



LEBANON FOOD SECURITY SECTOR

FSSWG Monthly Meeting

9 April 2020

Remote meeting

Agenda



- 1 Update on the FSS indicators-market functionality and price developments (WFP VAM)
- 2 Mapping of partners' response for food assistance under COVID-19 : mapping and gap analysis
- 3 Inter-agency presentation of the online inter-sector service mapping (IA)
- 4 AOB



World Food
Programme

WFP VAM & Supply Chain Unit Lebanon

Economic Situation Analysis

Monitoring results for FSSWG meeting (Oct 2019 to Mar 2020)

9th April 2020

SAVING
LIVES
CHANGING
LIVES



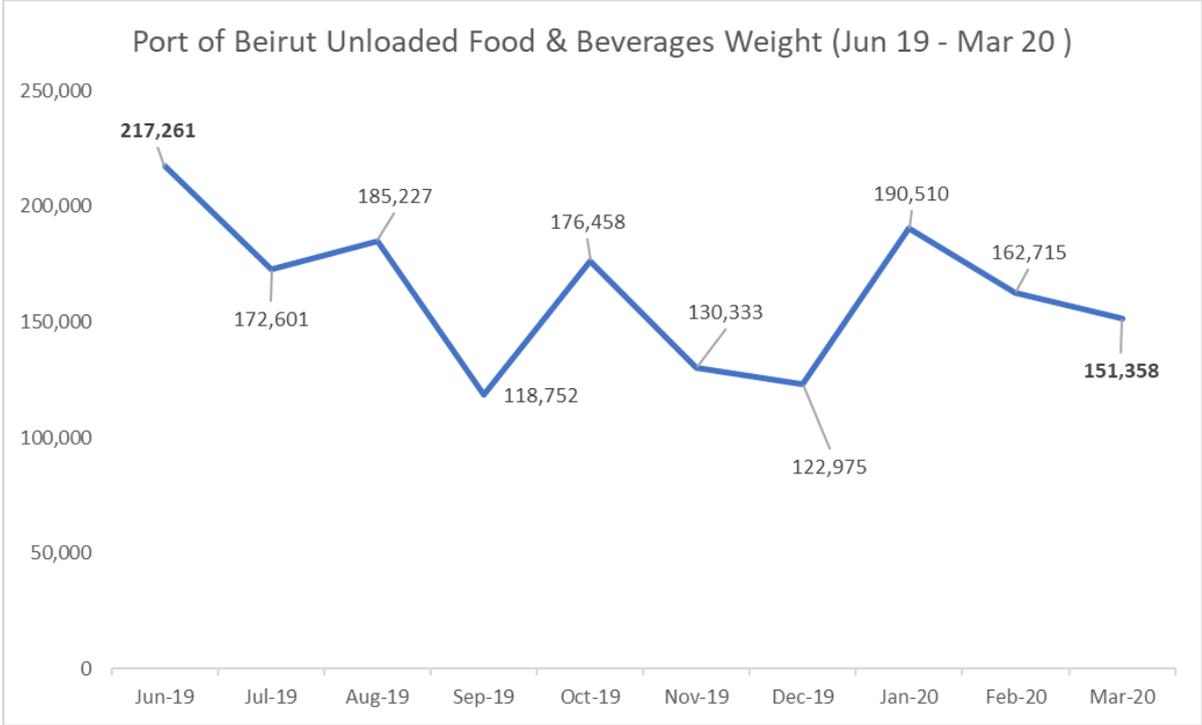
Summary

- Economic Implications of Covid-19
- Availability of Food Supplies
- Exchange Rate/ Price Development
- Food Transfer Value
- SMEB Inflation Impact
- 2020 Vulnerability Projections & Assistance Gap

COVID-19 Potential Economic Implications

- While it is difficult to predict the spread of the virus, for many poor countries, the economic consequences will likely be more devastating than the disease itself.
- Global economic turmoil can thus have severe implications for trade-dependent countries.
- Vulnerabilities through trade dependencies might unfold more brutally when a country macro-economic fundamentals are weak. This includes, for example, a high public debt burden and low foreign currency reserves, points that apply to the current context of Lebanon.
- Countries with low foreign currency reserves will struggle to finance imports as they see possibilities of replenishing state revenues dwindling amidst a shutdown of whole economies for several weeks to contain the spread of COVID-19.
- For Lebanon:
 - Lebanon stopped all payment (capital and interest) of its public debt as of March 2020.
 - Foreign currency reserves (estimated at 29 billion USDs in January 2020 according to the Ministry of Finance Situation Update for Lebanon's Creditors Presentation) will have to be rationed to cover the import of basic needs, such as food, fuel, and medicines and medical equipment, including the needed medical equipment to respond to the COVID-19 outbreak.
 - The Ministry of Finance in Lebanon expects the real GDP to further contract by 12% in 2020 as the dollar shortage puts a massive drag on nonfuel import and could be worsened by the additional impact of the Coronavirus outbreak.
 - Forecasted inflation estimates for 2020 currently stand at 25%.

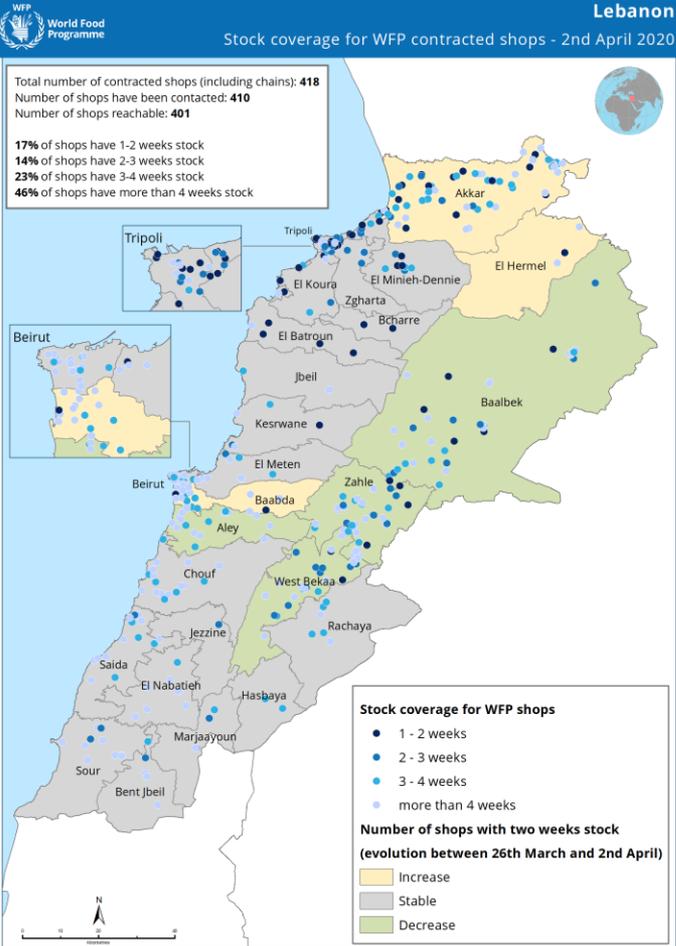
Port of Beirut Food & Beverages Imports Movement from June 2019 till March 2020



- A decrease of 30.3% in the unloaded imports weight of Food & Beverages is registered between June 2019 and March 2020.
- An increase is noted between September 2019 and October 2019 (48.6%), mainly driven by an increase in cereals imports and animal fodder
- A second increase is noted between December 2019 and January 2020 (54.9%), mainly driven by an increase in cereal imports, animal and vegetable fats and oils, and live animals.
- Wholesale traders interviewed by WFP reported that their stocks should last for a minimum of two months based on the monthly turnover.

Source: Port of Beirut data, 2019/2020

Stock coverage of WFP contracted shops (as of 2nd April 2020)

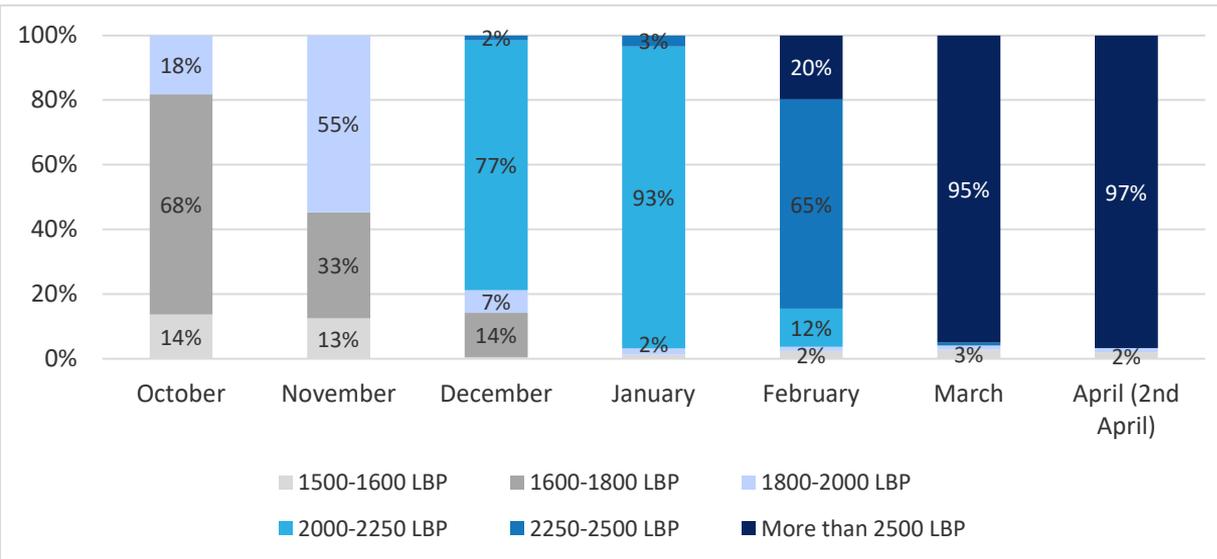


46% of shops have more than 4 weeks stock (45% in March)

- Total number of shops (including chains): 418
- Number of shops have been contacted: 410
- Number of shops reachable: 401

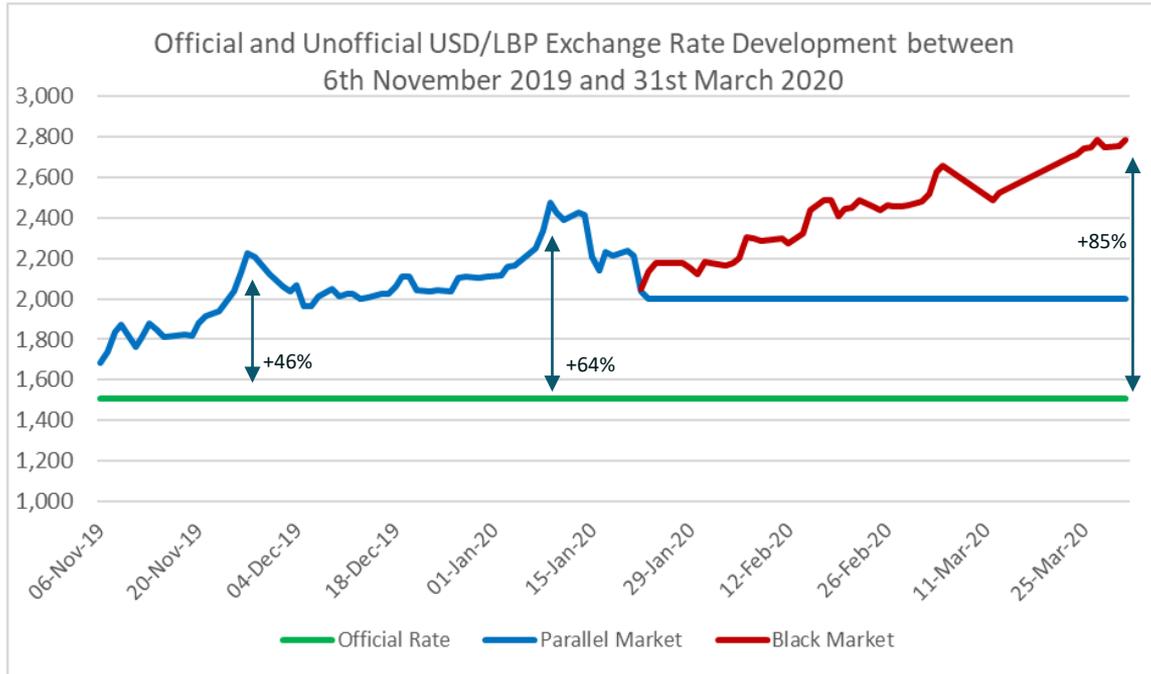
Source: Weekly Shop Phone Survey – as of 2nd April

Weekly exchange rate development based on contracted retailers' feedback (national level) between October 2019 and April 2020



- While the official exchange rate remains fixed at 1508 LBP for 1 USD, a parallel market started emerging from September 2019 onward.
- The unofficial exchange rate has since increased to over 2700 LBP per 1 USD.
- While 68% of WFP-contracted shops reported restocking their supplies using an exchange rate between LBP 1600 and LBP 1800 in October 2019.
- As of 2nd April 2020, the vast majority (**97%**) of retailers were charged a rate of **2500 LBP or more** for their supply purchases. contracted shops above 2250 LBP.

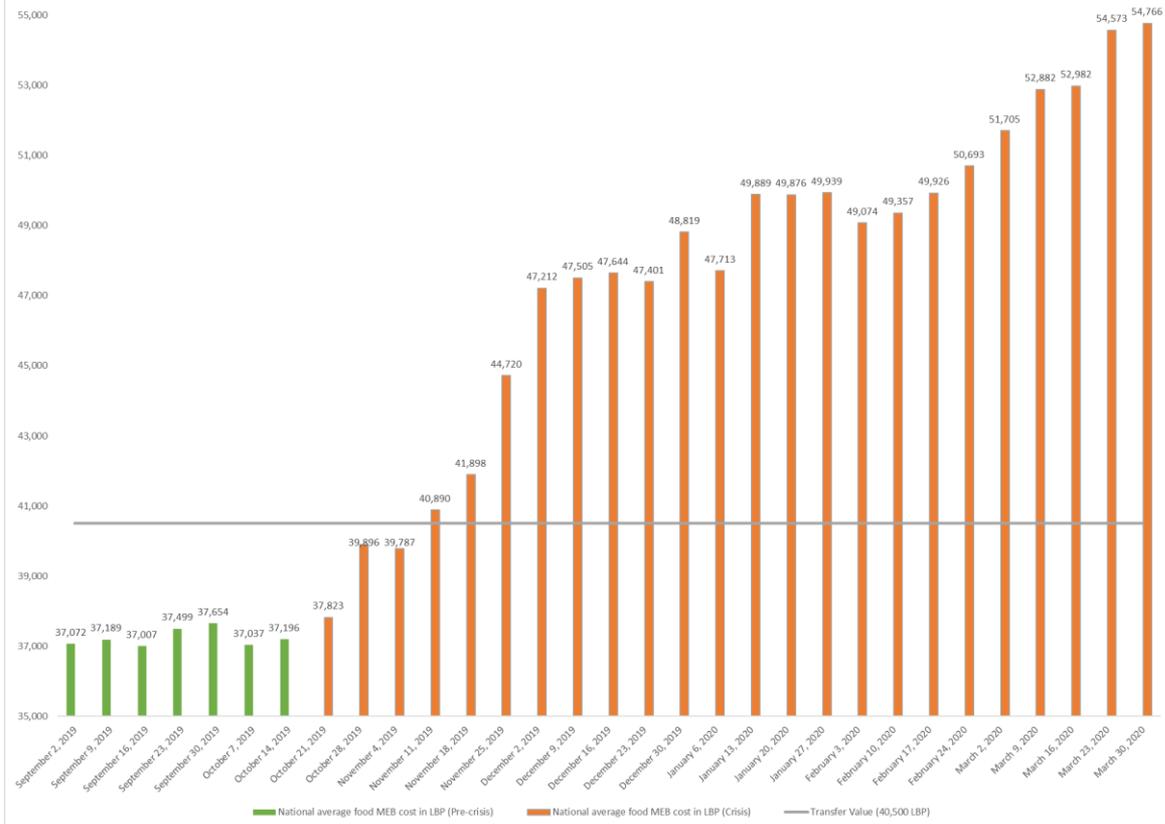
Daily (official and unofficial) exchange rate development between November 2019 and end of March 2020



- On January 22nd, syndicate of exchanges set a maximum buy value of 2000 LBP. Black market emerges with a higher rate.
- Black market rate steadily increased from its emergence, reaching the 2700 LBP barrier on March 5th.
- On March 5th, Central Bank issued a circular forbidding exchange houses of trading at a higher value than 2000 LBP. Small drop in rate, however minimal implementation of the circular by exchange houses, which continue trading at higher rates.
- With the announcement of the mobilization on March 16th, rate resumed its increase, reaching the 2800 LBP by the end of March, 85% above the official exchange rate of 1507.5 LBP

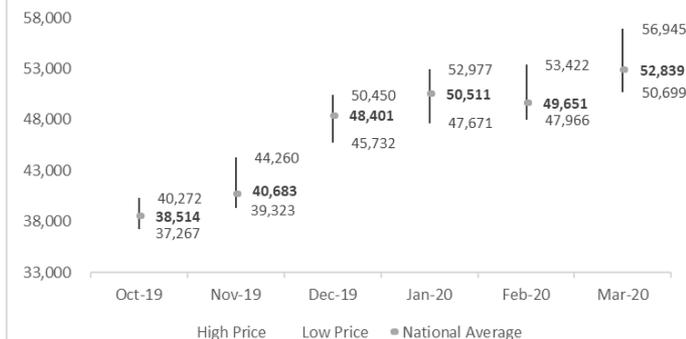
Change of weekly & monthly food SMEB price in LPB (national average)

Weekly Food Survival Minimum Basket cost in Lebanon (Sept 2019 - March 2020) in LBP



- In March 2020, the national food basket price was approx. 52,839 LBP. The highest food basket price was found in Beirut (56,945 LBP), and the lowest in Akkar (50,699 LBP).
- Approx. 47% percent weekly food price (SMEB basket) increase between the week of the 14 October 2019 and the week of 30 March 2020

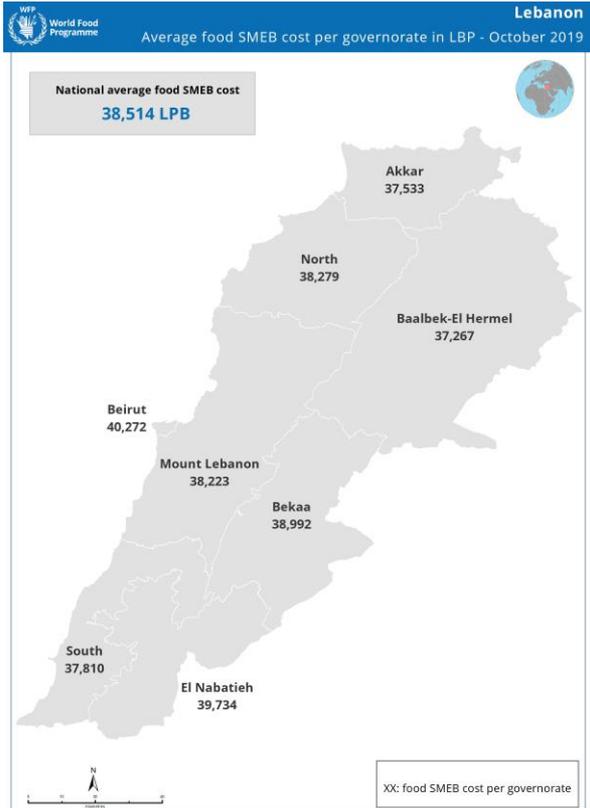
Minimum and Maximum Food SMEB Cost (LBP)



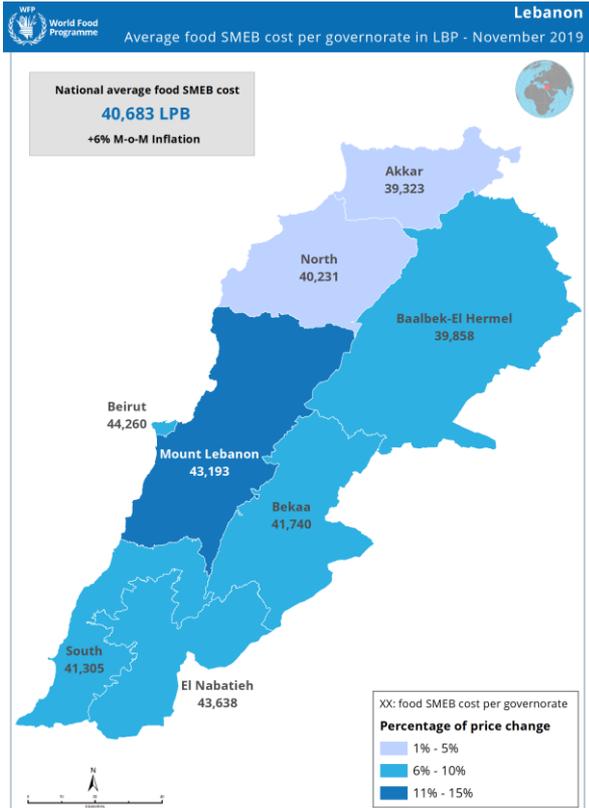
Source: WFP price data, 2019 & 2020, as of 6 April 2020, subject to changes



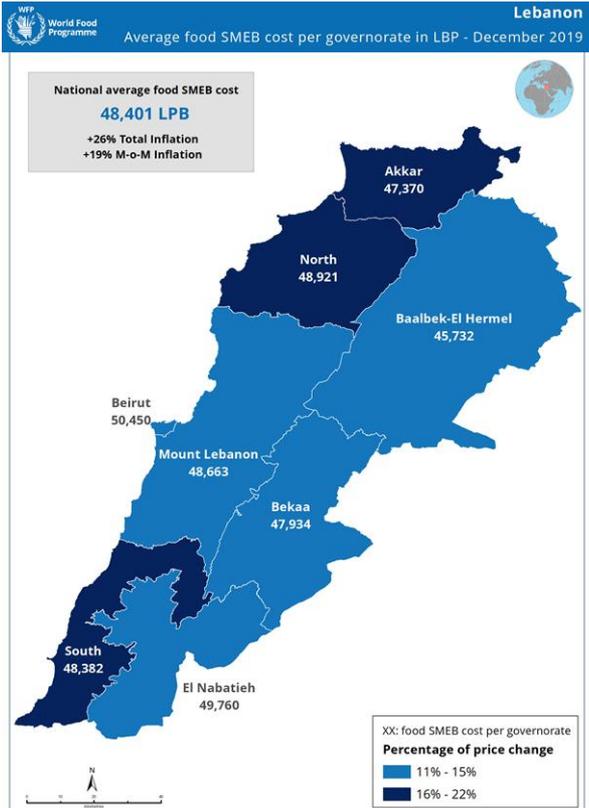
Monthly average change of SMEB food basket price in % per Governorate – October to December 2019



Date Created: Oct 2019 - Contact: lebanon.mevam@wfp.org
 Website: www.wfp.org/countries/lebanon
 Data sources: Weekly Shop Phone Survey © World Food Programme 2020

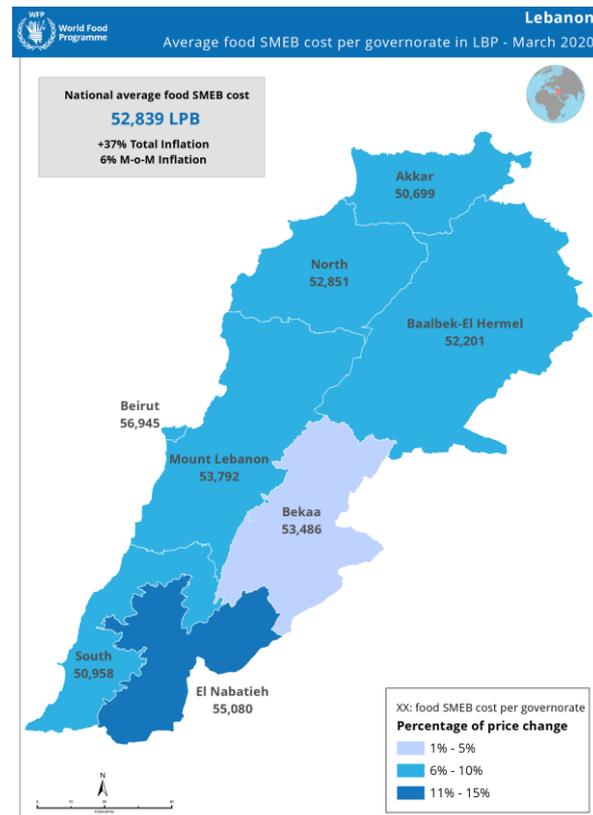
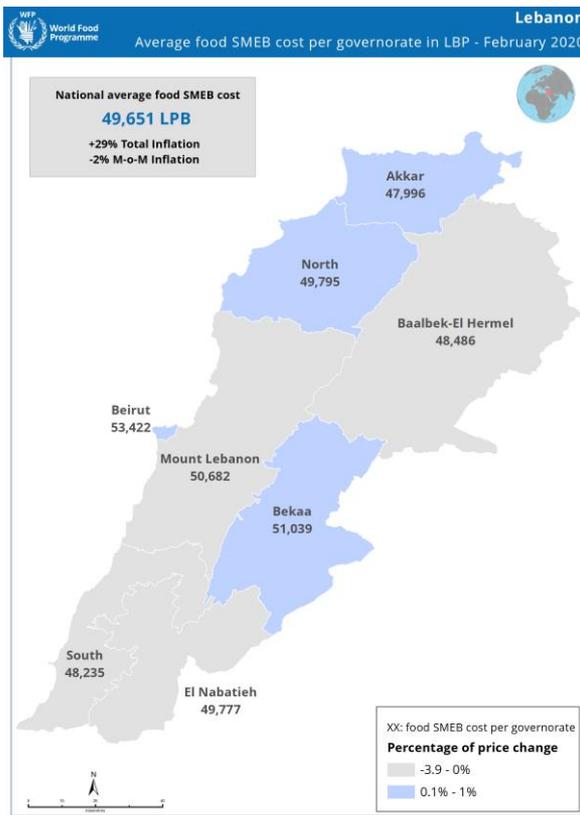
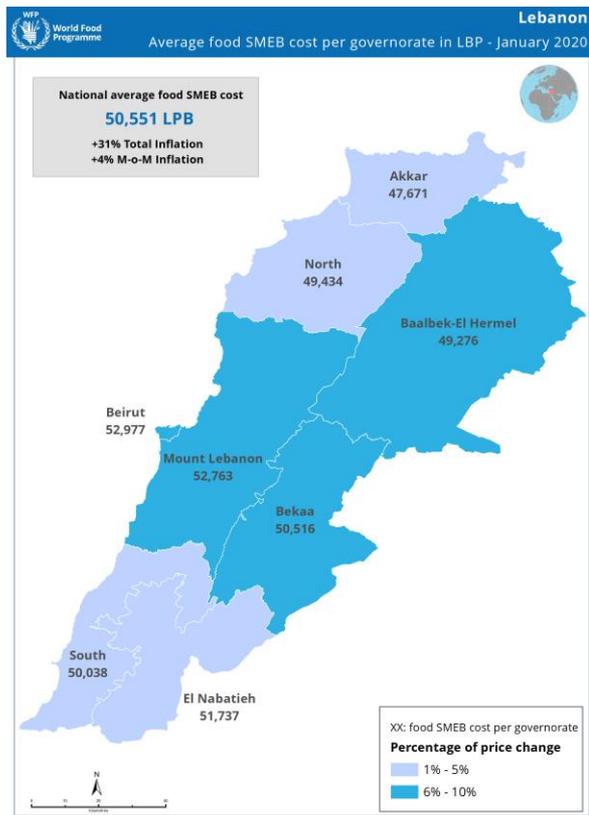


Date Created: Nov 2019 - Contact: lebanon.mevam@wfp.org
 Website: www.wfp.org/countries/lebanon
 Data sources: Weekly Shop Phone Survey © World Food Programme 2020



Date Created: Dec 2019 - Contact: lebanon.mevam@wfp.org
 Website: www.wfp.org/countries/lebanon
 Data sources: Weekly Shop Phone Survey © World Food Programme 2020

Monthly average change of SMEB food basket price in % per Governorate - January 2020 to March 2020



Date Created: Jan 2020 - Contact: lebanon.mevam@wfp.org
Website: www.wfp.org/countries/lebanon

Data sources:
Weekly Shop Phone Survey

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Date Created: Feb 2020 - Contact: lebanon.mevam@wfp.org
Website: www.wfp.org/countries/lebanon

Data sources:
Weekly Shop Phone Survey

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Date Created: Mar 2020 - Contact: lebanon.mevam@wfp.org
Website: www.wfp.org/countries/lebanon

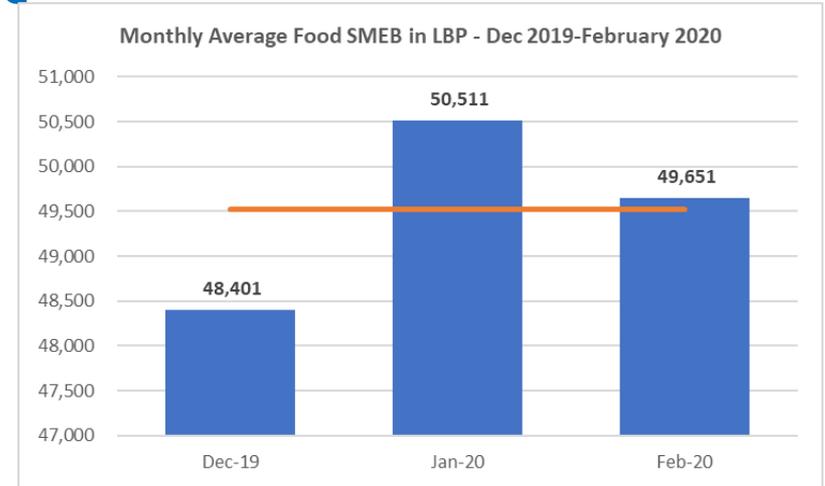
Data sources:
Weekly Shop Phone Survey

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Adjustment of the Food Transfer Value

Background

- The SMEB food component comprises a basket of eight commodities, adequate for one person for one month: rice (6kg), bulgur (3.9kg), pasta (1.5kg), white beans (1.5kg), sugar (1.5kg), sunflower oil (0.9l), salt (0.3kg), and canned meat (1.14kg).
- The market price of the SMEB food component was measured in 2014 and adjusted in 2015 to determine the transfer value (TV) for food assistance: USD 27 equivalent to LBP 40,500 at the official exchange
- Due to both price stability since 2016 and reluctance to revisit the SMEB composition/price, this transfer value has remained unchanged until now, as the amount was sufficient to cover this food basket.
- Already in February, FSSWG partners discussed to adjust the Food Transfer Value.



Adjustment

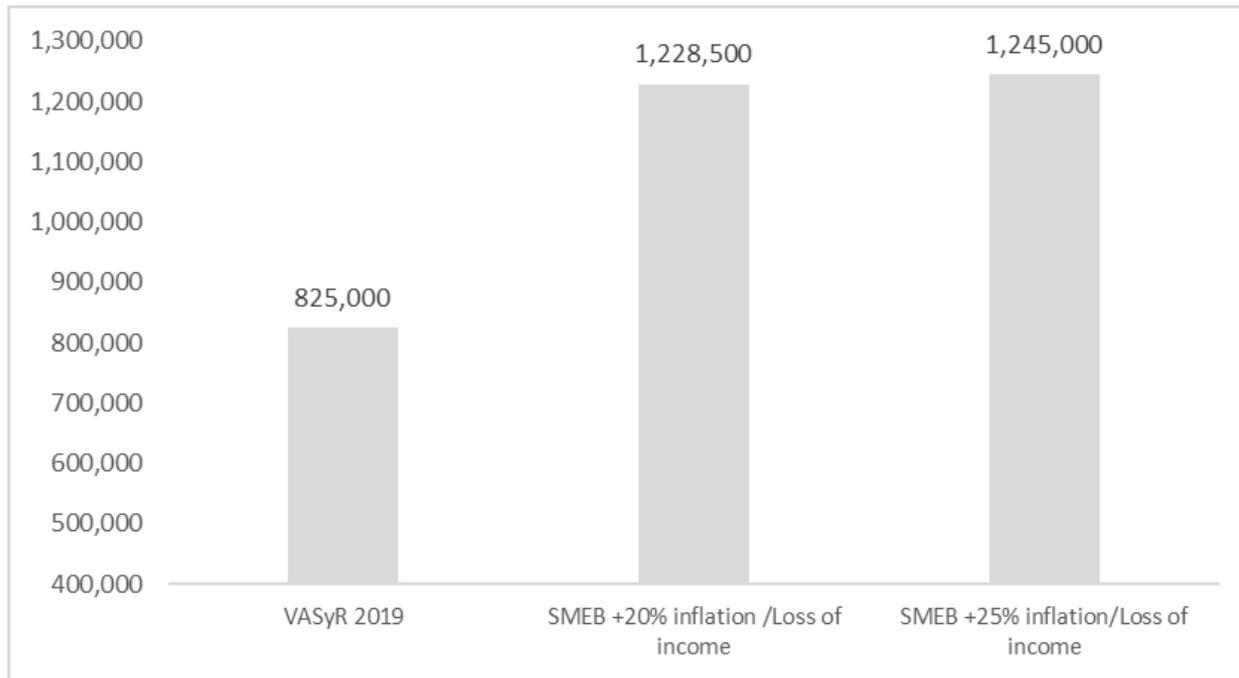
- The average Food SMEB cost between December 2019 and February 2020, based on the prices collected from WFP contacted shops, was 49,521 LBP (see orange line in graph), 22% higher than the TV of 40,500 LBP.
- Considering the close correlation between the prices of food commodities (mostly imported) with the de facto devaluation of the LBP against the USD, and the unlikelihood of a recovery of the LBP, it is not expected that the level of food prices will go back to their previous level any time soon.
- Based on the above, in order to align the food transfer value with the current prices of the SMEB Food basket (based on the three month average of Dec 2019 – Feb 2020) the transfer value was increased to 50,000 LBP effective April 2020, to ensure that eligible Lebanese (under the NPTP) and refugee families are able to meet their minimum survival food needs.

Using the VASyR 2019 data to estimate the percentage of households that could fall below the SMEB using different inflation scenarios

Selected scenarios:

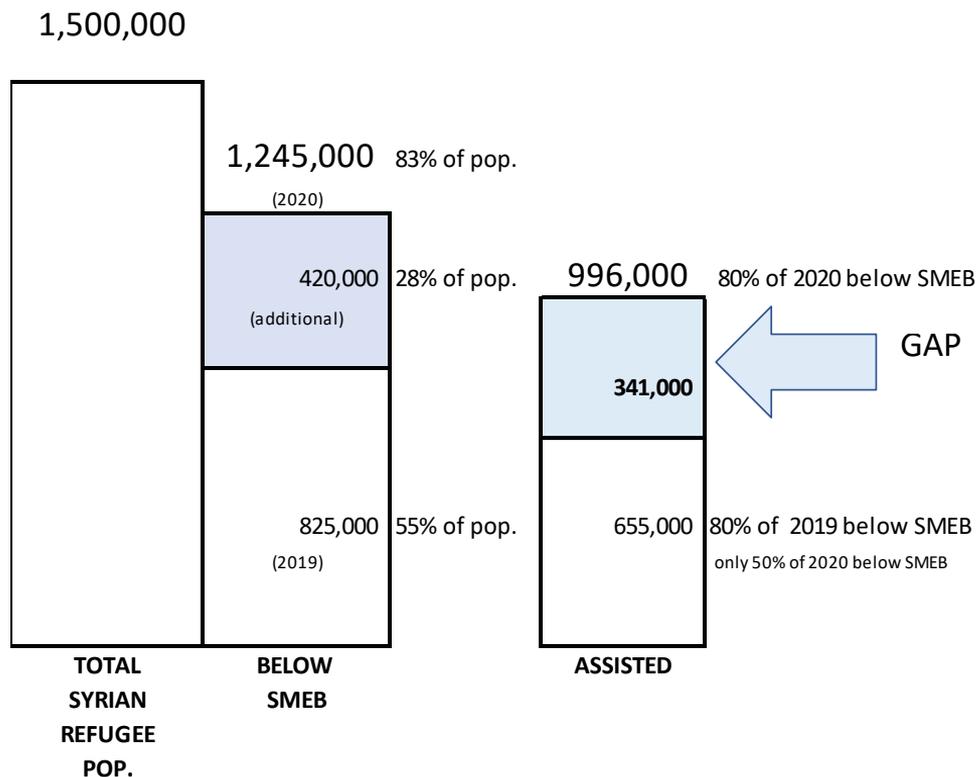
- Inflate the S/MEB 2014 thresholds by 25%; This scenario is informed by the latest government inflation forecast figures ;
- Inflate the S/MEB 2014 thresholds by 50%; This is a worse case scenario should the country face extreme import shortages and further restrictions (due to COVID 19) leading to a further decline in income activities;
- Subtract the income of the total household (hh) expenditures; and
- Combine the subtraction of hh expenditure and above 20% and 25% inflation scenario.

Loss of Income Impact Scenario (with 20% or 25% inflation): An additional 50% Syrian Refugees would fall below the SMEB due to both shocks



When combining both scenarios (inflation and loss of income) the 2020 food assistance and basic needs assistance should target at least 1.2 million falling below the SMEB

2020 Vulnerability Projections & Assistance Gap



Factoring in inflation (25%) and the lack of income opportunities:

- Refugees under the SMEB (825,000 in 2019) could number **1,245,000** now
- This represents a **51% increase in extreme vulnerability** over last year
- This leaves **590,000 extremely vulnerable refugees unassisted**
- To match even the **current coverage of assistance (80% of below SMEB)**, assistance should step up to reach an **additional 341,000 extremely vulnerable refugees**



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Mapping of partners response under COVID 19



Mapping of partners' ongoing and planned interventions under COVID-19, on the basis on inputs that NGOs have provided until 7 April and that need to be updated by partners (fundraising)

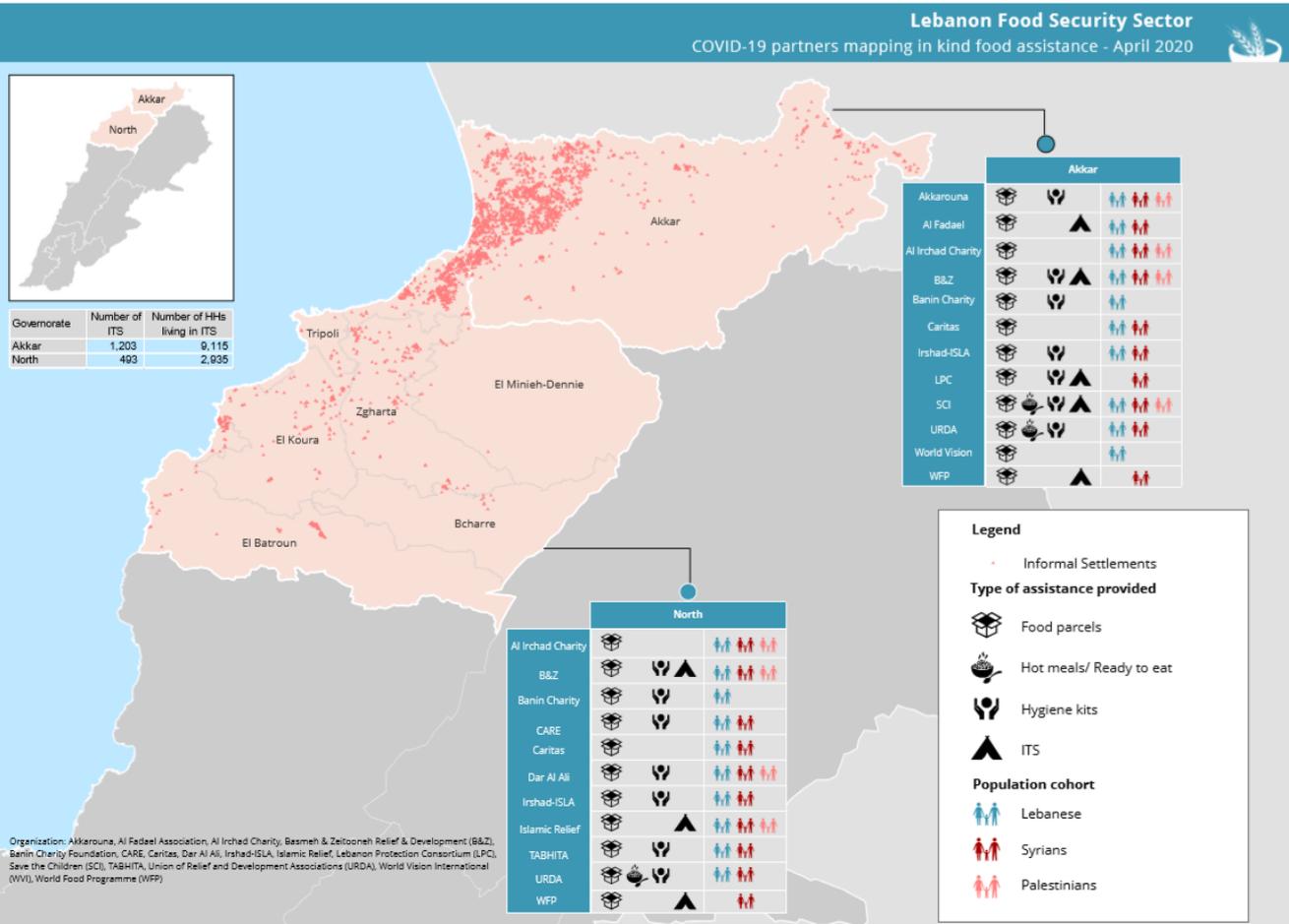
When details were not provided by partners, assumptions were made by dividing parcels evenly between cohorts and geographic areas

There are approximately 217,500 food parcels/hot meals that include planned and ongoing assistance for all population cohorts.

Note that part of the assistance is planned either for Ramadan distributions after 20 April or in case of ITS quarantine.

Note that a number of the planned interventions are waiting for donors' approval

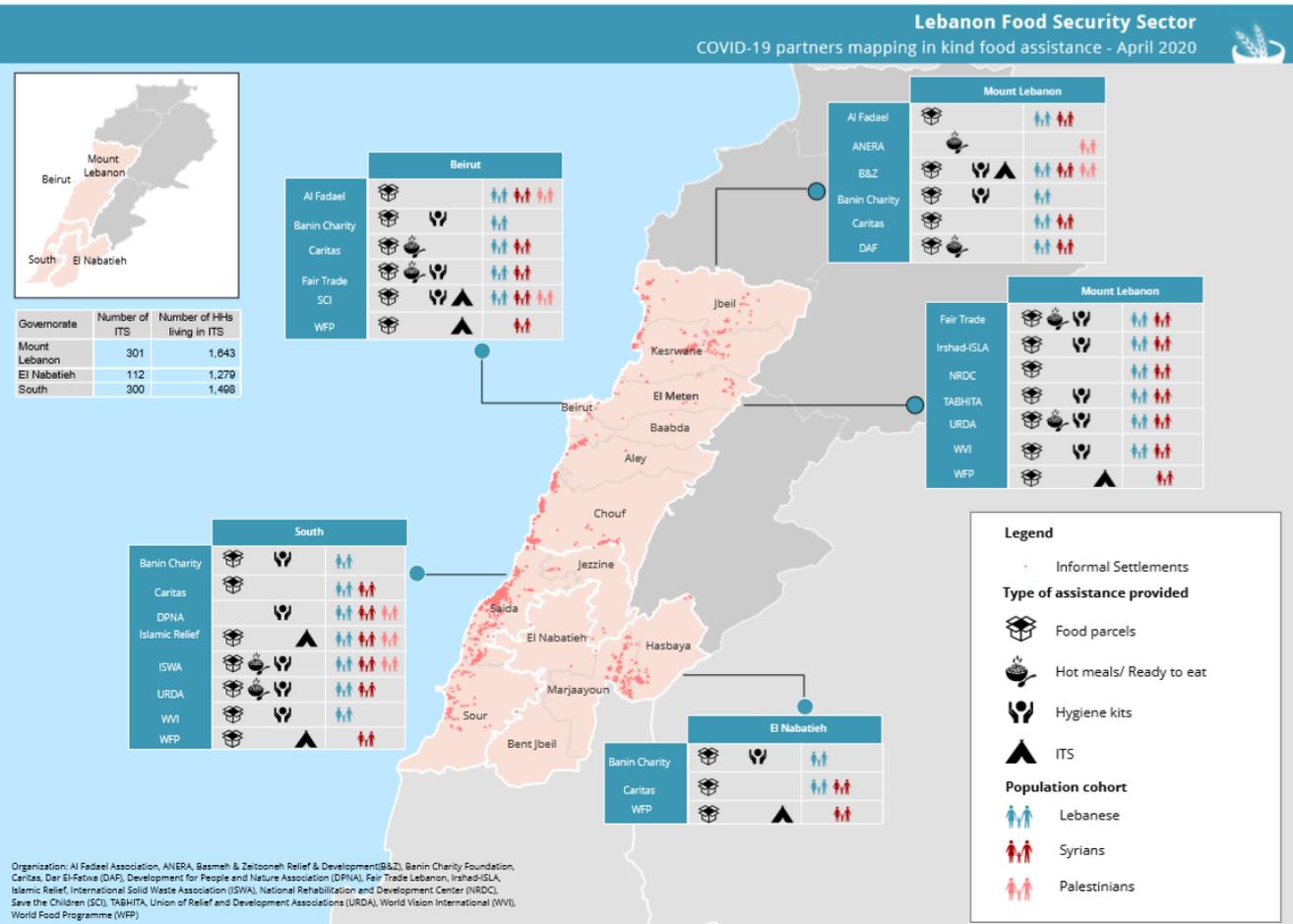
North – COVID 19 ongoing/planned response



The maps represent the partners that have an ongoing or planned support through different food assistance modality under COVID-19 by governorate



South - COVID 19 ongoing/planned response

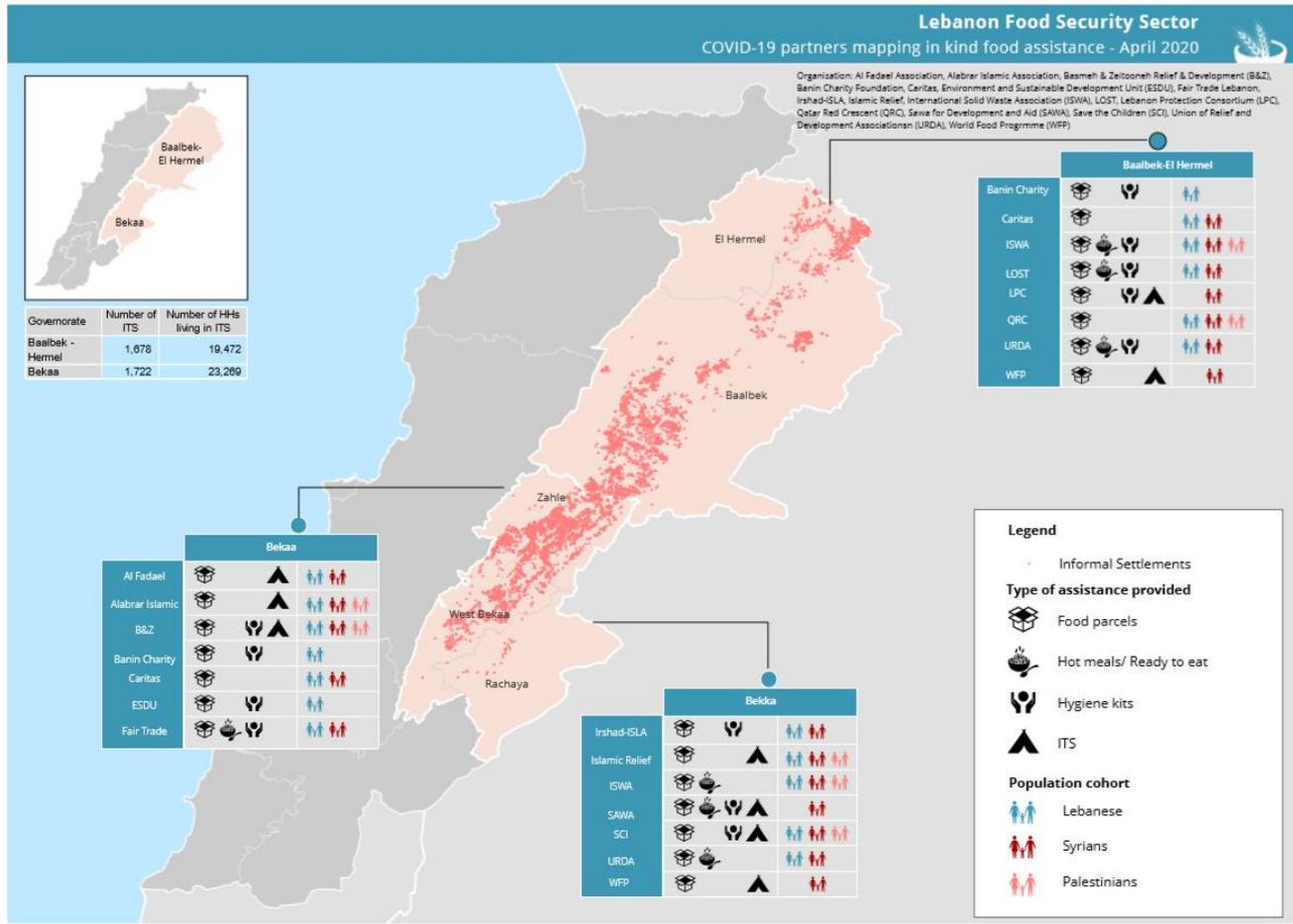


The map shows the partners have an ongoing or planned support through different food assistance modality under COVID



Organization: Al Fadael Association, ANERA, Basmeh & Zeitooneh Relief & Development (B&Z), Banin Charity Foundation, Caritas, Dar El-Fataha (DAF), Development for People and Nature Association (DPNA), Fair Trade Lebanon, Irshad-ISLA, Islamic Relief, International Solid Waste Association (ISWA), National Rehabilitation and Development Center (NRDC), Save the Children (SCI), TABHITA, Union of Relief and Development Associations (URDA), World Vision International (WVI), World Food Programme (WFP)

Baalbek-Bekaa - COVID 19 ongoing/planned response



The maps represent the partners that have an ongoing or planned support through different food assistance modality under COVID-19 by governorate

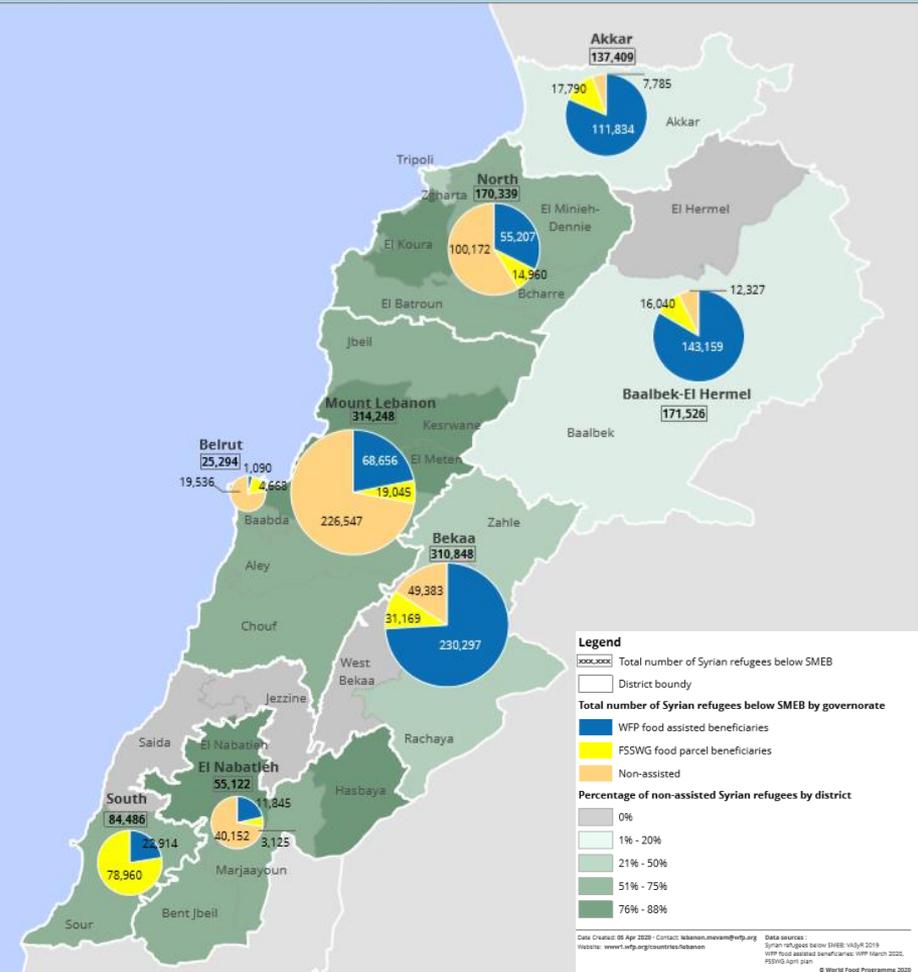


- Focusing on the **Syrian refugees** and after deducing the “Ramadan” and “ITS” specific assistance plans, approximately **37,100 food parcels** are available for the first weeks of April
- Estimated coverage **185,000** Syrians
- This assistance is however earmarked by partners for Akkar, Baalbek and Bekaa
- Gaps are found in Mount Lebanon, North and Nabathie





Gap analysis (SMEB 25% inflation and loss of income)



- Factoring in inflation (25%) and the lack of income opportunities, is estimated that **1,245,000** refugees will be falling below the SMEB.
- Currently **655,000** Syrians are receiving food assistance by WFP
- Beginning of April 2020:** The gap of vulnerable refugees that are neither assisted by WFP nor by partners currently implementing COVID-19 response could be estimated at **405,000** individuals.

FSS current actions under COVID 19



- Feed into appeal with partners' funding gaps (based on partners' inputs)
- Guidance on food parcel composition 1 month/guidance on food distribution
- Currently being translated into Arabic
- Continue to update mapping with inputs from new partners and confirmation from current ones of funds availability
- Set up a referral system for individual cases using service mapping and call center (next slide)
- Partners that are available for referrals to continue update the AI online service mapping with the services they can provide



- Regional coordination activated and regional coordination meetings planned on 10 April and 14 April to focus on:
 - Partners' updates on their response and confirmation of their plans
 - Partners' preparedness level and distribution modality for L3/4 ITS quarantine scenarios
 - Mobilization of volunteers from partners that have logistics capacity under the L3/4 ITS quarantine scenarios
 - Briefing on referral system for partners accepting referrals

Referral road map



- Food related complaints and referrals have to be actioned similarly to all type of referrals using the Inter-Agency referrals SOPs
- FSS service mapping is being updated on the online inter-sector mapping on Activity info and the offline sheet also
- Call centre complaints divided into two main categories - both actioned by WFP with the coordination of the FSS partners and other relevant actors and UN agencies:
 - Need assistance (not a current WFP/UNHCR beneficiary): Complaints will be prioritized, processed, referred to partners who reported that they can assist with food parcels.
 - WFP beneficiaries reported unable to redeem will be analysed on daily basis and proper action will be discussed by WFP with relevant partners for response on individual or multiple cases.
- Partners receiving similar complaints for food assistance have now access to the Activity info and offline service mapping and food complaints referrals can be actioned similarly as all type of referrals, in alignment with the Inter-Agency referral SOPs already in place



Referral road map



- Given the limited capacity, we acknowledge that part of the referrals will be not actioned therefore we have to capture all these challenges and gaps and share it back with the sector

Inter-Agency Referral Tools



**Inter-Agency
Coordination**
Lebanon





Agenda



1. Introduction



2. IA Minimum Standards on referrals



3. Inter- Sector Service Mapping



4. IA Referral Monitoring System



5. Q&A / Closing

What is a Referral ?

- A **referral** is the process of directing an individual or household, to another service provider because s/he requires further action to meet an identified need which is beyond the expertise or scope of the current service provider.

Inter-Agency Referral Tools

**Inter-Agency Minimum
Standard on Referral**

**Inter-Sector Service
Mapping**

**Inter-Agency Referral
Monitoring platform**

Inter-Agency Minimum Standards on Referrals

INTER-AGENCY MINIMUM STANDARD ON REFERRALS

Organisational staff and community focal points, often come across refugees' and host community members' in need of assistance which is outside the expertise or scope of their own program. Frontline workers can be sources of information on available services and can serve as entry points to connect people to the services and assistance they need. This is done either by putting them in direct contact with the necessary service provider or by informing them about how to seek the service themselves.

This guidance aims to support a consistent inter-agency understanding and approach for the safe identification and referral of people and communities between services, and it provides a minimum standard for safe and accountable referrals.

WHAT IS A REFERRAL?

A referral is the process of directing an individual, household, or community to another service provider because s/he requires further action to meet an identified need which is beyond the expertise or scope of the current service provider and/or to avoid duplication of services, when there is an agreed geographical division of services.

A self-referral, is the process of an individual making a request for assistance to the needed service provider themselves, either in person or by phone.

WHAT ARE THE GUIDING PRINCIPLES?



RESPECT CONFIDENTIALITY

By only sharing disclosed information and only allowing access to it after informed consent from the person is obtained.

By ensuring information is collected, stored and shared in a safe way.

By only collecting and sharing the minimum information required - on a 'need to know' basis - to allow the service provider to respond to the referral.



OBTAIN INFORMED CONSENT

By seeking oral, and where possible, written permission directly from the person to proceed with recording their information and/or with conducting a referral for them.

By ensuring the person has the capacity, maturity and adequate information to know what they are agreeing to.

Only in three exceptional circumstances, where there are indications that a person is planning to take his/her own life, or planning to harm the safety of others, or where a child is at imminent risk of harm, can you conduct a referral without informed consent. For children, always consider the best interest of the child.



DO NOT RAISE EXPECTATIONS

By clearly explaining the steps of the referral process and the expected time frame to the person, and avoid making promises about the outcome of the referral.



RESPECT CHOICES AND DECISION-MAKING CAPACITIES

By listening in a non-judgmental manner, and accepting the persons choices and decisions. This is particularly important for survivors, of gender-based violence.



PRIORITIZE THE SAFETY AND SECURITY OF THE INDIVIDUAL FIRST

By considering and communicating the risks that the person might face when accessing the service or assistance.

REFERRAL PROCESS



SAFE IDENTIFICATION



1. SAFELY IDENTIFY THE INDIVIDUAL / HOUSEHOLD

- Introduce yourself, your role and your organization.
- Prioritize their immediate safety and security.
- Find a safe, confidential and quiet place to talk.
- Actively listen to understand what his/her capacities are to access the service.



2. PROVIDE INFORMATION ON AVAILABLE SERVICES

- Refer to the Inter-Sector Service Mapping to understand what services and assistance are available in your area.
- Inform the person about the services and assistance available which may address his/her need. Explain how he/she can access these services, including what personal information may need to be shared, and what risks he/she may face when accessing this service. If available, provide information materials or the Service Note, for further explanation.



3. OBTAIN INFORMED CONSENT

- Ask if he/she would like to be referred to the relevant service provider. If yes, proceed to ask for informed consent.
- If consent is not obtained, do not proceed with the referral. Instead, explain to him/her how to access the service themselves and provide relevant hotline numbers and materials to help him/her access the service at a later stage.
- Please see the guiding principles for the three exceptional circumstances where you can proceed with a referral without informed consent.



REFERRAL MANAGEMENT



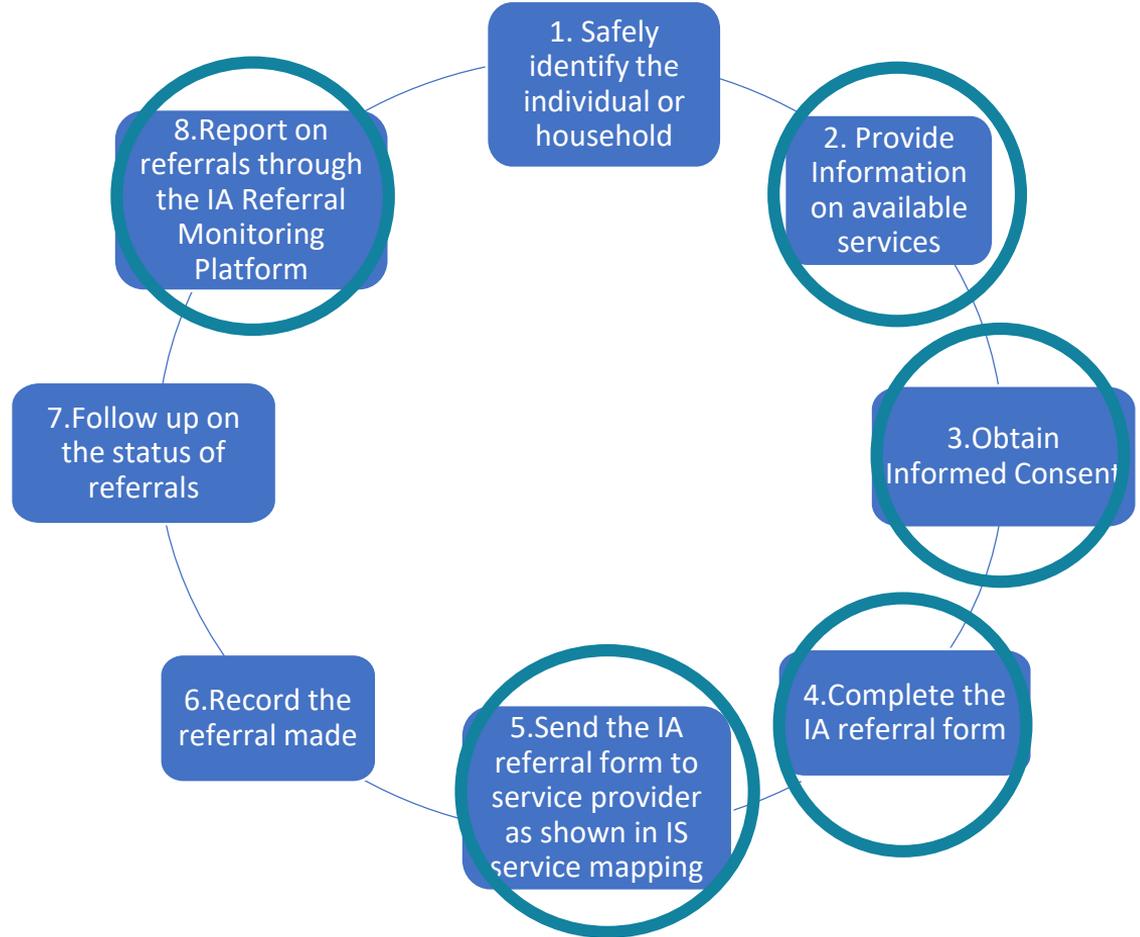
4. COMPLETE THE INTER-AGENCY REFERRAL FORM

- Only capture the minimum information required by the service provider to respond to the referral.
- Determine how quickly the service provider needs to respond to the referral. Assess each case based on its own circumstances.

	HIGH RISK (FAST TRACK)	MEDIUM / LOW RISK
DETERMINATION	Serious imminent risk to personal safety (life threatening situation) requiring immediate intervention within 1-48 hours.	Likelihood of serious risk to personal safety requiring speedy intervention within 1-14 days.

Referral Process

There are 8 main steps in the referral process and the service mapping is essential to complete these steps.



Inter-Sector Service Mapping

Inter-Sector Service Mapping



Access to up-to-date & accurate information on services and assistance across all sectors and governorates in Lebanon



Captures adequate information to facilitate referrals in a timely manner (eligibility, referral protocol, contact info)



Helps us to share relevant information with people on available services & assistance to allow for us to collect informed consent



Supports coordination as enables us to identify gaps in service coverage and duplication



The status of services can be updated in a timely manner and with minimal effort at times of emergency

Inter-Agency Referral Monitoring Platform

Inter-Agency Referral Monitoring



Enhances accountability for affected people



Referral trend analysis informs programmatic & strategic decision-making as it identifies blockages and gaps in responsiveness, as well as, requests for services



Captures referral data from RAIS & RIMS to provide an overview of referral trends

Quarter Dashboard:

- **Field Dashboard**
- **Sector/Governorate Dashboard**



For troubleshooting:

- To send **Reporting Guidance + PPT**
- email akil@unhcr.org or stupalov@unhcr.org
- North: Estephan@unhcr.org



- ILO reaching out to partners working in agriculture: “Employment Intensive Infrastructure Programme in Lebanon” suspended. ILO looking for alternative activities in collaboration with other partners: if interested please contact Peter Farah, farahp@ilo.org
- Remember to update AI LCRP 2020 database



Thank you!

Contact us @:

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