



World Food Programme  
Programme Alimentaire Mondial  
Programa Mundial de Alimentos  
برنامج الأغذية العالمي

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LIVES

## **WFP News Video Shows People Receiving Desperately Needed Food in Aftermath of Devastating Blast in Lebanon**

**Shot: 9-11 August 2020**

**LEBANON - Beirut, Tripoli**

**TRT: 2:59**

### **SHOTLIST:**

**:00-:52**

GVs of destruction in Beirut Port including capsized ships, nearby buildings with shattered windows and destroyed grain silos. Before the explosion 85% of all food in Lebanon arrived through Beirut Port. Various shots of WFP Executive Director David Beasley viewing the destruction at the port.

**Shot: 9Aug**

**Beirut**

**:52-1:19**

Various shots of WFP cargo flight from Brindisi, at Beirut Airport. Offloading equipment for mobile warehouse construction.

**Shot: 10Aug**

**Beirut Airport**

**1:19-1:37**

**SOT David Beasley – WFP Executive Director (English):**

*“85% of all the food brought into Lebanon comes through that port and it’s critical that we get it operational again so were bringing in mobile cranes as well as mobile warehousing forklifts you name it, everything necessary to get it operational again.”*

**Shot: 10Aug**

**Beirut Airport**

**1:37-2:31**



Various shots of damage inflicted on buildings in the Mar Mikhael neighborhood. GV's of communal kitchen using WFP food supported by Caritas and local volunteers

**Shot: 10Aug**

**Beirut**

**2:31-2:59**

GV's of Tripoli port and grain shipments. WFP is currently assessing the port's capacity to receive, unload and dispatch food in Lebanon.

**Shot: 11Aug**

**Tripoli Port**

**ENDS**

## **WFP News Release**

12 August 2020

**WFP is on the ground responding to the food needs of the most vulnerable people across Lebanon whose incomes, jobs and lives have been affected by the triple shock of the blast, COVID-19, and economic crisis. WFP is also providing immediate relief following last week's blasts.**

- As an immediate response following the blasts, WFP allocated food parcels for 5,000 highly vulnerable households and is preparing to scale up as needed. WFP has also provided food parcels to two local communal kitchens run by Caritas, a local NGO, that are providing meals to victims of the blast as well as volunteers working to clean up the debris.



- Each food package is enough to feed a family of five for one month with basic food items such as rice, pasta, bulgur, lentils, beans, chickpeas, tuna, vegetable oil, sugar, salt and tomato paste.

**WFP plans to expand its existing cash assistance programme in Lebanon to reach up to 1 million people across the country. This includes Beirut residents who have been directly affected by the blasts.**

- WFP is also planning to provide 50,000 people across Lebanon with monthly food rations for six months.
- The most vulnerable population will be identified through local and international NGOs who are engaged in the relief effort, with the assistance of community leaders and WFP partners.
- This emergency assistance WFP is launching in Lebanon requires a total of US\$235 million to provide food support to the most vulnerable as well as logistics and supply chain support to the country.

**WFP is bringing into the country a 3-month supply of wheat flour and grains for bakeries and mills to help protect against food shortages across Lebanon as the country works to rebuild its main port. The first wheat shipment is due to arrive within the coming ten days.**

- Current wheat flour reserves in the country are estimated to cover market needs for 6 weeks, whereas a 3-month supply is standard to ensure food security.
- WFP will deliver wheat flour to Beirut Port. The first batch will be a one-month supply of flour to provide immediate support to bakeries.



**WFP is providing logistical and supply chain expertise to augment Beirut Port facilities as well as support the port of Tripoli to ensure food stocks are replenished and there is no food shortage in the country.**

- Grain silos have been mostly destroyed, causing fears of skyrocketing food prices.
- WFP started airlifting mobile storage units as a temporary storage solution to replace the destroyed silos. First plane carrying equipment arrived into Beirut airport on 8 August and two additional planes are on their way.
- Given the extent of damage to Beirut Port, WFP has the capacity to launch a shipping operation that does not require port infrastructure. WFP has the capacity to ship, deliver and unload wheat flour and bulk wheat grains directly into Beirut.
- Beirut Port's Container Terminal is only partially affected and is operational as of 8 August and working on offloading ships.

**WFP is concerned that the explosion and the damage to the port will exacerbate an already grim food security situation – that has worsened because of the country's profound financial crisis and the COVID-19 pandemic.**

- Lebanon imports nearly 85 percent of its food, with over 70 percent of Lebanon's total trade activity passing through the Port of Beirut. The severe damage to the Port of Beirut – the largest in the country – could limit the flow of food supplies into the country and push food prices beyond the reach of many.
- A recent WFP survey on the impact of the economic crisis and COVID-19 outbreak and subsequent lockdown measures on livelihoods and food security revealed that food has become a major source of concern with fifty percent of Lebanese saying they felt worried they would not have enough food to eat.



**These devastating events come as Lebanon faces its worst ever financial crisis - at a time of soaring unemployment and salary cuts with many families struggling to make ends meet.**

- Currently one million people in Lebanon are living below the poverty line.
- The pandemic and subsequent lockdown measures have resulted in food becoming a major concern for many people due to rising prices and the devaluation of the Lebanese currency which has lost 80 percent of its value since last October.
- Wealthy neighbourhoods that have been affected by the blasts also have pockets of poverty with many elderly people residing across this area who may require support and middle-class residents are becoming increasingly impoverished due to the impact of the economic crisis.

**Current WFP operations**

- WFP plans to provide this month emergency food assistance for 50,000 vulnerable Lebanese families (up to 270,000 people) affected by the economic and COVID-19 crises. This plan had been set prior to the blasts.
- WFP currently assists 105,000 Lebanese with WFP food e-cards through the government's National Poverty Targeting Programme (a joint endeavour with the Ministry of Social Affairs and the Presidency of the Council of Ministers).
- WFP has also partnered with the Education ministry to distribute food packages to the families of 13,000 students who were enrolled in WFP's school feeding programme before schools closed due to the pandemic.
- To address the impact of rampant inflation in Lebanon, since WFP adjusted the value of the food assistance it provides via e-cards - from



40,500 in April to 70,000 Lebanese pounds in July and August so beneficiaries are able to fully meet their food needs.

- WFP is working on expanding these programmes to include more explosion-affected vulnerable groups; assessments are required before this can be sensibly estimated.

**Download photos [here](#)**

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