

# Lebanon

August 2023

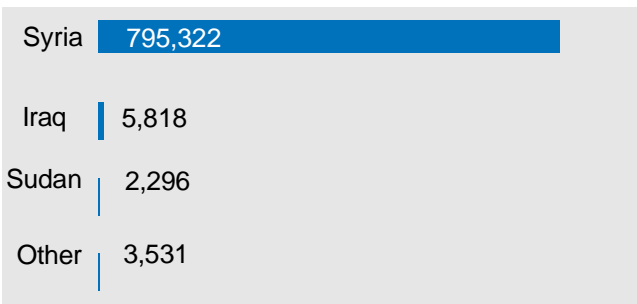
Lebanon remains the country hosting the **largest number of refugees per capita**, with the Government estimation of **1.5 M Syrian refugees** and 11,645 refugees of other nationalities.

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)

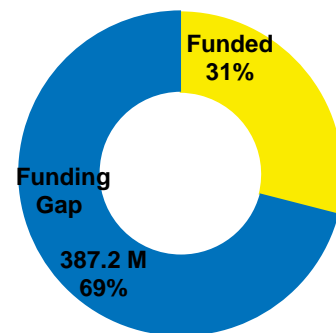


\* Registration figures as of July 2023.

\*\* 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 31 August 2023)

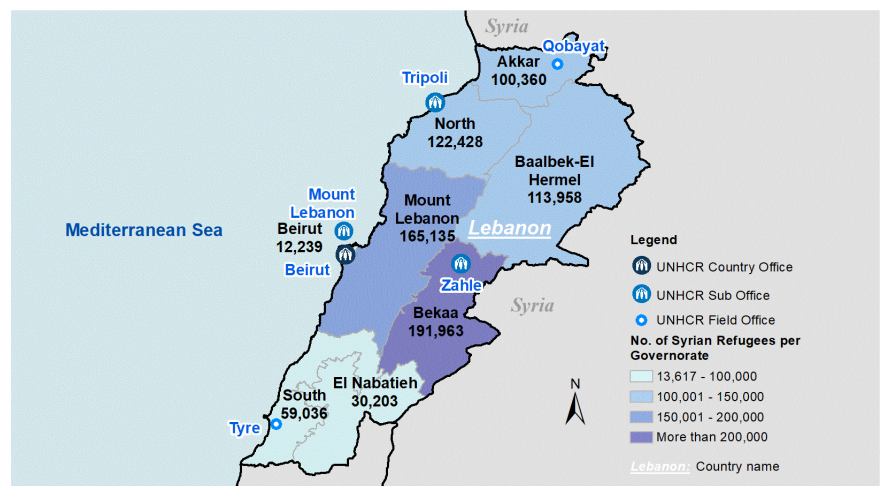
## UNHCR PRESENCE

### Staff:

- 504 National Staff
- 94 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 Q2, civil society actors began drafting joint pledges around the topics of civil documentation and statelessness, education and preventive health care to share ahead of the Global Refugee Forum in December 2023.
- In 2023, UNHCR has partnership agreements with 23 partners, of which 8 are international and 15 are 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 Q2 2023 PM findings demonstrate that 90% of refugees faced difficulties feeding their households, 84% struggled to pay rent, 44% reported decreasing livelihoods, and 38% suffered from reduced access to healthcare including the 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.
- Through 26 Community Centers, including 20 Community Development Centres (CDCs) and six Social Development Centers (SDCs), UNHCR supports persons of diverse backgrounds to access updated information. In addition, the Community Development Centres offer learning possibilities learning, including through basic literacy and numeracy activities, as well as digital and computer skills, build social networks, and enhance their psychosocial well-being.
- CDCs also provide case management and psychosocial support services. These interventions are complemented through the mobilization of 568 general and specialized Refugee Outreach Volunteers (OVs) capacitated to share information and community concerns, identify and refer persons at heightened risk, and contribute to community-based solutions. As of August 2023, UNHCR recorded over 199,000 instances of participation, of which 70% were women and girls, through community centers.
- With mental health needs increasing, UNHCR, through its partner Save the Children, trained 858 OVs and UNHCR and partner NGOs frontliners with the techniques and tools that allow them to support refugees in managing stress, adversity and daily challenges. In total, 62 OVs provided 1,241 persons with community-based psychosocial support by June 2023, of whom 68% were women.

### Education

- UNHCR, in coordination with MEHE and partners, is implementing reinforcement classes targeting approximately 1,000 children (Syrian and Lebanese) in Grades 9 and 12 in public schools in the Bekaa to support students with their official exams.
- 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 second quarter in 2023, UNHCR's partners reached 38,632 refugee children with awareness sessions and 6,090 children with homework support activities to support their retention in school, including reinforcement classes for official exams. 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, 3,314 children were identified, and 966 children have been referred to sector partners.
- In 2023, 2,986 primary-age refugee children will be reached with Basic Literacy and Numeracy activities, in addition to 241 refugee youths. By the end of the second quarter, 2,458 children and 189 youth had acquired foundational skills in Basic Literacy and Numeracy.
- 158,000 students (32% non-Lebanese) participated in MEHE summer school 2023, in 587 schools. UNHCR supported sports and arts material and activities in 369 schools, working with

over 970 Lebanese teachers and reaching over 106,000 children (61% are Lebanese, 38% are Syrians and 1% are of other nationalities).

- UNHCR supports students accessing higher education opportunities in the country, notably through the Albert Einstein German Academic Refugee Initiative (DAFI) scholarship programme. The scholarship is implemented in two universities in Lebanon (the Lebanon International University and the Public Lebanese University) covers students' tuition fees and provides selected students with monthly allowances, through cash cards. The grant is closely monitored and linked to students' academic progress and volunteering commitment. In 2023, refugee students have applied to different Education Complementary Pathways opportunities, such as the Bourse Elysee to France, the JISR/JICA to Japan, and the WUSC/SRP to Canada, and are currently waiting for selection results or departures. UNHCR disseminates, facilitates, and takes part in the selection process.
- UNHCR implements 22 accredited short vocational trainings for 330 vulnerable Lebanese, stateless and out-of-school refugee youth. Sessions are provided in childcare, carpentry, coding, hospitality, and installation of solar panels, among others. The placement rate after 12 months from graduation was 88%, of which 78% of graduates were working in their learning domains and 10% were moving further in education programmes. UNHCR is regularly putting forward refugee graduates for labour mobility opportunities. The programme has a robust coordination component with governmental institutes as well as leading private companies and aligns with the Global Compact on Refugees.

## 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 and vulnerable host communities in Lebanon to primary health care and access to refugees to 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. From 1 January to 31 August 2023, UNHCR supported a total of 41,296 admissions to contracted hospitals.
- In addition, UNHCR and various partners support 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 increase the target of mental health specialized consultations to 51,752 for refugees, asylum seekers, and vulnerable Lebanese through facilities receiving support from UNHCR and its implementing partners. From 1 January to 31 August 2023, UNHCR supported 33,626 primary healthcare and 26,230 mental health consultations.
- As part of UNHCR's continued support for improving the capacity of the Lebanese health system, medical equipment and supplies were distributed to the Intensive Care Units (ICU) and other emergency departments of five government hospitals across the country.
- In order to support the national contingency stock as a preparation for the potential resurgence of cholera cases, UNHCR donated 14,000 cholera rapid diagnostic kits and 200,000 oral rehydration solution sachets to the MoPH, to help enhance preparedness for early detection and timely response at health facilities and within communities.

### **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 46 community support projects across the country.

### **Shelter, Water, and Sanitation**

- UNHCR aims to protect 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.
- UNHCR supported 7,522 refugees living in informal tented settlements in preparing for winter and responding to emergencies (flooding, evictions, or fire incidents).
- In total 1,860 refugees received shelter and fire mitigation kits to reinforce or rebuild their shelters that had been exposed to emergencies. Also, critical settlements were assessed and prioritized for site improvement works, allowing preparedness against floods and fire incidents for 3,500 individuals.
- 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 in identified vulnerable neighborhoods. In total 679 targeted refugees received an integrated shelter/WASH response, including shelter and common areas rehabilitation, allowing vulnerable refugees to live in adequate shelters/buildings, improve safety 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 general and specific protection referral cases. In total 2,964 individuals received assistance, allowing families to adjust to the deteriorating economic situation and benefit from enhanced tenure security in shelters with adequate standards.

### **Basic Needs**

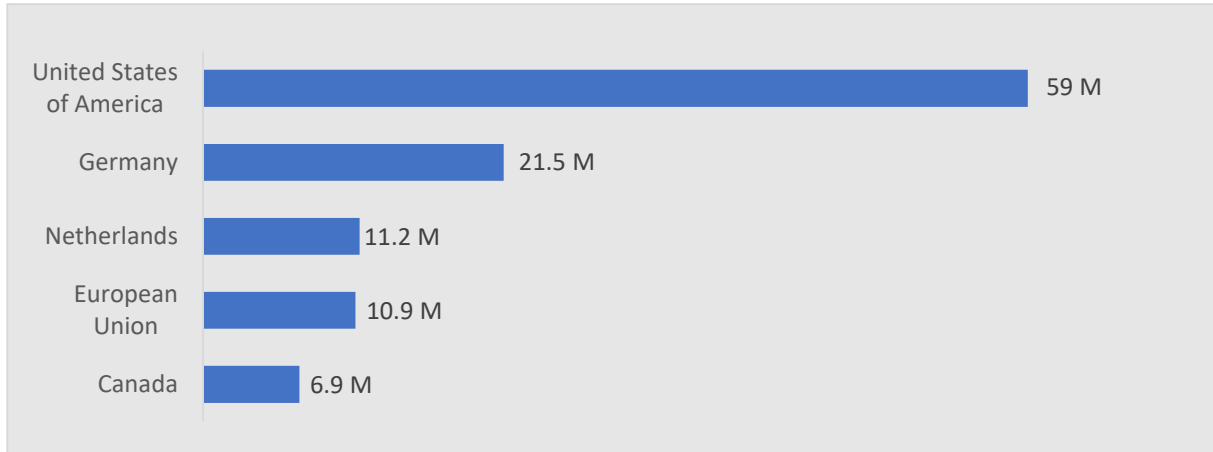
- UNHCR assists vulnerable displaced and refugee families to cover their most basic needs through the distribution of cash assistance as well as in-kind assistance.
- Since 2013, UNHCR has been providing Multi-Purpose Cash Assistance (MCAP) through ATM cards. Cash assistance strengthens the capacity 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 127,800 vulnerable Syrian households and 2,660 refugee households of other nationalities with monthly MCAP.

# 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 in Millions (as of 31 August 2023)

Earmarked contributions for the operation amount to **USD 131.2 M** in total<sup>1</sup>



### Other donors of earmarked contributions for the operation

Austria | Denmark | France | Japan | Republic of Korea | Netherlands | Sheikh Abdullah Al Nouri Charity Society | Luxembourg | Monaco | Norway | Spain | Switzerland | Private donors | CERF

### OTHER SOFTLY EARMARKED CONTRIBUTIONS | USD<sup>2</sup>

**United States of America** 7.9 million | **Private donors Australia** 6.4 million | **Finland** 5.2 million | **Private donors Germany** 5.1 million | **Private donors USA** 3.5 million | **Private donors Republic of Korea** 2.8 million | **Denmark** 2.5 million | **Private donors United Kingdom** 2.4 million | **Private donors China** 2.1 million | Iceland | Russian Federation | Slovenia | Private Donors

### UNEARMARKED CONTRIBUTIONS | USD<sup>3</sup>

**Sweden** 69 million | **Norway** 63.1 million | **Private donors Spain** 43.2 million | **Netherlands** 36.3 million | **Denmark** 35.6 million | **Private donors Japan** 30 million | **United Kingdom** 28.9 million | **France** 26.7 million | **Private Donors Republic of Korea** 23.5 million | **Germany** 23.1 million | **Switzerland** 18.9 million | **Private donors Italy** 13.7 million | **Belgium** 11.9 million | **Ireland** 11.9 million

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

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<sup>1</sup> Excluding indicative allocation of funds and adjustments.

<sup>2</sup> Due to their earmarking at the region or sub-region, or to a related situation or theme, the other softly earmarked contributions listed are those which can potentially be used for Lebanon.

<sup>3</sup> Contributed without restrictions on its use, unearmarked funding allows UNHCR critical flexibility in how best to reach refugees and other populations of concern who are in the greatest need and at the greatest risk. Unearmarked funding is allocated and reallocated multiple times during the year to allow UNHCR to fund prioritized activities.