

Lebanon

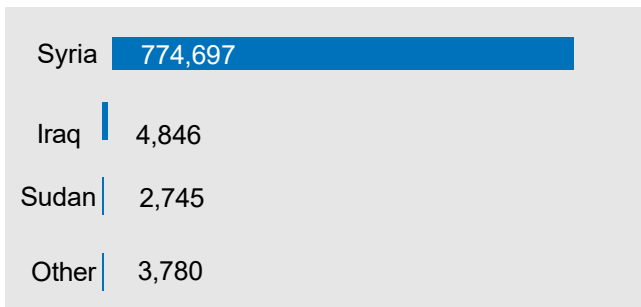
July 2024

Lebanon remains the country hosting the **largest number of refugees per capita**, with the Government's estimation of **1.5 M Syrian refugees** and 11,411 refugees of other nationalities.

The socio-economic downturn coupled with the COVID-19 pandemic, the Beirut blast and lately the Gaza situation, have all contributed to **nine out of ten Syrian refugees** being in need of humanitarian assistance to cover their basic needs.

The number of Syrian refugees holding valid **legal residency is concerningly low**, hampering their access to **basic services, and civil documentation**.

POPULATION OF CONCERN (registered refugees)

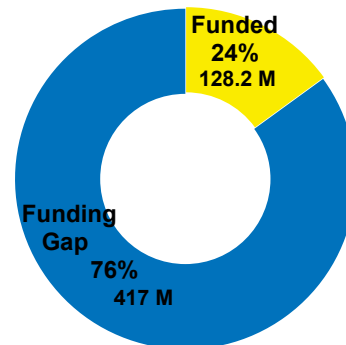


* Registration figures as of June 2024.

** UNHCR registration of Syrian refugees in Lebanon has been suspended since May 2015 through a decision by the Government of Lebanon.

USD 545.2 M

requested for the Lebanon operation in 2024



FUNDING (As of 30 June 2024)

UNHCR PRESENCE

Staff:

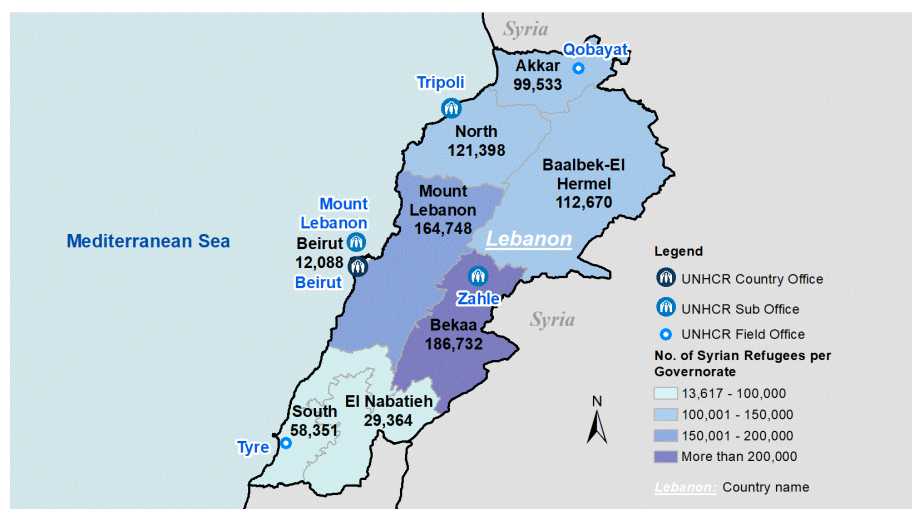
457 National Staff

83 International Staff

Offices:

1 Country Office in Beirut

5 Sub and Field Offices in Beirut, Qobayat, Tripoli, Tyre and Zahle



Working with Partners

- Under the 2023 Lebanon Crisis Response Plan (LCRP), UNHCR co-led a multi-stakeholder, multi-faceted nexus response in conjunction with the Government of Lebanon (GoL) and UNDP, with contributions from a wide range of entities including local and international NGOs, civil society organizations, donors and academic institutions.
- Under the auspices of the Resident/Humanitarian Coordinator, UNHCR co-led the planning process to develop a new, integrated humanitarian and stabilization response framework in 2024, following detailed consultation across sectors. The new 'Lebanon Response Plan' (LRP) will seek to respond comprehensively to the impact of the multiple crises in Lebanon on both people and institutions in a holistic and integrated manner. Under the LRP, partners will advance four strategic objectives: 1) Enhance the protection of vulnerable people; 2) Provide immediate assistance to vulnerable people to ensure their critical needs are met; 3) Support service provision through national systems, including national rapid response capacity; 4) Reinforce Lebanon's economic, social and environmental stability.
- In the extension of UNHCR's sector co-leadership and programmes in the protection and shelter response to the Beirut port explosions, UNHCR is also a member of the Housing and Gender Working Groups in the Reform, Recovery and Reconstruction Framework (3RF).
- UNHCR is also actively involved in the process of developing and implementing the UN Strategic Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) and joint programmes that incorporate rights-based and gender-sensitive approaches.
- In line with the Global Compact on Refugees and its "whole of society" approach, UNHCR is supporting and engaging with a network of 31 local civil society actors on displacement-related issues comprised of NGOs, academia, think tanks, and faith-based organizations. In 2024, UNHCR and the American University of Beirut will launch an online course for university students on displacement.
- In 2024, UNHCR has partnership agreements with 24 partners, of which 8 are international and 16 are national.

Main Activities

Protection

- UNHCR coordinates the protection response for refugees in Lebanon with the Government, UN agencies, and local and international partners, including activities related to the registration of refugees, legal aid, civil documentation as well as psychosocial support, child protection and prevention of and response to gender-based violence (GBV). UNHCR also identifies and refers refugees for resettlement to third countries.
- UNHCR conducts Protection Monitoring (PM) with partners on an ongoing basis to analyse trends in the protection environment and risks facing refugees across Lebanon. During the first half of 2024, 97% of refugees reported facing difficulties feeding their households, 88% struggled to pay rent, 45% reported decreasing livelihoods, and 44% reported reduced access to healthcare due to lack of money. In the context of the South emergency response, UNHCR Lebanon also undertook a series of protection monitoring activities to gather information about recently displaced people currently residing in southern Lebanon, both refugees and Lebanese, to better understand their protection needs and risks, living conditions, and coping mechanisms to inform UNHCR's response.

- In line with UNHCR's Global Campaign to End Statelessness, UNHCR supports the Ministry of Interior and Municipalities, General Directorate of Personal Status, to facilitate the birth registration and other vital events of refugees and Lebanese. UNHCR provides legal aid and services to stateless persons to acquire or confirm their Lebanese nationality, provides technical support to the Working Group on Statelessness and works closely with UNICEF in the context of the joint Global Coalition on Every Child's Right to a Nationality, to promote joint advocacy initiatives to prevent and reduce childhood statelessness.

Community Empowerment and Self-Reliance

- As part of accountability to affected people, UNHCR ensures that women, men, girls, and boys of diverse backgrounds are regularly consulted and engaged in decision-making. UNHCR, together with partners, empowers and builds refugees' capacities through community engagement programmes and interventions in Community Development Centers (CDCs) that offer a safe space to learn, communicate, and share experiences.
- Through a network of 31 community centers, including 20 Community Development Centers (CDCs) and 11 Social Development Centers (SDCs), UNHCR supports persons of diverse backgrounds to access key protection activities and services, including refugees, stateless persons and internally displaced persons (IDPs). In Q2, UNHCR reached close to 2,000 internally displaced Lebanese and refugees as well as those in conflict areas in South Lebanon, including 70% Lebanese, 65% women and girls, and 57% children and youth. Services and activities include offering information and awareness, psychosocial support, and referrals to case management through 11 SDCs.
- Community centers provide refugees, asylum-seekers, Lebanese and stateless persons with opportunities to access key information, learn new skills, seek specialized services, and engage in their community, with particular attention to promoting the participation of women, youth, older persons and persons with disabilities. By Q2, UNHCR and its implementing partners reached 166,060 instances of participation (45,606 individuals) at community centers, of which 70% are women and girls and 20% are youth. Center activities include market-based skills trainings in topics such as agriculture and construction, but also basic literacy and numeracy, digital literacy and a wide variety of learning programmes. CDCs also provide psychosocial support services and case management for specific needs. These activities attest to the one-stop-shop and holistic nature of community centers.
- UNHCR also provided support to 195 community groups, with close to 1,400 members that share information, mobilize their community to participate in activities, and identify priorities to implement relevant community-led initiatives.
- UNHCR and its partners mobilize 545 general and specialized Outreach Volunteers (OVs) who are capacitated to share information, raise community concerns, refer persons at heightened risk, and contribute to community-based solutions. During Q2 2024, OVs reached 84,108 persons, of whom 60% were women and girls, through 4,951 awareness and information sessions and 4,353 household visits. They also referred 6,630 persons at heightened risk to UNHCR and partners, of whom 49% were women and girls. With mental health needs increasing, UNHCR engaged in a Community-based Psycho-Social Support project and trained 89 OVs on Group Problem Management Plus, Peer Support, Psychological First Aid, and other fundamental Psycho-Social Support techniques. During Q2, trained OVs reached 1,411 persons with non-specialized community-based PSS, of whom 69% were females. Additionally, UNHCR drafted and compiled Community-based PSS Guidelines for Outreach Volunteers in Lebanon with valuable technical inputs from Save the Children and endorsement of the National Mental Health Programme of the Ministry of Public Health, UNICEF, and WHO.

Education

- By early July, the scholastic year ended in all 340 second shift schools for 165,850 refugee students with an average of 129 teaching days. This is an increase from the average 106 teaching days in the 2022-23 scholastic year, however, still below the average in the USA and many European countries, where teaching days range from 170 to 220. The average attendance country-wide was 84 %. Attendance was lowest in Nabatiyeh and Baalbeck-Hermel with 75% and highest BML 91%. In BML, the North and the Bekaa, this academic year was considered as the most stable of the past five years as there were no teacher strikes and little interruptions. Documentation remains a critical barrier to accessing education at the secondary level.
- Overall, the main reported challenges through the Education Community Liaison network were the lack of books and stationery, electricity, and water in the schools and the high transportation cost. Throughout the year, ECLs reported incidents of violence, that were reported to UNICEF and referred to the Child Protection Unit within MEHE for further action.
- In Q2 2024, UNHCR supported 3,475 refugee children (8-14 years old) with foundational skills in literacy and numeracy through Basic Literacy and Numeracy programs (BLN), tailored to out-of-school children without prior learning. The programs also included psycho-social sessions as well as hygiene and life skills modules that were delivered effectively to support children's emotional and wellbeing. UNHCR partners also supported 144 refugee youth with foundational skills in literacy and numeracy programs tailored to youth 15+ to support them in acquiring foundational skills as well as life skills such as self-reflection, critical thinking, problem-solving and interpersonal skills, needed to build resilience and contribute meaningfully to their communities.
- UNHCR continues to support students accessing higher education opportunities in the country in 2024 notably through the DAFI programme. As of June 2024, the program supported 81 students at the Lebanese Public University and the Lebanese International University. UNHCR continues to disseminate, facilitate, and take part in the selection process of other Third-country Education Complementary Pathways opportunities, such as the Bourse Elysee to France, the JISR/JICA to Japan, the WUSC/SRP to Canada, Habesha/DIME to Mexico and the Universities of Barcelona scholarship to Spain.
- Out of the 44 planned accredited vocational training, 22 are already implemented, engaging 338 learners between vulnerable Lebanese, stateless, and out-of-school refugee youth, including 25 youth with disabilities. The successful inclusion of individuals with disabilities in hospitality and childcare trainings across two regions was made possible through robust partnerships with expert organizations, ensuring that the training programs were accessible and effective for all participants.

Health

- UNHCR operates a Referral Healthcare (RHC) Programme subsidizing hospitalization fees to facilitate refugees' access to hospital care. The programme is implemented through a cost-sharing scheme of payment for a significant portion of the hospital bills while refugees pay the remaining amount. The assistance includes obstetric care and urgent lifesaving and limb-saving interventions at hospitals through a network of 33 contracted hospitals. In Q2, 11,782 hospital admissions were supported by UNHCR.
- In Q2, UNHCR organized internal and external consultations aiming to amend the Referral Health Care SOPs to align with the reduced budget starting June 2024. The amendments included reduction in UNHCR coverage (from 70% to 60%) for life/limb threatening conditions other than deliveries, reduction in maximum set ceilings, removal of expensive and elective

medical conditions. UNHCR communicated the changes in RHC SOPs with relevant stakeholders including ministry of public health, health and interagency partners, and launched communication to refugees via SMS, outreach volunteers and also WhatsApp communication tree before the changes are implemented from 01 June 2024.

- UNHCR and various partners support primary health care centers across the country to provide general health care services such as consultations for acute illnesses, vaccinations, maternal and child health care, and care for chronic non-communicable diseases. In the four supported primary health care facilities a total of 30,084 consultations were provided during the reporting period.
- UNHCR through its implementing partners supports eight primary health care facilities and two specialized mental health facilities for mental health assessment of patients, care management, relapse prevention, specialized medical care, and medication support among others. In Q2 2024, a total of 12,628 mental health consultations were supported by UNHCR across the country in all supported facilities .

Institutional and Community Support

- UNHCR provides institutional support to strengthen central and local authorities' capacity to respond to the needs of refugees and Lebanese communities hosting large numbers of refugees. The support to public institutions continues to focus on supporting service delivery and enhancing the capacities of public officials to respond to the current crisis.
- UNHCR continues to implement activities geared towards peacebuilding and social stability. Since the onset of the Syria crisis in 2011, more than 749 community support projects have been implemented by UNHCR in Lebanon as of the end of June 2024. In 2024, UNHCR plans to implement 28 community support projects across the country.
- Since the beginning of the Gaza situation, ongoing clashes along the Blue Line across Lebanon's southern border have displaced over 95,228 people¹. UNHCR and its partners support efforts undertaken by the Government of Lebanon to assist affected people, including some Syrian refugees, with distributions of Core Relief Items, fixing and equipping collective and temporary shelters, emergency repairs for damaged dwellings as well as ensuring mainstreamed protection, gender-sensitive approaches and refugee inclusion across the humanitarian response. UNHCR and its partners support efforts undertaken by the Government of Lebanon to assist affected people,

Shelter, Water, and Sanitation

- UNHCR aims to ensure the protection of vulnerable populations and contribute to social stability by mitigating the deteriorating shelter and economic conditions and improving access to physically adequate shelter while ensuring the security of tenure. Focus is given to lifesaving interventions and emergency response, addressing the shelter needs in informal settlements and disadvantaged urban/peri-urban areas
- In informal settlements, during Q2, 191 refugees received shelter kits and 450 refugees received fire mitigation to reinforce or rebuild their shelters following emergencies (flooding, evictions, or fire incidents) and to help them withstand extreme weather conditions. Also, the most critical settlements were assessed, and 8 sites were prioritized for site improvement works, allowing enhanced preparedness against floods and fire incidents for 2,608 refugees.
- In urban/peri-urban areas, UNHCR applies an integrated area-based approach to respond to acute shelter needs in collective shelters and substandard shelter units located in identified poor neighborhoods. During the second quarter, UNHCR focused assessing shelters and buildings for rehabilitation of shelters and common areas which allowed 509 refugees to live in

¹ As of June, Source : *Lebanon - Mobility Snapshot - Round 37 - 13-06-2024 | Displacement Tracking Matrix (iom.int)*

adequate shelters/buildings and benefit from secure tenure through free occupancy for one year.

- UNHCR repaired 2 collective shelters in the South to accommodate 158 displaced individuals, including 10 individuals in Q2, seeking safer living conditions. Additionally, UNHCR assisted 2,220 displaced individuals (1,814 Lebanese and 406 Syrian refugees) with Cash for Shelter (CfS) to help them address primary shelter needs, such as minor maintenance and payment of utility bills (e.g., water and electricity) in the shelters they are renting or where they are being hosted by families and friends

Basic Needs

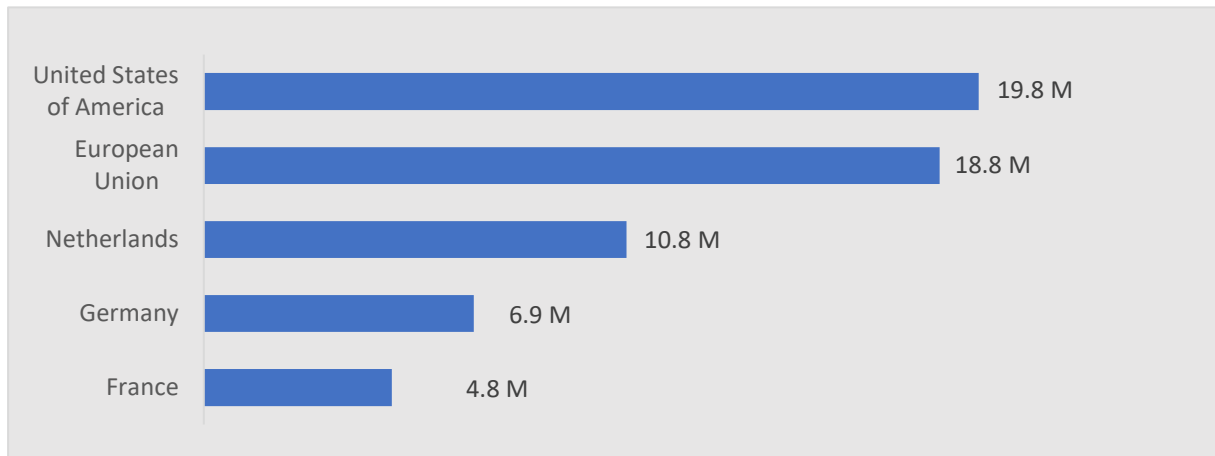
- UNHCR assists vulnerable asylum-seekers, stateless persons and refugees to cover their most basic needs through the distribution of cash assistance as well as in-kind assistance.
- Since 2013, UNHCR has been providing monthly Multi-Purpose Cash Assistance (MCAP) through ATM cards. Cash assistance strengthens the capacity of benefiting families to cover basic needs such as rent, food, and medication and reduces their vulnerability to exploitation and negative coping strategies. UNHCR's MCAP also enables refugees to contribute to the local economy by purchasing directly from local markets and shops.
- During Q2, UNHCR assisted up to 81,655 vulnerable Syrian refugee households and 972 refugee households of other nationalities with monthly MCAP. This represents a 38% reduction from 2023, due to funding constraints. Assistance is provided in priority to the most vulnerable refugee families estimated to live below the poverty line, and to families with specific vulnerable profiles facing heightened protection risks. Recipients were selected as part of the yearly re-targeting review conducted during the second semester of 2023. In addition, 10,800 refugee households were included in February 2024 via the 2023/24 Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM), a refugee-initiated inclusion pathway for cash assistance. 144,000 claims were filed by refugees through the GRM, a 31% increase year-on-year. UNHCR prioritized claimants with no or limited income-generating abilities.
- To ensure and enhance safe and dignified access to cash assistance, UNHCR through the LOUISE platform, continued expanding the network and diversity of redemption points accessible to refugees to reach 308 cash out points (176 ATMs and 132 Money Transfer Offices).
- Due to budget constraints, and despite ongoing donor support, UNHCR had to reduce the coverage of its MCAP programme, and could not implement any Winter Cash Assistance during the 2023-2024 season to support most vulnerable refugees' families responding to additional winter-related needs.
- During Q2 2024, UNHCR distributed 38,287 Core Relief Items such as mattresses, blankets, kitchen sets, solar lamps, sleeping mats, winter clothing and stoves to 4,733 families (19,117 individuals). In addition, as a result of the continuing hostilities at the Southern border, UNHCR maintained its Core Relief Items response across the South and Nabatiyeh governorates for both displaced Lebanese and secondarily displaced refugees, to help them meet part of their basic needs linked to the displacement situation. UNHCR also provided Core Relief Items for 387 Syrian, Lebanese and stateless individuals as part of detention monitoring programme.

Financial Information

UNHCR is grateful for the critical support provided by donors who have contributed to this operation as well as those who have contributed to UNHCR programmes with broadly earmarked and unearmarked funds.

CONTRIBUTIONS | USD in Millions (as of 30 June 2024) ²

Earmarked contributions for the operation amount to about **USD 128.2 M** in total *



Other donors of earmarked contributions for the operation

Denmark | Japan | Qatar | Switzerland | UK for UNHCR | Luxembourg | Spain | Monaco | Jersey | Other Private Donors | CERF

OTHER SOFTLY EARMARKED CONTRIBUTIONS | USD³

Finland 5.5 million | **Denmark** 4.4 million | **Australia for UNHCR** 3.9 million | **Norway** 2.8 million | **UNO-Flüchtlingshilfe** 2.4 million

Iceland | Estonia | Private donors

UNEARMARKED CONTRIBUTIONS | USD⁴

Sweden 90.6 million | **Norway** 58.9 million | **Netherlands** (Kingdom of) 36.3 million | **Denmark** 35.6 million | **France** 33.4 million | **España con ACNUR** 31.2 million | **United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland** 28.5 million | **Switzerland** 19.2 million | **Japan for UNHCR** 18.1 million | **Republic of Korea** 17.9 million | **Private donors in the Republic of Korea** 14.6 million | **Belgium** 14.2 million | **Ireland** 13.6 million | **Australia** 10.7 million

Algeria | Angola | Armenia | Costa Rica | Estonia | Finland | Luxembourg | Malta | Mexico | Monaco | Montenegro | New Zealand | Peru | Philippines | Qatar | Russian Federation | Saudi Arabia | Serbia | Singapore | Thailand | Türkiye | Private donors

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www.unhcr.org | <https://www.unhcr.org/lb> | [Twitter](#) | [Facebook](#)

² Including indicative allocation of funds and adjustments.

*The table includes the five largest donors to UNHCR Lebanon operation in 2024.

³ Due to their earmarking at the region or sub-region, or to a related situation or theme, the other softly earmarked contributions listed are those which can potentially be used for Lebanon.

⁴ Contributed without restrictions on its use, unearmarked funding allows UNHCR critical flexibility in how best to reach refugees and other populations of concern who are in the greatest need and at the greatest risk. Unearmarked funding is allocated and reallocated multiple times during the year to allow UNHCR to fund prioritized activities.