

Evictions of Syrian Refugees in 2017

OVERVIEW

~13,700 evicted individuals tracked by UNHCR in 2017

~32% of eviction threats result in eviction

Evictions are commonly carried out for any of the following reasons:

-  Safety and security
-  Failure to pay rent and other disputes with landlords
-  Desire by landlord to use land for alternative purposes
-  Social tensions

KEY PRINCIPLES

All options should be explored to prevent evictions; they can only be a last resort. The response to evictions will be tailored depending on the reason and the type of eviction.

The operational response must be carefully coordinated, within an agreed strategy, so that engagement is carried out with the right balance between the rights and humanitarian needs of affected populations and the legal justification underlying the eviction.

All protection responses must be underpinned by, and adhere to the "do no harm principle", by ensuring that interventions do not increase the protection risks faced by the affected persons and do not create any additional risks.

Due to operational constraints, UNHCR and partners are required to prioritize the response to the most vulnerable, especially in large eviction situations.

HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE

Depending on protection needs, eviction type, and location, the eviction response focusses on:

	Advocacy	With Government of Lebanon and relevant authorities to prevent evictions With LAF or landlords to extend grace period prior to eviction, to give refugees time to find alternative accommodation With neighbouring municipalities to accept relocating refugees
	Monitoring	Tracking movements through contact with evictees or field visits Post-response monitoring to ensure needs met
	Operational response	Referral for emergency or protection cash assistance Core relief items based on needs assessment Provision, in transit and relocation sites, of shelter kits, latrines and water trucks, hygiene kits, mobile medical units, and food parcels (for the most vulnerable)
	Relocation	Identification and assessment of possible relocation sites Obtaining approval for identified relocation sites from relevant authorities Relocation to protection shelters or shared accommodation
	Protection	Protection monitoring Protection counselling and legal assistance Follow-up for persons with specific needs
	Planning	Contingency planning and preparedness for possible eviction scenarios
	Coordination	Involvement of all relevant actors

EVICTIONS AND RESPONSE THROUGHOUT LEBANON

Response to Mizyara evictions in the North

UNHCR and partners tracked 175 households (822 persons) that were evicted from Mizyara in September–October 2017.

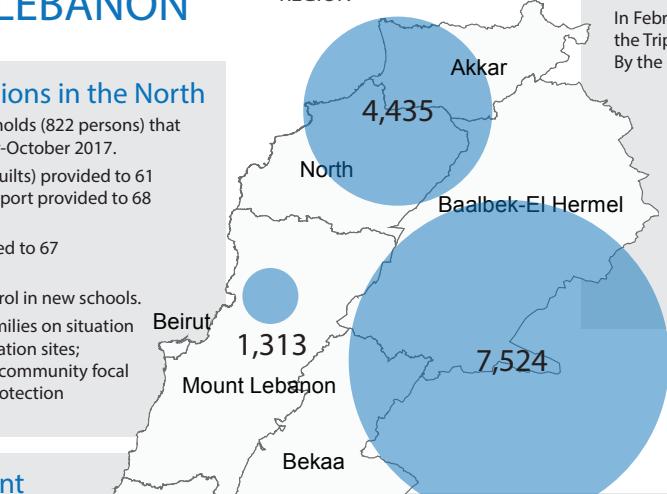
-  Core relief items (mattresses and quilts) provided to 61 households; WASH and shelter support provided to 68 households.
-  Emergency cash assistance provided to 67 households.
-  109 evicted children assisted to enrol in new schools.
-  Follow-up with evicted refugee families on situation and to facilitate reporting on relocation sites; identification of vulnerabilities via community focal points, outreach volunteers and protection monitoring teams.

Response in Beirut & Mount Lebanon

In 2017, 318 households were evicted in Mount Lebanon (individually and collectively).

-  Advocacy with municipalities and landlords to extend eviction notice period.
-  Legal/protection counselling sessions conducted with affected families or individuals; relocation to protection shelters rehabilitated by UNHCR offered to 9 families with protection concerns (GBV, CP, high vulnerability).
-  Due to lack of available collective shelters (only 12), UNHCR provided emergency cash assistance to 451 households to support the most vulnerable families or families with protection concerns in renting their own shelter.
-  Core relief items provided to evicted families in need.

TOTAL NUMBER OF TRACKED INDIVIDUALS EVICTED PER REGION



Response to TOIL pipeline evictions in Akkar

In February 2017, some 220 households (1,336 persons) living near the Tripoli Oil Installations (TOIL) pipeline received eviction notices. By the end of March, 91% had been evicted.

-  Advocacy with TOIL and LAF to extend the eviction notice period and clarify the distance to be maintained from the pipeline.
-  Basic assistance provided at relocation sites (including 75 shelter kits, 22 latrines, 14 water tanks, 176 hygiene kits, 109 baby kits, 167 core relief item kits and 176 jerry cans).
-  Protection counselling sessions conducted with 90 refugee households, of which 33 households received assistance with lease agreements.

Response to Bcharre evictions in the North

By 1 December 2017, 93 households (488 individuals) were confirmed as evicted from Bcharre.

-  Advocacy with local, regional and central authorities to annul or postpone the eviction; advocacy for the reopening of the school and to mitigate tension.
-  40 refugee children were assisted to enrol in a new school.
-  Core relief items provided to 11 households; WASH and shelter support provided to 12 households.
-  Emergency cash provided to 5 households.
-  Daily protection monitoring through OVs and partners, for updates on situation and refugees movements.

NORTH & AKKAR

 848 families evicted

5,507 families at risk of eviction

UNHCR in the North only tracked evictions involving six or more families ('collective' or 'collective site' evictions). This includes many evictions of entire informal settlements or collective shelters by landlords.

Evictions initiated by...

42% municipalities

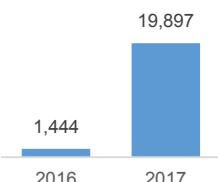
30% security forces

21% landlords

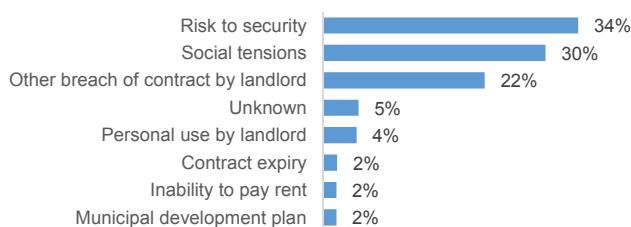
4% host communities

3% other state agents

Individuals remaining at risk of eviction



Main reasons for eviction



BEKAA & BAALBEK EL HERMEL

 1,300 families evicted

2,600 families at risk of eviction

Evictions initiated by...

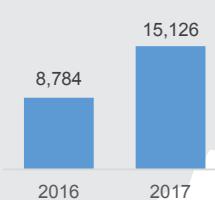
58% security forces

30% municipalities

11% landlords

1% other state agents

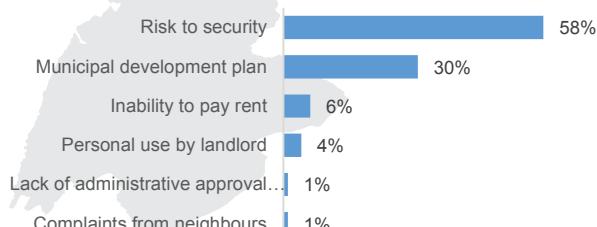
Individuals remaining at risk of eviction



Riyak eviction

Over half of all evictions (56%) in the Bekaa in 2017 related to the Riyak evictions, i.e. 4,200 out of the total 7,524 individuals evicted.

Main reasons for eviction



BEIRUT & MOUNT LEBANON

 318 families evicted

1,519 families at risk of eviction

Individual evictions represent 95% of the incidents and affect 38% of the individuals, while collective evictions only represent 5% of the incidents but affect 62% of the individuals (living in collective shelters).

Evictions initiated by...

61% landlords

31% municipalities

4% non-state agents

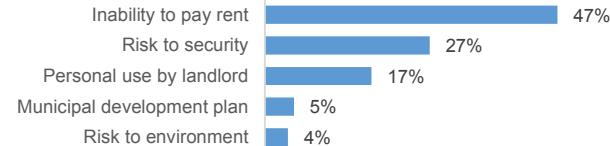
4% other state agents

Individuals remaining at risk of eviction



The high number of eviction threats in 2017 was mainly due to the Hadath incident reported in October 2017, which increased the figures drastically. An estimated 775 families are at risk, with 79 families having confirmed the eviction notice and only 19 families having been evicted.

Main reasons for eviction



SOUTH & EL NABATIYEH

 80 families evicted

263 families at risk of eviction

There have not been any major collective evictions in the South in 2017, unlike in other regions. However, UNHCR in the South noted a significant increase in the number of cases at risk of eviction reported through the hotline, at UNHCR's premises and through partners in 2017, especially after the discontinuation of food and/or multi-purpose cash assistance for many refugee families since September 2017.

Evictions initiated by...

72% landlords

3% security forces

25% other

Individuals remaining at risk of eviction



Main reasons for eviction

