**Project Summary**

The ESSN is a US$246 million 3-year project that will provide cash transfers and access to social services to extreme poor and vulnerable Lebanese populations affected by the economic and COVID-19 crises. The ESSN aims to arrest the increase in extreme poverty and to preserve the human capital of 13 – 18 years old children enrolled in public schools. The ESSN also aims to build a sustainable national social safety net (SSN) system in Lebanon.

The ESSN will scale-up and enhance the National Poverty Targeting Program (NPTP): Lebanon’s main poverty-targeting social assistance program launched in 2011 with financial and technical assistance from the World Bank.

**Country Relevance and Context**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Poverty</th>
<th>Extreme Poverty</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>25.6%</td>
<td>45%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2020</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>22%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(As of March)

**ESSN Project Beneficiaries & Assistance Packages**

- **786,000 Individuals**
  - 147,000 extreme poor Lebanese households will receive cash assistance uploaded monthly onto a pre-paid card.
  - Amount can be cashed out at ATMs or food shops.
  - Implemented by WFP.

- **87,000 Students**
  - aged between 13 and 18 yearsold children enrolled in public schools
  - will receive a top-up cash transfer to cover all direct costs of schooling
  - one year
  - between LBP 1,235,000 and LBP 1,921,920 (depending on grade and stream of education)
  - for the scholastic year 2021/22

**Access to Quality Social Services**

- 100,000 individuals from vulnerable households

**Capacity Building**

- to MOSA social workers at the central level and at the local SDC levels

**Expanding Existing Systems**

The roll out of the ESSN project will allow to extend coverage from 1.5% to 20% of the Lebanese population

**Social Safety Net Delivery System**

- ESSN will help build a comprehensive Social Safety Net Delivery System that can respond to future shocks
- An integrated National Social Registry to allow the prompt and efficient identification of beneficiary households based on the assessment of their needs and living condition

**Selection of Beneficiaries**

- Proxy-Means Testing (PMT) methodology: poverty score calculated based on wealth, assets, and demographic characteristics
- Categorical targeting to prioritize socially vulnerable groups
- Across all Lebanese territories

**Poverty Impact / Outcomes**

- Covers 20% of the population
- Extreme Poverty: 21.8% (Current: 9.5%, Target: 5.6%)
- Poverty Gap: 13.9% (Current: 9.2%, Target: 3.6%)
- Extreme Poverty Gap: 5.6% (Current: 3.6%)