



HIGHLIGHTS

876,447

individuals receiving assistance to cope with the 2016-2017 winter season

USD 50.5 million

total provided in multi-purpose cash in 2016

Over 260,000

primary health care consultations in 2016

Over 580

outreach volunteers mobilized in communities

Population of concern

A total of **1.033 million** registered refugees (as of 31 December 2016)

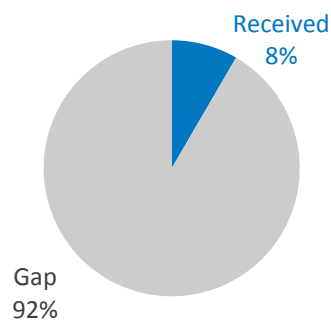
By country of origin

Country	Total registered refugees
Syrian Arab Republic	1,011,366
Iraq	18,622
Sudan	1,851
Other	1,288
Total	1,033,127

Funding

USD 453 million requested

USD 38 million received (8.4%)



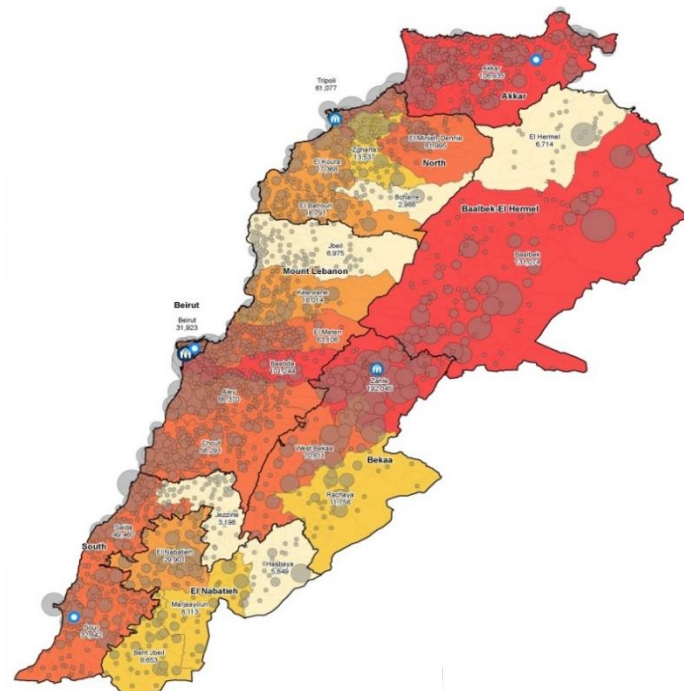
UNHCR Presence

Staff:

511 national staff
114 international staff




Offices:

6 offices located in:
Beirut, Mount Lebanon, Qobayyat, Tripoli, Tyre, and Zahle











Registered Syrian Refugees








UNHCR Offices

-  Branch Office
-  Sub Office
-  Field Office

No. of Refugees per District

-  3,000 - 8,000
-  8,000 - 16,000
-  16,000 - 30,000
-  30,000 - 90,000
-  90,000 - 192,045

-  Governorate
-  District
-  Cadastral

-  1 - 300
-  300 - 1,000
-  1,000 - 2,000
-  2,000 - 5,000
-  5,000 - 10,000
-  10,000 - 20,000
-  20,000 - 43,000

MAIN ACTIVITIES

Protection

- The protection space for Syrian refugees in Lebanon has been notably reduced since 2015. Admission to Lebanon is currently restricted to those who can provide valid identity documents and proof that their stay in Lebanon fits into one of the approved reasons for entry. Seeking refuge in Lebanon is not among the reasons for entry, other than in exceptional circumstances approved by the Ministry of Social Affairs. In May 2015, at the Government of Lebanon's request, UNHCR suspended new registration for Syrian refugees. Syrians approaching UNHCR for protection and assistance are counseled and have their vulnerabilities assessed so that their critical needs can be addressed, while verification efforts continue to update information about registered Syrian refugees. For non-Syrian asylum-seekers, UNHCR continues to conduct refugee status determination (RSD) in order to identify international protection needs and durable solutions.
- UNHCR and partners continue to provide legal counseling and assistance to refugees, in particular regarding residency and civil documentation. In 2016, more than 23,000 individuals have benefitted from legal counseling and assistance by UNHCR and its partners. At the same time, UNHCR has been discussing with government counterparts ways to ease the requirements for renewal of legal residency. Fees which are unaffordable had resulted in growing numbers unable to maintain legal stay in the country. UNHCR continues to advocate with the Government of Lebanon to open access to livelihood opportunities for Syrian refugees in sectors traditionally open to Syrians (agriculture, construction and environment), within the scope of Lebanese law, so that refugees are able to support themselves.
- Syrians face barriers to obtaining civil status documentation in Lebanon, most notably birth registration, which may create heightened risks of statelessness and restrict access to essential services. Some two-thirds of the newborn babies to Syrian parents are without a birth certificate registered with the Lebanese authorities. UNHCR continues to discuss with the Government measures to inform refugee and Lebanese communities of official procedures and has set up a mechanism to support, with the Ministry of Social Affairs, parents with the registration of the birth of their children.
- Protecting refugee children is a priority for UNHCR and its partners. Syrian refugee children face heightened risk of exploitation and abuse, including of early marriage and the worst forms of child labour. A range of services and activities are aimed at helping refugee children who have been victims of violence or are otherwise at risk. These include: (i) rapid identification and safe referral to appropriate services; (ii) strengthening capacities of refugees and frontline workers to better prevent abuse and respond to needs; and (iii) enhancing national child protection systems to ensure emergency referral and provision of care for children at high risk.
- Refugee women and children are disproportionately affected by sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV). Almost nine out of ten reported SGBV survivors have been women and girls. Prevention is a priority. Survivors need emergency and life-saving services including medical services, as well as psychosocial, legal, shelter and livelihood support services. UNHCR is working to support local and institutional capacities to address SGBV-related issues by (i) providing safe environments for women and girls through community mobilization and the establishment of Women Resource Centres and listening and counseling centres; (ii) improving outreach to refugees, including through mobile activities to ensure identification and safe referral of SGBV survivors and those at risk; (iii) strengthening existing specialized services for SGBV survivors, such as psychosocial, medical and legal services; and (iv) promoting engagement of men and boys in SGBV prevention and response. UNHCR mainstreams protection throughout all its interventions.
- Within refugee communities, UNHCR and partners have mobilized more than 550 outreach volunteers (OVs). OVs and community groups are identifying key issues affecting their communities to inform UNHCR and partners' programmatic response. These groups are capacitated to better address some of these challenges, where possible. UNHCR is stepping up its support to solidarity initiatives run by Syrian refugees and Lebanese community members that aim to foster peaceful co-existence, while addressing protection concerns.
- Resettlement, as well as other pathways to third countries (such as scholarships and other regular and humanitarian visa schemes), remains an important protection tool and the only durable solution currently available for refugees in Lebanon. In 2016, UNHCR submitted close to 24,500 persons for resettlement consideration (mainly Syrians) to 20 resettlement countries. More than 19,500 departures took place during 2016. In 2017, UNHCR plans to submit 18,000 refugees (16,700 Syrians and 1,300 refugees of other nationalities); it has so far received pledges for some 9,000 refugees.

Education

- There are currently some 488,000 school-aged Syrian refugee children in Lebanon (3-18 years). The Ministry of Education and Higher Education (MEHE) received international donor support (provided through UNHCR, UNICEF and bilateral donors) for the 2015-2016 school year, as part of its Reaching All Children with Education (RACE) plan, to provide free education for all children, including Lebanese, up to grade 12. More than 202,000 Syrian refugee children

enrolled in both morning and afternoon shifts (more than 131,000 of them in the latter shift). Approximately 70 per cent of refugee children in the age group 6-14 are enrolled in public school.

- Nevertheless, approximately half of refugee children in the age group 3-18 are still out of school, mainly adolescents and youth. UNHCR focuses on community interventions identifying out-of-school children and youth, providing counseling and awareness sessions and community-based solutions for those at risk of dropping out. It has set up support activities such as homework groups led by community volunteers, increased parental engagement through parent community groups, and assigned community volunteers to second shift schools to prevent violence and refer child protection cases and children at risk of dropping out to specialized agencies/ services, aiming at increased school retention. International funding covers both the cost of tuition fees in public schools and community retention activities.
- For the 2016-2017 school year, under RACE II, MEHE and its partners reached their goal to enroll 45,000 more refugee children in public schools than last year. Some 1,260 public schools in Lebanon accommodate Syrian children in the morning shift, and 313 schools run a second shift. UNHCR has committed to cover the enrolment fees for 37,717 refugee children. A new programme of Foreign Language Groups will provide high-quality and pedagogically-adjusted community-based classes in English and French, targeting 5,000 enrolled refugee children and 4,000 out-of-school youth to boost their language skills to be able to follow the public school curriculum.

Health

- Refugees in Lebanon access health services through hospitals, primary healthcare centres, and mobile health services. UNHCR has supported more than 260,000 primary healthcare consultations in 2016, around eight per cent of which were for antenatal care and approximately nine per cent for mental health, as well as over 72,000 hospital admissions for life-saving and obstetric care. UNHCR continues to partner with the Ministry of Public Health (MoPH) to strengthen systems and reinforce response capacity. In 2016, under the EU-funded European Neighborhoods Instrument (ENI), UNHCR is supporting the salaries of 50 staff working for the MoPH communicable disease and surveillance system, and nurses and midwives at primary healthcare facilities. In 2016, UNHCR donated high-end imaging equipment (CT and MRI scanner) to Rafik Hariri Governmental Hospital to increase the capacity for provision of essential imaging services.

Basic Assistance and Food Security

- As the displacements become more protracted, refugees in Lebanon are increasingly vulnerable and unable to meet their basic needs. Preliminary results released from the 2016 UNHCR-UNICEF-WFP joint vulnerability assessment of Syrian refugees (VASyR) showed that 70 per cent of refugee households currently live below the poverty line, on less than USD 3.84 per person per day, with more than 52 per cent living in extreme poverty.
- To help refugees meet their basic needs, UNHCR Lebanon has in recent years shifted from the direct distribution of in-kind relief items for vulnerable refugees to the provision of humanitarian cash assistance, primarily through ATM cards and vouchers. The provision of cash cards allows refugee families to decide themselves on their most immediate needs and priorities, and to spend accordingly. Moreover, the cards allow refugees to contribute to the domestic economy by purchasing directly from local merchants. In 2016, UNHCR provided monthly cash assistance (USD 175 per month) to almost 30,000 households, amounting to USD 50.5 million in cash.
- The World Food Programme provides food assistance to Syrian refugees and vulnerable Lebanese through the Government of Lebanon's National Poverty Targeting Programme (NPTP) through e-cards which are loaded (USD 27 per individual) at the beginning of each month and may be used to purchase food from local shops.
- Between November 2016 and March 2017, UNHCR provides integrated winter support, primarily through cash assistance targeted at assisting 870,337 Syrian refugees and 6,110 Iraq refugees, representing approximately 82 per cent of the Syrian refugee population and 28 per cent of the Iraqi refugee population in the country. Basic core relief items such as stoves, blankets, and winter clothes have also been distributed. As of 31 January 2017, a total of 778,700 Syrian refugees and 5,390 Iraq refugees received several rounds of winter assistance.

Shelter

- In line with government policy, there are no formal refugee camps in Lebanon. More than one million registered Syrian refugees live in over 2,125 communities and locations throughout the country. Based on surveys and established trends, an estimated 71 per cent of all refugees rent in residential buildings, often in poor condition and sharing small basic lodgings with other refugee families in overcrowded conditions. The remaining 17 per cent live in fragile environments such as makeshift tents in informal settlements, and 12 per cent in sub-standard shelter including garages, worksites and unfinished buildings. According to the 2016 VASyR, eighty-five per cent of refugees rent their accommodation, with the average rent being USD 189 per month.
- UNHCR and partners prioritize improving shelters of vulnerable families living in the most insecure dwellings which are hazardous for their health and safety. This includes rehabilitating unfinished Lebanese homes; repairing residential buildings in bad condition and lacking sanitation facilities; maintaining collective shelters; and providing soft- and hard-walled shelter solutions for small informal settlements. In 2016, some 285,000 individuals benefitted from

repair/rehabilitation and weatherproofing, of which 155,000 people through UNHCR funding. In view of the winter season, UNHCR intensified the distribution of weatherproofing kits, notably new insulation kits designed for unfinished buildings and informal settlements. These kits considerably improve the living conditions of vulnerable refugees living at high altitude and in poor shelter conditions.

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

- The added pressure on infrastructure brought by the refugee influx has severely affected water and sanitation systems in many parts of Lebanon. UNHCR's strategy on water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) is aimed at helping both refugees and the Lebanese communities hosting them. The strategy consists of two major components: improving access to safe water and basic sanitation, and promotion of good hygiene practices. By the end of 2016, UNHCR's WASH interventions had led to improved sanitary conditions for 108,000 individuals and access to safe water for 27,000 individuals, which is essential to preventing the outbreak of diseases. In addition, over 34,500 refugees benefited from hygiene promotion activities, during which they learn how to best adapt their behaviour to living conditions during displacement, avoid hygiene and related health hazards, and manage waste and waste water in the most sanitary way possible. In addition, the construction of nine water supply systems in the Bekaa and North Lebanon is underway; upon completion, over 192,000 individuals are expected to be provided with increased access to potable water.

Community Empowerment and Self-Reliance

- UNHCR and its partners support various projects aimed at empowering refugees and local communities to assume more responsibility for themselves, their families and their communities. This includes support to 88 community development centres and social development centres, operated by non-governmental organizations and the Ministry of Social Affairs respectively, which offer various services and activities for refugees and Lebanese alike. These centres provide women, men, boys and girls with a safe space to receive information on services, conduct awareness sessions and offer various trainings in topics such as computer, cell phone maintenance, basic English and literacy. Additionally, UNHCR also engages more than 580 outreach volunteers, in particular from the refugee communities, who provide practical information to refugees, visit the most vulnerable, and refer those with specific needs to UNHCR and partners for help.

Institutional Support

- In addition, UNHCR is working to reduce the strain on Lebanese host communities and institutions. In 2016, UNHCR allocated USD 26.8 million to support host communities and institutions. This included USD 16.5 million in direct support to the Ministry of Education and Higher Education, the Ministry of Public Health, the Ministry of Social Affairs, and the Ministry of Interior and Municipalities to cover equipment, trainings, supplies, and operational staffing costs. The most vulnerable Lebanese communities benefitted from USD 10.3 million in support through community support projects and infrastructure upgrades. Through host community and institutional support for public services, UNHCR strives to ensure that humanitarian interventions are linked with national and municipal plans and structures that are supported by key development actors.

WORKING WITH PARTNERS

- The inter-agency work in Lebanon is guided by the Lebanon Crisis Response Plan which serves as the Lebanon chapter of the Regional Refugee and Resilience Response Plan (3RP). This plan is led by the Ministry of Social Affairs on behalf of the Government of Lebanon and co-led by UNDP and UNHCR. UNHCR co-leads the inter-agency refugee response component of this plan, and works in close coordination with the Government of Lebanon and close to 90 humanitarian actors in doing so. The 2017-2020 LCRP was launched in December 2016. Partners in the LCRP include UN agencies, as well as local and international non-governmental organizations.
- Through regular meetings and various information management tools, UNHCR and partner agencies work to maximize efficiency and minimize duplication in the delivery of humanitarian programmes including protection, shelter, basic assistance (cash), social stability, livelihoods, water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), education, health, and food security throughout Lebanon.

UNHCR is grateful for the generous contributions of donors who have given unearmarked and broadly earmarked contributions to UNHCR in 2016, as well as the donors who have directly contributed to the operation.

Funding in support of Syrian refugees and Lebanese communities in 2016 was also received through private donations from Australia, Canada, Italy, Lebanon, Netherlands, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Sweden, Switzerland, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, and the United States of America.

