



# 2021 2nd QUARTER SECTOR DASHBOARD

## Food Security and Agriculture

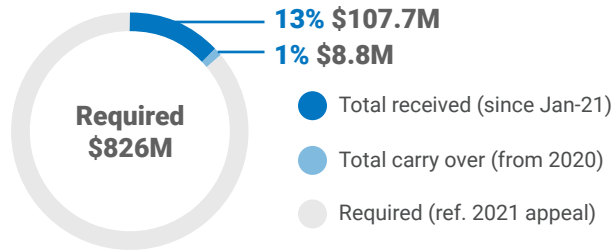


Inter-Agency  
Coordination  
Lebanon

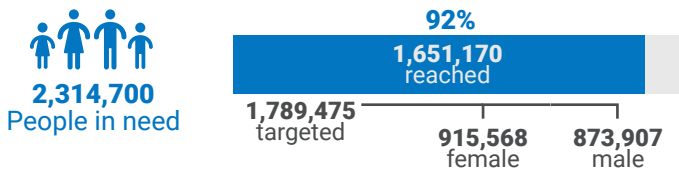
The dashboard summarizes the progress made by partners involved in the Lebanese Crisis Response Plan and highlights trends affecting people in need. The Food Security and Agriculture sector in Lebanon is working to: OUTCOME 1) Promote food availability; OUTCOME 2) Promote food accessibility; OUTCOME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

### 2021 Sector Funding Status

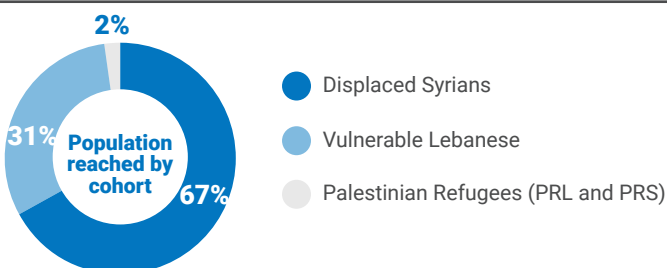
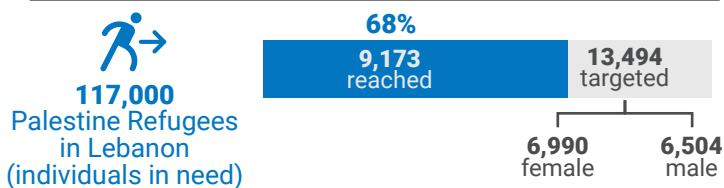
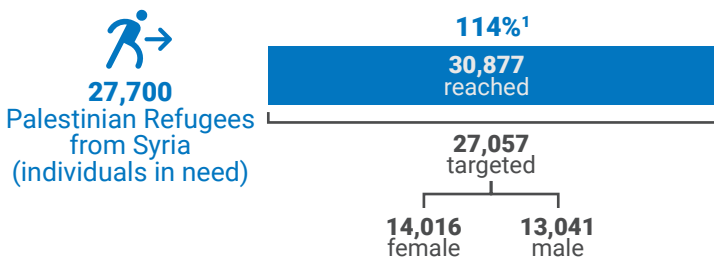
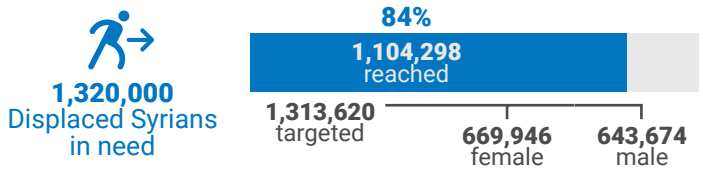
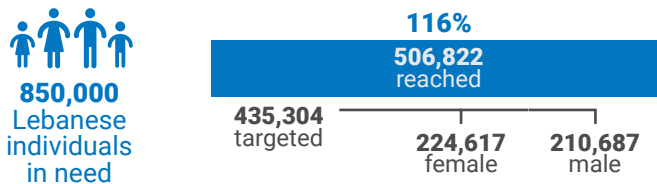
As of 30<sup>th</sup> of June



### 2021 population reached



### 2021 population figures by cohort



### Progress against targets

#### Key Achievements

Number of individuals provided with in-kind food assistance (parcels provided on one-off basis)

**397,301 / 125,947**

Number individuals receiving ready-to-eat food or hot meals

**114,814**

# of individuals having access to cash-based food assistance (through e-cards, NPTP, ATMs, food vouchers...)

**1,125,013 / 1,633,528**

Total amount of cash-based food assistance (\$) redeemed through (e-cards, NPTP, ATM.)

**103,639,053 / 565,577,466**

# farmers receiving emergency assistance (cash or vouchers) to promote agricultural investment

**1,370 / 30,000**

# of individuals having access to temporary/casual agricultural labor

**14,550 / 13,340**

# of local agricultural groups/ associations/ cooperatives/ SMEs receiving technical and or material support

**311 / 457**

# of individuals attending trainings on skills and competencies to access temporary/casual labour in exchange of Food Assistance for Training

**4,248 / 6,500**

#### COVID-19 Response

# of food parcels distributed **8,627**

# of individuals receiving food parcels **21,718**

# of hot meals distributed **31,874**

# of individuals receiving hot meals **26,072**

#### Ramadan Response

# of food parcels distributed **79,452**

# of individuals receiving food parcels **323,777**

# of hot meals distributed **60,614**

# of individuals receiving hot meals **118,336**

# of food vouchers distributed **868**

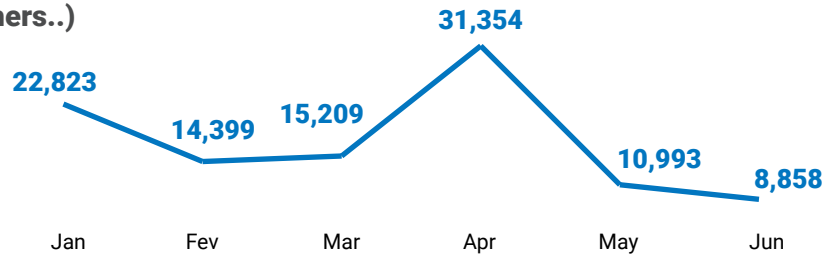
# of individuals receiving food vouchers **4,381**

<sup>1</sup>The number of PRS reached corresponds to the services provided to individuals, rather than to the unique number of beneficiaries

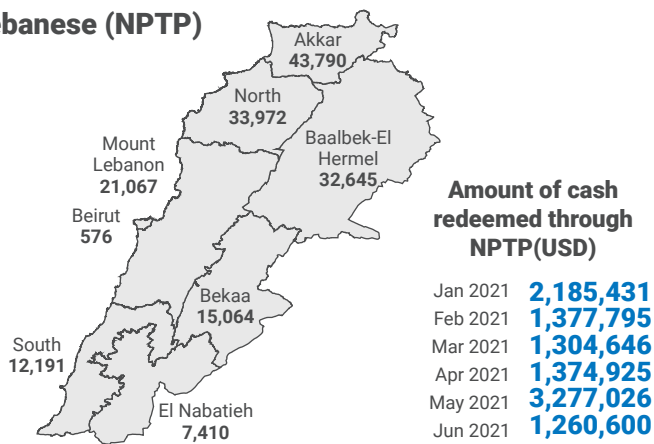


**Analysis**

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



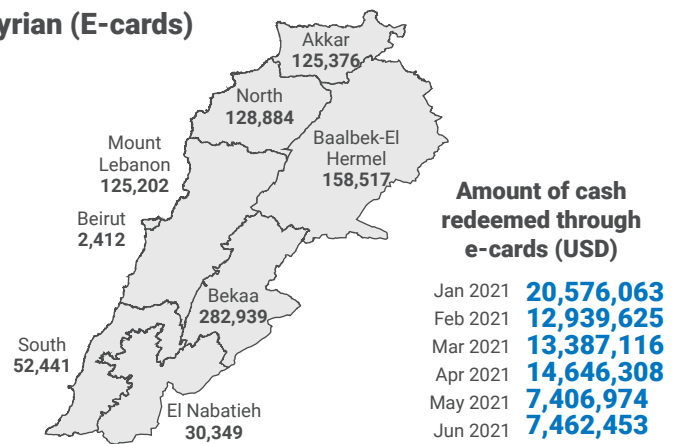
**Lebanese (NPTP)**



**Amount of cash redeemed through NPTP (USD)**

Jan 2021	2,185,431
Feb 2021	1,377,795
Mar 2021	1,304,646
Apr 2021	1,374,925
May 2021	3,277,026
Jun 2021	1,260,600

**Syrian (E-cards)**



**Amount of cash redeemed through e-cards (USD)**

Jan 2021	20,576,063
Feb 2021	12,939,625
Mar 2021	13,387,116
Apr 2021	14,646,308
May 2021	7,406,974
Jun 2021	7,462,453

**1. Key achievements of the sector at the output level**

During the first two quarters of the year, the Food Security & Agriculture (FS&A) Sector partners have reached a total of 1.6M individuals through various types of interventions.

More than half a million vulnerable individuals had access at least once during the first part of the year to locally produced and nutritionally balanced in-kind food assistance (including food parcels and ready-to-eat foods hot meals), of which more than 60% were Lebanese; 35% displaced Syrian households and the remaining Palestinians Refugees from Syria (PRS) and Lebanon (PRL). In addition, during the month of Ramadan, an additional 323,777 individuals (45% male, 55% female) received food parcels which allowed them to cover the food and dietary needs of their households during this period. Some 1.1 million vulnerable populations had access to cash-based food assistance and improved their access to food; of which 82% were displaced Syrians, 15% Lebanese (mainly supported through the NPTP) and the remaining PRS.

As COVID-19 restrictions were lifted, around 26,000 individuals were reached by the Sector to improve their production throughout the agricultural value chain with in-kind agricultural inputs, vouchers and technical support, supports farmers associations, cooperatives and agricultural related MSMEs, technical vocational

schools and access to temporary casual labor in agriculture. These activities mainly targeted Lebanese farmers (60%). Firstly, around 2,400 farming households were provided with support to improve food availability of which 32% were female farmers, directly benefiting a total of 12,000 individuals. In addition, more than 14,000 Lebanese (51%) and displaced Syrians accessed temporary casual agricultural labour of which only 24% were women.

To date, 1,820 caregivers of children under 2, pregnant women or other individuals have received awareness on nutrition and IYCF, of which 60% are women. In support to national institutions, FAO/AV-SI provided capacity building to 150 teachers from the Ministry of Agriculture technical schools.

On the coordination side, the sector put in place tools which serve to improve coordination among partners and across sectors. These include an Interactive Dashboard for Food Security Sector activities (Microsoft Power BI) and a dashboard on cooperatives prepared jointly with the Livelihoods Sector. In April, an Advocacy Note<sup>1</sup> on the impact of the removal of subsidies was disseminated. The sector is currently working on updating the note to account for new developments and to be published in Q3. A Monitoring and Evaluation Task Force established, and a guidance note on fresh fruits and vegetables basket<sup>2</sup> was designed and disseminated in collaboration with the Nutrition sector.

<sup>1</sup> <https://fscluster.org/lebanon/document/fss-advocacy-note-removal-subsidies>

<sup>2</sup> <https://fscluster.org/lebanon/document/fresh-fruits-and-vegetables-basket>



## 2. Key challenges of the sector

The Sector Partners continued to experience operational and programmatic constraints during Jan-June 2021, among these:

- **Access to food remains a major concern among refugees and vulnerable Lebanese.** The deteriorating economic crisis, compounded by COVID-19, is causing inflation, affecting livelihoods and income opportunities as well as diminishing the purchasing power of refugees and vulnerable Lebanese and their food and nutrition security particularly elderly people and children.

- **The removal of current subsidization mechanisms** could further increase the number of food insecure people due to price hikes and increase inequality and vulnerability across all population cohorts.

- **The depreciation of the Lebanese Lira** further accelerated in June and the Revised Food Survival and minimum Expenditure Basket (SMEB) recorded a 14% increase between May and June 2021, at LBP 268,258. In this context, it is worth mentioning that the cost of the revised food SMEB in May 2021 was more than five times the cost of the basket back in October 2019 (404% increase).

- **Availability of food is also now a major concern**, driven by shortages in shops, dwindling imports and insufficient local production. A decrease of 18% in food imports is registered when comparing January to June 2021 figures to the same period in 2020.<sup>3</sup> Lebanon's low foreign currency reserves will hinder imports of food with direct implication on replenishment of supplies.

- **Referrals and requests for food assistance** for refugees have increased exponentially since 2020, through partners' hotlines, call centres and referrals. These requests are not matched by partners' capacity to respond. Partners who are

providing or planning to provide food assistance have been mapped out using the Inter-Agency Service Mapping to expand coverage beyond the LCRP.

- **Despite increasing the food assistance, target to vulnerable Lebanese in 2021 through the NPTP to 300,000 individuals**, this still only covers just over 25% of estimated total needs. **For displaced Syrians, there is a funding gap to cover more than 330,000 individuals** currently not receiving food assistance.

- **Increasing the assistance of transfer value remains of critical importance** to counter negative coping strategies that can also have harmful impacts on nutrition outcomes.

- **The agriculture sector has moved to a low input agriculture**, which is likely to result in lower yields, lower marketable production and lower revenues, depending on the output prices. In Q1 and due to lockdown measures, several partners were forced to suspend agricultural interventions and many farmers reported being unable to market their products due to limited restrictions. Consequently, small-scale farmers are at greater risks to be pushed into food insecurity and poverty.

- **Urgent funds are needed to support domestic food production and farmers**, including through cash and vouchers schemes to access unaffordable imported agricultural inputs (seeds, fertilizers, materials and equipment). Funds need to be made available as complementary to short-term relief food assistance. The unpredictability of the prices and availability of material and inputs needed for building agriculture assets and infrastructure remain a constraint in 2021.

## 3. Key priorities for the following quarter

The priorities in Q3 for the sector remain aligned with the priorities already identified for Q2.

- The Food Security & Agricultural sector and its partners will continue to ensure access to regular cash-based food assistance for the extremely vulnerable, including advocating for meaningful transfer values. The scale up of the NPTP to 300,000 individuals in 2021 and reaching out to the 1.3 million displaced Syrians currently living under the SMEB with food assistance.

- Similarly, the sector and its partners will continue to ensure food availability through in-kind food distribution to response to emergencies such as COVID-19 and the economic crisis;

- In parallel, scale up the support to small scale farmers and agricultural workers, to ensure their livelihoods sources are not further impacted while enhancing the local agricultural production.

- In addition, the sector will be reviewing the advocacy note on the impact of removal of subsidies.

## 39 Reporting Partners

ACF, ACS, AFDC, Akkarouna, ANERA, AUB, AVSI, CARE, Caritas Lebanon, CCIАЗ, Common Effort, CONCERN, Dorcas, FAO, FAO/AVSI, Farah Social Foundation, FoH, IOCC Lebanon, IR Lebanon, Leb Relief, LOST, LRI, MCC, MERATH Lebanon, MoSA, Nusaned, Plan International, PU-AMI, RMF, SAFADI, SDAid, ShareQ, SHEILD, SIF, UNRWA, URDA, WFP, WHH-LOST, WVI.

<sup>3</sup>Port of Beirut data