – the baseline month, prior to the multiple socio-economic shocks affecting the country – and December 2020. To mitigate this challenge, the Food Security and Agriculture sector introduced a recommended food parcel content to cover the food needs of a family of five for a month,⁵ and some partners adjusted the transfer value of cash food assistance to LBP 70,000 in July and again to LBP 100,000 in October-November,⁶ in order to fully meet beneficiaries' food needs. This adjustment was possible thanks to a favourable exchange rate negotiated with the Central Bank of Lebanon.

Another challenge was represented by the manifold consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic outbreak on programming and implementation. Movement restrictions during lockdowns and curfews periods slowed down the provision of assistance to beneficiaries. To overcome these challenges, some partners took alternative measures to facilitate the redemption process of beneficiaries and allow them to access the assistance, by changing the modality of delivery.

Furthermore, lockdowns and curfew periods over several months also exacerbated difficulties in accessing food for the most vulnerable, as seen with the exponential increase in the number of calls for assistance by non-beneficiaries to the WFP-UNHCR call center, and referrals to the sector.⁶ In response to the increased need for food assistance, the sector reinforced a referral system building on the existing inter-agency tools to avail information to partners interested in responding to the identified needs. While the increase in referrals put a strain on partners' ability to respond with assistance, they were nevertheless able to step up and distribute 155,550 food parcels in the course of 2020, which comes in addition to the regular monthly assistance to the most vulnerable.⁸ This food assistance provided under the COVID-19 response included support to individuals in isolation or quarantine centers, regardless of status or nationality, as well as to ITS in full quarantine. Several partners providing COVID-19 related assistance were new to the sector, including national NGOs.

The Lebanon Humanitarian Fund (LHF) first standard allocation awarded funds to four sector partners to extend support to referrals related to COVID-19 for populations at risks, with a one-off emergency assistance. School feeding programmes, reaching 34,000 Lebanese and Syrian students before the outbreak of the pandemic across the country, were adapted to the school closure during lockdowns by providing in-kind food parcels to the families of children attending public schools, reaching up to 81,446 beneficiaries. This assistance mitigated the economic impact of COVID-19 and maintained families' links with schools and encouraged them to keep their children enrolled.

Sector results on agriculture livelihoods

The impact of the movement restrictions during lockdowns and curfew periods, and the overall economic and financial crisis was severe on the agricultural community (farmers, agricultural cooperatives/associations/SMEs, agriculture workers, etc) considerably reducing the implementation of agricultural livelihood activities under the different related outputs,⁹ negatively affecting agricultural production and productivity and consequently putting at risk the sustainability of farming practices during 2021.

To build the capacity of Lebanese farmers, alternative measures were taken to hold trainings, coaching and/or awareness sessions remotely, and, when possible, physical presence was limited to a restricted group of people respecting precautionary sanitary measures.

Despite these challenges, a total of 2,472 small-scale farmers, of which 19 per cent of them were women (under output 1.2), strengthened their technical and operational capacities as a result of technical trainings or inputs distribution to adopt improved farming practices, climate smart sustainable agriculture or conservation of natural resources. This represents 83 per cent out of the annual target (2,970). On the other hand, only 409 farmers (20 per cent women) attended trainings and reported having improved their skills on agricultural value chain development, out of a target of 3,330 individuals. 1,533 farmers (10 per cent women), attended trainings on sustainable agricultural production (crops, fruits, vegetables), while 1,156 farmers (26 per cent women) attended trainings on natural resources

5 <https://fscluster.org/lebanon/document/fss-guidance-food-parcels-composition>

6 based on the average retail price of the food component of the Survival Minimum Expenditure Basket (SMEB).

7 The UNHCR/WFP call-center received 365,000 calls (between April to December 2020) from refugees requesting more assistance due to the impact of COVID-19 on their economic situation, of which 88% were from non-assisted refugees asking for assistance. During 2020 Q3 the sector received 48,728 referrals - 68% out of total referrals

8 That amount was reported by partners in field level coordinated tracking tool and AI, until November 2020

9 1.2, 1.3, 1.4, 1.5 and outputs 2.2, 2.3, 2.4, 2.5 and 2.6

conservation including water use efficiency.¹⁰

Regarding the capacity strengthening of small-scale farmers to improve their access to markets (output 1.3), only 15 per cent of the 2020 target was reached with 160 farmers reported having signed contracts with retailers and/or having access to market infrastructures. Only 102 farmers (87 per cent men) out of a target of 2,100 (5 per cent) reported having increased access to markets following skill building activities.

Under output 1.4, only 156 Lebanese farmers participated in trainings on improved storage conditions (silos, grain bags, cold storage houses, etc..) out of a target of 1,050. The trainings aimed at enabling small-scale farmers and their households to reduce food waste/food losses along the food value chain.¹¹

During 2020, a total of 305 farmers associations and/or agri-food cooperatives and 78 MSMEs were targeted to receive support to improve agriculture livelihoods (output 2.2), as more focus is being placed on farmers' aggregators, such as agriculture cooperatives. The target was outreached with 338 agricultural cooperatives receiving different types of support from partners, ranging from in-kind with agricultural inputs and equipment, to capacity building in different aspects of cooperative life, such as governance and law of cooperatives and business plan preparation with the overall objective of improving agricultural livelihoods by establishing sustainable income generating enterprises. 661 members (93 per cent women) of these agricultural cooperatives, received technical trainings on the aforementioned topics, in addition to topics related to adoption of Good Agricultural Practice (GAP), allowing them to have a sustainable and profitable business plan for their agricultural farm development. The sector has also initiated a series of bimonthly meetings for partners that provide support to agriculture cooperatives, jointly with the livelihoods sector.

A total of 1,303 farmers were provided with agriculture inputs (seeds, seedlings, livestock, equipment, fertilizers, pesticides, fodder) and 1,050 farmers benefited from financial and/or technical support to promote private agriculture investment (output 2.3). An additional 613 farmers participated and enhanced their skills to conduct profitable farmer business school programme. These interventions, which represented 56 per cent of the 2020 target, allowed Lebanese small-scale farmers to have access to financial and technical support that promoted their own investment in agriculture.

Given the impact of the economic and financial crisis on agriculture, a few partners launched new initiatives to provide emergency livelihood support to small-scale farmers that have limited access to imported agricultural inputs due to the sharp currency devaluation and drastically reduced liquidity. Among other partners, FAO rapidly initiated an emergency programme to increase access to agricultural inputs and restore vegetable production for 1,000 farming families in Akkar (409 farmers of which 14 per cent women) and in Baalbeck-Hermel (591 farmers of which 10 per cent women), through a voucher scheme. The Food Security and Agriculture sector, in collaboration with FAO, produced a Guidance note for Agricultural Inputs Voucher Schemes,¹² whose purpose is to provide practitioners in Lebanon with information to formulate and implement similar interventions using agricultural inputs vouchers.

Under output 2.4, 83 young men and 37 young women (15-25 years), of which 95 per cent of them are Lebanese, were enrolled in the agriculture schools of the Ministry of Agriculture. Furthermore, five hundred young individuals (37 per cent Syrians and 41 per cent girls) aged 15-25 also joined TVET short-term training courses on agriculture skills or related basic numeracy and literacy, under the informal education sector. These results represent one third of the 2020 target, as short term vocational courses were disrupted by the lockdowns. As a result of formal and informal education, 285 youth (52 per cent Syrians and 150 girls) declared having greater access to employment opportunities and/or internships in the agriculture and agro-industry sectors.

Regarding access to temporary, seasonal and casual labour, in exchange for cash-based assistance to increase access to food (output 2.5), almost 600 farmers (10 per cent women) benefited from 95 agricultural productive infrastructure and/or communal assets, including land reclamation, water reservoirs, irrigation networks, which will allow to generate employment and other livelihood opportunities, particularly in main agricultural regions where the majority of host communities are located. The total investment value of these assets reached \$806,396 in 2020. Furthermore, a total of 33,670 individuals (45 per cent Syrians and 21 per cent women), exceeding the 2020 target of 18,300 individuals, got access to temporary or casual labor in exchange for cash assistance, which in return injected \$5.5 million into the local economy. Partners continued to abide to the government directive to have equal numbers of Lebanese and Syrian participants in cash-for-work programmes to support social cohesion amongst refugee and host communities; in some cases though, partners engaged more vulnerable Lebanese participants to mitigate the increased vulnerabilities amongst Lebanese who faced multiple shocks in 2020.¹³

10. Monitoring of results under Activity Info did not show farmers attending trainings on climate smart agriculture and this might be attributed to partners considering including them under those receiving capacity building under Good Agriculture Practices.

11. No interventions were reported by partners under output 1.5 which focuses on prevention and control measures for transboundary animal diseases and plant pest. However, the Ministry of Agriculture initiated the preparation of a vaccination campaign targeting lump skin disease of cattle.

12. <https://fscluster.org/lebanon/document/fao-guidance-note-agricultural-inputs>

13. Under FFA and FFT Lebanese comprised 57 per cent of participants by the end of the year.

It is important to note that, during the lockdown, participants of some projects under output 2.5 received one-off unconditional cash transfers to enable them to continue meeting their basic needs. WFP streamlined the daily wage for non-skilled workers for FFA and FFT participants so that it is equal to the transfer value of humanitarian cash assistance. In 2021, the sector will further discuss the issue of daily wages for participants in the cash-for-work programme under the Food security and agriculture sector.

Under programmes related to food assistance for trainings (output 2.6), only 20 per cent of the planned beneficiaries were reached because several activities were postponed or placed on hold due to COVID-19, including capacity strengthening activities, which place a special focus on women participation. Under this output in 2020, partners initiated the first specific training for people with special needs. The program targeted 200 persons with disabilities and their caregivers, who participated in trainings in agro-food processing, basic literacy and numeracy, English, and basic digital literacy skills.

Sector results on food utilization and stabilization

The current multi-faceted crises have also affected the quality of the diet among pregnant and lactating women, young children, elderly and People with Specific Needs (PwSN) and increased the risk of malnutrition. A number of initiatives have contributed to alleviate this challenge in 2020. Just over 1,000 individuals, representing 46 per cent of 2020 target, adopted improved nutritional activities and practices thanks to partners' interventions. These interventions aimed at increasing optimal nutrition practices by accompanying assistance/programs, with awareness on nutrition, food utilization, diet diversity, health-seeking behaviors, IYCF, and malnutrition. A new Infant and Young Child feeding (IYCF) hotline was set up in September to get free of charge counselling and support in feeding young children, both on breastfeeding and complementary feeding. The hotline received 152 calls in 2020 that quickly increased in early 2021. Four hundred individuals participated to trainings on food preservation/transformation technologies (44 per cent Syrians where all of them were women) and 1,625 farmers (11 per cent women) were trained on Pest Management and Good Agriculture Practices and Standards to regulate the widespread use of pesticides in an integrated and safe manner. Such interventions will strengthen the resilience of smallholder producers and upgrade capacities for sanitary and phytosanitary control and management of food safety and quality systems.

Sector partners' interventions also contributed to strengthening capacities of national, regional/decentralized public institutions working in food security/agriculture, and social protection to improve service delivery for vulnerable people (outputs 4.1 and 4.2). The National Poverty Targeting Programme, supported by WFP, received equipment to collect household data and to monitor activities, improving the digital household verification tool, and developing training tools for the enumeration teams, in particular at the Social Development Center level (SDC).

In addition, the Ministry of Agriculture developed and launched Lebanon's National Agriculture Strategy 2020-2025 with technical support from FAO. The new agricultural strategy identifies main areas of interventions and key challenges of the sector and evidence-based strategies for policymaking purposes. In parallel, key flagship programmes will be identified by the MoA for resource mobilization and implementation.

The main decentralized institutions supported in all governorates were: Green plan offices, forestry centers and nurseries under the Directorate of Natural Resources and Rural Development, General Directorate of Cooperatives offices, and the seven agricultural technical schools. Eighteen staff (5 women) from the GP were trained to acquire new skills by developing a grant work flow and management information system and assessing the impact of the Green Plan and building its capacity in Monitoring and Evaluation. Twenty-one staff (47 per cent women) from the MoA agricultural centres participated in trainings on Integrated Potatoes Production, including Good Agricultural practices and the use of Integrated Pest management Practices aimed at reducing the harmful and indiscriminate use of chemicals and pesticides.

16 Staff from the GDC (10 Women; 6 Men) participated in technical trainings on the Cooperatives Business schools approach, which allowed them to strengthen the capacities of 250 agricultural cooperatives in preparing a sustainable and profitable business plan.

Sixty-five teachers and extension and education staff of the agricultural technical schools (equally distributed between women and men) were trained with the aim of improving the internal constitution of the schools, and the development and delivery of the curriculum. In addition, seven technical agricultural school buildings are being rehabilitated along with laboratories equipment and agricultural-related equipment (machinery, agricultural inputs, etc.).



KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

Up to **1,461,767** vulnerable individuals received food assistance, exceeding 2020 targets (1,072,559).

The beneficiaries included up to **859,341** displaced Syrians, representing **51** per cent women and **49** per cent men receiving food assistance through e-cards and food vouchers.

Up to **105,485** vulnerable Lebanese (51 per cent men and 49 per cent women) received monthly food assistance through e-cards under the National Poverty Targeting Program framework (NPTP).

Up to **43,962** Palestine refugees from Syria (PRS)- **56** per cent women and **44** per cent men were provided food assistance through various support. These correspond more to number of food assistance services provided through different modalities as duplications may occur.

Among the most vulnerable farmers, **1,303** farmers were provided with agricultural inputs.

1,050 farmers benefited from financial and/or technical support to promote private agriculture investment.

The total value of investment in agricultural worksite contracted through private sector or implementing partners reached **\$806,396**

The Ministry of Agriculture is receiving continuous technical support through different interventions by partners and capacity building of its staff.



Facts and Figures

Half of Syrians displaced HHs were food insecure with highest levels in North (70 per cent)¹

Half of Syrians Displaced HHs presented with poor and borderline food consumption levels¹

96 per cent of Syrians Displaced HHs were adopting livelihood-based coping strategies, of which 38 per cent adopted stress coping strategies.¹

89 per cent of Syrians Displaced HHs were below the SMEB (Survival Minimum Expenditures Basket)¹

20 per cent of Lebanese have inadequate food consumption and 30 per cent are adopting stress coping strategies²

73 per cent of Farmers in need of agricultural support³

95 per cent of PRS are food insecure⁴

References:

- 1- Vulnerability Assessment of Syrian Refugees in Lebanon (VASyR 2020)
- 2- mVAM (November – December 2020)- WFP
- 3- Food Security and Livelihoods Assessment of Lebanese Host Communities (FSLA 2015)
- 4- AUB / UNRWA 2015



2.KEY CONTRIBUTIONS OF THE SECTOR TO LCRP OUTCOME AND IMPACTS

The changes in the food security context in Lebanon have been monitored and analysed during the year, in order to adapt sector strategies and programming. WFP web surveys conducted in June and September found that food had become a major source of concern for both Lebanese and Syrian respondents, and that due to COVID-19 and the economic crisis, half of Lebanese respondents were unemployed. In addition, WFP's mobile Vulnerability Analysis and Mapping (mVAM) surveys found that 40 per cent of the Lebanese households that were contacted had difficulties covering their food needs, and 23 per cent consumed inadequate diets. The VASyR 2020 confirmed that 89 per cent of Syrian refugees are now living in extreme poverty, a dramatic increase from the 55 per cent who were living below the SMEB in 2019. Almost half of the Syrian refugees have unacceptable food consumption; the share of households with poor food consumption level has considerably increased by four times compared to 2019 (19.5 per cent in 2020 vs. 5 per cent in 2019) and those with borderline consumption level increased by 1.5 times compared to 2019 (30 per cent in 2020 vs. 20 per cent in 2019).¹⁴ Households with inadequate diets have doubled compared to the previous year (25 per cent in 2019 to 49 per cent in 2020), while the number of those resorting to damaging food coping mechanisms, such as reducing the number of meals per day or reducing food portions, is also on the rise.

Through WFP/VAM monitoring and analysis of key food security indicators presented at the sector working group monthly meetings, the sector contributed to raising awareness and sharing developments on supply chains, food &

non-food prices and exchange rate fluctuations as well as SMEB revisions, which led to a partners' increase in food transfers values.

The FSS has 4 outcomes directly contributing to the achievement of the LCRP impacts under Strategic Objectives (SOs) 2, 3 and 4.

Under the SO 2 of the LCRP,¹⁵ the sector partners provided immediate assistance to a total of 1,461,767 vulnerable people, through different food modalities, as mentioned in the previous section. In-kind food assistance increased in 2020 to reach 458,394 people with food parcels, while cash-based assistance provided a longer-term monthly lifeline to refugees' families, and vulnerable Lebanese under the NPTP, reaching more than 1 million people in total.

The impact of cash-based food assistance on food security was monitored by partners through remote post distribution and outcome monitoring surveys (Outcome 2), that assessed the percentage of targeted households with borderline or acceptable food consumption score (FCS), while disaggregating them by gender. Latest results of WFP's Basic Needs Outcome Monitoring (BNOM) For Vulnerable Syrian Refugees Assisted by WFP Lebanon,¹⁶ compared to February 2020, show a deterioration in the food security, food consumption and use of coping strategies among assisted households. A drastic decrease in acceptable FCS for households receiving cash-for-food assistance was recorded between February 2020 and July 2020 (from 75 per cent to 46 per cent). In the same period, a 15 per cent decrease in acceptable FCS was recorded among food e-card households recipients. For the non-assisted households, the food consumption score continued to deteriorate with the percentage of households in the acceptable food consumption group decreasing by 20 per cent between February and July 2020 (from 53 per cent to 33 per cent). All households are increasingly resorting to negative coping strategies to cover their basic needs. Households are reducing the consumption of meat and milk/dairy products, which could be due to the large increase in prices of these products in the market. While assisted families experienced a reduction in living standards that eroded the gains from previous years, the assistance provided protected them from slipping further into extreme poverty.¹⁷

The cash based programmes not only cushioned the impact of the crisis on vulnerable individuals, but also significantly contributed to the local economy by directly injecting USD 226 million into the local economy through the different cash-based transfers (CBT) modalities, at a time when economic activity registered a widespread slowdown. Partners also rely on a network of stores in the entire country where beneficiaries can redeem their food assistance, bringing businesses opportunities to a sector badly hit by the economic crisis.

Under food availability outcome monitoring results (Outcome 1), the findings of the 'School Feeding in Emergencies' evaluation, conducted in 2019, show that there was a significant increase in dietary diversity and consumption amongst students who attended schools that were part of WFP's school feeding programme compared to those that are not. In addition, there was a significant decrease in absenteeism and increase in retention amongst Syrian refugee children who were part of the WFP programme. Those results, however, cannot be confirmed for 2020 school year due to the school closures.

In terms of food utilization results (Outcome 3), the percentage of women with a minimum dietary diversity score based on the Household Diet Diversity Scale (HDDS) improved from 27 per cent in December 2019 to 67 per cent in June 2020. The HDDS is also a proxy for nutrient adequacy of the diet of individuals or households. This data reflects the level of access to a variety of foods that was made available for the participants of programmes focusing on the adoption of optimal nutrition practices.

Under the SO 3 of the LCRP (supporting service provision through national systems), the sector, through the interventions of its partners, aims at strengthening the capacity of national and local service delivery and reinforcing the stability of public institutions. Partners continued their support to national systems through capacity building aimed at increasing the number of vulnerable populations having access to basic services through national systems. As in 2019, in 2020, WFP continued capacity building support to the Ministry of Social Affairs (MoSA) to ensure the Ministry is equipped with the main building blocks to effectively implement the National Poverty Targeting Program (NPTP), the Government's safety net program. As a result, support under the NPTP was scaled up to reach 15,000 households in 2020, representing 105,000 individuals, aiming to reach 50,000 households in 2021.

15. provide immediate assistance to vulnerable populations

16. Basic Needs Outcome Monitoring (BNOM) For Vulnerable Syrian Refugees Assisted by WFP Lebanon | July 2020

17. ibidem

Under the SO 4 of the LCRP, the sector has been active in strengthening the agriculture productive sector and offering economic and livelihoods opportunities in agriculture. Sector livelihoods programmes show good results in terms of assets building/rehabilitation and temporary/casual labour, despite current challenges, as explained in the previous section. Notwithstanding these efforts, the sector is far from reaching the targets at outcome level regarding Lebanese farmers, at a moment when small-scale farmers and local food production are in need of support.

In terms of funding, the sector was well funded, receiving 77 per cent¹⁸ of the sector's appeal of USD 510 million, the largest sector appeal of the LCRP in 2020. This represents an increase of 17 per cent when compared to funding received in 2019. During a difficult year for Lebanon, the increase in funding allowed partners to continue to provide meaningful assistance to vulnerable populations to meet their food needs. However, the funding was not equally distributed across the food security pillars: lifesaving food assistance received the largest share of contributions, leaving only 5 per cent of funds to support agriculture and livelihoods, a trend which continues from previous years that the sector aims at reversing in 2021.



3. KEY PRIORITIES FOR 2021

The analysis of sector results in 2020 above, coupled with the challenges faced by refugees and host communities alike, points out to a set of key priorities for the sector in 2021, as listed below:

1. Need to increase cash-based food assistance for extremely vulnerable Syrian refugees and Lebanese, at two levels: i) by expanding the number of beneficiaries to those currently not assisted by partners, and ii) continuing to further adjust the assistance value to match the inflation rate in order to provide a meaningful transfer value.
2. Access for the most vulnerable to in-kind food assistance during punctual, time-bound emergency (i.e. winter storms, COVID-19) should also be prioritised in 2021, with the understanding that partners should adopt the sector's recommended composition of food parcels and supplement it, when possible, with fresh fruits and vegetables. Local sourcing of food items is also recommended, when possible.
It is important to note that for medium-term programming, cash modalities should be preferred because of their cost-effectiveness, less security risks, reduced risks for corruption and diversion, choice, flexibility and dignity, market impacts and promotion of dietary diversity by enabling people to buy a wider range of food.
3. Scaling up prevention of malnutrition through providing food assistance to households that are nutritionally vulnerable, particularly those with children under five and pregnant and lactating women.
4. Emergency support to vulnerable populations, in case food subsidies are lifted/modified, will also be prioritised. In early 2021, the sector will circulate advocacy messages and programmatic recommendations on actions that could cushion the impact of the removal of the food subsidies on vulnerable populations.
5. Provide urgent access to agricultural inputs and finance for farmers (such as vouchers) to support the 2021 cropping season. This, together with the wider support to agriculture as per the sector response plan for 2021 (to increase food availability because of limited domestic food production) aims at mitigating the impact of the crisis on small-scale farmers and maintaining the production potential of the land.
6. Corollary to 5, is the support to value chain and agriculture cooperatives (esp. women), and agricultural MSMEs, and the promotion of seasonal agricultural job opportunities to boost local livelihoods.
7. Support to local institutions for an efficient delivery of services related to agriculture and food assistance, such as technical assistance and capacity building to local agriculture and extension services and to Social Development Centers, remains a priority as it is key to scale-up of the NPTF in 2021 and setting up of the farmers' registry.
8. Continue with the regular monitoring and assessments of market, food supply and demand, food security situation; introduce assessment of malnutrition outcomes.
9. Continue to improve the referral process, monitoring and analysis for the sector.

18. (including carry over from 2019).



Life no longer on hold: A water canal changes lives in the Bekaa Valley (previously published by WFP and written by WFP staff Edmond Khoury)

Rain is no longer a burden for the people of Majdal Anjar after the World Food Programme's rainwater canal put an end to floods and accompanying damages.

In 2018, a storm named Norma hit Lebanon. Heavy rains, high winds and freezing-cold temperatures were reported across the country. The people we met on our visit to Majdal Anjar were particularly hard-hit; rainwater invaded their homes, businesses and cars.

In response to pressing local needs, The World Food Programme (WFP) in collaboration with World Vision, launched a project to construct a stormwater drainage canal to support the residents of Majdal Anjar and neighbouring areas in avoiding another catastrophe.

The project helped build a productive community asset, while at the same time Syrian refugees and vulnerable Lebanese were able to secure their basic food needs through short-term opportunities. Based on the number of hours worked, participants received a cash transfer in return for their participation. Each month their e-cards were topped up and they could buy food in over 460 shops or withdraw cash at ATMs across Lebanon. The cashflow also boosted local businesses.

A couple of days before Lebanon's first 2020 rainfall, we sat down with Bachir and Saleh, who were born and raised in Majdal Anjar, to learn more about the situation of this Bekaa town before and after the canal.

"Before 2018, all we'd see is an avalanche of water coming from nearby villages towards our houses and neighborhoods," says Saleh Hussein who lives in Majdel Anjar and owns a pharmacy there. "Our city is at a lower point compared to nearby areas with higher altitudes," he adds, explaining how water used to flood streets and put life on hold.

Saleh also recalls the period when rainwater got through his pharmacy's door. "A lot of the medicine I sell got ruined," he says. "This caused a loss in income and led me to rearrange the design of my entire shop."

Projects like this one also target people living in rural areas so that their communities benefit from the creation and rehabilitation of assets that build social cohesion, improve living conditions and stimulate economic opportunities along the way.



Joining hands for the benefit of a community.
Photo: WFP Lebanon

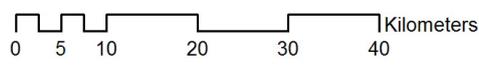
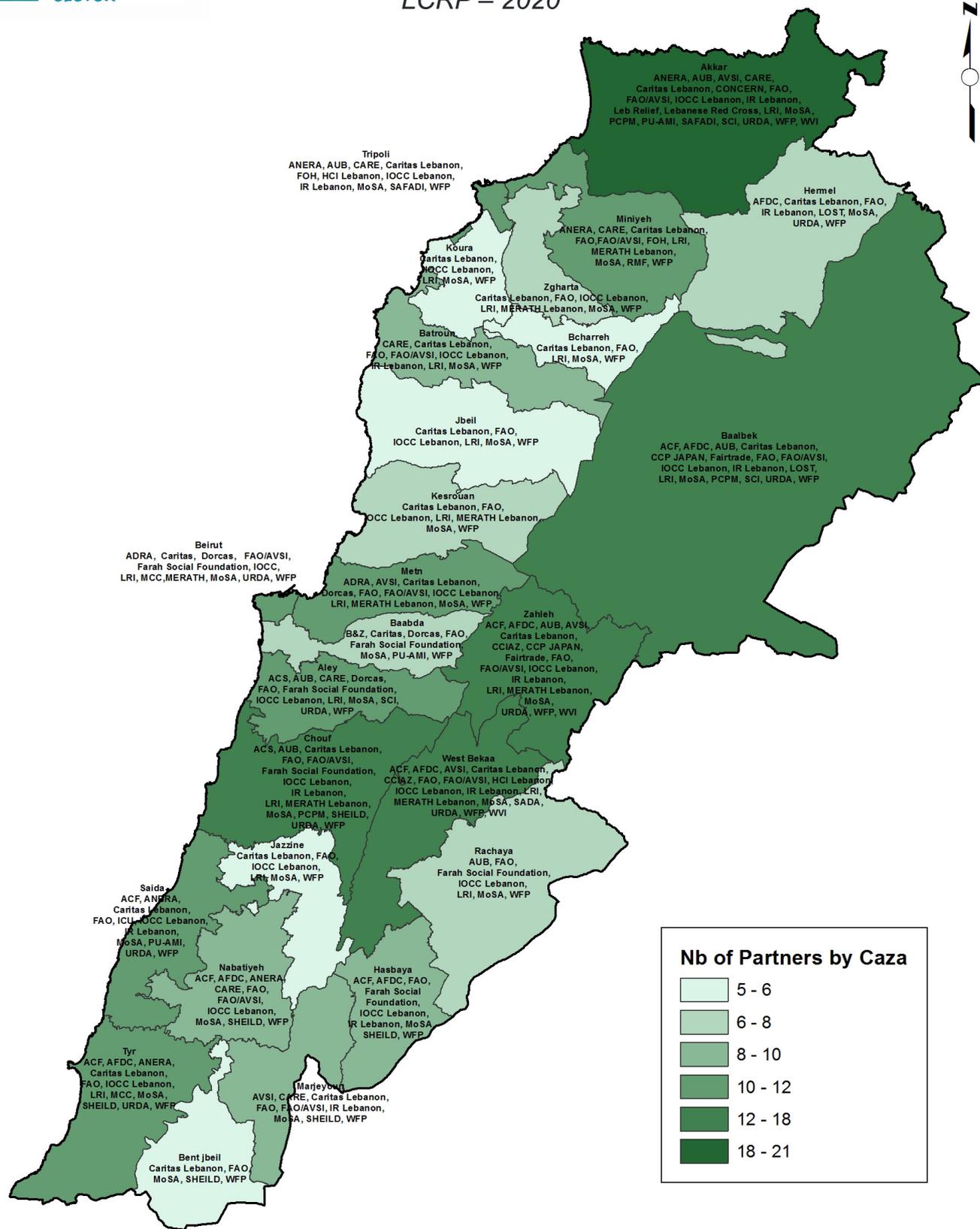
"I was introduced to an entire new set of skills," says Bachir Nisbyan, one of 163 participants in this project. "Last year's storms passed like a breeze," he adds describing how life continued normally for the residents of Majdal Anjar and neighbouring areas as the country faced numerous severe storms.

This project also boosted the technical skills of participants and included training on excavation, concrete formwork, concrete mixing and backfilling. Participants are now equipped with vital skills that can be used to generate income beyond the period of the project.

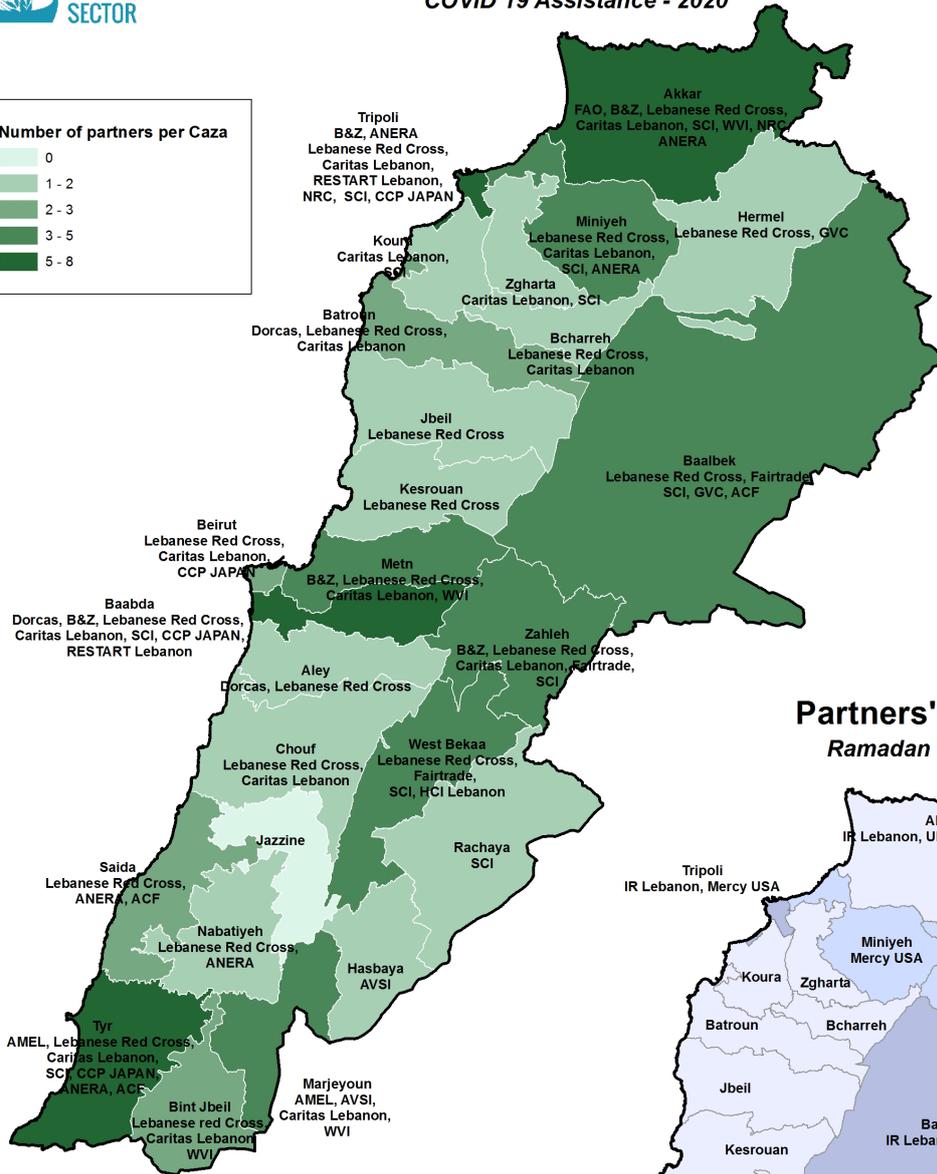
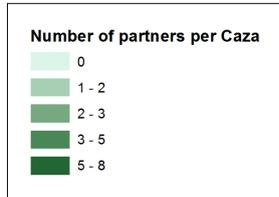
"In addition to protecting businesses from floods and supporting vulnerable households, this project supports farmers and their lands," says Dana Kanaan, WFP Lebanon's Livelihoods Programme Policy Officer. "The community's improved water management means that channelled water can be used for irrigation — there is less loss of fertile soil and erosion, with reduced damage to orchards during heavy seasonal flooding."

Partners' Presence Map

LCRP – 2020



Partners' Presence Map
COVID 19 Assistance - 2020



Partners' Presence Map
Ramadan Distribution - 2020

