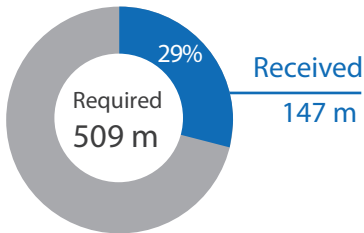


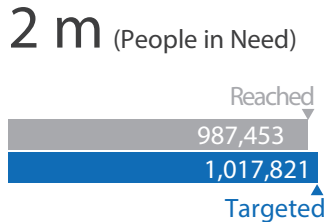


The dashboard summarizes the progress made by partners involved in the Lebanon Crisis Response and highlights trends affecting people in need. The Food Security and Agriculture sector in Lebanon is working to: OUTCOME 1) Promote food availability; OUTCOME 2) Promote food accessibility; OUTCOME 3) Promote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

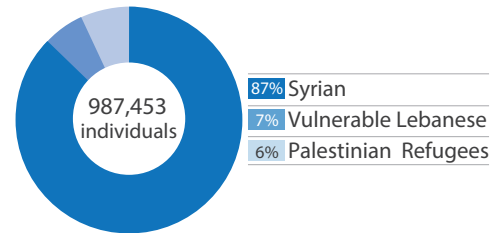
2019 Funding Status (including Carry-over) as of 30 June 2019



Targeted Population groups

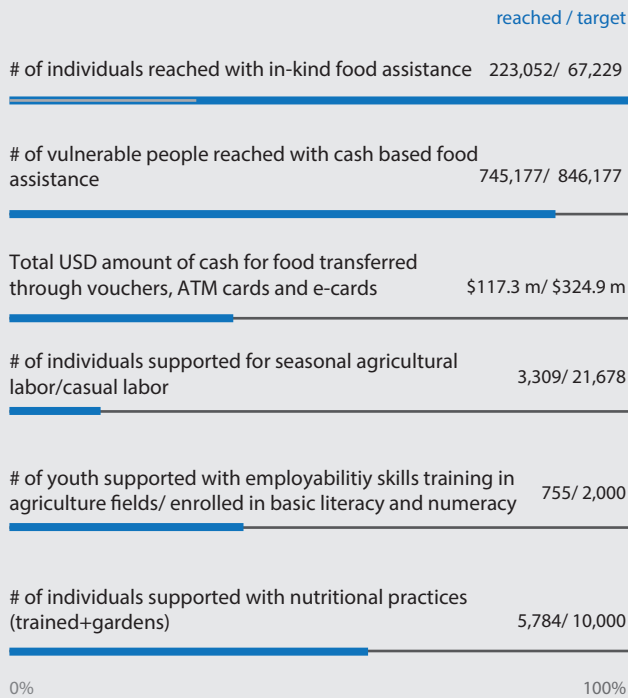


Population reached by cohort

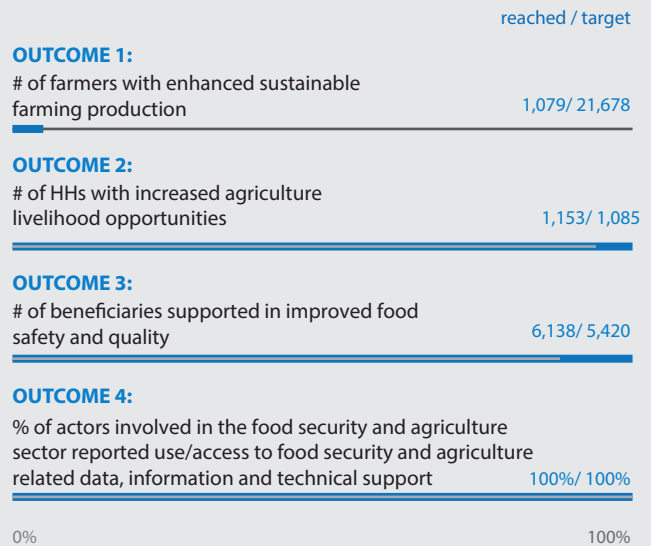


Progress against targets

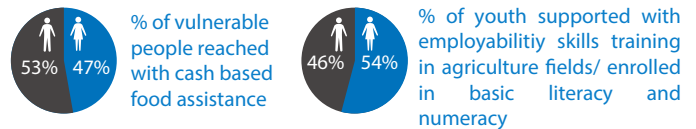
Key Achievements



Outputs/Outcomes

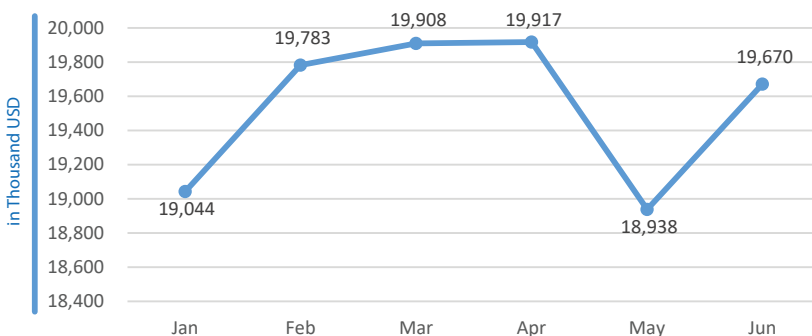


Age/Gender breakdown

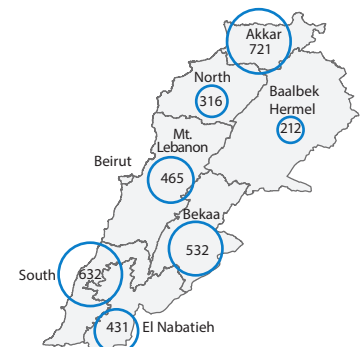


Analysis

Amount of USD injected in the cash based food assistance system



of individuals supported for seasonal agricultural labor/casual labor





KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

Up to **968,229** vulnerable individuals received food assistance, thus exceeding the target of **913,406** individuals using different Cash Based and in-kind modalities.

Beneficiaries included up to **657,140** displaced Syrians, representing **53** percent females and **47** percent males receiving food assistance through e-cards and food vouchers.

Up to **57,402** vulnerable Lebanese (equally men and women) received monthly food assistance through e-cards under the National Poverty Targeting Program framework (NPTP).

Up to **30,010** Palestine refugees from Syria (PRS)- **52** percent women and **48** percent men were provided with food assistance through ATM and food vouchers.

Among the most vulnerable farmers, **2,155** individuals were trained and provided with agricultural inputs.

Rehabilitation of agricultural productive infrastructure and communal assets have been carried out and around 800 worksites have been improved.

The total value of investment in agricultural worksite contracted through private sector or implementing partners reached USD \$3,671,978.

The Ministry of Agriculture is receiving continuously technical support through different interventions by partners and capacity building of its staff particularly through the agricultural TVET program for the agricultural technical schools and the green plan with its decentralized offices.



Facts and Figures

90% Of Syrians displaced HHs present some level of food insecurity¹

33% Of Syrians Displaced HHs with poor and borderline food consumption¹

32% Of Syrians displaced HHs depend on food vouchers/e-cards for income source¹

63% Of Syrians Displaced HHs adopt severe and crisis coping strategies¹

51% Of Syrians Displaced HHs unable to cover SMEB (Survival Minimum Expenditures Basket)¹

10% Of Lebanese HHs vulnerable to food insecurity²

73% of Farmers in need of agricultural support²

95% of PRS are food insecure³

References:

- 1- Vulnerability Assessment of Syrian Refugees in Lebanon (VaSyr 2018)
- 2- Food Security and Livelihoods Assessment of Lebanese Host Communities (FSLA 2015)
- 3- AUB / UNRWA 2015



KEY CONTRIBUTIONS TOWARDS LCRP IMPACT(S)

The Food Security Sector (FSS) contributes towards the LCRP impacts under Strategic Objectives (SOs) 2, 3 and 4.

Under the SO 2 of the LCRP¹, FSS interventions aim at improving food availability and food access for affected populations. Food availability is achieved, among others, through the provision of in-kind food assistance while food access is achieved through cash-based assistance and agricultural livelihoods. During the first semester of 2019, the sector provided food assistance, through in kind and cash modalities, to a total of 968,222² individuals out of a target of 913,406, inclusive of all populations cohorts, reaching the cumulative targets set for 2019. This represents a 20% increase if compared with the total people reached in approximately the same period in 2018³.

The increase can be mainly explained by the additional support provided by partners to displaced Syrians during the winter storms. In January and February 2019, approximately 223,000 individuals received in-kind food assistance through food parcels, exceeding the 2019 targets.

Cash based assistance provided a lifeline to refugees' families and vulnerable Lebanese, while at the same time directly injecting USD 117 million through the e card.

In the first semester of 2019, the immediate food needs of 30,010 vulnerable Palestinians Refugees from Syria (PRS) and 57,402 vulnerable Lebanese population were met.

Providing food assistance to displaced Syrians yields results on their food security; however the results change according to the amount of transfer they received. For example, according to the food security outcome monitoring in February 2019, the percentage of households with acceptable food consumption increased for those assisted with \$27 per person for food together with \$175 per household for multipurpose cash, but slightly decreased for those who only receive \$27 per person for food e-card. Compared to November 2018, beneficiaries are consuming more cereals, pulses, and milk, and adopted fewer coping strategies to cover food and other basic needs.

Preliminary results from the July 2019 data collection show a slight deterioration in food consumption, but no changes in the adoption of coping strategies.

It is important to note that 111,000 severely vulnerable Syrian refugees under the survival minimum expenditure basket (SMEB) did not receive humanitarian cash assistance to meet their basic food needs due to funding constraints. Furthermore, pipeline breaks in funding during the next quarter put at risk the 650,000 displaced Syrians currently receiving cash assistance from WFP.

Under the SO 3 of the LCRP, partners continued their support to national systems through capacity building aiming at increasing the number of vulnerable host communities having access to basic services through national systems. For example, WFP support to the National Poverty Targeting Programme (NPTP) reached almost 10,000 households amongst the most vulnerable Lebanese with USD 9 million distributed. Starting in July 2019, the support will cover an additional 5,000 households for a total number of 87,000 beneficiaries.

Cash assistance has been supplemented by several initiatives to develop capacities of national institutions involved in food security including: strengthening NPTP staff capacities in data collection; training Ministry of Agriculture (MoA) staff in agricultural centers in Good Agricultural Practices (Integrated Pest Management and water efficiency technique) and training more than 100 teachers and 755 youth in agricultural technical schools. Institutional support to MoA's Green Plan also continued through FAO's land reclamation and water reservoir activities.

The sector also supported the Ministry of Education and Higher Education through the provision of school snacks to more than 24,000 students, both Lebanese and displaced Syrians, enrolled in public schools to enhance school attendance and retention rates.

Under the SO 4 of the LCRP, the sector has been active in promoting sustainable agriculture production and agricultural livelihoods under its outcomes 1 and 2. 1,139 vulnerable farmers were trained on sustainable agriculture production and Good Agricultural Practices (i.e. water use conservation). The sector also supported 1,016 vulnerable small-scale farmers in private investments through provision of agricultural inputs and rehabilitation of productive communal assets/infrastructure injecting more than USD 3.5 million in the local economy.

Through WFP livelihoods program, 20,529 vulnerable beneficiaries received approximately USD 1.4 million thanks to the participation of 1,810 casual and seasonal laborers to the maintenance and rehabilitation of agricultural assets. FAO and other FS partners also supported 1,500 individuals as casual labor contributing to the improvement of agriculture productive infrastructure, through land reclamation and water reservoirs, in 800 worksites.

WFP's partners reached out to 5,100 vulnerable participants, (54% vulnerable Lebanese) through a wide range of skill development trainings (digital literacy, market-based skills training, support to agricultural cooperatives and agro-food processing). Cash transfers to participants, worth USD 1.8 million, benefited more than 36,000 beneficiaries.

Despite the contributions to the LCRP, partners are experiencing funding gaps for agricultural livelihoods activities, which limit the number of vulnerable Lebanese farming families reached and have a negative impact on their agricultural livelihoods.

1 - "provide immediate assistance to vulnerable populations"

2 - The source of all figures is ActivityInfo

3 - as reported in the 2018 quarterly dashboard.

4 - Food Security Outcome Monitoring (FSOM), WFP Lebanon | February 2019. It covers displaced Syrians only. The analysis of the data collected in 2019 was ongoing at the time of the preparation of the Midyear dashboard.

CHALLENGES

The sector faced a number of challenges during the first semester.

The lack of a dedicated coordinator over two-thirds of the first semester created a vacuum that affected partners' engagement, coordination of interventions and reporting on activities.

Challenges also remained at the regional level to coordinate activities of partners in the 4 regions. The sector has recently started to organize the creation of regional/field level coordination mechanism through WFP field offices.

Coordination with other sectors also remained at minimum level during the first part of the semester. Renewed interactions with the livelihoods, social stability, protection, education and basic assistance sectors have been recently initiated. They include: the setting up of an information sharing mechanism with the Livelihoods sector, the mainstreaming of conflict sensitivity in the FSS strategy and the harmonization of content of snacks provisions in the non-formal education sector in collaboration with the education sector.

The sector logical framework and targets do not allow to fully represent the sector strategy and respond to the LCRP M&E impact framework. An initial review of the sector logframe was done during the first semester and will continue during the LCRP update process to align as much as possible logframe and sector theory of change.

One of the main challenges remains tailoring the response to a context transitioning from a humanitarian emergency to relatively stabilized development. The sector would need to: i) strengthen the activities on agricultural livelihoods; ii) continue to support the government on safety nets and iii) to explore links with other sectors for a more coordinated response. These elements will be developed under the upcoming review of the strategy.

KEY PRIORITIES AND GAPS FORESEEN IN 2019

Food insecurity remains a serious concern and therefore one of the sector's priorities continues to be improving the availability and access to food for the most vulnerable through the provision of cash-based or in-kind food assistance. The situation of many vulnerable families remains extremely precarious and the provision of humanitarian assistance to the most vulnerable displaced Syrians, Lebanese and other vulnerable groups remains an enabler of stability in the country.

WFP's assistance is one of the three main sources of income for displaced Syrian households. To avoid a further deterioration in vulnerable populations' food security situation, additional funding is needed, in the scope of USD 54 million, to ensure continued assistance through December 2019.

The persistence of socio-economic vulnerabilities, exacerbated by the protracted emergency, also reasserts the need to invest in sustainable food production, develop and support agricultural livelihoods to address economic vulnerability and reduce social tensions. At the sector level, a gap in food utilization including food safety and nutrition related activities, reduction of food wastage and losses and linkages to the market remains to be addressed in the next sector strategy.

Similarly, strengthening the capacities of local and national institutions on targeting, food security and agricultural practices is an area where more investment should be done.

HUMAN INTEREST STORY

"Improving household nutrition in Akkar" (CONCERN Worldwide)

"I didn't realize that a woman can be a carpenter before coming here (at workshop). I certainly didn't imagine growing leafy greens and small plants in a box on the roof of my coops", said Salma, mother of four, living in Akkar. "My husband is a heart patient and care for him is costly, yet I always give priority to the diet of my family if I have money". When asked, Salam said, "if I buy vegetables, some meat, some fruits for my family, it costs around LBP250,000. My family cannot afford meat, milk or eggs more than twice every three months". Salma is one of the 200 participants who have learned to build moveable chicken coops with green roofs.



Many families living in Akkar have limited space and suffer with limited access to nutritious food, and limited employment opportunities. Also, in Akkar and Tripoli, finding workers with basic carpentry skills i.e. polishing, varnishing, reading designs, and finishing is a major challenge. Although most of carpentry businesses provide on-job training, many still demand a basic understanding of wood work and communication skills.

To address both the skill and nutrition gaps, Concern along with the community, designed light-weight, cost effective, portable wooden coops with a play area, brooding nests and egg-laying nests to house up to 10 chickens. In addition to carpentry skills training, men and women receive training to grow micro-gardens on eco-friendly roofs, and chicken rearing. "It takes effort, but we can help ourselves", said Salma. "I grow leafy vegetables, and I have 8 – 10 eggs every day to feed my family or others around me"

It is mandatory for both men and women to participate in each module of the training program. The program also includes life skill and psycho-social support sessions. Salma's husband, Nabi 47, also a program participant, said "it was a different experience to work and learn with my wife and others in carpentry workshop. It has brought us together as a community and a



Finished chicken coops distributed to families; recently planted green roofs are visible.

couple. I used to force my opinion in the carpentry workshop, but many times I found my wife to be correct and she helped me to correct mistakes. I help her to bring seeds and mix chicken droppings in soil and she makes sure that chicken are safe". Salma added, "it is so easy to collapse the entire coop with the hens inside, and carry it. I can easily move it with help of my younger son".