



Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations



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Crisis overview

The ongoing escalation of the conflict in Lebanon is exacerbating the vulnerabilities of agriculture-dependent communities and compounding the pre-existing food security crisis across the country. Before this escalation, Lebanon was already grappling with the impacts of a multitude of successive crises, including a protracted refugee situation, COVID-19, the Beirut Port explosion, social and political turmoil and a severe economic downturn. Lebanon's gross domestic product shrank by 67 percent between 2018 and 2023, and over the past decade, poverty has tripled, impacting almost half of the population.¹

Rural communities in Lebanon, already facing disproportionately high levels of poverty, are now experiencing widespread damage to agricultural lands, assets and infrastructure. Many farmers have been forced to abandon their land, and those who remain cannot access essential agricultural inputs, such as seeds and fertilizers. Livestock keepers are struggling with feed shortages. Key crops, including olives and wheat, have been heavily impacted. Over 1 909 hectares of farmland in the South and Nabatieh governorates have been damaged or remain unharvested due to the ongoing conflict.¹ In March 2024, one-third of wheat farmers reported being unable to plant their crops, with 27 percent reporting losses of stored cereals and pulses, and 23 percent reporting the loss of critical production inputs. Livestock keepers reported extensive damage to shelters and the loss of more than 340 000 animals.¹ The conflict has further disrupted agrifood markets and supply chains, preventing farmers from transporting produce and consumers from accessing it.

Currently, over 1.26 million people in Lebanon are facing high acute food insecurity, including 85 000 facing Emergency levels of food insecurity.¹ As the conflict continues to escalate, ongoing food security and agricultural assessments are expected to reveal even higher levels of damage and losses. Rural communities are exhausting their coping strategies, and the number of food-insecure people is likely to rise.

Protecting the livelihoods of smallholder farmers and livestock keepers is crucial to enabling them to feed themselves and their communities. In support of national efforts led by the Government of Lebanon, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) is scaling up its emergency and resilience assistance to rural communities across Lebanon. Additionally, FAO is reprogramming existing projects to focus on supporting conflict-affected rural communities.

With the winter planting season already underway, the window of opportunity to support rural communities is limited. Delays in protecting rural livelihoods will result in more people falling into poverty, food insecurity and dependence on food aid.

Lebanon

Emergency appeal



To assist
15 000 households
(75 000 people)



FAO requires
USD 5.5 million



Period
October–December 2024

Objectives

- ▶ Enable the most vulnerable farming and livestock-keeping households to protect their livelihoods and sustain production.
- ▶ Continue providing national partners and the humanitarian community with evidence-based information on agriculture and food security.

Planned response

- Provide 15 000 farming and livestock-keeping households, including internally displaced households, with unconditional cash transfers to enable them to access essential inputs and prevent them from depleting their assets and resources.
- Support the Lebanese Ministry of Agriculture (MoA) and the humanitarian community in conducting key agricultural and food security assessments and analyses. Planned assessments include rapid needs assessment (October); the eighth round of Data in Emergencies surveys, monitoring/impact assessment (October); rapid geospatial assessment (November); and damage and loss assessment (December).

Coordination

As a member of the Humanitarian Country Team (HCT) and a co-lead of the Food Security and Agriculture Cluster along with the World Food Programme, FAO is supporting the efforts of the Government of Lebanon in line with the **Flash Appeal (October–December 2024)** and other existing frameworks. FAO and the MoA have also established the Agriculture Working Group within the Food Security and Agriculture Cluster as an operational advisory forum for enhancing sectoral analyses and coordinating agricultural interventions. FAO works closely with HCT members as well as national and international civil society actors.

Notes

- 1 **OCHA**. 2024. *Lebanon: Flash Appeal, October–December 2024*. Beirut. <https://www.unocha.org/publications/report/lebanon/flash-appeal-lebanon-october-december-2024-october-2024>
- 2 **IPC**. 2023. *Lebanon: Acute Food Insecurity Projection Update for April–September 2024*. Rome. <https://www.ipcinfo.org/ipc-country-analysis/details-map/en/c/1157035/?iso3=LBN>
- 3 **UNHCR**. 2024. *Lebanon Emergency Flash Update – 18 October 2024*. Beirut. <https://reliefweb.int/report/lebanon/unhcr-lebanon-emergency-flash-update-18-october-2024>
- 4 **FAO**. 2024. *Lebanon: Impact of the escalation of hostilities on agricultural livelihoods and food security in southern Lebanon – DIEM-Impact report, September 2024*. Rome. <https://doi.org/10.4060/cd2446en>
- 5 Based on data from satellite imagery and remote sensing, covering the period from 7 October 2023 to 28 September 2024. The data was obtained from the National Council for Scientific Research of Lebanon, through bilateral communication with FAO.

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Situation analysis



1.26 million people are facing high acute food insecurity (April–September 2024)²



779 600 people are internally displaced (as of 19 October 2024)³



340 000 animals were lost (as of 25 March 2024)⁴



1 909 hectares of farmland in the South and Nabatieh governorates have been damaged or remain unharvested (as of 28 September 2024)⁵

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