

# LEBANON

## | Working environment |

### ● The context

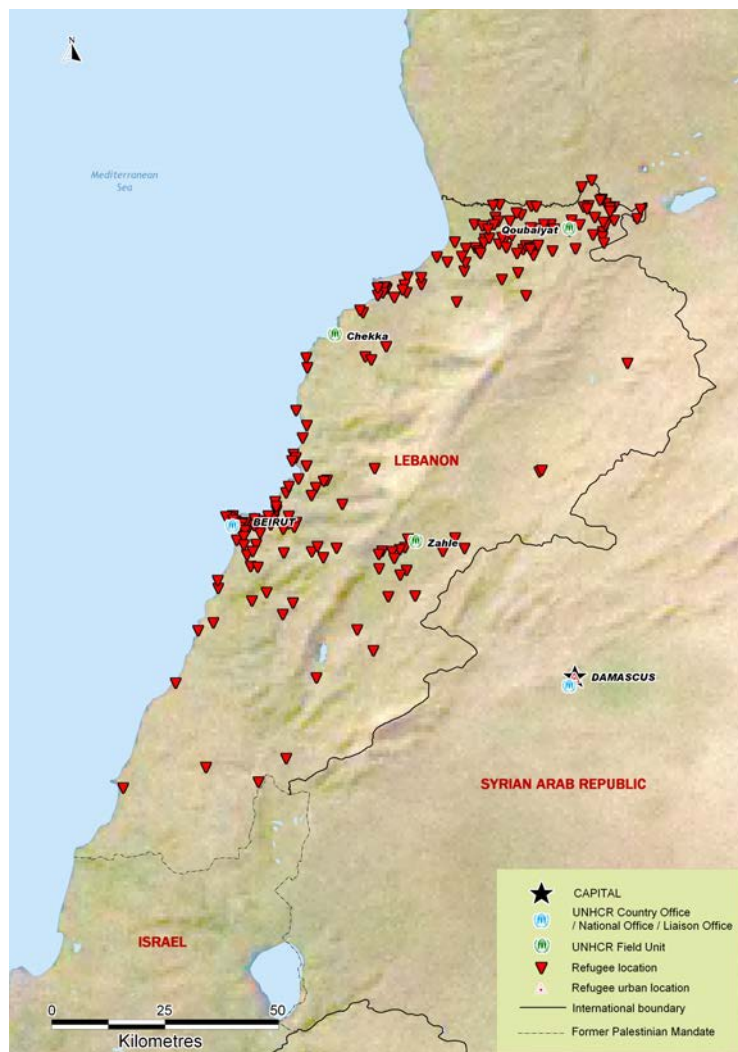
The start of April 2011 saw a fresh influx of some 5,000 Syrian refugees into northern Lebanon. Since then, UNHCR and its UN and NGO partners have worked closely with the Government of Lebanon to respond to the new arrivals' protection and humanitarian needs. The response has expanded as the refugees have settled in other areas, such as the Bekaa Valley, where UNHCR started a full-time operation in March 2012.

UNHCR and its partners are assisting some 63,000 Syrian refugees who have fled to Lebanon since the beginning of the crisis. Some 50 per cent are concentrated in the north of the country and 40 per cent in the Bekaa, with the rest in Beirut, its suburbs and the south. In addition, UNHCR Lebanon has registered more than 10,000 non-Syrian refugees and asylum-seekers, 80 per cent of whom are Iraqis. Most live in and around the Beirut area in impoverished circumstances. Lebanon also has a large population of stateless people.

Although not a signatory to the Refugee and Statelessness Conventions, Lebanon has signed most other relevant human-rights treaties. Constitutionally, the latter take precedence over domestic law, but this is rarely observed by the courts. Lebanon does not have legislation or administrative procedures in place to address the specific needs of refugees and asylum-seekers, who are vulnerable to detention and deportation for illegal entry or stay.

### ● The needs

Although the Government has adopted a protection- and humanitarian-oriented response to the Syrian influx, the absence of a legal or administrative framework leaves Syrian and non-Syrian refugees vulnerable to arrest, detention and deportation. Improving the protection climate for refugees and other displaced people in Lebanon is therefore a priority for



UNHCR, and a more predictable operational understanding is being sought with the Government.

For non-Syrian refugees, resettlement is the main durable solution available, as the Government will not permit local integration and most countries of origin are not stable enough to be conducive to safe and sustainable return. Considerable amounts of time and resources are therefore needed to prepare and submit new applications and reduce the backlog.

## | Strategy and activities |

UNHCR believes that providing protection and finding solutions for refugees and others of concern in Lebanon can best be done through a close partnership with the Government,

## Planning figures for Lebanon

TYPE OF POPULATION	ORIGIN	JAN 2013		DEC 2013	
		TOTAL IN COUNTRY	OF WHOM ASSISTED BY UNHCR	TOTAL IN COUNTRY	OF WHOM ASSISTED BY UNHCR
Refugees	Iraq	8,130	8,130	7,670	7,670
	Sudan	160	160	160	160
	Syrian Arab Rep.	120,000	120,000	300,000	300,000
	Various	110	110	110	110
Persons in refugee-like situations	Various	150	150	150	150
Asylum-seekers	Iraq	710	710	670	670
	Sudan	490	490	490	490
	Syrian Arab Rep.	200	200	50	50
	Various	140	140	140	140
<b>Total</b>		<b>130,090</b>	<b>130,090</b>	<b>309,440</b>	<b>309,440</b>

Parliament, the judiciary, the UN Country Team, local NGOs and other partners.

In light of this, UNHCR will continue to advocate with the Government for an administrative framework for the protection of persons of concern in Lebanon. The Office will continue to seek a Memorandum of Understanding with the Government that sets out areas of agreement related to reception, status determination, temporary permits, durable solutions, regular information exchange, joint training and the strengthening of response capacities.

Strengthening its engagement with the Prime Minister's Office and relevant Government counterparts will allow UNHCR to aim for overall legal protection for Syrian refugees, access to public education for children, the wider availability of health assistance and the strengthening of social development centres.

In addition, UNHCR will continue to lead inter-agency coordination to ensure information sharing, programme coordination and planning and better coverage of refugees' needs. It will also continue to work with UN, governmental and NGO partners on a strategy to reduce and prevent statelessness in Lebanon.

UNHCR anticipates registering some 10,000-15,000 refugees per month, most of whom will be Syrians. Staff will meet and counsel people of concern and undertake registration and refugee status determination (RSD) in a timely manner. Support will be provided to obtain civil status documentation and residency permits to enhance their protection.



Syrian refugee children, in the Bekaa Valley, participating in educational activities run by UNHCR and Save the Children.

UNHCR / S. MALKAWI

Through the delivery of basic domestic items such as food, hygiene kits or fuel the Office will help refugees and asylum-seekers to meet their basic needs. Priority will be given to the most vulnerable, such as people in detention, women, children, elderly and disabled individuals. The Office will also support refugees and asylum-seekers in obtaining work permits in order to improve their self-reliance.

UNHCR will provide health assistance, including primary, hospital, mental and psychological care, to all refugees and asylum-seekers in need. Education grants will be provided for children; remedial classes and vocational training will be conducted; and measures will be taken to address high dropout rates. Non-formal education classes will also be supported through vocational skills training, music classes, sports activities and drama therapy for the benefit of young refugees. Furthermore, detention monitoring, legal aid and activities to

## Main objectives and targets for 2013

### Favourable protection environment

- A national legal framework is developed.
  - ⌚ A new operational framework is planned for signature between UNHCR and the Government of Lebanon in 2013.
  - ⌚ National laws and policy become at least 50 per cent consistent with international asylum standards.

### Security from violence and exploitation

- Risks related to detention are reduced and freedom of movement increased.
  - ⌚ Some 70 per cent of people of concern enjoy freedom of movement through the issuance of circulation permits.

### Fair protection processes and documentation

- The quality of registration and profiling is improved or maintained.
  - ⌚ Timely registration, status determination and resettlement interventions are made for persons of concern.
  - ⌚ The average number of days from first-instance interview to notification of the result is reduced to 30 days.

### Basic needs and essential services

- Services for groups with specific needs are strengthened.
  - ⌚ Some 70 per cent of individuals with psychosocial needs have access to services.
  - ⌚ The needs for basic and domestic items are met for 90 per cent of households.
- The health of the population improves or remains stable.
  - ⌚ All people of concern have access to primary health care.
  - ⌚ Some 90 per cent of people of concern have access to secondary health care.
- The population has optimal access to education.
  - ⌚ All children of concern aged 6-13 are enrolled in primary education.

### Community empowerment and self-reliance

- Self-reliance and livelihoods are improved.
  - ⌚ Some 30 per cent of people of concern to UNHCR have access to work opportunities.

### Durable solutions

- The potential for resettlement is realized.
  - ⌚ Some 80 per cent of identified individuals depart for resettlement.

## UNHCR's presence in 2013

□ Number of offices	4
□ Total staff	146
International	21
National	47
JPOs	2
UNVs	2
Others	74

address gender-based violence will help ensure protection and security from such violence and exploitation.

### ● Constraints

Regional upheavals have had a destabilizing effect in Lebanon, leading to political polarization among the various factions in the country, and sometimes hindering the functioning of the executive and legislative branches of government.

Armed clashes and shelling particularly in Tripoli and in the Aakar region hamper access to these areas, obstructing delivery of humanitarian programmes.

### Organization and implementation

The UNHCR country operation in Lebanon will be led by the branch office in Beirut and three field units in Qubayat/Akkar (North), Chekka (Tripoli area) and Zahle (Bekaa).

### ● Coordination

From the outset, positive working relations were established with the High Relief Commission and the Ministry of Social Affairs, which have benefited refugees and hosting communities.

A wide range of partners have been mobilized to respond to the Syrian refugee influx. General and sectoral inter-agency meetings are held regularly in Beirut and in the Field, enabling coordinated responses based on the expertise of each organization. UNHCR also meets with other UN agencies through regular UN Country Team meetings and integrated working groups on human rights and

gender. Inter-agency work on the prevention and reduction of statelessness is gaining momentum.

### Financial information

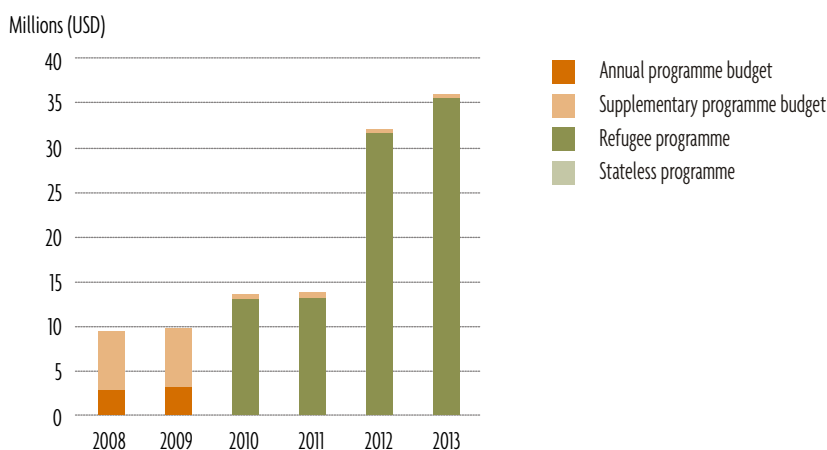
The 2013 budget foresees the continued provision of protection and assistance to persons of concern in Lebanon in close coordination with the Government and with the support of operational and implementing partners. The total required budget is USD 36 million.

The 2013 budget for Lebanon will be further revised in order to cover additional needs related to the Syria crisis which could not be assessed at the time this budget was approved.

### Consequences of a funding shortfall

- Only some 30 per cent of persons of concern out of the planned 70 per cent would enjoy freedom of movement through the issuance of circulation permits.
- Only some 600 Syrian refugee households out of the planned 1,000 would be provided with shelter boxes.
- Only some 1,000 vulnerable Iraqi and non-Iraqi families out of the planned 2,500 would be provided with cash assistance.
- Only some 60 per cent of refugee children out of the planned 100 per cent would have access to primary education.
- Only some 60 per cent of identified individuals out of the planned 80 per cent would depart for resettlement.

## UNHCR's budget in Lebanon 2008 – 2013



## 2013 UNHCR's budget in Lebanon (USD)

BUDGET BREAKDOWN	REFUGEE PROGRAMME PILLAR 1	STATELESS PROGRAMME PILLAR 2	TOTAL
<b>Favourable protection environment</b>			
Law and policy	343,954	153,258	497,212
Access to legal assistance and remedies	960,059	0	960,059
Access to territory and <i>non-refoulement</i>	90,059	0	90,059
Public attitude towards persons of concern	388,954	0	388,954
Subtotal	<b>1,783,026</b>	<b>153,258</b>	<b>1,936,285</b>
<b>Fair protection processes and documentation</b>			
Identification of statelessness	0	103,258	103,258
Registration and profiling	971,977	0	971,977
Refugee status determination	1,280,719	0	1,280,719
Civil registration and civil status documentation	90,059	133,258	223,318
Subtotal	<b>2,342,755</b>	<b>236,517</b>	<b>2,579,272</b>
<b>Security from violence and exploitation</b>			
Prevention and response to SGBV	559,931	0	559,931
Freedom of movement and reduction of detention risks	853,894	0	853,894
Protection of children	407,442	0	407,442
Subtotal	<b>1,821,267</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1,821,267</b>
<b>Basic needs and essential services</b>			
Health	4,573,954	0	4,573,954
Reproductive health and HIV services	403,954	0	403,954
Sanitation and hygiene	2,311,977	0	2,311,977
Shelter and infrastructure	1,131,918	0	1,131,918
Basic domestic items	4,275,367	0	4,275,367
Services for people with specific needs	1,633,931	0	1,633,931
Education	4,883,115	0	4,883,115
Subtotal	<b>19,214,214</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>19,214,214</b>
<b>Community empowerment and self-reliance</b>			
Community mobilization	687,378	0	687,378
Co-existence with local communities	731,977	0	731,977
Self-reliance and livelihoods	1,600,931	0	1,600,931
Subtotal	<b>3,020,286</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3,020,286</b>
<b>Durable solutions</b>			
Comprehensive solutions strategy	271,053	0	271,053
Voluntary return	116,059	0	116,059
Resettlement	1,389,109	0	1,389,109
Subtotal	<b>1,776,221</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1,776,221</b>
<b>Leadership, coordination and partnerships</b>			
Coordination and partnerships	515,931	0	515,931
Donor relations and resource mobilization	171,977	0	171,977
Subtotal	<b>687,908</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>687,908</b>
<b>Logistics and operations support</b>			
Operations management, coordination and support	4,099,869	0	4,099,869
Subtotal	<b>4,099,869</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>4,099,869</b>
<b>Headquarters and regional support</b>			
Protection advice and support	545,107	0	545,107
Technical advice and support	311,053	0	311,053
Subtotal	<b>856,160</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>856,160</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>35,601,706</b>	<b>389,775</b>	<b>35,991,481</b>
<b>2012 Revised budget (as of 30 June 2012)</b>	<b>31,665,872</b>	<b>364,011</b>	<b>32,029,883</b>

## PARTNERS

### Implementing partners

#### NGOs

Amel association  
*Association Justice et Miséricorde*  
 Caritas - Migrant Centre  
 Danish Refugee Council  
 International Medical Corps  
 Makhzoumi Foundation  
 Norwegian Refugee Council  
 Restart  
 Save the Children International

### Operational partners

#### Government agencies

High Relief Commission (under the Prime Minister's Office)  
 Ministries of the Interior, Social Affairs, Education, Public Health and Justice  
*Dar Al Fatwa*  
 Human Rights Committee in Parliament

#### NGOs

*Action contre la Faim*  
*Arc-en-Ciel*  
 Bridging the Divide  
 Chaldean Charity Association  
 Frontiers Ruwad Association  
 Insan Association  
*Institut Européen de Coopération et de Développement*  
 International Catholic Migration Commission  
 International Center for Migration Policy Development  
 International Orthodox Christian Charities  
 Islamic Relief  
 League of Arab Doctors  
 Lebanese Association for Development (*Al Majmoua*)  
*Médecins sans Frontières*  
 Mercy Corps  
*Mouvement Social*  
 Pinnacle  
*Première Urgence-Aide Médicale Internationale*  
 Right to Play  
*Terre des Hommes Italia*  
 War Child Holland  
 World Vision International

#### Others

ICRC  
 IFRC  
 ILO  
 IOM  
 Lebanese Red Cross  
 OCHA  
 OHCHR  
 UNDP  
 UNESCO  
 UNFPA  
 UNICEF  
 UNRWA  
 UNSCOL  
 WFP  
 WHO