



FOOD SECURITY & AGRICULTURE SECTOR

PEOPLE IN NEED



PEOPLE TARGETED



REQUIREMENTS(US\$)



PARTNERS



GENDER MARKER



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SECTOR OUTCOMES

Outcome #1

\$69.7 m

Improve food availability through in kind food assistance and sustainable food production value chain.

Indicators Percentage of targeted households with borderline or acceptable food consumption score.

Percentage of farmers with increased production, access to market, reduced produce waste and losses, and those benefitting as a result of Trans-boundary animal and plant disease control and prevention.

Percentage of main staples/cereals available for food after calculating the amounts for industrial use and exports.

Outcome #2

\$411.8 m

Improve food access through cash based food assistance and sustainable agricultural livelihoods.

Indicators Percentage of targeted households with borderline or acceptable food consumption score.

Percentage of households with increased agriculture livelihood opportunities.

Outcome #3

\$18.1 m

Improve food utilization: food safety and nutrition practices improved through the promotion of consumption of diversified and quality food.

Indicators Percentage of women with a minimum dietary diversity score.

Percentage of beneficiaries supported in improved food safety and quality, and dietary diversity practices.

Outcome #4

\$9 m

Promote food security while enhancing access and application of climate-smart practices, promoting resilience of livelihoods and conservation of natural resources and effectively in coordinating with other actors in FSS as well as other sectors, Environment Task Force Working Group and MoA departments during 2019 period.

Indicators Percentage of farmers applying climate - smart practices, measures for conserving natural resources in collaboration with other relevant actors.

Percentage of actors involved in the food security sector reported use/access to food security related data, information and technical support.

POPULATION BREAKDOWN

POPULATION COHORT	PEOPLE IN NEED	PEOPLE TARGETED	51% Female	49% Male
Lebanese	500,000	91,644	46,738	44,906
Displaced Syrians	1,371,000	795,177	405,540	389,637
Palestinian Refugees from Syria	28,800	14,000	7,140	6,860
Palestinian Refugees from Lebanon	180,000	117,000	59,670	57,330

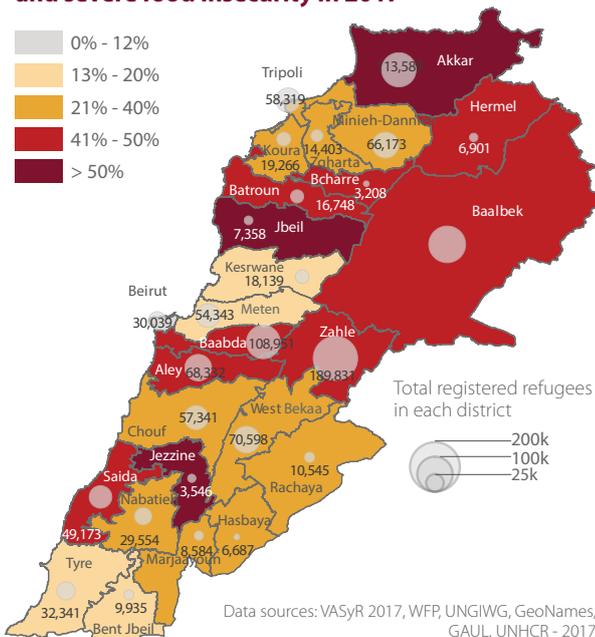
Situation analysis and context

Impact of the crisis on food security situation

Over the last eight years, the effects of the protracted Syria crisis have severely affected food security in Lebanon. The Food Security and Agriculture sector supports three population cohorts who have been affected differently since the beginning of crisis. Directly affected displaced Syrians and Palestinian refugees from Syria are considered the most vulnerable, respectively representing 1.5 million displaced Syrians and around 28,800 Palestinian refugees from Syria in need. The population of Palestinian refugees from Lebanon is estimated at 180,000 people in need. The Lebanese community has been affected at the micro and macro levels with about 10 per cent living under extreme poverty and more than 20 per cent under poverty (estimated about 1 million people).¹ Seventy-three per cent of small-scale Lebanese farmers also require agricultural support² to increase food production.

The 2018 Vulnerability Assessment of Syrian Refugees (VASyR) results demonstrated some improvements with an increasing trend in the proportion of food secure households, up to 10 per cent in 2018. The proportion of the marginally food insecure households increased by 4 per cent up to 57 per cent from 2017, while the proportion of moderate and severe food insecure households decreased by 4.5 per cent to reach 33.8 per cent in 2018 compared to 2017. The proportion of those moderately food insecure also improved despite the protracted nature of economic vulnerability due to increased debts, less income opportunities, lack of sufficient food and/or resources to purchase food.

Percentage of households with moderate and severe food insecurity in 2017



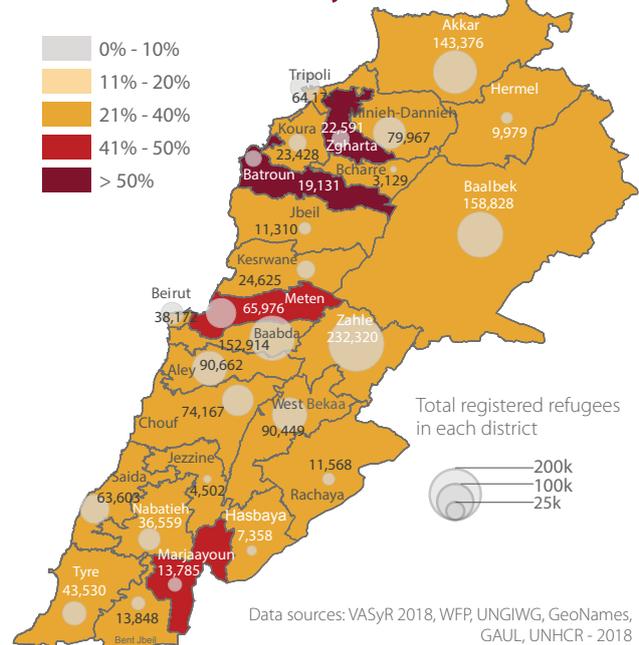
The designations employed and the presentation of material in the map(s) do not imply the expression of any opinion on the part of WFP concerning the legal or constitutional status of any country, territory, city or sea, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries.

(1) American University of Beirut (2016) and UNDP, *The AUB Poverty Studies of 2015 and 2016, UNDP Latest Rapid Assessment of Poverty in Lebanon*.

(2) Lebanon, Ministry of Agriculture, FAO, REACH (June 2015), *Food Security and Livelihoods Assessment of Lebanese communities: Assessment Report* (2015), Lebanese Baseline Survey 2015.

The consumption and dietary diversity of displaced Syrians also improved. On average, households with poor and borderline food consumption decreased by 5.3 per cent reaching 33 per cent in 2018 (38 per cent in 2017).

Percentage of households with moderate and severe food insecurity in 2018



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Gender analysis of heads of households, indicate female-headed households are burdened with a larger share of poor food consumption and lower dietary diversity than male-headed households.

The analysis of households' expenditure on food items decreased by four per cent reaching 40 per cent in 2018,³ compared to 2017. Households general expenditure reached about US\$ 111 per capita per month on average in 2018 compared to the US\$ 98 in 2017. Field discussions undertaken during the VASyR 2018 linked the recent advances in food security to improvements in economic conditions as a result of WFP's increased food assistance and introduction of Multi-Purpose Cash Assistance (MPCA) in 2018.⁴ The VASyR results also showed that the average monthly expenditure on food per person was US\$ 44.

Besides, female-headed households showed significant overall improvements compared to 2017 across all food security and vulnerability indicators, with the proportion of female-headed households below the Minimum Expenditure Basket (MEB) decreasing from 82 per cent in 2017 down to 68 per cent in 2018. Despite improvements, female-headed households remain more vulnerable compared to male-headed households. This could be partially explained by the fact that 55 per cent of female-headed households lack a working household member, compared to 27 per cent of male-headed households.

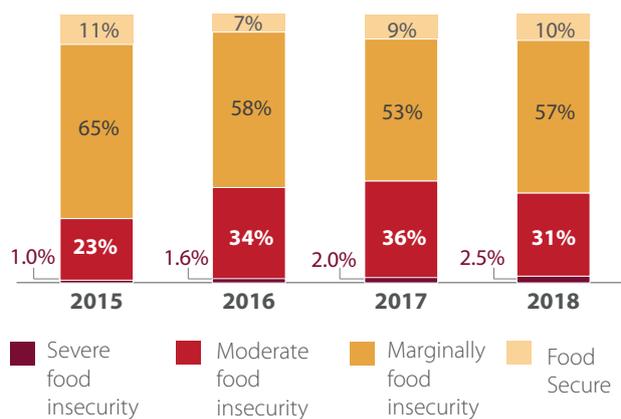
On average, 32 per cent of displaced Syrian households do not have a member working within their household (in the month

(3) UNHCR, UNICEF, WFP (2018), *Vulnerability Assessment of Syrian Refugees (VASyR) 2018*.

(4) UNHCR, UNICEF, WFP (2018), *VASyR 2018*.

prior to the survey) while 68 per cent reported having at least one member working.⁵ The absence of working members is correlated with the food insecurity with 43 per cent of severely food insecure households reporting in 2018 having at least one household member compared to 86 per cent of food secure households reporting the same. Food secure households have relatively more reliable sources of income such as working in the agriculture, environment, construction and/or services sectors, whereas food insecure households lack remunerated activities, relying more heavily on debts, credit and food assistance. In terms of poverty analysis, even though 69 per cent of displaced Syrians remain below the poverty line, there was a 7 per cent decrease compared to 2017. In addition, restriction on access to labour, lack of income opportunities, constrained access to food, and their ability to pay rent remain. The proportion of households unable to cover their Survival Minimum Expenditure Basket (SMEB) decreased by 7 per cent in 2018 to reach 51 per cent of households.

Percentage of household food insecurity by year



Meanwhile, as per 2018 VASyR results 85 per cent of severely food insecure households and 59 per cent of moderately food insecure households fell below the Survival Minimum Expenditure Basket due to limited resources and income opportunities. The percentage of households buying food on credit increased by 2 per cent to reach 79 per cent in 2018 (77 per cent in 2017).

The 2018 VASyR results showed that, on average, 90 per cent of displaced households use some form of coping strategy to meet immediate food needs compared to 96 per cent in 2017 while 67 per cent of the households have acceptable levels of food consumption. Food-related coping strategies such as reducing the number of meals, skipping and reducing food rations can decrease a household's long-term food security status. However, in 2018 households reported a general tendency to adopt less severe coping strategies, decreasing the percentage of households adopting crisis coping strategies from 55 per cent in 2017 to 51 per cent in 2018. This could be associated with regular food assistance and access to the multi-purpose cash assistance in 2018. The protracted nature of the crisis affects the capacity of displaced households from attaining a medium to long-term sustainable source of income with 12 per cent of households'

(5) For more details on employment, see the Chapter on Livelihoods and Income.

still using emergency coping strategies such as children working in economic activities and begging and engaging in high-risk jobs/activities that may severely affect their wellbeing in the long term.

A baseline study conducted in 2015⁶ among Lebanese households showed that 10 per cent of the population was vulnerable to food insecurity. These tended to be households headed by widowed, divorced or separated individuals.¹ In order to cope with emerging shortfalls, 56 per cent of the Lebanese households reported employing food related coping strategies, of which 5 per cent were heavily reliant on severe food coping strategies. Over 50 per cent of households incurred debts mainly to purchase food and acquire agricultural inputs. In general, 49 per cent of Lebanese households interviewed reported worrying about not having enough food and some 38 per cent reported eating fewer kinds of food groups, while others reported being unable to access healthy and nutritious food.⁷ To better inform decision making in 2019, food security among Lebanese should be further assessed and updated.

In 2018, the National Poverty Targeting Programme (NPTP) targeted 41,372 households (229,760 individuals) through different modalities including subsidised access to health and education services, with plans currently in place to increase the target to 45,000 households by 2020. In 2018, another 10,000 households (57,553 individuals) also received monthly food assistance. However, needs remain, including: increased funding, establishment of a Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM), poverty mapping, updating the poverty survey, targeting of additional host community members, raising awareness of programmatic concepts, and developing the monitoring and evaluation process. The role of the sector and more-so, that of WFP, will involve facilitation and strengthening of the National Poverty Targeting Programme's systems and Social development centres (SDCs) to sustain the management of the Programme in future.

With regard to employment in the agriculture sector, Lebanon has historically been characterized by economic migration of foreign workers, particularly Syrians as seasonal labourers. The size of the labour force has continued to increase, including the use of child labour, due to food insecurity among other root causes including poverty, lack of income generating activities, limited access to adequate education and harmful social norms. According to the 2016 FAO Agriculture Labour study,⁸ 26 per cent of farmers reported employing children under age of 18, while 16 per cent reported employing children under 15 years of age. During the past years, child labour in agriculture has been masked under family work support, where children may be exposed to serious risks to their health and safety. However, the current rate of child labour is 4.6 per cent compared to 4.8 per cent in 2017.⁹

The Palestinian refugees from Syria (PRS): The UNRWA-AUB socio-economic survey conducted in June 2015, showed

(6) Lebanon, Ministry of Agriculture, FAO, REACH (June 2015), *Food Security and Livelihoods Assessment of Lebanese communities: Assessment Report*.

(7) Lebanon, Ministry of Agriculture, FAO, REACH (June 2015), *Food Security and Livelihoods Assessment of Lebanese communities: Assessment Report* (2015), Lebanese Baseline Survey 2015.

(8) Lebanon, FAO and CREAL, 2017 (*Agriculture Labor in Lebanon*)

(9) Using the previous definition - child working at least one day in the previous 30 days-to determine rate of child labour.

that Palestinian refugees from Syria are increasingly relying on negative food-related coping strategies. The study, still considered valid by UNRWA, revealed that 94.5 per cent of Palestinian refugees from Syria were generally food insecure of which 63.2 per cent were severely food insecure.¹⁰ Food insecure households tended to reduce consumption of foods such as meat, chicken, vegetables, fruit, milk and dairy.¹¹ Though UNRWA, through its cash based food assistance programme, sought to address these critical gaps by supporting some 32,000 Palestinians monthly, as of July 2018, it was forced to cease due to reduced funding commitments from donors, and likely lead to increases in food insecurity.

Impact of the crisis on agricultural livelihoods

Low productivity and profitability still represent major challenges to Lebanese agriculture sector.¹¹ Prior to the crisis and subsequent influx of displaced Syrians, Lebanon was already suffering from high unemployment and poverty rates, and weak economic growth. The highest poverty rates are found in the agriculture sector with 40 per cent of those employed in the sector, considered poor.¹² With about 42 per cent of farmers above the age of 55 and 75 per cent not yet registered under the National Social Security Fund (NSSF), farmers are unlikely to cope with food insecurity during this crisis. The agriculture sector itself, which accounts for three per cent of GDP,¹² has equally been affected by the crisis due to disrupted production systems and subsequent impact on agricultural exports.¹⁴ According to the Ministry of Agriculture's (MoA) 2010 census, about 170,000 agricultural holdings exist in Lebanon, of which 70 per cent were small farmers in need of assistance/support to sustain production. The current Ministry of Agriculture's budget is reportedly less than 1 per cent of the government's total budget and is inadequate to support the needs of national institutions, agricultural infrastructure and labour market, requiring additional resources to address these needs.¹⁵

Agricultural livelihoods support aims to improve food production and create labour and livelihood opportunities. During 2017/2018, the sector, through the Food for Assets (FFA) and Food for Training (FFT) modalities, targeted 12,000 households (60,000 beneficiaries) involved in the rehabilitation of agricultural infrastructure such as small-scale irrigation canals, roads linking farms and existing markets, as well as water conservation and water use efficiency. Under the Food for Assets and Food for Training programmes, the sector targeted Lebanese and displaced Syrian refugees equally to the extent possible, taking gender into consideration. To date, national institutions provided trainings on Integrated Pest Management and good agricultural practices, energy and water conservation technologies, and postharvest management practices to reduce waste and losses.

Direct food assistance and agricultural livelihoods

support has complemented food availability and accessibility.¹³ Since the beginning of 2018, the sector assisted up to 821,154 individuals on a monthly basis through food assistance and agricultural livelihoods support. The sector continued to strengthen local institutions and small-scale Lebanese farmers promoting sustainable food production, agro-industry (poultry and dairy production) and micro-gardening, including school-gardens, to improve nutritional intake within communities. Support is still required to rehabilitate agricultural infrastructure such as land reclamation, terracing, irrigation canals and water reservoirs, together with support to women in dairy, food processing and non-wood forest product cooperatives.

Impact of the crisis on agricultural trade and natural resources

The Syria crisis has affected the agricultural economy and food production,¹⁶ with farmers who traditionally relied on subsidized agricultural inputs now facing higher costs, low livestock values (terms of trade), and increased livestock feed costs, coupled with increased pest and diseases outbreaks risks.¹⁴ Physical access constraints and risks remain in areas contaminated by mines or unexploded ordinances, such as in Aarsal, posing ongoing challenge in re-starting agricultural livelihood activities. The disruptions in the trade routes linking the region to the Gulf Cooperation Council countries and Iraq also affected agricultural exports, affecting the quantity of fresh produce, processing costs, storage and transportation.¹⁷ The closure of the last border crossing between Syria and Jordan in April 2015 also forced Lebanese exporters to rely on the more expensive sea-shipments to Gulf and Iraqi markets, which the Government of Lebanon has since subsidized. Compensation by the government was also provided to apple and cherry farmers to offset some of the impact. The recent re-opening of the Nassib border crossing between Syria and Jordan on 15 October 2018, may also alleviate some of the burdens faced on agricultural exports.



Photo credit: UNDP, Rana Sweidan; 26/7/ 2018

(10) Based on the new UNRWA-AUB study, the number of PRS has dropped in 2016 to 31,502 representing 10 per cent of the Palestinian refugee communities in Lebanon.

(11) Lebanon Country programming Framework (2016-2019). FAO.

(12) Lebanon National Accounts 2017. Comments and Tables. Central Administration for Statistics.

(13) In accordance with Lebanese law and restrictions on sectors and ownership of assets if any.

(14) During April 2016, MoA declared the outbreak of H5N1 in villages in the Bekaa affecting backyard and commercial poultry farms.

In 2014, the Ministry of Environment (MoE) assessed the environmental impact of the Syria crisis which showed an increase in water and soil contamination directly affecting the quality of agricultural produce. In 2019, efforts will revolve around raising awareness on proper food production, preservation and composting techniques,^{viii} consider sustainable agriculture and climate smart practices including waste, soil and water management as to avoid soil and surface water contamination. These efforts will also aim to cost the impact of the crisis and help inform strategic decision making. The sector will identify likely environmental concerns during planning period to identify mitigation measures in respective communities in line with Lebanese laws and regulations.

The LCRP 2019 will be implemented in line with the Ministry of Agriculture's Strategy 2015-2019. The Strategy has identified different courses of action in line with 10 main strategic themes of: 1) promoting food safety and quality food products; 2) agricultural productivity and production; 3) animal health and production; 4) irrigation and rural infrastructure; 5) post-production/harvest and marketing measures; 6) fishing practices and fisheries; 7) forests, rangelands and medicinal plants; 8) cooperatives and mutual funds; 9) extension services, education and research, and; 10) development of the Ministry's human and institutional capacities. It is planned that FAO will provide technical assistance to the MoA to update its strategy in 2019.

Overall sector strategy

The overall aim of the Food Security and Agriculture sector is to reduce food insecurity by 2020 and to improve the resilience of the agriculture sector. This global approach of the Food Security and Agriculture sector is characterised by its coherent structure where food assistance is combined progressively with food production and/or rural livelihood opportunities as a model of the humanitarian and development nexus.

The Agriculture sector needs investment support to enable small and medium farmers to boost their productivity and profitability and ultimately foster temporary job creation in compliance with Lebanese laws and regulations. Investment initiatives for Lebanese farmers to increase their production capacities and agricultural labour opportunities are also being explored. These efforts are in line with the sector's assumptions that increasing financial resources for agriculture will improve food production and increase labour opportunities for displaced Syrians and vulnerable Lebanese.

The Food Security and Agriculture sector strategy links humanitarian and development interventions and contributes to all four Strategic Objectives of the LCRP 2017-2020

- Safe protective environments for vulnerable populations to live in will be ensured (LCRP Strategic Objective 1) with food security need assessments (e.g. VASyR), the coordination of agriculture activities

and support to national institutions (Sector outcome 4).

- The most immediate needs of vulnerable populations (LCRP Strategic Objective 2) will be met by promoting food availability through in-kind food assistance and sustainable food production systems (value chain) (Sector outcome 1), enhancing food accessibility through cash-based food assistance and promotion of agricultural livelihoods (Sector outcome 2).
- The capacity of service provision through national systems (LCRP Strategic objective 3) will be enhanced under the promotion of food accessibility through food assistance (Sector Outcome 2), promotion of food utilization, improving food safety and nutrition practices (Sector outcome 3). In addition, support to national institutions through the promotion of social protection (Sector outcome 4) to strengthen existing national systems (e.g. National Poverty Targeting Programme).
- Lebanon's economic, social and environmental stability involves mitigating the environmental impact of the Syria crisis to further avoid degradation of the natural ecosystem and ensure its long-term sustainability (LCRP Strategic objective 4). This is supported through sustainable food production and development of relevant value chains (Sector outcome 1) and through climate smart and sustainable agricultural livelihoods investments (Sector outcome 2).

Food Security Theory of Change

The Food Security and Agriculture sector faces two primary challenges in addressing the impacts of the Syria crisis. The first is to ensure that all vulnerable communities and households have access to sufficient and nutritious food. The second challenge is to ensure that agriculture production systems are managed in a sustainable and environmentally sound way to meet both present and future needs for food, fuel and fibre. These challenges lead to the following theory of change:

When food availability and accessibility are improved through in-kind and cash-based assistance, and support to sustainable agriculture livelihoods is ensured, food security and production increase among vulnerable households and communities.

When food use is improved through the production and consumption of more diversified and nutritious foods, especially from individual households and community gardens that apply sustainable and climate-smart practices, then the resilience and nutritional well-being of vulnerable communities is strengthened, and vulnerability related to food insecurity is reduced.

When the capacity of municipalities, communities and targeted households is reinforced with knowledge and information on issues such as sustainable agricultural practices, natural resource management (e.g. soil, water, land, biodiversity), and food market prices, then

agricultural productivity increases, and the condition of renewable natural resources improves.

The sector strategy therefore follows a dual-track approach to respond to the current context through:

- Continued provision of life-saving food assistance for the most vulnerable households;
- Enhanced efforts to develop durable solutions through human capital and agriculture livelihood support targeting displaced Syrians, host community members and others, with a special focus on women, children and youth.

In light of the current food security situation, the sector's first priority will remain its humanitarian role to ensure availability and access to food for the most vulnerable through the provision of cash-based or in-kind food assistance. The provision of humanitarian assistance to the most vulnerable displaced Syrians, Lebanese and other vulnerable groups, will remain the pre-requisite "sine qua non" as well as the enabler of stability in the country. By providing assistance to those families and removing the uncertainty of where the next meal will come from, sector activities instil a sense of hope and allow families to focus on their day-to-day life.

As mentioned below, a second priority will focus on transitional activities that ensure agricultural production systems – from the management of the agro-ecosystem to the reinforcement of the agricultural value-chain – are supported and strengthened to ensure environmentally sustainable and productive use of Lebanon's natural resources.

Recalibration of the assistance: UNHCR and WFP surveyed refugees to further understand their poverty levels in Lebanon and review the profiles and information provided by refugees at UNHCR Reception Centres. The process used, but was not limited to, a combination of different factors such as family size, age, gender and the ability to earn an income, with information gathered used to rank and prioritize families from the most to the least economically vulnerable. In October 2018, UNHCR and WFP further conducted recalibration based on economic vulnerability factors to target cash and food assistance. Current assistance will therefore involve \$173.5 per family for basic needs and \$27 per person for food assistance to the most economically vulnerable families. The rest of the economically vulnerable families will receive only \$27 per person to cover food needs through the E-cards that can be used to purchase food at WFP contracted shops throughout communities.

Using the Common Card: The Lebanon One Unified Inter-Organizational System for E-card (referred to as LOUISE) was launched in October 2016 by WFP, UNHCR, UNICEF and the Lebanon Cash Consortium (LCC), and used in the monthly provision of cash-based assistance to individuals, whereas the food e-card was introduced in September 2013. The sector will prioritize cash-based assistance to target the most vulnerable displaced

Syrians, Palestinians and Lebanese households using both restricted and non-restricted cash transfers redeemable at the WFP contracted shops. The sector will coordinate closely with other sectors to ensure comprehensive assistance in reaching those most in need to maximize food security outcomes. E-cards are used in any of the 500 WFP-contracted shops and at any ATM across the country depending on the type of assistance provided. Other humanitarian agencies could include "top-ups" on the same card to provide cash assistance for other sectoral responses to targeted households, while maximizing efficiencies in assistance delivery. The sector recognizes that food assistance is a pre-requisite and enabler to increase resilience in sustainable food production, and subsequently improve livelihoods and employment opportunities.

Integrating Gender-Based Violence (GBV) Interventions in Humanitarian Action

Using the IASC guidelines, with the support of Global Protection Cluster, the sector has been rolling out a series of national and field level workshops on the 2015 IASC guidelines for Integrating Gender-Based Violence Interventions in Humanitarian Action. As a result, a harmonized action plan was prepared and includes the following key actions for mainstreaming under the framework of the Food Security and Agriculture sector:

- Strengthening the capacities of Food Security partners on food security GBV related risks, focusing on cash-based assistance and by ensuring that gender-based violence risks and mitigation strategies are mainstreamed across the entire programme cycle;
- Strengthening the capacities of partners on core-concepts of gender-based violence, ethical and safe referral mechanisms for both cash-based assistance and agricultural livelihoods;
- Improving the safety, location security and access to food at distribution points for women, girls and other high-risk groups;
- Enhancing the use of age, sex and gender disaggregated data.
- concepts of gender-based violence, ethical and safe referral mechanisms for both cash-based assistance and agricultural livelihoods;
- Improving the safety, location security and access to food at distribution points for women, girls and other high-risk groups;
- Enhancing the use of age, sex and gender disaggregated data.

The four-year framework is also setting the stage for the Food Security and Agriculture sector to expand its role in contributing towards food stability in the country, by taking into consideration all food security aspects

according to the standard four pillars of availability, access, utilization and stabilization. The Food Security and Agriculture sector will focus on the following activities to strengthen stabilization and humanitarian actions in Lebanon:

- Income generating activities to enhance food access;
- Support the agricultural labour market;
- Support sustainable food production and marketing;
- Support to agriculture value chains;
- Promote agriculture investment;
- Enhance Lebanese social safety net systems and social protection;
- Support national institutions and capacity of other actors in the field of food security; and
- Mainstream gender equity in all the above.

The enhanced focus on agricultural livelihoods will provide an opportunity for creating a win-win situation for displaced Syrians and host communities with investments in the agriculture sector providing a means to enhance the productivity and competitiveness of relevant agriculture-based value chains. This will improve livelihoods for farming communities while, at the same time, creating temporary employment opportunities for women and men.

Transition lens:

Working on a multiyear timeframe will allow the sector to incorporate elements of the Graduation out of Poverty Approach (GPA) to transition some of the most vulnerable Lebanese households living in extreme-poverty towards achieving self-reliance. The approach, which combines support both in terms of consumption and livelihoods (training, coaching and savings encouragement as well as other social services), has already demonstrated a proven track record in a variety of contexts and was adopted by Ministry of Social Affairs's National Poverty Targeting Programme with support from the World Bank. By working towards longer term interventions integrating different elements of the Food Security, Basic Assistance, and Livelihoods sector strategies, sector partners can make a significant and long-lasting impact on the poorest Lebanese.

**UNHCR, The Graduation Approach, available on <http://data.unhcr.org/syrianrefugees/download.php?id=11703>*

Small and medium entrepreneurs within the food and agriculture value chains will help stimulate the local economy by providing livelihood opportunities for the most vulnerable. The sector will therefore continue to promote seasonal and casual agricultural job opportunities in support of Lebanese private agriculture investment and enhance sector productivity and competitiveness towards sustainable growth. As in previous years, these activities will be carried out in accordance with Lebanese law, and in consideration of

demands by local agricultural businesses with a special focus on women and youth.

The sector aligns its strategy to the strategy developed by the Ministry of Agriculture for 2015-2019, with a particular focus on: building capacities of farmers, promoting agricultural livelihoods, and strengthening the capacities of national and local agricultural institutions such as the Lebanese Agricultural Research Institute-LARI, the Green Plan, technical agricultural schools, and the agricultural cooperatives etc.^{ix} The key approach will be to increase productivity, promote food safety and food quality as well as to enhance competitiveness of the Lebanese agricultural products from either plant or animal origin. The sector strategy will seek to improve value chains and increase their added value by promoting quality, adopting innovative approaches, enhancing food processing and marketing, as well as by encouraging and promoting market linkages through public-private partnerships for improved agricultural livelihoods through profitability and ability to generate sustainable growth and employment.

Close collaboration between the Ministry of Agriculture and other line ministries such as the Ministry of Social Affairs, the Ministry of Energy and Water and the Ministry of Environment, etc. as well as with national and international partners is critical, and will continue towards achieving the overall objective of food security the sector. The sector will more deeply engage with local actors in planning and service delivery, including the private sector, to build on the results obtained by WFP-contracted shops and school feeding programmes. The sector will continue to organize monthly meetings with the national and international partners to plan and review progress made and share experiences.

In order to plan, implement and coordinate seasonal, regular and contingency interventions in an efficient manner, the involvement of the regional offices of the Ministry of Agriculture (including LARI stations and the Green Plan offices), the Ministry of Social Affairs (including the offices of the National Poverty Targeting Programme and the social development centres) and the municipalities is crucial. The 2019 Contingency plan was devolved at the regional level instead of sector level, where the concerned stakeholders, , participated in planning. The planning scenarios consisted of armed clashes in Palestinian camps, renewed conflict with Israel and new refugee movements. Extension systems will be reinforced to deliver climate-smart agriculture information to small-scale producers on sustainable management of natural resources and agroecosystems.



Photo credit: WFP, Fidaa AlFalah, 12/01/2017

Enhancing social protection within the framework of the Food Security and Agriculture sector

A key priority of the sector remains the support to national and local food security systems, including integrated social protection schemes, safety nets, capacity building and promotion of stabilization. Starting from 2014, WFP has so far supported the National Poverty Targeting Programme in establishing the first national safety net providing food assistance for vulnerable Lebanese through a cash-based transfer system. Moving forward, WFP will continue to work with the National Poverty Targeting Programme to strengthen the provision of safety nets to better address the multiple needs of the most vulnerable Lebanese.

The Food Security and Agriculture sector will also advocate for an enhanced system aiming at supporting sustainable rural poverty reduction. Partners will receive policy advice, capacity development and advocate for improving the system to foster sustainable and equitable rural development, poverty reduction and food and nutrition security. The sector will contribute towards expanding social protection coverage to rural farmers and fishermen in Lebanon, and will ensure a better coherence in providing:

- Support to national dialogue on social protection: supporting multi-sector and integrated social policy for rural areas in collaboration with UN agencies involved in poverty reduction and livelihood improvement;
- Support to the development and implementation of coordination mechanisms between the Ministries of Agriculture, labour and Social Affairs and with UN agencies. The aim is to strengthen linkages between existing social protection programmes and the agriculture sector (e.g. using and matching the farmers' register and the NPTP list) for the identification of the most vulnerable farmers to be targeted by the NPTP to cover their food and basic needs;
- Institutionalization of the Farmers Register and supporting the Ministry of Agriculture in developing a legal and institutional framework required for the establishment of a register for farmers and fishermen;
- Costing the expansion of National Social Security Fund coverage to agriculture farmers, livestock keepers and fishers;
- Support to undertake a feasibility study for different types of insurance for the agriculture sector (crops and livestock insurance) with an institutional and legal review of the disaster contingent fund for rapid response to local emergencies;
- Cooperation between the Ministry of Agriculture and Ministry of Social Affairs and the production of Farmers' Register will strengthen the identification of the most vulnerable farmers for targeting by the National Poverty Targeting Programme for their basic and food needs.

Food insecurity risks

Support for food assistance and sustainable food production remains crucial for the sector as to ensure food security. However, the current funding gap and high number of people in need of assistance remains a challenge for the sector. Almost 60 per cent of the annual appeal was received in 2018, noting that most Syrians continue to rely mainly on food assistance due to a lack of sources of income and restricted employment opportunities needed to access food. Only 10 per cent of displaced Syrians are food secure and almost 90 per cent depend on some form of coping strategy to meet their food needs. As such, food assistance is still critical to reduce high risks of food insecurity and use of negative coping strategies. Vulnerable Lebanese communities living below the poverty line require food assistance and support to sustain food production as well as create more seasonal labour opportunities. To achieve this goal, the sector will advocate for increased and timely funding to support food assistance and sustainable food production, and will continue, despite the large number of people in need, to prioritise needs as necessary. Key stakeholders including the Ministry of Social Affairs, Ministry of Agriculture, WFP, and FAO, with the support of RC/HC, will advocate for short term and multi-year funding at all levels.

Child labour risks

In Lebanon, FAO has demonstrated over the past years to be a key player in the fight against child labour in agriculture and has been working closely with ILO and UNICEF to develop training and educational materials on hazardous child labour in agriculture. Building on this, together with ILO, UNICEF, the Ministry of Agriculture, the Ministry of Labour and the Ministry of Social Affairs, FAO will ensure strengthening the knowledge base for innovative solutions not only among actors but directly to rural children youth (development of an application game targeting children to raise awareness of child labour). In addition, a 15 minutes video documentary on child labour in Bekaa is currently being prepared and shall be launched during 2019.

These efforts are re-shaping the child protection component of the Lebanon Crisis Response Plan 2018-2020. This experience on child labour prevention and reduction is considered as a do-no-harm approach in resilience programming.

It is worth mentioning that the current rate of child labour is 4.6 per cent, out of which 82 per cent are employed in construction, manufacturing, agriculture and occasional work.¹⁵ Children are vulnerable to child labour due to limited livelihood opportunities and food insecurity in their families. The sector will raise awareness and promote acceptable forms of work that are appropriate for children as defined by Lebanese laws; it will coordinate with Protection, Education and the Livelihood sectors in addressing child labour. In order to avoid the risks of involving children in any form of work before the right

(15) UNHCR, WFP, UNICEF, VASyR 2018.

age, the sector will also strengthen coordination efforts in identifying and improving agricultural value chains to involve many families, vocational skills in relevant fields and inter-sectoral linkages through regular consultative meetings to maximize impact.

Environmental risks

Negative impacts of the Syria crisis include the degradation of natural resources such as land due to settlements, need for alternative sources of fuel, and water-contamination etc. The sector will engage and continue to be part of the Environment Task Force led by the Ministry of Environment. In addition, the sector will raise awareness of key environmental concerns and good agricultural practices through training events and consultative meetings (see details in environment section), together with building agricultural resilience through the promotion of climate-smart agriculture and investments in sustainable production systems. These efforts will improve agricultural opportunities for small-scale Lebanese farmers, stabilize their livelihood opportunities and enhance long-term competitiveness, while creating jobs and livelihood opportunities for both men and women.

Sector outcomes, outputs and indicators

Support national and local food security systems, including social safety nets, capacity building and social protection to promote stabilization and while at the same time raising awareness on natural resource management practices. The sector's overarching aim continues to be: reduced food insecurity for all in Lebanon, and improved resilience of the agriculture sector.

Outcome 1 - Improve FOOD AVAILABILITY, in-kind food assistance and sustainable food value chain.¹⁶

This outcome contributes to the overall LCRP Strategic Objective 2: Provide immediate assistance to vulnerable populations and Strategic Objective 4: Reinforce Lebanon's economic, social and environmental stability. This will be achieved through the following outputs:

Output 1.1 - In-kind food assistance to the most vulnerable provided

Output 1.2 – Support (training and/or inputs) to **promote sustainable agriculture and livestock production and water-use conservation measures provided** to Lebanese small-scale farmers as part and parcel of the graduation programme.

Output 1.3 - Technical support to small scale/family farmers to increase market linkages provided, including promotion of food transformation and preservation, the creation and reinforcement of linkages between small-scale producers and local markets, the distribution of unsold/un-marketed quality food from producer/retailer to local markets and market-based diversification/contract farming.

Output 1.4 - Technical support and advice to households to reduce food wastage and losses along the food chain from producer to consumers provided, including improving post-harvest management and working on valorisation of organic waste and least valued products (e.g. composting, awareness).

(16) For details on sustainable food value chains, refer to the FAO publication *Developing sustainable food value chains – Guiding principles*, 2014. Available from <http://www.fao.org/3/a-i3953e.pdf>.

Sector needs and targets 2019

Population Cohort	Total Population in Need	Targeted Population	No. of Females	No. of Males	No. of Children (0-17)	No. of Adolescents (10-17)	No. of Youth (18-24)
Lebanese	500,000	91,644					
Displaced Syrians	1,371,000	795,177					
Palestinian Refugees from Syria	28,800	14,000					
Palestinian Refugees from Lebanon	180,000	117,000					
GRAND TOTAL	2,079,800	1,017,821					

Type of Institutions	Total	Targeted
Schools	330	20
Social Development Centres	115	80
Ministry of Agriculture offices	7	7
Ministry of Agriculture centers	30	30
Ministry of Agriculture technical vocational schools	7	7

Output 1.5 - Prevention and control measures (DDR) for transboundary animal and plant diseases enhanced, including support to the monitoring and early warning systems for plants and animal disease awareness, capacity building and interventions to control the spread of transboundary diseases during emergencies.

Outcome 1 is directly linked to MoA strategy Course of Actions 2: Increase productivity and competitiveness of the Lebanese agricultural products; 3: Improve the good governance and sustainable use of natural resources, and; 8: Responding to climate change impacts.^x

Outcome 2 - Improve FOOD ACCESS through cash-based food assistance and agricultural livelihoods.

This outcome contributes to the overall LCRP Strategic Objective 2: Provide immediate assistance to vulnerable populations, Strategic Objective 3: Support service provision through national systems and Strategic Objective 4: Reinforce Lebanon's economic, social and environmental stability. This will be achieved through the following outputs:

Output 2.1 – Direct access to food for vulnerable populations including displaced Syrians, Palestine Refugees from Syria and vulnerable Lebanese through cash-based food assistance improved.¹⁷

Output 2.2 - Agricultural associations and cooperatives supported to improve agriculture sector livelihoods, including farmers' associations, agricultural cooperatives, markets and government institutions.

Output 2.3 – Small-scale farmer private agriculture investment supported through financial and technical support (e.g. land reclamation, irrigation/water management), and promotion of innovative credit schemes for Lebanese, and/or agricultural inputs such as seeds, livestock and equipment when more appropriate provided.

Output 2.4 – Agriculture labour market strengthened by enhanced employability including improved agricultural technical education and vocational skills training targeting youth aged 15-25 years.

Output 2.5 – Agricultural productive infrastructure and communal assets rehabilitated/built (agricultural roads, irrigation networks, forests, wind breaks, hill lakes, water reservoirs, other land management techniques such as terracing and land rehabilitation etc.) and access to labour market for seasonal and casual labour in agriculture enhanced including opportunities for most vulnerable individuals in accessing temporary seasonal and casual labour

opportunities in agriculture and related sectors.¹⁸

Outcome 2 is directly linked to MoA Strategy Course of Actions 2: Increase productivity and competitiveness of the Lebanese agricultural products; Course of Actions 3: Improve the good governance and sustainable use of natural resources; 4: Strengthening agricultural extension and education; 6: Development of the cooperative sector and mutual funds, and; 7: Development of the Ministry of Agriculture's capacities.

Outcome 3 - Improve FOOD UTILIZATION through food safety and nutrition practices including the promotion of consumption of diversified and quality food.

This outcome contributes to the overall LCRP Strategic Objective 3: Support service provision through national systems. This will be achieved through the following outputs:

Output 3.1 - Optimal nutrition practices amongst the targeted populations improved for households vulnerable to food insecurity specifically targeting female-headed households and households with pregnant and lactating women and children under five¹⁹, through the promotion of small-scale production of diversified nutritious food for vulnerable households. Interventions include trainings, awareness and behaviour change activities, school, backyard and roof micro-gardens and promotion of food preservation/transformation technologies at the household level.

Output 3.2 – Training on good practices in food safety and quality provided/promoted by assisting the Government in improving the food inspection and safety measures, promoting Integrated Pest Management and Good Agriculture Practices and Standards, conducting value chains in consultation with the MoA in regard to food safety and promoting policies supporting the local production of high value nutritious foods.

Outcome 3 is directly linked to MoA Strategy Course of Actions 1: Improve food safety and quality of locally produced and imported products, and; 5: Strengthening agricultural research and laboratories.

Outcome 4 - Promote sustainable food security through enhanced access and application of climate - smart practices, promotion of resilient livelihood and conservation of natural resources and in coordinating effectively with other actors and sectors, the Environment Task Force, the MoA departments, etc...

The outcome contributes to the overall LCRP Strategic objective 1: Ensure protection of vulnerable populations, and Strategic objective 3: Support service provision through national systems. In addition, it is directly linked

(18) As in previous years, such projects will be implemented in compliance with Lebanese laws and regulations. They will therefore primarily be implemented using an indirect modality, channeling investments through local third parties, such as private sector contractors and municipalities that will be responsible for project delivery and workforce management. In addition, the sector will increase engagement of its partners with the Ministry of Labor to establish a mechanism to provide guidance and follow-up on these projects as per the legal framework.

(19) The targeting of the most vulnerable groups under this output is a recommendation from the sector to partners implementing these activities. The Micro-Garden Working Group of the sector will be coordinating these activities with the partners and reports back to the Food Security and Agriculture sector.

(17) Sector members are encouraged to provide direct food assistance through the "Common Card" platform, which is cost effective and allows for better coordination of assistance.

to MoA strategic course of actions 3: Improve the good governance and sustainable use of natural resources; 5: Strengthening the agricultural research and laboratories; 6: Development of the cooperatives and mutual funds; 7: Development of the Ministry of Agriculture's capacities, and; 8: Responding to climate change impacts.^{xiii} The outputs to achieve this outcome will include the following:

Output 4.1 - Food Security and Agriculture Sector actors and partners are supported in reporting data in the Activity Info System/3Ws on monthly basis, in accessing relevant information and sharing assessment results. Information to monitor and report on the situation of food security in Lebanon disseminated for preparedness and long-term stabilization, including assessments with focus on vulnerable farmers, women, environmental and sustainability challenges and agricultural livelihoods. The satisfaction of partners established about the FSS coordination mechanism.

Output 4.2 - National institutions and actors, community groups, agricultural cooperatives, extension services staff trained in relevant areas (management of soil resources, pest management and efficient use of water resources, access to agro-climatic information and guidance on improved cropping practices...) including development national capacity in the areas of safety nets, integration of social protection systems for farmers, contribution to the development of disaster and crisis management, vulnerability analysis, etc.... Support national policies and strategies related to food security, coordination and technical support to all agriculture and food security actors and promotion of the involvement of the private sector.

Identification of sector needs and targets at the individual and geographical levels

The proposed sector target population is flexible in order to accommodate unexpected needs that may arise, and any supplementary needs identified by sector partners in the field.²⁰ For displaced Syrians, sector-planning figures are reported below, however the way in which food insecure households will be identified for assistance will be based on the recalibration formula described above. Ranking variables are mostly demographic with a strong statistical correlation with the latest VASyR results on food security, and relate to households' characteristics, including but not limited to: arrival date, household size, gender, education level, and presence of members with disabilities, and age as well as working family members. The ranking methodology is regularly updated. New inclusions will be based on the ranking in combination with a referral mechanism to minimize formula errors through the analysis of food security outcome indicators at the household level. However, for planning purposes, out of nearly 2,079,800 people in need, the sector will target about 1,017,821 people prioritized as the most in need with both humanitarian and stabilization support to improve food availability and accessibility Out of

these, cash-based and in-kind assistance will target about 996,143 individuals monthly and 21,678 vulnerable Lebanese small scale farmers.

Displaced Syrians: For planning purposes, the sector will target 795,177 displaced Syrians classified as per the VASyR 2018 as severely and moderately food insecure and economically vulnerable to be assisted through improved availability (in-kind food) and access (cash-based transfers for food).²¹ Of the 795,177 most vulnerable Syrians,²² 40,000 will be targeted through food availability programmes (in-kind)²³ including school feeding for 7,500 children, whereas 755,000 will be targeted through food access programmes (cash-based transfers for food).²⁴ The Food Security and Agriculture sector will continue to advocate for cash-based interventions, however based on partners' recommendation and interventions to promote food availability to regions and individuals with limited access to food, in-kind food assistance will continue to these households. The sector will also aim at providing food assistance to unregistered Syrians with proven vulnerability. At governorate level, Akkar, Baalbek-Hermel and Bekaa have the highest proportion of food-insecure households. At the district level, the highest proportions of moderate and severe food insecure displaced Syrian households are found in Baalbek, El Batroun, El Meten, Marjaayoun, Tripoli, and Zghrata.

Palestinian refugees from Syria: A major challenge is the gap created with the July 2018 cessation of UNRWA's support to 32,000 Palestinian refugees from Syria who were receiving cash-based transfers to cover food needs. The current number of people in need is 28,800, however the LCRP 2019 will target about 14,000 people prioritized most in need.

Palestinian refugees from Lebanon: The sector strategy during 2018 did not target Palestinian refugees from Lebanon even though proven vulnerable. However due to UNRWA funding limitations, the sector will target Palestinian refugee from Lebanon under the LCRP framework. It is estimated that 180,000 Palestinians from Lebanon reside in the 12 official camps and in 156 gatherings across Lebanon.²⁵ However, the sector will target 117,000 PRL based on the number of people below the poverty line.

(21) This figure includes a portion of the most vulnerable, mildly food insecure below the Survival Minimum Expenditure Basket as resulting from the VASyR 2018. There has been a trend of slight improvement in the food security situation since the beginning of the crisis. The risk is that, without assistance, these mildly/marginally food insecure households would slip deeper into food insecurity.

(22) The identification of the households eligible for direct assistance will be done by applying the ranking of vulnerability that captures households who are vulnerable according to the VASyR 2018 food insecurity categories.

(23) Although the sector will target 40,000 displaced Syrians for regular in-kind assistance, it is understood that there will be variations to this target based on seasonal or one-off assistance addressing temporary needs. During winter and Ramadan, for example, the number of displaced Syrians receiving in-kind food assistance increases (with partners providing food parcels, hot meals, dates, and so forth). However, this is not reflected in the target for regular in-kind assistance.

(24) Based on the required food basket, WFP and partners provide \$27 per person per month.

(25) Lebanese Palestinian Dialogue Committee, Central Administration of statistics, Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (2018). *The Population and Housing Census in Palestinian Camps and Gatherings - 2017, Key Findings Report (Population, Buildings and Housing Units)*, Beirut, Lebanon http://www.cas.gov.lb/images/PressRoom/census%20findings_2017_en.pdf (LPDC & CAS 2017)

(20) The sector will liaise with its partners to contribute and update the current regional contingency plans as a response preparedness to unforeseen shocks and funding shortfalls.

Vulnerable Lebanese: The plan is to scale up assistance to 45,000 households by 2020. In 2018, 10,000 households (57,553 individuals) received monthly food assistance. Using the World Bank's Proxy Means Testing formula to assess poverty, food assistance (cash-based transfers²⁶) will be provided to only the poorest 15,000 households, meaning additional 5,000 vulnerable Lebanese will be targeted for in-kind food assistance through community kitchens.²⁷

Targeting of Lebanese farmers was initially done based on the Ministry of Agriculture's 2010 census whereby vulnerable small-scale farmers were 70.2 per cent of the farming community. According to the Food Security and Livelihoods Assessment (FSLA) of Lebanese communities 2015, 73 per cent of farmers self-reported in need of assistance, representing a total number of 86,700 farmers across Lebanon. The targeting of farmers at the output level is likely to shift as farmers have multiple needs that implementing partners need to address.

Institutions: The sector will provide institutional support to those involved with food security, including but not limited to, Ministry of Agriculture offices and centres, the Lebanese Agricultural Research Institute (LARI), the Green Plan, the agricultural and technical schools and the Ministry of Social Affairs' Social Development Centres and the National Poverty Targeting Programme.

Geography: As reflected in the situation analysis, the sector is aware of the regional disparities, and will seek a balanced approach in responding to the needs throughout the regions following agreed geographical and population criteria based on the vulnerability assessments results of the VASyR 2018.

Mainstreaming of conflict sensitivity, gender, age, youth, protection and environment

Conflict Sensitivity

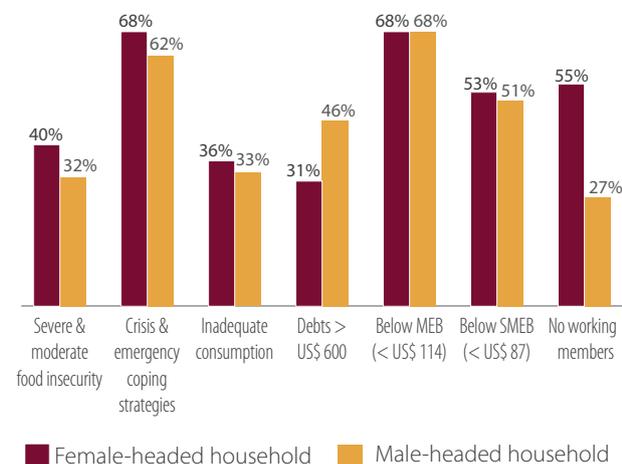
Overall sector activities will be designed in consideration of concerns expressed by the host community and authorities, especially those supporting the most vulnerable small farmers with a direct impact on job creation for both Lebanese and displaced Syrians. The sector strategy will promote targeting based on the identified needs of the VASyR 2018. The sector will explain the criteria in all regions to avoid tensions related to targeting. Moreover, the choice of food vouchers as a modality of food assistance is conflict-sensitive as it supports local Lebanese economy. As to respond to the needs of varying groups, it is crucial that the National Poverty Targeting Programme be strengthened

(26) The National Poverty Targeting Programme provides \$27 per person per month and this level of assistance is planned for 2019.

(27) Although the sector will target 5,000 Lebanese for regular in-kind assistance, it is understood that there will be variations to this target based on seasonal or one-off assistance addressing temporary needs. During winter and Ramadan, for example, the number of Lebanese receiving in-kind food assistance increases (with partners providing food parcels, hot meals, dates, and so forth); however, this is not reflected in the target for regular in-kind assistance.

and provides food voucher assistance to vulnerable Lebanese (in addition to the support provided to Lebanese farmers), which will inevitably reduce tensions related to perceived unbalanced assistance. The sector will use conflict and tension-mapping techniques to represent potential conflicts graphically, placing the parties in relation to the problem and each other. In this context, it is to be noted that the Social Stability Sector team carried out in 2018 a training on Conflict Sensitivity to increase the organizational capacities of partners/actors in operationalizing and integrating this approach in the Organizations' policy and programmes. This will enable people with different viewpoints to map their situation together so that they may learn about each other's experiences and perceptions. It will be important to discuss and explain targeting criteria, encourage the use of feedback mechanisms, and identify concerns and mitigation measures during the planning and awareness

Women's Vulnerability



raising sessions.

Gender

As men and women are affected differently by crisis, the sector will promote targeting interventions focusing on the different needs of affected populations. Assessments and data collected will be disaggregated by gender to the extent possible, promoting gender analysis and participation of all groups in programme design. Similarly, both groups will be involved in programme implementation and provision of support, focusing on the most vulnerable groups such as female-headed households, women of reproductive age and pregnant and lactating women. Examples of similar gender-related sector interventions will include, inclusion of female-headed households as a variable in determining vulnerability households to target for assistance and targeting women farmers equally as men. According to the Ministry of Agriculture, women represent only 8.5 per cent of farmer holdings. Targeting women-led agri-food cooperatives will promote efforts in food processing. In addition, micro-gardens, food preservation and activities targeting women will promote dietary diversity as well as increase nutritional intake.

These efforts will help to mainstream gender throughout all stages of the humanitarian programming cycle. In order to integrate gender-based violence, the sector will further use the Global Food Security Cluster/sector guidelines on Protection and the Inter-Agency Standing Committee guidelines for integrating gender-based violence interventions in humanitarian action accordingly. The agricultural livelihoods projects aim to target women and men equally as much as possible. The national gender-working group identified the following priority areas of work for 2019: a) joint messaging and advocacy (events/campaigns developed and disseminated, advocacy messages, NAP 1325 endorsement and implementation); b) Knowledge sharing and support to country level gender task forces/theme groups (mapping gender programmes, knowledge-sharing on gender initiatives); c) Monitoring of International and Domestic Legal Frameworks and Indicators on Gender Equality; and d) Gender Mainstreaming and capacity building where different assessments are planned to be carried out among them a gender assessment on agro-food sector.

Youth and children

The majority of working youth are either employees or casual workers, with half of them having achieved no more than a primary education. More than half of young displaced Syrians in the workforce are employed, of which around 45 per cent work as daily and/or seasonal workers in the sectors that have traditionally used Syrian labour, such as agriculture (both males and females, especially in rural areas close to the border with Syria). The sector will target youth (ages 15-24) through; a) supporting the enrolment of vulnerable youth in one of the seven technical agricultural schools of the Ministry of Agriculture; b) providing youth with short-term and medium-term skills trainings linked to market demands and those in agricultural fields; c) providing youth workers with basic literacy and numeracy life-skills, and; d) providing technical support to agricultural technical schools. This is in line with the Ministry of Agriculture's 2015-2019 strategy, which clearly states that agricultural livelihoods should be promoted among youth and women.^{xiv}

With an increase of child labour expected, the sector will continue its efforts in collecting information in collaboration with the Protection sector (Child Protection sub-sector in particular) to better understand the underlying reasons, the market dynamics and the legal frameworks with a special focus on Occupational Safety and Health (OSH) related issues in agriculture. The sector will continue addressing child labour in agriculture by raising awareness on the Decent Work Standards (including OSH) in the Ministry of Agriculture including to those non-governmental organizations working in agriculture.

Persons with specific needs

Food assistance distributions are currently, and should continue to be, organized to overcome potential barriers

to access, faced by persons with specific needs (whether due to particular protection concerns, disability, chronic disease, old age or other). Special attention will be given to ensure the inclusion of people with disabilities into agricultural livelihood activities. The sector moreover takes into consideration the increased vulnerability of people with specific needs, including female heads of household, when targeting for food assistance.

Environmental concerns

Given the negative impact of the Syria crisis on Lebanon's air, land and water resources and the close dependency between agriculture and the environment, there is urgent need to ensure key agro-ecosystems, especially those managed by small-scale producers, are provided with knowledge, materials and support to ensure that sustainable agriculture practices are applied as widely as possible and that general awareness of environmental challenges to agriculture are understood by local communities. The Food Security and Agriculture sector participates in the Environment Task Force led by the Ministry of Environment and will rely on the Task Force to guide the sector's work to mainstream environmental concerns in agriculture. Farmers, community groups and members of agricultural cooperatives will be targeted to ensure management of soil and water resources, application of integrated pest management, protection of agro-biodiversity, and agro-ecosystems are made more resilient. This will be done through the provision of extension services, agro-climatic information, and climate-smart agriculture practices that are widely applied in affected regions and communities.

Inter-sector linkages

The sectors shared experiences during joint workshops organized by the Inter-Agency coordination team which addressed such issues such as situational analysis, conflict/tensions sensitivity and sharing of referral systems via interactions with line ministries, the environmental technical working group and the National Poverty Targeting Programme. This provided sectors with the opportunity to identify interlinkages with the other sectors and update the situational analysis/workshop outcomes using the most recent data from the VASyR 2018. The effort of the VASyR to integrate/use qualitative information led to the understanding of some of the factors contributing to the current, or lack of, in food security.

Basic Assistance: The sector collaborated with the Basic Assistance sector to refine the harmonization process of targeting exercises by October 2018. Under the targeting sub-working group, sectors developed referral systems and will continue to exchange information on household profiles and collaborate towards the harmonization of impact monitoring tools (for example, to ensure food consumption scores are accurately captured). The sectors will coordinate overlapping or complementary activities. This will include Ramadan and winterization food parcel distributions that ideally should include

vulnerable Lebanese. In line with the Basic Assistance sector, to identify eligible households for cash-based assistance, the sectors will rank vulnerabilities to capture the most vulnerable based on the VASyR food insecurity categories. The lessons learnt from the National Poverty Targeting Programme piloting on the Graduation programming approach for 675 Lebanese households in Bekaa and North governorates, will inform future programming while working jointly with the Basic Assistance and Livelihood sectors.

Education sector: Food security activities such as school gardening to increase nutrition awareness and knowledge of gardening and agriculture practices, will be conducted in direct collaboration with the Education sector. School feeding activities, aimed at enhancing school attendance and retention rates, addressing short-term hunger and nutritional intake and social protection of children enrolled in schools, will be reported under the Food Security and Agriculture sector. The activity constitutes a shift towards resilience-focused assistance due to the complex nature of the crisis and will be implemented in close collaboration with the Ministry of Education and Higher Education (MEHE). Targeting will include displaced Syrian children as well as Lebanese enrolled in formal primary schools with double-shift systems located in the most vulnerable communities across the country. The Ministry of Education and Higher Education will play a key role in facilitating liaisons with teachers and school authorities at both central and local levels. All information related to school feeding will be shared with the Education sector and the Ministry of Education and Higher Education. Furthermore, vulnerable Lebanese will be identified for relevant vocational skills training based on National Poverty Targeting Programme criteria. Displaced youth will be supported in enrolling in vocational skill training and training schools at the Ministries of Education and Higher Education, Agriculture and Labour to increase their vocational opportunities. Technicien Supérieur-level vocational students will organize, through Solidarity Initiatives, community events for Lebanese and displaced Syrians enrolled in vocational programmes.

Health sector: The Food Security and Agriculture sector will advocate for food utilization through promotion of good nutritional practices and improved dietary diversity for the most vulnerable population groups including female-headed households, pregnant and lactating women, women at reproductive age and children under five in complementary with the Health sector activities to promote infant and young child feeding (IYCF) practices. The objective of these activities is to improve food utilization and nutritional wellbeing of all population groups, with the intention to eliminate cases of both chronic and acute malnutrition. Both sectors will promote the use of nutrition sensitive indicators such as Minimum Dietary Diversity for Women (MDD-W) and Individual Dietary Diversity (IDDS). Agriculture, by definition, is closely linked to health through the quality of agricultural produce. The “one health” approach²⁸

which looks at the interconnection between the health of animals, humans and ecosystems, especially zoonotic diseases and food safety, will also be implemented in collaboration with the Health sector.

Livelihoods sector: Agriculture is the dominant livelihood activity for those groups affected by the Syria crisis. The sector will maintain close ties with the Livelihoods sector to minimize duplication and/or underreporting. Lebanese involved in agricultural livelihoods will be supported to increase production, with the expectation that these opportunities will eventually provide seasonal and casual jobs for displaced Syrians and Palestinian refugees in production value chains, and vocational trainings and labour-intensive programmes including agricultural cooperatives. The common understanding is that partners will appeal for funding under the sector that is representing the most relevant objective of the activity they plan to implement under the LCRP 2017-2020. The Food Security and Agriculture sector will coordinate agriculture related activities, however, some employment and economic development initiatives related to the Agriculture sector will also be reported under the Livelihoods sector. In parallel, it is important to ensure information on common results is shared quarterly by both sectors. The co-leads of the two sectors will meet quarterly to harmonize the information gathered on agricultural livelihoods. Lessons on ongoing National Poverty Targeting Programme pilot projects in Bekaa and North governorates on the graduation out of poverty approach will provide opportunities to review the National Poverty Targeting Programme to make it more effective in addressing the needs of the most vulnerable Lebanese.

Social Stability: Food security activities have elements of conflict sensitivity, focusing on either alleviating the pressure on host communities, or directly assisting vulnerable Lebanese. Moreover, the sector works with the Social Stability sector in tracking social tensions through the Food Security Outcome Monitoring tool. This will help capture any changes in social tensions related to variations in the assistance provided. The recently held conflict and tensions sensitivity workshop provided tools and resources. These will be useful during interactions with partners and communities as to identify potential causes of tensions and set out mitigation measures.

Protection sector: Although the Lebanese legal framework clearly bans child labour, it is a growing concern especially among the displaced Syrian population mainly in the agriculture sector.^{xv} Therefore, the sector will continue its efforts in gathering information by carrying out studies targeting children working in agriculture in coordination with the Protection sector, specifically the Child Protection sub-sector. The purpose of these studies is to understand the prevalence of child labour, its nature, underlying causes, and the implications on the future of the children including in health and education. This will support the Ministry of Labor's National Action Plan and the Ministry of Agriculture to combat child labour in agriculture. The sector will support partners

(28) Promoted in particular by WHO, OIE, FAO and others.

in the Protection sector on all technical aspects related to child protection in agriculture and Decent Work Standards including Occupational Safety and Health standards in agriculture will be shared with relevant sectors and partners. Referrals between the two sectors will continue at both field and national levels using the interagency mechanism.

Water sector: As primary and secondary irrigation canal networks fall under the purview of the Ministry of Energy and Water (MoEW) and affiliated regional water authorities, all activities will be implemented and reported under the Water sector, led by the Ministry. As irrigation canals fall under the responsibility of the Ministry of Agriculture, related irrigation activities will be coordinated, and reported under the Food Security and Agriculture sector. As necessary, an ad hoc joint technical irrigation group with the Water sector can be formed to look at the national irrigation plan. In addition, the Food Security and Agriculture sector will coordinate any referrals for access to safe drinking water with the objective of access to safe, cooked foods at community and municipality level. The safe use of wastewater in agriculture is a growing concern which will receive attention in 2019 in collaboration between the Food Security and Water sectors.

Energy sector: Coordination will be enhanced with the Energy sector on information sharing for projects aiming at rehabilitation or building pumping systems benefiting agricultural land. As far as energy, water saving techniques are at farm/plot levels, and for irrigation purposes. The sector will promote agriculture energy related activities such as briquette making out of organic materials based on ongoing experiences in the field, as such activities will enhance livelihoods of farmers and create job opportunities. The Food Security and Agriculture sector will therefore harness interlinkages and coordination with the Water and the Livelihood sectors.

Endnotes

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- x. Ibid.
- xi. Ibid.
- xii. Ibid.
- xiii. Ibid.
- xiv. Save the Children, UNESCO, UNFPA, UNHCR, UNICEF (April 2014), *Situation Analysis of Youth in Lebanon Affected by the Syrian Crisis*.
- xv. Ibid.



Sector Logframe

Outcome 1: Improve FOOD AVAILABILITY through in kind food assistance and sustainable food value chain

Indicator 1	Description	Means of Verification	Unit	Frequency
Percentage of targeted HH with borderline or acceptable food consumption score based on the food groups consumed over a recall period of 7 days.	The Food Consumption Score (FCS) is a composite indicator that considers diet diversity, frequency of consumption and nutrient value of the food groups consumed over a recall period of seven days. According to this score, households are classified into three categories: poor, borderline and acceptable food consumption.	FSOM	Percentage	Yearly

 Lebanese				 Displaced Syrians				 Palestinian Refugees from Syria (PRS)				 Palestinian Refugees from Lebanon (PRL)			
Baseline	Result 2018	Target 2019	Target 2020	Baseline	Result 2018	Target 2019	Target 2020	Baseline	Result 2018	Target 2019	Target 2020	Baseline	Result 2018	Target 2019	Target 2020
A: 63%	N/A	A: 90%	A: 90%	A: 49%	A: 66%	A: 70%	A: 70%	A: 59%	N/A	A: 65%	A: 65%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
B: 25%		B: 10%	B: 10%	B: 33%	B: N/A	B: 25%	B: 25%	B: 29%		B: 20%	B: 20%				

Indicator 2	Description	Means of Verification	Unit	Frequency
Percentage of farmers with increased production, access to market, reduce produce waste and losses, and those benefitting as a result of Trans-boundary animal and plant disease control and prevention.	Estimation of the level of production and the application of sustainable farming practices. In order to inform the level of food availability and the adoption/practices of the good farming practices: under output 1.2, output 1.3, output 1.4 and output #1.5 of assisted farmers. (UN, INGOs, NGOs, MOA- responsible for collecting data)	ActivityInfo	Percentage	Quarterly

 Lebanese				 Displaced Syrians				 Palestinian Refugees from Syria (PRS)				 Palestinian Refugees from Lebanon (PRL)			
Baseline	Result 2018	Target 2019	Target 2020	Baseline	Result 2018	Target 2019	Target 2020	Baseline	Result 2018	Target 2019	Target 2020	Baseline	Result 2018	Target 2019	Target 2020
2379	N/A	21000	21000	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

Indicator 3	Description	Means of Verification	Unit	Frequency
Percentage of main staples/cereals available for food after calculating the amounts for industrial use and exports.	The food availability is based on production and supply chains for the main staples. The UN, NNGOs, INGOs will collaborate with the MoA and Mo Trade to collect data; calculate the actual amount of food currently available (Cereal Balance Sheet (CBS) from the total quantity of foodstuffs produced, total amount imported and current stock within a particular period (UN, INGOs, NNGOs - responsible for collecting data)	National or Regional Cereal Balance Sheet / Food Balance Sheet	Percentage	Quarterly

 Lebanese				 Displaced Syrians				 Palestinian Refugees from Syria (PRS)				 Palestinian Refugees from Lebanon (PRL)			
Baseline	Result 2018	Target 2019	Target 2020	Baseline	Result 2018	Target 2019	Target 2020	Baseline	Result 2018	Target 2019	Target 2020	Baseline	Result 2018	Target 2019	Target 2020
N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

Outcome 2: Improve FOOD ACCESS through cash based food assistance and sustainable agricultural livelihoods

Indicator 1	Description	Means of Verification	Unit	Frequency
Percentage of targeted HHs with borderline or acceptable Food Consumption Score	The Food Consumption Score (FCS) is a composite indicator that considers diet diversity, frequency of consumption and nutrient value of the food groups consumed over a recall period of seven days. According to this score, households are classified into three categories: poor, borderline and acceptable food consumption.	FSOM	Percentage	Yearly

 Lebanese				 Displaced Syrians				 Palestinian Refugees from Syria (PRS)				 Palestinian Refugees from Lebanon (PRL)			
Baseline	Result 2018	Target 2019	Target 2020	Baseline	Result 2018	Target 2019	Target 2020	Baseline	Result 2018	Target 2019	Target 2020	Baseline	Result 2018	Target 2019	Target 2020
A: 63% B: 25%	N/A	A: 90% B: 10%	A: 90% B: 10%	A: 49% B: 33%	A: 66% B: N/A	A: 70% B: 25%	A: 70% B: 25%	A: %59 B: %29	N/A	A: 65% B: 20%	A: 65% B: 20%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

Indicator 2	Description	Means of Verification	Unit	Frequency
Percentage of households with increased agricultural livelihoods disaggregated by gender - (female & male) and by cohorts.	The proportion of the HHs with improved livelihood opportunities is calculated as resulting from activities 2.5 2.4 2.3 2.2. It also involves assessing the perception of the households/farmers targeted to understand changes in their livelihoods.	Partners' reporting	Percentage	Yearly

 Lebanese				 Displaced Syrians				 Palestinian Refugees from Syria (PRS)				 Palestinian Refugees from Lebanon (PRL)			
Baseline	Result 2018	Target 2019	Target 2020	Baseline	Result 2018	Target 2019	Target 2020	Baseline	Result 2018	Target 2019	Target 2020	Baseline	Result 2018	Target 2019	Target 2020
855	N/A	1,085	1,085	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

Outcome 3: Improve FOOD UTILIZATION: improve food safety, quality and dietary diversity

Indicator 1	Description	Means of Verification	Unit	Frequency
Percentage of women with a minimum dietary diversity score based on the Household Diet Diversity Scale (HDDS) by cohort	The dietary diversity is a qualitative measure of the level of food consumption. It reflects the level of access to a variety of foods, and is also a proxy for nutrient adequacy of the diet of individuals or households. The Household Dietary Diversity Scale (HDDS) is based on 5 out of 10 food groups to calculate the proportion of women or individuals with adequate dietary diversity.	PDM	Percentage	Yearly

 Lebanese				 Displaced Syrians				 Palestinian Refugees from Syria (PRS)				 Palestinian Refugees from Lebanon (PRL)			
Baseline	Result 2018	Target 2019	Target 2020	Baseline	Result 2018	Target 2019	Target 2020	Baseline	Result 2018	Target 2019	Target 2020	Baseline	Result 2018	Target 2019	Target 2020
		90%	90%	N/A		90%	90%								

Indicator 2	Description	Means of Verification	Unit	Frequency
Percentage of beneficiaries supported who improved their food safety, quality and dietary diversity practices.	The aim is to evaluate the adoption levels of beneficiaries on improved food safety and quality measures. The IPs will conduct a sample survey to evaluate the level of the practices involving the entire food chain- production, storage, preparation/cooking including hygiene etc.: as resulting from output 3.1 and 3.2	Partners' reports, Activity Info	Individuals (male /female)	Yearly

 Lebanese				 Displaced Syrians				 Palestinian Refugees from Syria (PRS)				 Palestinian Refugees from Lebanon (PRL)			
Baseline	Result 2018	Target 2019	Target 2020	Baseline	Result 2018	Target 2019	Target 2020	Baseline	Result 2018	Target 2019	Target 2020	Baseline	Result 2018	Target 2019	Target 2020
		5420													

Outcome 4: Promote food security while enhancing access and application of climate - smart practices, promoting resilience of livelihoods and conservation of natural resources and effectively in coordinating with other actors in FSS as well as other sectors, ETWG and MoA departments

Indicator 1	Description	Means of Verification	Unit	Frequency
Percentage of farmers applying climate - smart practices, measures for conserving natural resources in collaboration with other relevant actors.	The extent to which the target farmers apply good practices /measures to control and conserve the environmental resources in ensuring sustainable production and future resilience.	Sample survey	Percentage	Yearly



Total

Baseline	Result 2018	Target 2019	Target 2020
72%	N/A	100%	N/A

Indicator 2	Description	Means of Verification	Unit	Frequency
Percentage of partners /actors involved in Food Security Sector reporting in Activity info/3Ws monthly and satisfactorily sharing information/assessment results with others.	The proportion FSS partners/ actors reporting in Activity info/3Ws monthly. The sector partners conduct self-evaluation to establish the extent of the collaboration and effectiveness in sharing and accessing information in the sector.	On-line survey	Percentage	Yearly

Partners

Baseline	Result 2018	Target 2019	Target 2020
N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

