



**UNHCR**  
The UN Refugee Agency

LEBANON



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## LEBANON EMERGENCY FLASH UPDATE 3 December 2024

Two boys and a man walk on the rubble of bombed buildings in the southern Lebanese town of Tyr, on 30 November.



Following the entry into force of the ceasefire on 27 November 2024:

**578,641**

Internally displaced people have begun returning to their communities.

(source: IOM/DTM)

**163,795**

IDPs have left the collective sites

(source: DRM/LRC)

**22,214**

registered IDPs in 396 collective shelters

(source: DRM/LRC)

### Situation overview

- A ceasefire between Israel and Hezbollah was announced on 26 November in the evening, effective as of 27 November at 4 am.
- Since the ceasefire, about **578,641 internally displaced persons (IDPs)** were reported in movement toward their places of origin (Source: IOM/DTM round 65 Flash update).
- Many displaced are unable to return to communities due to damage and destruction, as well as restrictions imposed by the Israeli Army.
- Since October 2023 and up until 29 November UNHCR had identified over **105,000 refugees** who are secondarily displaced, including over **90,000** since 23 September only, **99 per cent** being Syrian refugees.
- Since the ceasefire, about **7,885 people<sup>1</sup>** are estimated to have crossed from Lebanon to Syria, with around 56 per cent Syrians and 42 per cent Lebanese nationals. Arrivals into Syria have continued but at much reduced rates following the ceasefire. The primary reason of crossing seemingly remains to be reaching and accompanying their families who had previously fled to Syria back into to Lebanon.
- The overall situation remains **dynamic, with ongoing movements and challenges** in obtaining precise data on returns. Massive destruction indicate that reconstruction would be the biggest challenge moving forward, particularly as Lebanon was already struggling with an unprecedented financial and economic crisis before the conflict erupted.
- Since 23 September, over **425,000** Lebanese and refugees affected are being assisted with some type of cash assistance as part of the emergency response, and over **522,400** individuals overall since October 2023.
- **UNHCR emergency response continues while monitoring the evolving situation.** UNHCR remains committed to coordinate with authorities and other humanitarian actors in the next phase.

### 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 until the end of the year.
- **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 **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.**

<sup>1</sup>Figures are undergoing verification and are subject to change.



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## UNHCR RESPONSE

On 1 October, UNHCR declared an **internal Level 3 Emergency for Lebanon and Syria** to scale up its response efforts and coordination on the ground. UNHCR continues to respond to the needs of refugees and Lebanese displaced 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.**



### Protection

UNHCR's protection emergency strategy aims to repurpose and scale up existing systems for all populations, focusing on rapid assessments, protection monitoring, community-based structures, maintaining communication channels, and case management for high-risk individuals.

- Since 23 September, over **55,000** people have followed the new UNHCR Lebanon WhatsApp Channel to receive messages on awareness and security, rising scam risks, and emergency resources; separately, the HELP Lebanon website has received over **828,567** visits.
- UNHCR continues to process **claims** for information/referral from refugees and Lebanese displaced through its **complaint and feedback mechanisms**, including over **10,213** average daily calls to the National Call Centre and **200** average daily messages to the Online Contact Form in the past week.
- In areas not directly affected by strikes, UNHCR continues to support **community development centres (CDCs)** for safe 'one-stop-shop' support services and activities, including protection, psychosocial, social, and legal programmes. As of 28 November 2024, **17 CDCs out of 31** were physically open. Over the past week, CDC partners reached **5,419** through in-person, online or mobile activities. When CDCs are not able to operate, **UNHCR and partners are mobilized within and outside collective shelters**, delivering protection services similar to the ones in CDCs. Since the escalation of hostilities UNHCR's partners accessed **285 collective shelters, with 40 CSs reached during the past week**. With the closure of sites, CBP partners will be redirecting their efforts towards activities through CDCs (in-person, mobile and online) and on IDPs in collective shelters that remain open and in areas of return/secondary displacement.
- Since the escalation of hostilities, **9,030 displaced persons at heightened risk** were referred for specialized support by Outreach Volunteers, with **892 referrals** in the past week. Of those, 61% were displaced. The most reported referrals were urgent shelter and basic assistance needs risks of evictions and school dropouts and increase in child labor to support families.
- Through undertaking protection monitoring, UNHCR and its partners **provide data and protection analysis** for the Protection snapshots issued by the sectors, contributing to collective advocacy. Following the ceasefire, many Lebanese IDPs in collective shelters have returned to their homes, some remain on-site due to various challenges and uncertainties. Displaced refugees who were not residing in collective shelters have shown varying behaviors, with some choosing to stay where they are and others making their way back home.
- Since 23 September 2024, around **59,000 people** have been supported with **Emergency Protection Cash Assistance (EPCA)** to address specific protection needs. Since October 2023, this represents about **66,400 people**. **Around 67% of the persons reached are Lebanese**. EPCA was mostly used to address risks of eviction, risks and actual homelessness and resorting to harmful coping mechanisms.



### Health

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

- To facilitate refugees' access to life-saving services that include emergency care for refugees injured in war, UNHCR has expanded its hospital network in the South, Bekaa and Beirut Mount Lebanon regions **totaling 44 hospitals**. However, the ongoing conflict is forcing hospitals in high-risk areas to close or provide limited services. Since the ceasefire, of the 10 hospitals in UNHCR network in the most affected regions of Beka and South that were either closed or partially functioning, 3 remain closed, 2 partially operational and 5 have resumed full operations.
- **60 trauma kits donated** by UNHCR to the Ministry of Public Health were distributed to support 35 hospitals to support the treatment of war injured patients.
- 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.
- The UNHCR is actively providing emergency medical care for refugees impacted by the war. Since 23 September, UNHCR has supported treatment for **203 war-wounded refugees** at its contracted hospitals, with a total of **241** since October 2023.
- 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 care, and mental health. UNHCR also expanded its primary health care programme to include **outreach health services through mobile and satellite units** to serve the emerging health and mental health needs of displaced refugees and Lebanese.
- To support the national disease outbreak and response activities, UNHCR has deployed **two rapid response teams** to **facilitate disease surveillance**. It also dispatched Oral Rehydration Salts to two regions in light of high number of acute watery diarrhea cases, aiming to reduce dehydration and limit the risk of hospitalization when the health system is overstretched in responding to the emergency.





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## 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.

- Considering the rapid decrease in number of collective and the fluid context, current works in sites for collective shelters are on hold. UNHCR is monitoring the situation and will adapt to the changing context, including potential consolidation or decommissioning of collective shelters.
- In total UNHCR has supported 283 sites till the 27<sup>th</sup> of November with shelter interventions.
- In September 2024, **94,400 people** are targeted to receive **Cash-for-Shelter** and **over 103,000** since October 2023. About **91%** of them are Lebanese. Cash-for-Shelter addresses their primary shelter needs such as rent and payment of utility bills.
- Since October 2023 overall, **96,728 affected people received shelter support**, including Cash-for-Shelter, rehabilitation works, enhanced access to water, and improved privacy through partitions.



## 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, **339,288 core relief items** (CRIs) including mattresses, blankets, kitchen sets and solar lamps were distributed to **193,582 people**, **85% of them being Lebanese**. Overall, since October 2023, over **485,003 CRIs** were distributed to **250,541 displaced people**.
- As the majority of IDP have left the collective sites, distribution of CRIs will be provided to people remaining in the sites if not provided before and assessments will take place to identify the CRI needs for the people displaced as well as areas of return
- In response to the escalation of the hostilities, UNHCR is expending temporarily its existing **multi-purpose cash assistance** (MPCA) to affected vulnerable refugee families with the expansion of the MPCA reaching **271,600 people**.

## In their own words



*Sitting outside is unbearable*



As winter sets in across Lebanon, UNHCR is working tirelessly to help displaced families stay warm. Follow on [Instagram](#) or [X](#) © UNHCR

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

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