Lebanon remains the country hosting the largest number of refugees per capita, with the Government’s estimation of 1.5 M Syrian refugees and 11,283 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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>POPULATION OF CONCERN (registered refugees)</th>
<th>USD 545.2 M requested for the Lebanon operation in 2024</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Syria</strong> 779,645</td>
<td><strong>Funding</strong>&lt;br&gt;15%&lt;br&gt;Funded 82.2 M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Iraq 4,958</td>
<td>Funding Gap 85%&lt;br&gt;463 M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sudan 2,611</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other 3,714</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Registration figures as of March 2024.
** UNHCR registration of Syrian refugees in Lebanon has been suspended since May 2015 through a decision by the Government of Lebanon.

UNHCR PRESENCE
Staff:
459 National Staff
76 International Staff

Offices:
1 Country Office in Beirut
5 Sub and Field Offices in Beirut, Qobayat, Tripoli, Tyre and Zahlé

FUNDING (As of 31 March 2024)
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, 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 and the American University of Beirut will launch an online course for university students on displacement.

- In 2024, UNHCR has partnership agreements with 24 partners, of which 8 are international and 16 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. During Q1 2024, 97% of refugees reported facing difficulties feeding their households, 88% struggled to pay rent, 45% reported decreasing livelihoods, and 44% reported reduced access to healthcare due to lack of money. In the context of the South emergency response, UNHCR Lebanon also undertook a series of protection monitoring activities during Q1 to gather information about recently displaced people currently residing in southern Lebanon, both refugees and Lebanese, to better understand their protection needs and risks, living conditions, and coping mechanisms to inform UNHCR’s response.
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. In Q1, UNHCR led two Participatory Assessments (PA), the results of which informed its programming and activities. The first PA focused on identifying challenges and opportunities for community self-help among refugees. The second PA sought to better understand the living situation, protection risks, capacities, and coping mechanisms of internally displaced Lebanese.

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). In Q1, UNHCR expanded its support to internally displaced Lebanese and refugees from South Lebanon, including by offering information, psychosocial support, protection cash and case management referrals through five SDCs.

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, of which 30% were reached in Q1 2024 (80% female, 30% youth). Center activities include market-based skills trainings in topics such as agriculture and construction, but also basic literacy and numeracy, digital literacy 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 support over 250 community groups, that share information, mobilize their community to participate in activities, and identify priorities to implement relevant community-led initiatives.

UNHCR and its partners mobilize 540 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. During Q1 2024, OVs reached 84,077 persons through 4,773 awareness and information sessions and 4,229 household visits. They also referred 7,320 persons at heightened risk to UNHCR and partners, of whom 49% were women and girls. With mental health needs increasing, UNHCR engaged in a Community-based Psycho-Social Support project and trained 70 OVs on Group Problem Management Plus, Peer Support, Psychological First Aid, and other fundamental Psycho-Social Support techniques. During Q1, trained OVs reached 2,070 persons with non-specialized community-based PSS, of whom 66% were females.
Education

- By the end of March, over 165,000 refugee students have received an average of 74 teaching days in afternoon schools\(^1\), with an average attendance rate of 85\(^\%\)\(^2\). A fluctuating number of schools in the South resumed operating online classes, where the attendance is much lower.

- Overall, the main reported challenges through the Education Community Liaison network were the lack of books and stationery, electricity, and water in the schools and the high transportation cost. In the South, challenges included a lack of devices and access to the internet. When possible, UNHCR is relocating or adopting a blended approach for its retention support and vocational training activities and enhancing the psycho-social support within all its education activities.

- Documentation remains a critical barrier to accessing education at the secondary level. The Minister of Education and Higher Education reiterated that grade 9 official exams will take place at the school level, and reiterated that grade 12 exams will still be taking place with special arrangements to be put in place in the South, considering learning losses and the dire mental and emotional health affecting students and education personnel.

- In Q1 2024, UNHCR supported 3,561 refugee children (8-14 years old) with foundational skills in literacy and numeracy through Basic Literacy and Numeracy programs (BLN), tailored to out-of-school children without prior learning. The programs also included psycho-social sessions as well as hygiene and life skills modules that were delivered effectively to support children’s emotional and wellbeing. UNHCR partners also supported 264 refugee youth with foundational skills in literacy and numeracy programs tailored to youth 15+ to support them in acquiring foundational skills as well as life skills such as self-reflection, critical thinking, problem-solving and interpersonal skills, needed to build resilience and contribute meaningfully to their communities.

- UNHCR continues to support students accessing higher education opportunities in the country in 2024 notably through the DAFI programme. All 81 DAFI students excelled in their grades during the first semester, with 41 of them achieving a Grade Point Average of over 3.8. Additionally, they are fully engaged in meeting the extracurricular scholarship requirements of volunteering and workshops, with nearly half of the cohort exceeding these requirements in the first academic semester. UNHCR continues 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, the WUSC/SRP to Canada and Habesha/DIME to Mexico

- Out of the 44 planned accredited vocational training, 11 are already implemented, engaging 221 learners between vulnerable Lebanese, stateless, and out-of-school refugee youth.

Health

- UNHCR operates a Referral Healthcare (RHC) Programme subsidizing hospitalization fees to facilitate refugees’ access to hospital care. The programme is implemented through a cost-sharing scheme of payment for a significant portion of the hospital bills while refugees pay the remaining amount. The assistance includes obstetric care and urgent lifesaving and limb-saving interventions at hospitals through a network of 33 contracted hospitals. In Q1 2024, a total of 13,572 hospital admissions were supported by UNHCR. Since January, due to budget reduction, UNHCR implemented reduced coverage for hospital admission (from 75% to 70%),

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\(^1\) Since the start of the Syrian civil war, in 2011, Lebanon’s education sector has had to contend with the influx of Syrian refugees. In 2014, a second programme was established, whereby the school day was split into two shifts: one accommodating Lebanese students and some refugee students, and a second one – in the afternoon - dedicated to Syrians and refugees of other nationalities.

\(^2\) Figures from the Ministry of Education and Higher Education (MEHE).
reduced the maximum ceiling for some expensive medical interventions and removed some medical conditions.

- In addition, UNHCR and various partners support primary health care centers across the country to provide general health care services such as consultations for acute illnesses, vaccinations, maternal and child health care, and care for chronic non-communicable diseases. In the four supported primary health care facilities a total of 12,881 consultations were provided during the reporting period.

- UNHCR through its implementing partners supports eight primary health care facilities and two specialized mental health facilities for mental health assessment of patients, care management, relapse prevention, specialized medical care, and medication support among others. In Q1 2024, a total of 12,045 mental health consultations were supported by UNHCR across the country.

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 719 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 91,400 people. 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.

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 and emergency response, addressing the shelter needs in informal settlements and disadvantaged urban/peri-urban areas.

- In informal settlements, 2,129 refugees received shelter kits 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 poor neighborhoods. During the first quarter, UNHCR focused on identifying vulnerable neighborhoods and assessing shelters and buildings for potential rehabilitation of shelters and common areas which allows vulnerable refugees to live in adequate shelters/buildings and

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3 As of January, Source: Mobility Snapshot - Displacement Tracking Matrix (iom.int)
benefit from secure tenure through free occupancy for one year.

- In response to recent border hostilities, UNHCR in the South has focused on emergency response by providing swift and effective assistance to displaced households unable to return home due to safety concerns. A total of 148 individuals benefited from relocation to IDP-Collective Site Repairs, ensuring safer living conditions. Additionally, 725 individuals received biofuel for winterization, aiding them in coping with harsh weather conditions. Moreover, 1,262 households received cash assistance for shelter (CFS), supporting them to adjust to their new socioeconomic situation and enabling affordable minimum living conditions. Among them, 528 are Lebanese (IDPs). These interventions have been critical in ensuring safety and well-being during this challenging time.

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 monthly 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 assisting 80,100 vulnerable Syrian refugee households and 1,110 refugee households of other nationalities with monthly MCAP, representing a 38% reduction from 2023, due to funding constraints.
- Assistance is provided in priority to the most vulnerable refugee families estimated to live below the poverty line, and to families with specific vulnerable profiles facing heightened protection risks. Recipients were selected as part of the yearly re-targeting review conducted during the second semester of 2023. In addition, 10,800 refugee households were included in February 2024 via the 2023/24 Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM), a refugee-initiated inclusion pathway for cash assistance. 144,000 claims were filed by refugees through the GRM, a 31% increase year-on-year. UNHCR prioritized claimants with no or limited income-generating abilities.
- Due to budget constraints, and despite ongoing donor support, UNHCR had to reduce the coverage of its MCAP programme, and could not implement any Winter Cash Assistance during the 2023-2024 season to support most vulnerable refugees’ families responding to additional winter-related needs.
- During Q1 2024, UNHCR distributed 149,809 Core Relief Items such as winter clothing, mattresses, blankets, kitchen sets, solar lamps, sleeping mats and stoves to 27,061 families (106,321 individuals) to help them in responding to emergency situations. Seasonal CRI support in areas of harsh climatic conditions targeted 77,833 Individuals to help in winter preparedness and response to severe winter conditions. As part of its detention monitoring programme, UNHCR also provided CRIs for 660 individuals.
- In response to the recent hostilities at the southern border, UNHCR has scaled up its CRI response. UNHCR supported 24,656 displaced individuals, both Lebanese and refugees, with CRIs to help them meet part of their basic needs as a result of the displacement situation and winter season.
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 March 2024)**
Earmarked contributions for the operation amount to about **USD 82.1 M in total**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Contributions (USD millions)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>United States of America</td>
<td>19.8 M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Netherlands</td>
<td>10.8 M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Germany</td>
<td>6.9 M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>European Union</td>
<td>4.7 M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Denmark</td>
<td>2.5 M</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Other donors of earmarked contributions for the operation:
- Japan
- Qatar
- UK for UNHCR
- Luxembourg
- Monaco
- Jersey
- Other Private Donors

**OTHER SOFTLY EARMARKED CONTRIBUTIONS | USD**
- United States of America 4.5 million
- Norway 2.8 million
- Iceland
- Private donors

**UNEARMARKED CONTRIBUTIONS | USD**
- 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
- Republic of Korea 17.9 million
- Ireland 13.6 million
- Belgium 11 million
- Australia 10.7 million
- Algeria
- Angola
- Armenia
- Costa Rica
- Estonia
- Finland
- Luxembourg
- Malta
- Mexico
- Monaco
- Montenegro
- New Zealand
- Philippines
- Saudi Arabia
- Serbia
- Singapore
- Thailand
- Türkiye
- Private donors

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Lebanon, Beirut

www.unhcr.org | https://www.unhcr.org/lb | Twitter | Facebook

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1 Including indicative allocation of funds and adjustments.
2 The table includes the five largest donors 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.
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.