



# UNHCR RESPONSE TO THE LEBANON EMERGENCY

## FLASH UPDATE

12 November 2024

On 7 November, UNHCR delivered blankets, winter jackets, sleeping mats, solar lamps in Deir El Ahmar (Bekaa area) to be distributed to 4,000 displaced people staying in 9 collective centers. ©UNHCR.



**1.2M**  
affected  
people in Lebanon  
(source: GoL)

**875,180**  
Internally displaced  
people in Lebanon  
(source: IOM/DTM)

**16,834**  
new displacements  
over the past week  
(source: IOM/DTM)

**190,212**  
registered IDPs in 1,019  
collective shelters  
(source: IOM/DTM)

### SITUATION OVERVIEW

- Israeli air strikes continue across Lebanon, including in the South, Saida, Nabatieh, Bekaa and Mount Lebanon, deepening the already severe [humanitarian crisis](#).
- Lebanese authorities refer to 1.2 million people affected, while the joint IOM and UNHCR tracking shows that as of 6 November, **875,180 Lebanese and Syrian people** have been internally displaced in Lebanon (Source: IOM/DTM round 60).
- Since October 2023, UNHCR identified over **90,000 refugees** who are secondarily displaced, including over **73,500** since 23 September, **99 per cent** being Syrian refugees.
- UNHCR estimates that at least **340,000** Syrian refugees were residing in the cadasters most affected by the hostilities<sup>1</sup>.
- To date, the latest hostilities have resulted in some **3,243 deaths and 14,134 injured**, according to the Lebanese Ministry of Health.
- Over **510,000 people**<sup>2</sup> are estimated to have crossed from Lebanon to Syria since the escalation of hostilities, with around 71 per cent Syrians and 29 per cent Lebanese nationals.
- The **most urgent needs** are access to safe shelters, core relief items, healthcare, food, cash assistance, and protection services.

<sup>1</sup> Refugees who resided in areas targeted by 8 or more airstrikes.

<sup>2</sup> The numbers of new arrivals in this document are based on “SARC Emergency Response for Lebanese Refugees and Syrian Returnees” and daily updates from UNHCR Border Posts. Figures are undergoing verification and are subject to change.

## KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- In support of the Government-led emergency response, the humanitarian community launched a **Flash Appeal** to enable partners to rapidly deliver humanitarian assistance. The appeal seeks **\$425.7 million to assist 1 million people** affected by the crisis over the next three months.
- **As part of the Interagency response, UNHCR has released an Emergency Appeal for Lebanon, urgently seeking to \$111 million** to scale up the response and cover immediate needs across all vulnerable population groups, including Lebanese and refugee.
- UNHCR Emergency Appeal for Lebanon includes increased requirements for **Protection activities, procurement and distribution of core relief items, cash assistance and support to institutions in the response.**
- UNHCR continues calling on all actors to maintain and apply humanitarian principles and allow **equal access to assistance.**

## UNHCR RESPONSE

UNHCR continues to respond to the needs of all displaced communities – Lebanese, refugees and others – across Lebanon, coordinating closely with the authorities and other humanitarian organizations, and providing **protection services, emergency cash assistance, core relief items, access to safe shelter, health care, and psychosocial support.**



### Shelter and WASH

UNHCR shelter emergency strategy envisions to combine rapid response and repairs in collective sites and in other shelters and settlements to all population groups.

- UNHCR and partners continue to provide upgrading works in collective sites, including partitioning, weatherproofing and rehabilitation of water and sanitation utilities.
- UNHCR is targeting the repair of at least **450 collective sites** designated by the government across the country and hosting over **16,000 families, mainly Lebanese.** Since the escalation of the hostilities, UNHCR shelter partners assessed 428 sites across the country, all identified as needing repairs. Of those, **repairs are completed or ongoing in 203 sites** in Beirut, Mount Lebanon, North, Akkar, Baalbek-Hermel, Bekaa, and the South.
- Since October 2023 overall, **65,353 affected people have received shelter support**, including cash-for-shelter, rehabilitation works, enhanced access to water, and improved privacy through gender-sensitive separation.



### Basic Assistance

UNHCR basic assistance emergency strategy focuses on cash assistance for vulnerable displaced families affected by the conflict, complemented with Core Relief Items distribution when needed.

- Since 23 September 2024, **271,348 core relief items** (CRIs) including mattresses, blankets, kitchen sets and solar lamps were distributed to **168,439 people.** Overall, since October 2023, over **417,063** CRIs were distributed to **225,398** displaced people.
- In response to the escalation of the hostilities, UNHCR is providing for both Lebanese and refugees **Emergency Protection Cash Assistance** (EPCA) to address specific protection needs as well as **Cash for Shelter** support to address their primary shelter needs such as maintenance costs and payment of utility bills. It is also expending its existing **multi-purpose cash assistance** (MPCA) to affected vulnerable refugee families.
- As a result, and since 23 September, over **317,004** Lebanese and refugees affected are being assisted with some type of cash assistance as part of the emergency response, and **397,016** individuals overall since October 2023.

## Humanitarian Voices



“  
Our goal is to provide a safe environment  
for displaced families, protect them, preserve  
their dignity and respect their privacy.  
”

Join our colleague Ahmed Kassem as UNHCR rehabilitated a shelter center in Ain Dara that once was a school on [X](#) and [Instagram](#).



UNHCR health emergency strategy focuses on continuity of care and bolstering existing referral programmes, supporting primary health care centers affected by conflict, outbreak preparedness and response, and provide institutional health support.

- To facilitate access to life-saving services, UNHCR has expanded its hospital network in the South, Bekaa and Beirut Mount Lebanon regions **totaling 44 hospitals**.
- UNHCR is procuring **ambulances** to assist with the evacuation and transfer of critical patients, working alongside the Lebanese Red Cross and Civil Defense services, which are currently overwhelmed by the existing demands. The process is ongoing to prioritize the delivery of some ambulances to the Ministry of Public Health to address the most urgent needs.
- UNHCR continues to support primary health care centres to ensure continuum of services for all, including through support for non-communicable disease, maternal and child health care, and mental health. Coordination is ongoing to explore possibilities to support with **Primary Health Satellite Units (PSU)** in the areas of displaced refugees and engage additional staff for mental health consultations.
- Search for active cholera case is ongoing and no new case of has been identified. UNHCR has disseminated **cholera prevention messages** through its communications with communities' channels and is planning to dispatch oral rehydration salts to the North and Bekaa regions.



UNHCR and partners are delivering essential protection services both inside and outside shelter centers, including information sharing, counselling, responding to inquiries, community mobilization, and referrals for those at heightened risk. Programs prioritize the most vulnerable among displaced families, particularly women, children, older persons, and people with disabilities, to ensure safety and dignity. Additionally, as part of the emergency response, we provide psychosocial support to help displaced children, caregivers, and others heal and regain a sense of normalcy.

- Since 23 September, **over 53,900 people have joined the new UNHCR Lebanon WhatsApp Channel** for updates on security, scams, and emergency resources, while the HELP Lebanon website saw **632,000** visits, including **46,900** this week.
- UNHCR's **complaint and feedback systems** processed **8,570** average daily calls and **280 average** daily online messages from refugees and displaced Lebanese last week.
- UNHCR supports **Community Development Centers (CDCs)** where possible; **15 CDCs** remain open, reaching over **5,000** people this week, mostly displaced Lebanese women and girls.
- In areas where CDCs can't operate, **UNHCR partners access collective shelters**, with **64 visited** this week (total **237**), offering protection services, counselling, and referrals.
- Since hostilities escalated, **6,543 at-risk displaced persons** were referred for specialized help, with **872 referrals** in the past week, mainly asking for urgent needs and safe shelter in Beirut and Mount Lebanon areas.

#### FUNDING | UNHCR is grateful for the critical support provided by donors who have contributed to this operation

Australia | Austria | Belgium | Canada | Denmark | European Union | Finland | France | Germany | Ireland | Italy | Japan | Netherlands (Kingdom of the) | Norway | Qatar | Republic of Korea | Sweden | Switzerland | United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland | United States of America

With the support of the following organizations and private sector partners:

Australia for UNHCR | España con ACNUR | Central Emergency Response Fund | Japan for UNHCR | Private donors in Italy | Private donors in Kuwait | Private donors in MENA | Private donors in the Netherlands (Kingdom of) | Private donors in the Republic of Korea | Private donors in the United States of America | Sweden for UNHCR | UK for UNHCR | UNO-Flüchtlingshilfe

CONTACT | Dalal Harb [harbda@unhcr.org](mailto:harbda@unhcr.org) | Lisa Abou Khaled [aboukhal@unhcr.org](mailto:aboukhal@unhcr.org) | Beirut, Lebanon