



**LEBANON  
FOOD SECURITY  
SECTOR**

Photo: WFP/Malak Jaafar

# Beirut Port Blast: Food Security Sector Emergency Response

300,000 people to be targeted with food security assistance following the explosion

## Overview

The explosion at the Beirut Port on 4 August **killed over 200 people** and **injured more than 6,000**. Severe damage to surrounding buildings has left an estimated **300,000 people homeless**.

Lebanon's grain silos of some **120,000 MT capacity were destroyed** along with animal and plant quarantine facilities, directly affecting food availability and food safety.

## Impact on food security

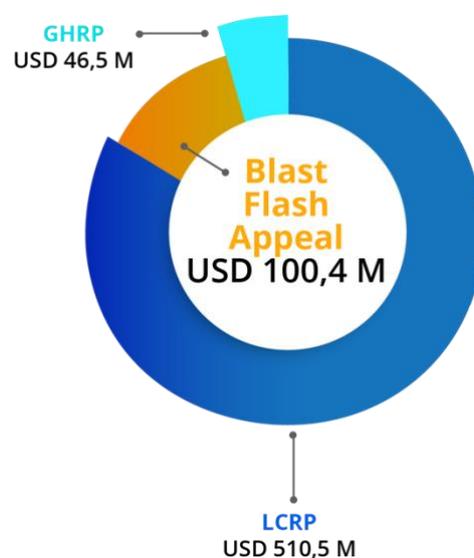
Food intake is reported to have dropped since the blast, with **50-100 percent of populations in the most affected areas** needing food assistance. Not having enough money to buy food is the overarching concern, along with a lack of fuel or access to cooking facilities.

The disaster is unfolding at a time when Lebanon is already dealing with the COVID-19 pandemic and coping with a **multi-faceted crisis of economic contraction, increasing poverty and rising prices of basic commodities**, all threatening household food security. In response, a specific Food Security Sector (FSS) coordination mechanism has been activated, led by the World Food Programme (WFP) and co-led by the NGO ACTED.

## Beirut Blast Needs

**People Targeted: 300,000**

**Funding Needs: USD \$100,4 M**



## FSS strategic objectives

### Provide immediate life-saving food security assistance

 Hot meals, food rations and cash for **65,000 vulnerable people**

 **Complementary & breastfeeding** support for mothers of children under 2 years-of-age

 **150,000 people** to receive expanded cash-based assistance in Beirut area

### Kick-start recovery to prevent needs from spiraling further

 **10,000 food-insecure families** to receive cash for work for cleaning & repairing infrastructure

 Infrastructure support, including a **bulk grain receiving facility**

 Rapid **impact assessments** on food stocks & prices & livelihoods

## Background

- Lebanon's **economy** is suffering from longstanding development challenges and a lack of investment in productive sectors, particularly agriculture.
- The current economic and financial crisis could push up to **1.7 million Lebanese below the upper poverty line** (45% of the Lebanese population) and 850,000 Lebanese below the extreme poverty line (22% of the Lebanese population) (World Bank).
- COVID-19** lockdown measures aggravated the economic crisis and created a knock-on effect on unemployment rates across the country. COVID-19 **cases have reached 18,375** (as of September 2) with exponentially increasing daily rates.
- The rapid **depreciation of the Lebanese pound** (in dual official and black-market exchange rates) led to a significant loss of household purchasing power across Lebanon, only compounded further by spikes in food and input costs.
- In a recent WFP survey on the impact of the crisis on livelihoods and food security in Lebanon, half of all Lebanese respondents reported being worried they **would not have enough food to eat**.
- Lebanon also hosts **1.5 million Syrian refugees**, putting added pressure on an already strained economy.

## Funding Needs

The Food Security and Agriculture (FSA) Sector and its 41 partners will continue to deliver essential humanitarian services to **1.5 million Lebanese and non-Lebanese people in need** under the current Lebanon Crisis Response Plan (LCRP), requiring USD 510 million. The FSA Sector requires an additional USD 46.5M under the Global Humanitarian Response Plan (GHRP) to respond to increased needs as a result of COVID-19.

The UN [Flash Appeal](#) for Lebanon is asking for USD 344,5M for relief and recovery following the blast - of which **USD 100.4M** for food security.

