



WFP EVALUATION

Evaluation of Lebanon WFP Country Strategic Plan 2018–2021

Centralized Evaluation Report

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World Food Programme

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Executive Summary

Introduction

Evaluation features

1. The evaluation covered WFP activities in Lebanon under the country strategic plan (CSP) from 2018 to mid-2020. It also examined operations under regional emergency operation (EMOP) 200433 and protracted relief and recovery operation (PRRO) 200987. The strategic focus and purpose of the evaluation were to provide an independent assessment of WFP's performance, opportunities and challenges; to inform the design of the next CSP for Lebanon; to improve current programming; and to facilitate accountability for results to WFP stakeholders.
2. The independent evaluation team conducted a comprehensive desk review of documentation and quantitative data sets. This was complemented by key informant interviews with 89 stakeholders. An initial in-country mission took place from 5 to 12 February 2020. Due to instability in the country and COVID-19-related travel restrictions, a remote evaluation mission was conducted from 22 June to 16 July 2020.

Context

3. Lebanon is a densely populated country of 6.82 million people, over 2 million of whom are refugees and migrants, mainly from the Syrian Arab Republic and the State of Palestine. The country is facing a dire economic situation, which triggered civil unrest in October 2019. More than half of the Lebanese population¹ lives in poverty and 88 percent of Syrian refugees live on less than the survival minimum expenditure basket (SMEB).² The situation has been exacerbated by the spread of COVID-19 and the Beirut port explosions in 2020.
4. Lebanon's debt burden has surpassed 150 percent of its gross domestic product³ and its first debt default was in March 2020.⁴ A lack of economic diversity has resulted in the informal economy providing the majority of jobs. Agriculture is an important sector for the Lebanese economy, but its vulnerability to climate change and low productivity are of concern.
5. Social protection is still nascent in Lebanon, which has one of the lowest rates of women's labour market participation in the world.⁵ The pandemic has also harmed women's employment conditions.⁶ Institutional weakness is reflected in the country's difficulty in managing economic and political challenges. A review of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in 2018 showed that while targets had been met in health and primary education, mixed results had been achieved in poverty reduction and environmental sustainability.

Country strategic plan

6. WFP has been operating in Lebanon since 2012, responding to the needs of Syrian refugees. Figure 1 presents a summary of WFP operations in Lebanon and key events that occurred before and during the evaluation period. The regional approach to the emergency response to the Syrian refugee crisis was built on developing the first CSP for Lebanon, which has been implemented in response to a complex protracted emergency resulting in a fragile situation.
7. The CSP, covering the period 2018–2021 has four strategic outcomes that are related to the ongoing humanitarian crisis and WFP's strategic partnership with the Government for the achievement of SDGs 2 and 17 (figure 2). Under the CSP, social protection and capacity strengthening for national government counterparts gained prominence. WFP also adjusted its programme to include in-kind food assistance as a contingency measure, extending support to vulnerable Lebanese.

1 World Bank. 2020. Lebanon Economic Monitor. [The Deliberate Depression](#).

2 USD 87/person/month USD 435/household/month, i.e. LBP 652,694 at an exchange rate of LBP 1,500/USD, (assuming a household of five members). Source: WFP. 2020. [Review of the Survival and Minimum Expenditure Baskets in Lebanon](#).

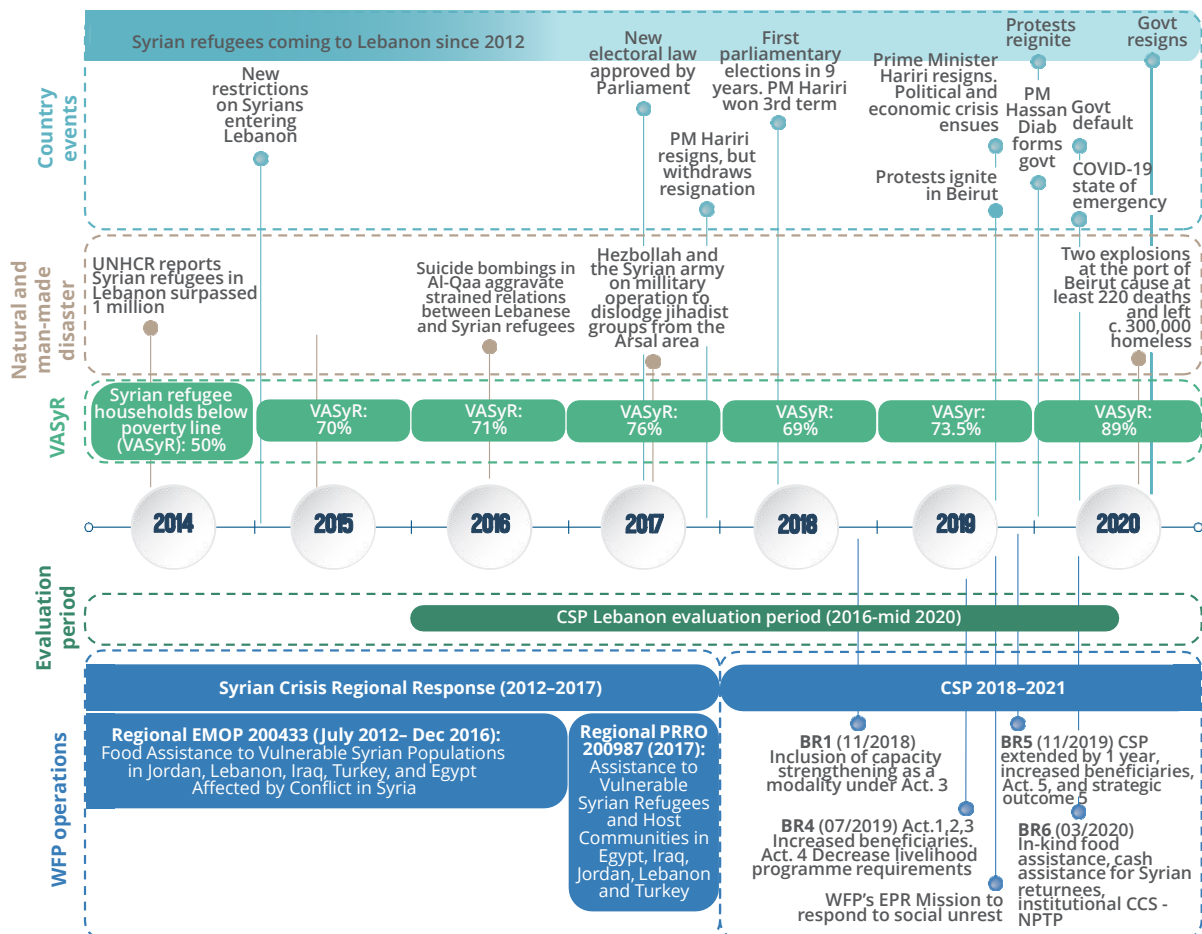
3 Amer Bisat, L.C. 2020. [Should Lebanon Default? Restructuring Is Inevitable: The Sooner, the Better](#).

4 Reuters. 2020. [Declaring it cannot pay debts, Lebanon sets stage for default](#).

5 World Economic Forum. 2020. [Global Gender Gap Report 2020](#).

6 WFP. 2020. [Assessing the Impact of the Economic and COVID-19 Crises in Lebanon](#).

Figure 1: Lebanon context and WFP activities



Abbreviations: BR = budget revision; CCS = country capacity strengthening; EPR = emergency preparedness and response; NPTP = national poverty targeting programme; VASyR = vulnerability assessment of Syrian refugees.

Source: Evaluation team.

Figure 2: CSP strategic outcomes and activities⁷

<p>Strategic outcome 1. Food-insecure refugees – including school-age children – and crisis-affected host populations have access to life-saving, nutritious and affordable food throughout</p>	<p>Activity 1: Unconditional resource transfers to support access to food (cash-based transfers [CBTs]). Unconditional food assistance for 12 months each year through CBTs to Syrian refugee households and Palestinian refugees from the Syrian Arab Republic.</p> <p>Activity 2: School meal activities (cash and in-kind). Conditional</p>
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