

Lebanon

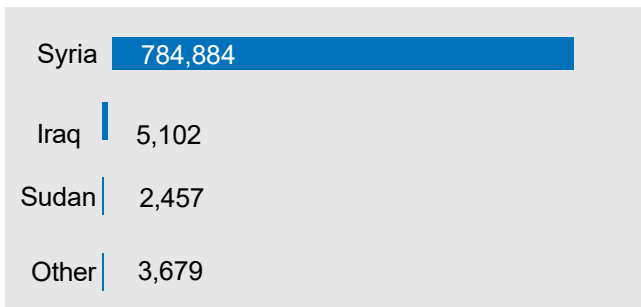
January 2024

Lebanon remains the country hosting the **largest number of refugees per capita**, with the Government's estimation of **1.5 M Syrian refugees** and 11,238 refugees of other nationalities.

The socio-economic downturn coupled with the COVID-19 pandemic, the Beirut blast and lately the Gaza situation, have all contributed to **nine out of ten Syrian refugees** being in need of humanitarian assistance to cover their basic needs.

The number of Syrian refugees holding valid **legal residency is concerningly low**, hampering their access to **basic services, and civil documentation**.

POPULATION OF CONCERN (registered refugees)

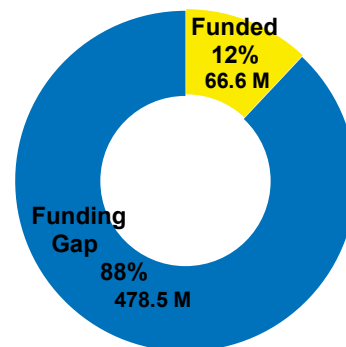


* Registration figures as of December 2023.

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

USD 545.2 M

requested for the Lebanon operation in 2024



FUNDING (As of 31 January 2024)

UNHCR PRESENCE

Staff:

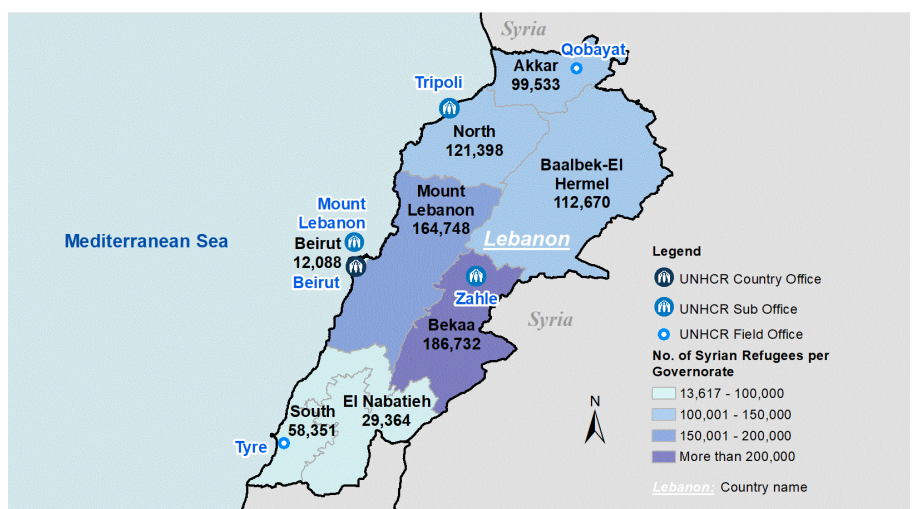
499 National Staff

99 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-led 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 auspices of the Resident/Humanitarian Coordinator, UNHCR co-led the planning process to develop a new, integrated humanitarian and stabilization response framework in 2024. This process is nearing completion following detailed consultation across sectors. The new 'Lebanon Response Plan' (LRP) will seek to respond comprehensively to the impact of the multiple crises in Lebanon on both people and institutions in a holistic and integrated manner. Under the LRP, partners will advance four strategic objectives: 1) Enhance the protection of vulnerable people; 2) Provide immediate assistance to vulnerable people to ensure their critical needs are met; 3) Support service provision through national systems, including national rapid response capacity; 4) Reinforce Lebanon's economic, social and environmental stability.
- 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 2024, UNHCR has partnership agreements with 24 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 Q4 2023 PM findings demonstrate that 93% of refugees faced difficulties feeding their households, 88% struggled to pay rent, 42% reported decreasing livelihoods, and 35% reported reduced access to healthcare.
- In line with UNHCR's Global Campaign to End Statelessness, 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 31 community centers, including 20 Community Development Centers (CDCs) and 11 Social Development Centers (SDCs), UNHCR supports persons of diverse backgrounds to access key protection activities and services, including refugees, stateless persons and internally displaced persons (IDPs).
- Community centers provide refugees, asylum-seekers, Lebanese and stateless persons with opportunities to access key information, learn new skills, seek specialized services, and engage in their community, with particular attention to promoting the participation of women, youth, older persons and persons with disabilities. In 2024, UNHCR plans to reach 220,518 instances of participation (55,130 individuals) at community centers. Center activities include market-based skills trainings in topics such as agriculture, construction, mobile maintenance and artisanal production as well as basic literacy and numeracy and a wide variety of learning programmes. CDCs also provide psychosocial support services and case management for specific needs. These activities attest to the one-stop-shop and holistic nature of community centers. UNHCR also plans to offer the centers as spaces for other partners to offer employability and vocational training services according to their expertise.
- UNHCR also plans to support over 250 community groups, most of which are linked to the centers. Community groups share key information, mobilize certain groups to participate in activities, and identify key priorities to implement relevant community initiatives. One of the key recommendations from the 2023-2024 Participatory Assessment was to enhance support for community-led initiatives as one of the sustainable and effective ways refugees can promote self-help and self-protection.
- UNHCR and its partners mobilize 570 general and specialized Outreach Volunteers (OVs) who are capacitated to share information, raise community concerns, refer persons at heightened risk, and contribute to community-based solutions. In 2024, UNHCR plans that OVs will reach over 400,000 persons through awareness and information sessions and household visits. In addition to referring 23,568 persons at heightened risk to UNHCR and partners.
- With mental health needs increasing, UNHCR, through its partner Save the Children, trained OVs and UNHCR partner NGO frontliners with the techniques and tools that allow them to support refugees in managing stress, adversity, and daily challenges. In 2024, partner psychologists will cascade the MHPSS trainings to 40 additional OVs, bringing the nationwide total to 90 OVs aiming to reach 3,720 persons in non-specialized community-based PSS. Some 30 OVs will also be trained in peer-to-peer Psychological First Aid (PFA), targeting 192 adolescents.

Education

- The 2023-2024 school year for refugee children in second shift schools only started on 27 November, while teaching in the first shift started in early October. The delay was caused by extended negotiations between the Ministry of Education (MEHE) and the Union of Teachers, due to limited funding. The main barriers to education remain the cost of transportation fees, school materials, and administrative constraints. Documentation remains a critical barrier to accessing education at the secondary level.
- UNHCR received the authorization from MEHE to resume the deployment of 368 Education Community Liaisons (ECLs) volunteers in second shift schools to facilitate the communication

between parents and the school administration, track absenteeism and refer students at risk to PSS and retention support activities.

- In 2024, UNHCR is planning, through education partners, to reach over 8,762 refugee children with awareness sessions and 12,184 children with homework and language support activities to support their retention in school and transition to higher grades, including students (Syrian and Lebanese) benefiting from reinforcement classes for official exams.
- UNHCR partners will continue to identify out-of-school refugee children to enroll in the School Bridging Programme and plan to reach 15,350 children for referrals to available education pathways within the sector network. In addition, UNHCR plans to support 4,440 children and 110 youth to acquire foundational skills through the Basic Literacy and Numeracy Programme.
- UNHCR will continue to support students accessing higher education opportunities in the country in 2024 notably through the DAFI programme. The scholarship is implemented in two universities in Lebanon, covers students' tuition fees and provides selected students with monthly allowances, through cash cards. In 2024, UNHCR is planning to support 106 students through the DAFI scholarship in Lebanon. UNHCR will continue to disseminate, facilitate, and take part in the selection process of other Education Complementary Pathways opportunities, such as the Bourse Elysee to France, the JISR/JICA to Japan, and the WUSC/SRP to Canada.
- UNHCR is planning to implement 44 accredited short vocational trainings for 662 vulnerable Lebanese stateless and out-of-school refugee youth in 2024.

Health

- The deteriorating economic situation in Lebanon has negatively impacted the access to healthcare and medicines for refugees and vulnerable Lebanese. The situation was further worsened by COVID-19 and cholera outbreaks and the Beirut port explosion. In addition, the conflict in the South exerted additional pressure on the health system in the areas of displacement. 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 Referral Healthcare (RHC) 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 33 contracted hospitals. In 2024, UNHCR plans to support 546,94 hospital admissions for 50,673 refugees.
- 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. UNHCR also supports the delivery of mental health services that are scarce and limited in Lebanon.
- Despite the donors' generous support, a funding shortfall resulted in the reduction of UNHCR coverage for refugees accessing secondary and tertiary health care. With additional anticipated funding challenges in 2024, UNHCR has further amended its coverage plan for refugees starting 01 January 2024. The transitional period activities were implemented and associated communications were shared with partners, UN agencies, the Ministry of Public Health, and most importantly the refugees in the last quarter of 2023.

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 710 community support projects have been implemented by UNHCR in Lebanon as of the end of December 2023. In 2024, UNHCR plans to implement 28 community support projects across the country.
- Since the beginning of the Gaza situation, ongoing clashes along the Blue Line across Lebanon's southern border have displaced over 86,600 people¹. UNHCR and its partners support efforts undertaken by the Government of Lebanon to assist affected people, including some Syrian refugees, with distributions of Core Relief Items, fixing and equipping collective and temporary shelters, emergency repairs for damaged dwellings as well as ensuring mainstreamed protection, gender-sensitive approaches and refugee inclusion across the humanitarian response. UNHCR and its partners support efforts undertaken by the Government of Lebanon to assist affected people, including some Syrian refugees.

Shelter, Water, and Sanitation

- UNHCR aims to protect vulnerable populations and contribute to social stability by mitigating deteriorating 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 2024, UNHCR plans to support 233,321 refugees living in informal tented settlements in preparing for winter and responding to emergencies (flooding, evictions, or fire incidents). Support includes the distribution of shelter and fire kits and fire mitigation awareness sessions.
- To ensure the optimized durability of the shelters in informal settlements, UNHCR will continue to provide shelter training for 2,500 refugees on the assembly and maintenance of the kits. UNHCR will also pursue its advanced Training of Trainers (ToT), planning to reach 90 refugees in the areas of wood construction and repairs in 2024.
- UNHCR is planning to support 39,341 refugees with shelter and fire mitigation kits to protect their congested shelters exposed to fire events in 2024. Also in informal settlements, site improvement works will be done in 95 sites, allowing preparedness against floods and fire incidents for 8,600 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 2024, UNHCR plans to reach 7,184 targeted refugees to receive 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 related high risk of eviction, UNHCR is focusing on Cash for Rent assistance, targeting general and specific protection referral cases. In 2024, UNHCR plans to support 5,650 individuals with assistance, allowing families to adjust to the deteriorating economic situation and benefit from enhanced tenure security in shelters with adequate standards.

¹ As of January, Source :[Mobility Snapshot - Round 22 - 01-02-2024](#) | [Displacement Tracking Matrix \(iom.int\)](#)
www.unhcr.org

Basic Needs

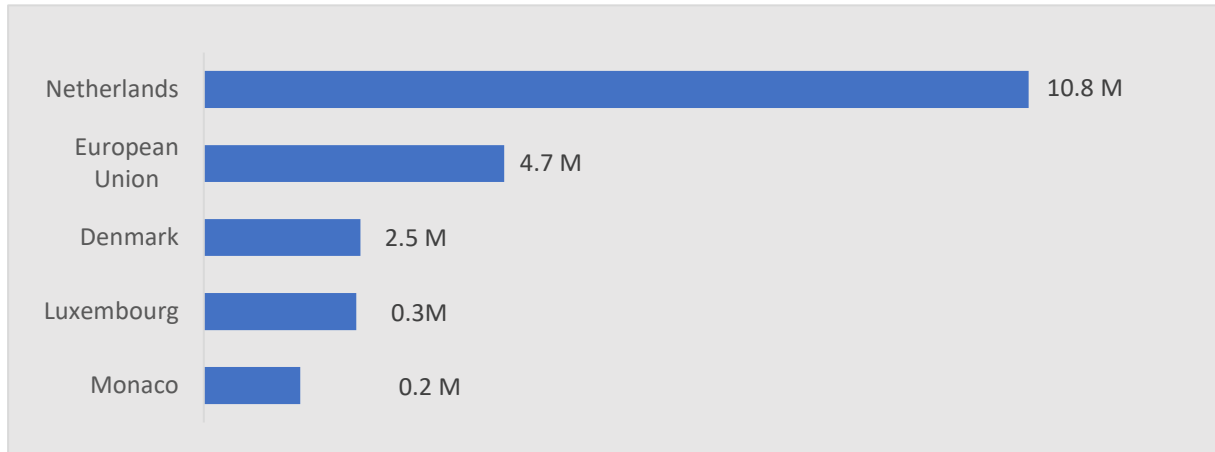
- UNHCR assists vulnerable asylum-seekers, stateless persons and refugees to cover their most basic needs through the distribution of cash assistance as well as in-kind assistance.
- Since 2013, UNHCR has been providing Multi-Purpose Cash Assistance (MCAP) through ATM cards. Cash assistance strengthens the capacity of benefiting 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 2024, UNHCR is planning to assist 80,100 vulnerable Syrian refugee households and 1,110 refugee households of other nationalities with monthly MCAP.
- Due to budget constraints, UNHCR could not implement any Winter Cash Assistance during the 2023-2024 season to support most vulnerable refugees’ families responding to additional winter-related needs.

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 January 2024) ²

Earmarked contributions for the operation amount to **USD 66.6 M** in total *



Other donors of earmarked contributions for the operation

Germany | Japan | Jersey

OTHER SOFTLY EARMARKED CONTRIBUTIONS | USD³

Norway 2.8 million

Iceland | Private Donors

² Including indicative allocation of funds and adjustments.

*The table includes the five largest donors who have earmarked to UNHCR Lebanon operation in 2024.

³ 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.

UNEARMARKED CONTRIBUTIONS| USD⁴

Sweden 90.6 million | **Norway** 58.9 million | **Netherlands** 36.3 million | **Denmark** 35.6 million | **United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland** 28.5 million | **Switzerland** 19.2 million | **Ireland** 13.6 million | **Belgium** 11 million | **Australia** 10.7 million

Algeria | Angola | Armenia | Estonia | Luxembourg | Malta | Monaco | Montenegro | New Zealand | Philippines | Saudi Arabia | Serbia | Singapore | Sweden for UNHCR | Thailand | Türkiye | Private donors

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⁴ 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.