

Lebanon

April 2023

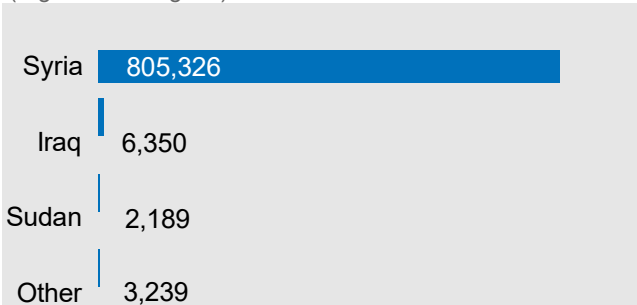
Lebanon remains the country hosting the **largest number of refugees per capita**, with the Government estimation of **1.5 M Syrian refugees** and 11,778 refugees of other nationalities.

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**.

The number of Syrian refugees holding **valid legal residency** has further decreased, hampering their access to **basic services**, and **civil documentation**.

POPULATION OF CONCERN

(registered refugees)

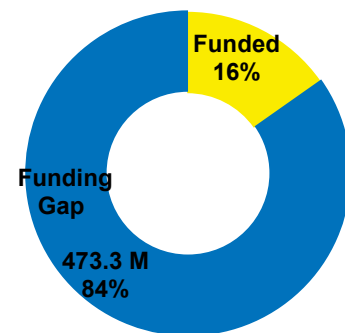


* Registration figures as of April 2023.

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

USD 560.2 M

requested for the Lebanon operation in 2023



FUNDING (As of 27 April 2023)

UNHCR PRESENCE

Staff:

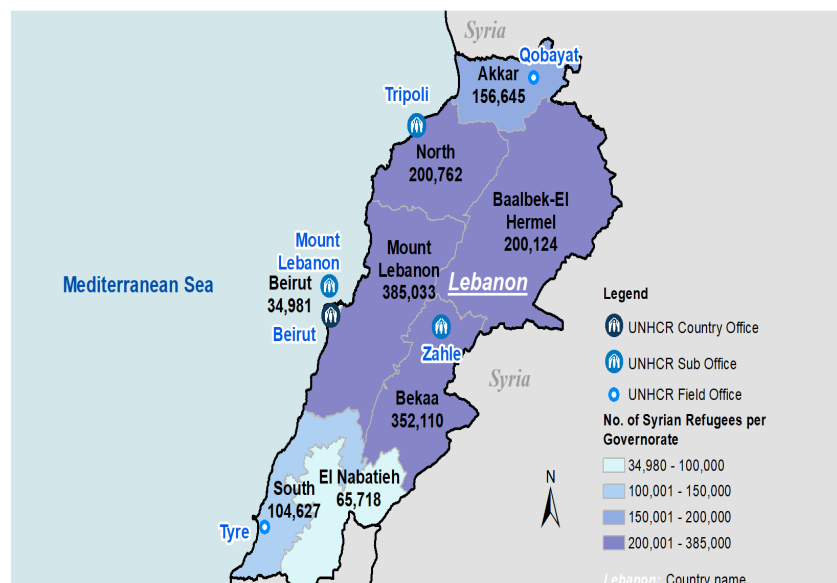
508 National Staff

93 International Staff

Offices:

1 Country Office in Beirut

5 Sub and Field Offices in Beirut, Qobayat, Tripoli, Tyre and Zahle



Working with Partners

- Under the 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 9.6 billion in support for displaced Syrians, vulnerable Lebanese, and Palestine refugees under the LCRP. In 2023, the Government of Lebanon and its national and international partners appeal for USD 3.59 billion to cover the growing needs of vulnerable populations in Lebanon.
- 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 Gender Working Groups in the Reform, Recovery and Reconstruction Framework (3RF).
- UNHCR is also actively involved in the process of developing and implementing the UN Strategic Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) and joint programmes that incorporate rights-based and gender-sensitive approaches.
- In line with the Global Compact on Refugees and its "whole of society" approach, UNHCR is supporting and engaging with a network of 31 local civil society actors on displacement-related issues comprised of NGOs, academia, think tanks, and faith-based organizations.
- In 2023, UNHCR has partnership agreements with 23 partners, of which 8 are international and 15 national.

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 the 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.
- The Q1 2023 PM findings demonstrate that 93% of refugee households faced difficulties feeding their households, 82% struggled to pay rent, 40% reported decreasing livelihoods, and more than a third reported suffering from reduced access to healthcare including unaffordability of essential medicines.
- 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. UNHCR 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 people, UNHCR ensures that women, men, girls, and boys of diverse backgrounds are regularly consulted and engaged in decision-making. To achieve this, UNHCR and partners have established community structures that provide organized and systematic engagement with communities, such as participatory assessments, community centers, and refugee outreach volunteer (OV) networks.
- Through 25 Community Centers, including 19 Community Development Centres (CDCs) and six Social Development Centers (SDCs) across the country, UNHCR supports persons of diverse backgrounds 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.
- In the first quarter of 2023, UNHCR reached over 44,000 participations, of which 71% were women and girls, through 25 community centers. The CDC activities include psychosocial support, skills building and learning activities, including basic literacy and numeracy, as well as computer skills.
- UNHCR engages 563 general and specialized refugee outreach volunteers from the refugee and host communities, of whom 60% are women, to provide real-time insights into community protection risks and priorities that inform UNHCR and partners' programmes.
- As of March 2023, OVs reached 84,551 persons through 5,546 awareness and information sessions and 3,587 household visits. They also referred 9,533 persons, of whom 48% were women and girls, at heightened protection risk to relevant and specialized partners and services. Since 24 October 2022 and up until Q1 2023, OVs conducted 3,768 awareness and information-sharing sessions on Acute Watery Diarrhea/Cholera, reaching 53,915 persons.
- With mental health needs increasing, UNHCR through its partner Save the Children, trained 32 OVs to provide community-based psychosocial support in their communities through Problem Management Plus (PM+) and Psychological First Aid techniques in Q1. In 2023, 65 OVs will provide community-based psycho-social support in their communities.

Education

- Registration for the school year 2022-2023 in public second-shift schools officially ended on 10 December. Schools continued registering refugee children in formal education on an ad-hoc basis. Many second-shift schools began teaching between 17 and 20 October.
- Following a school closure of two months (9 January – 6 March) due to teachers' strike over pay and working conditions, schools re-opened with nearly all primary schools and an estimated 78% of the secondary schools currently teaching. The Ministry of Education and Higher Education (MEHE) and partners are monitoring attendance in schools, currently reported at around 80%. Families continue to share challenges about access to and retention in schools related to transportation fees and limited availability of materials such as stationery and textbooks.
- UNHCR continues its community-based retention support programmes aiming to reach 72,424 individuals with awareness sessions on education in 2023. In addition, UNHCR aims to assist 6,820 refugee children in formal education with homework support. By the end of the first quarter, UNHCR partners reached 32,313 refugee children with awareness sessions and 4,159 children with homework support activities to support their retention in school.

- UNHCR's Refugee Education Community Liaisons (ECLs) are also mobilized to refer refugee children needing support with education to relevant partners for follow-up. By the end of March, 366 ECLs were deployed inside schools to monitor the teaching situation in the afternoon shift and refugees' access to education.
- UNHCR partners are referring out-of-school refugee children to enroll in the School Bridging Programme planned for the scholastic year. In 2023, UNHCR partners aim to identify and refer 8,800 out-of-school refugee children to available education pathways. To date, 2,404 children were identified, and 805 children were referred to sector partners.
- In 2023 so far, 2,986 refugee children at primary age are to be reached with Basic Literacy and Numeracy activities, in addition to 241 refugee youths.
- UNHCR continues to support students in accessing universities through the DAFI scholarship programme. Since 2022, the scholarship programme has been implemented with a private university (Lebanon International University) and the public Lebanese University. In total, 26 refugee students departed under Education Complementary Pathways opportunities with the Bourse Elysee to France, the JISR/JICA to Japan, and the WUSC/SRP to Canada in 2022, and UNHCR is currently facilitating the same opportunities for 2023.
- In 2023, 22 vocational training programmes will be implemented in four regions to reach 330 youth, including vulnerable Lebanese.

Health

- The deteriorating economic situation in Lebanon has negatively impacted the access to healthcare and medicines for refugees and vulnerable Lebanese. UNHCR's health care interventions aim to ensure access for refugees in Lebanon to primary, secondary, and tertiary health care.
- UNHCR operates a large referral healthcare programme to subsidize hospitalization fees to facilitate refugees' access to hospital care by paying a significant portion of the hospital bills. The assistance includes covering a significant part of the cost for refugees in need of obstetric care and urgent lifesaving interventions at hospitals through a network of 30 contracted hospitals. In Q1 2023, UNHCR supported a total of 17,774 admissions to contracted hospitals.
- In addition, UNHCR and partners support 210 primary health care centers across the country to provide general health care services such as vaccinations, maternal care, and care for chronic non-communicable diseases. In addition, UNHCR supports the delivery of mental health services that are scarce and limited in Lebanon.
- In 2023, UNHCR aims to support 54,123 primary health care consultations and 32,109 mental health specialized consultations for refugees, asylum seekers, and vulnerable Lebanese through facilities receiving support from UNHCR and its implementing partners. In Q1, UNHCR supported 14,752 primary healthcare and 12,653 mental health consultations.

Cholera Response

- UNHCR has been a vital member of the National Cholera Taskforce ever since the Lebanese Ministry of Public Health declared the Cholera outbreak in Lebanon on 6 October 2022.
- UNHCR remains ready to support the case management of refugees suffering from Cholera, covering 100% of hospitalization costs for suspected Cholera Cases.
- Since November 2022, UNHCR has supported the Ministry of Public Health with the implementation of the Nationwide National Oral Cholera Vaccination campaign. During this campaign which ended in February 2023, a total of 1,040,683 single doses of the oral cholera vaccine were administered.

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 655 community support projects have been implemented by UNHCR in Lebanon as of the end of December 2022. In 2023, UNHCR aims to implement 35 community support projects across the country.

Shelter, Water, and Sanitation

- UNHCR aims to ensure the protection of vulnerable populations and contribute to social stability by mitigating the deteriorating shelter and economic conditions and improving access to physically adequate shelter while ensuring the security of tenure. Focus is given to lifesaving interventions addressing the shelter needs in informal settlements and disadvantaged urban/peri-urban areas.
- In informal settlements, 4,803 refugees received shelter and fire mitigation 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 were assessed for further prioritization 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 vulnerable neighborhoods. During the first quarter of 2023, UNHCR focused on identifying vulnerable neighborhoods and assessing shelters and buildings for potential rehabilitation of shelters and common areas. This approach 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 is focusing on Cash for Rent assistance, targeting individuals of general and specific protection referral cases. In Q1 2023, 801 individuals received assistance, allowing the families to adjust to the deteriorating economic situations and benefit from enhanced tenure security in shelters with adequate standards.

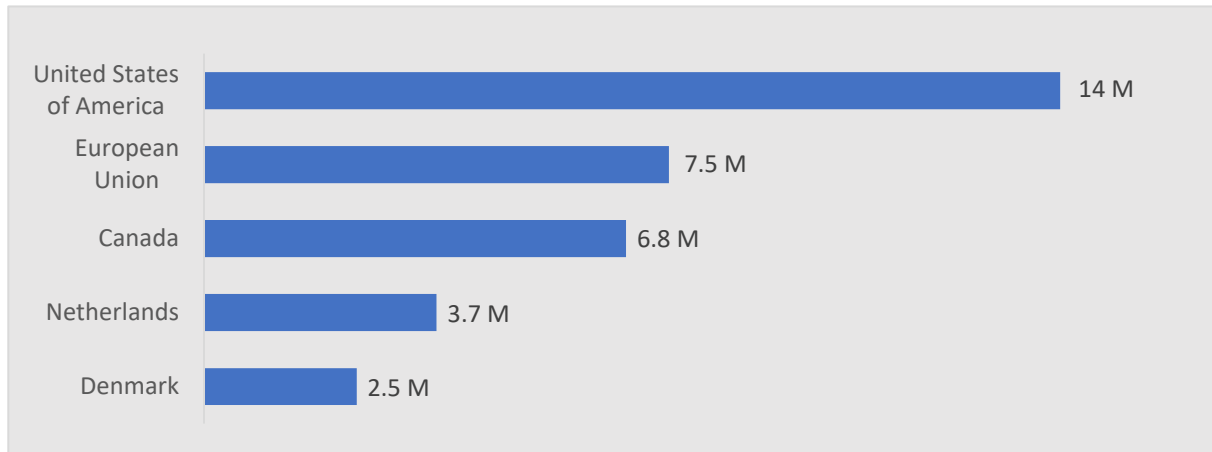
Basic Needs

- 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 2023, UNHCR is aiming to assist 119,000 vulnerable Syrian households and 2,666 refugee households of other nationalities with MCAP.
- During the winter season, UNHCR provided additional cash assistance to 296,181 vulnerable refugee families between November 2022 and March 2023. To further support refugees and host communities living in harsh climatic conditions, UNHCR supported 29,002 families with Core Relief Items such as blankets, mattresses, and solar lamps as well as 26,039 families with winter clothing donations.

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.

CONTRIBUTIONS | USD (as of 27 April 2023)



Earmarked contributions for the operation amount to some US \$ 86.9 M

Austria | Canada | Denmark | European Union | Japan | Netherlands | Luxembourg | Monaco | Norway | Switzerland | United States of America | Private donors

OTHER SOFTLY EARMARKED CONTRIBUTIONS | USD

Finland 5.2 million | **Private donors Germany** 2.5 million | **Private donors Australia** 2.1 million
Iceland | United States of America | Private donors

UNEARMARKED CONTRIBUTIONS | USD

Sweden 69 million | **Norway** 63.1 million | **Denmark** 35.6 million | **Netherlands** 34.1 million | **Germany** 23.1 million | **Switzerland** 18.9 million | **Belgium** 11.9 million | **Ireland** 11.9 million

Algeria | Australia | Bulgaria | Canada | Costa Rica | Estonia | Finland | Iceland | Luxembourg | Malta | Monaco | Montenegro | New Zealand | Peru | Philippines | Republic of Korea | Saudi Arabia | Serbia | Singapore | Thailand | Türkiye | Uruguay | Private donors

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