

# Lebanon

July 2022

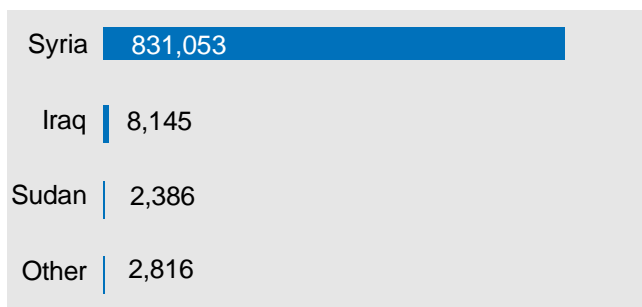
Lebanon remains the country hosting the **largest number of refugees per capita**, with the Government estimation of **1.5 M Syrian refugees** + some 13,347 refugees of other nationalities.

The socio-economic downturn coupled with the COVID-19 pandemic and Beirut blast have all contributed to **nine out of ten Syrian refugees living in extreme poverty**.

Syrian refugees holding valid legal residency has further decreased, hampering their access to **basic services, civil documentation** and increasing the **risk of deportation**.

## POPULATION OF CONCERN

(registered refugees)

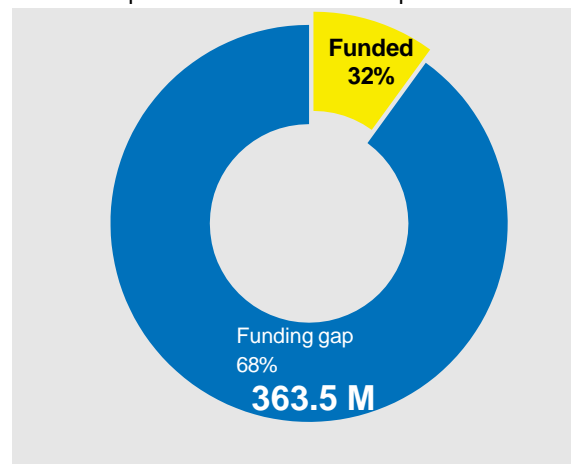


\* Registration figures as of June 2022

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

## USD 534.3 M

requested for the Lebanon operation in 2022



FUNDING (AS OF 5 July 2022)

## UNHCR PRESENCE

### Staff:

584 National Staff

96 International Staff

### Offices:

1 Country Office in Beirut

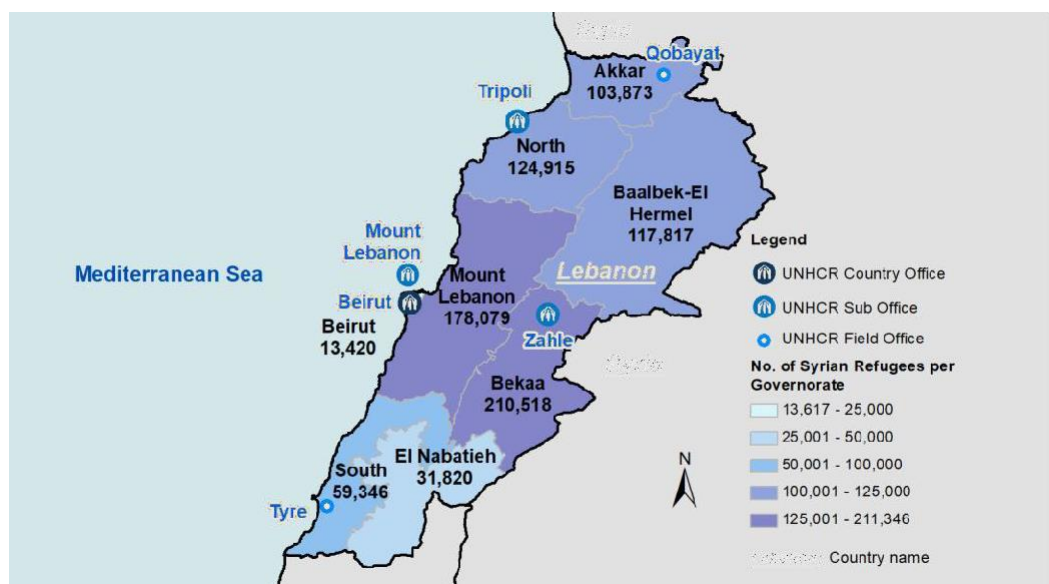
3 Sub-offices:

Tripoli, Zahle &

Mount Lebanon

2 Field Offices:

Tyre & Qobayat



# Working with Partners

- Under the 2022 – 2023 Lebanon Crisis Response Plan (LCRP), UNHCR co-leads 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 LCRP, UNHCR co-leads the Protection, Basic Assistance, Health, Shelter, and Social Stability sectors with the government and UN/INGO/NGO counterparts, ensuring the inclusion of refugees in the strategy, design and programming of various partners.
- Through the LCRP, UNHCR and partners seek to respond to the ongoing impact of the Syria crisis on Lebanon, including ensuring protection and providing immediate assistance to vulnerable people, supporting service provision through national systems, and reinforcing Lebanon’s economic, social, and environmental stability.
- Since 2015, Lebanon has received over USD 9 billion in support for displaced Syrians, vulnerable Lebanese, and Palestine refugees under the LCRP. In 2022, the Government of Lebanon and its national and international partners are appealing for USD 3.2 billion.
- 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 the Social Cohesion, Inclusion and Gender sectors in the Reform, Recovery and Reconstruction Framework (3RF).
- In line with the Global Compact on Refugees and its “whole of society” approach, UNHCR is engaging with a network of 24 local civil society actors on displacement-related issues. The network has been active in countering misinformation around refugees in Lebanon by presenting facts, conducting research, hosting roundtables, and drafting policy briefs. The network members include NGOs, academia, think tanks, and faith-based organizations – some of which made pledges during the Global Refugee Forum in December 2019.
- In 2022, UNHCR has partnership agreements with 27 partners, of which 15 are international, 9 are national and three are UN agencies.

## 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 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. According to the 2022 second quarter PM findings, refugees struggle to meet their basic needs in the face of Lebanon’s deepening crises. Food insecurity has become highly acute, with 95 per cent of refugee households reporting difficulties buying food due to lack of money.
- The PM findings demonstrate significant gaps in livelihoods with 54 per cent of refugees reporting a loss of employment and/or income, health with 33 per cent of those requiring medical treatment not having access to healthcare for financial reasons, and housing with 83 per cent of refugees not being able or having increased difficulty to pay rent. In addition, during the

quarter, an increasingly high number of refugees (77%) said they took on debt to pay for necessities, while 55% bought food on credit.

- In line with UNHCR's Global Campaign to end statelessness by 2024, 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; 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 persons, UNHCR engages refugees in decisions that affect their lives. 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 25 Community Centers, including 19 CDCs and 6 Social Development Centers (SDCs) across the country, UNHCR supports people of diverse backgrounds, nationalities, genders and age groups to access updated information, learn new skills, build social networks, and enhance their psychosocial well-being. CDCs also provide case management and psychosocial support services.
- From 01 April until 30 June, UNHCR recorded 15,179 new participants in CDC activities, bringing the total number of participants in 2022 to 49,456 (73% being women and girls). Of all participants, 24% participated in awareness sessions, 17% in skills trainings and learning activities, and 12% in Psychological Support Services while 66% accessed other services, including the information desk, case management, or recreational activities.
- UNHCR currently engages 561 general and specialized Refugee Outreach Volunteers (OVs) from the refugee and host communities who, during the period covered, reached 192,081 refugees through 7,447 awareness-raising and information sessions and 3,273 household visits. OVs also provide real-time insights into community protection risks and priorities and play an important role in passing updated information on government policies, assistance available, and other information which impacts refugees' well-being in their communities.
- During this reporting period, OVs also referred 8,202 persons with specific needs to UNHCR and partners, of which 48% were women and girls and 37% were children (bringing the total number of persons referred to 16,706 in 2022). The top three referrals included persons with a critical or serious medical condition (33%), persons with physical and legal protection needs (18%) and children at risk (10%).
- During the reporting period, 67 Community Health Volunteers (CHVs) reached 489 sites, including 5,077 families, bringing the total number of families reached to 15,450 in 2022 of which 54% reported protection concerns including discriminatory curfews, social tensions, restrictions of movement, among others.

### **Education**

- In the second quarter, the vast majority of public schools resumed teaching for the scholastic year 2021-2022. Given the delays in the start of the school year, the Ministry of Education and Higher Education (MEHE) extended the scholastic year for morning and afternoon shifts, to allow for children to complete the minimum number of academic teaching days. By the end of June, the majority of first shift public schools ended the scholastic year. MEHE official exams

for the General Secondary and Intermediate Certificate (Grades 9 and 12) took place and refugee youth seeking candidacy for these exams were able to apply with a waiver of documentation requirements.

- Under the reporting period, UNHCR supported 363 Education Community Liaisons in public schools to help in mediation between children, parents and school management, and to identify cases of violence, bullying and learning difficulties.
- UNHCR also created a safe learning environment for 4,544 refugee children and youth to learn and benefit from Homework support and other retention programs for formal education.
- UNHCR continued to run its Youth Education Project (YEP). During the second quarter of 2022, 181 vulnerable youth from refugee and host communities completed accredited competency-based vocational trainings, and 87% of the 2021 graduates found work in their field of training.
- For higher education, UNHCR continued supporting students through the DAFI scholarships programme. DAFI scholarships and connected learning support were provided to 80 students (67% female and 33% male) to access and enroll in the Lebanese Public University. UNHCR launched the call for application to select a new batch of DAFI students, and a series of events to commemorate the 30 years of DAFI scholarship at global level.
- UNHCR reached 1,813 out of school refugee children and 119 youth with basic literacy and numeracy programmes to support their entry into formal education.
- During the reporting period, UNHCR reached around 36,398 refugee parents and children with awareness sessions and mobilized 505 parents of refugee children in second shift schools and capacitating them to support their children to remain in school.

### Health

- The degradation of the economic situation in Lebanon has negatively impacted access to healthcare and medicine. UNHCR's health care interventions aim to ensure access for refugees in Lebanon to primary and secondary health care.
- UNHCR operates a large referral care programme to subsidize hospitalization fees. The assistance includes covering a major part of the cost for refugees in need of obstetric care and urgent lifesaving interventions at hospitals, through a network of 32 contracted hospitals.
- In addition, UNHCR and partners support 170 primary health care centers across the country to provide general health care services, vaccinations, care for pregnant, family planning and care for chronic non-communicable diseases. In addition, UNHCR supports the delivery of mental health services that are scarce and of limited in Lebanon.

### 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 580 community support projects have been implemented by UNHCR in Lebanon as of the end of July 2022. Given the rapid decline in services, UNHCR targeted additional support to key municipal services, including implementing solid waste management and public infrastructure projects in 2022.

### Shelter, Water, and Sanitation

- UNHCR aims to ensure the protection of vulnerable populations and contribute to social stability through mitigating the deteriorating shelter and economic conditions and improving access to physically adequate shelter while ensuring the security of tenure. Focus is given on lifesaving interventions addressing the shelter needs in informal settlements and disadvantaged urban/peri-urban areas.
- In informal settlements, refugees receive fire mitigation kits and shelter kits 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 are prioritized for site improvement works, allowing enhanced preparedness against floods and fire incidents.
- 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. Targeted refugees receive an integrated shelter/WASH response, including shelter rehabilitation and rehabilitation of common areas which allows vulnerable refugees to live in adequate shelters/buildings and benefit from secure tenure through free occupancy for one year.
- In response to the increased rental prices, debts, and high risk of eviction, UNHCR continues to focus on Cash for Rent assistance, targeting general and specific protection referral cases allowing the targeted families to adjust to the deteriorating economic situations and benefit from enhanced tenure security in shelters with an adequate standard.

### Basic Needs

- UNHCR assists vulnerable displaced and refugee families to cover their most basic needs through the distribution of cash assistance as well as in-kind assistance. Since 2013, UNHCR has been providing Multi-Purpose Cash Assistance (MCAP) through ATM cards. Cash assistance strengthens the capacity of benefitting 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.
- In 2022, UNHCR is targeting 144,000 severely vulnerable Syrian households and 2,400 refugee households of other nationalities for MCAP assistance. In addition, UNHCR provides Core Relief Items such as blankets, mattresses, and solar lamps. During the Winter season, UNHCR provides additional cash assistance to vulnerable families. Between October 2021 and February 2022, 276,784 refugee families (273,684 Syrians and 3,100 of other nationalities) and 42,972 Lebanese families were supported with winter cash assistance.

### COVID-19 in Lebanon and UNHCR Response to the Outbreak (as of 31 July 2022)

- Lebanon has reported 1,113,519 confirmed cases of COVID-19 and 10,467 fatalities since the start of the pandemic.
- By the end of June, more than 10,620 COVID-19 cases have been confirmed among refugees, including 464 deaths.
- In total, 3,837,738 individuals registered for vaccination on the e-Government IMPACT Platform, and 5,429,295 vaccine doses were administered.
- In total, 581,891 Syrians were registered on IMPACT and 574,636 doses were administered.
- Since the start of the pandemic, UNHCR has been supporting the national COVID-19 response

in close collaboration with WHO and other partners. UNHCR has focused on three main areas of intervention: prevention through community engagement and awareness-raising, containment of transmission through the setting up of isolation procedures in overcrowded settings, and treatment through the expansion of the national hospitalization capacity for case management.

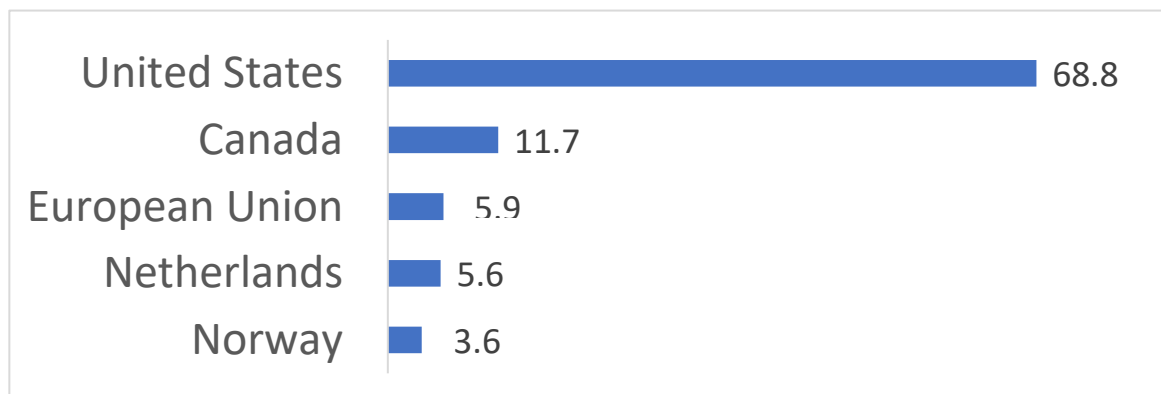
- UNHCR continues to hold a mobile COVID-19 vaccination campaign reaching a total of 61,373 vaccine doses through mobile teams deployed across the country until the end of June 2022.
- As part of its response to outbreaks, UNHCR supported with the distribution of 1,450 Antigen Rapid Tests (AgRDTs) for COVID-19, along with 1,557 Infectious Substance Transport Boxes to be used in laboratories across the country, including peripheral areas, for infectious disease specimen collection.

## 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.

### EARMARKED CONTRIBUTIONS | USD (as of 5 July 2022)

Earmarked contributions for the operation amount to some **US \$ 65 million**



Denmark | Finland | France | Japan | Luxembourg | The Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Global Initiatives | Monaco | Norway | Private donors | Qatar Charity | Qatar | Spain | Sweden | Switzerland

### OTHER SOFTLY EARMARKED CONTRIBUTIONS | USD

Norway | United States of America | Private donors

### UNEARMARKED CONTRIBUTIONS | USD

Special thanks to the major donors of unearmarked contributions.

Belgium 11.9 million | Denmark 35.6 million | France 18.5 million | Germany 27 million | Ireland 11.8 million | Italy 10 million | Private Donors Japan 26.6 million | Private donors Republic of Korea 16.4 million | Netherlands 37.2 million | Norway 72.5 million | Private Donors Spain 39 million | Sweden 99.3 million | Switzerland 18.4 million | United Kingdom 28.1 million | Private Donors USA 15 million

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