

Lebanon

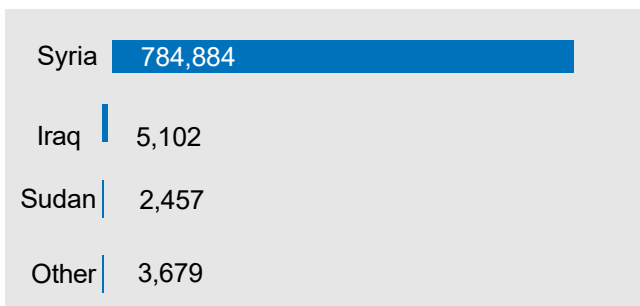
December 2023

Lebanon remains the country hosting the **largest number of refugees per capita**, with the Government's estimation of **1.5 M Syrian refugees** and 11,645 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 living in extreme poverty**.

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)

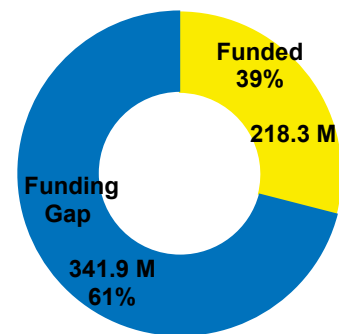


* Registration figures as of December 2023.

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

USD 560.2 M

requested for the Lebanon operation in 2023



FUNDING (As of 15 December 2023)

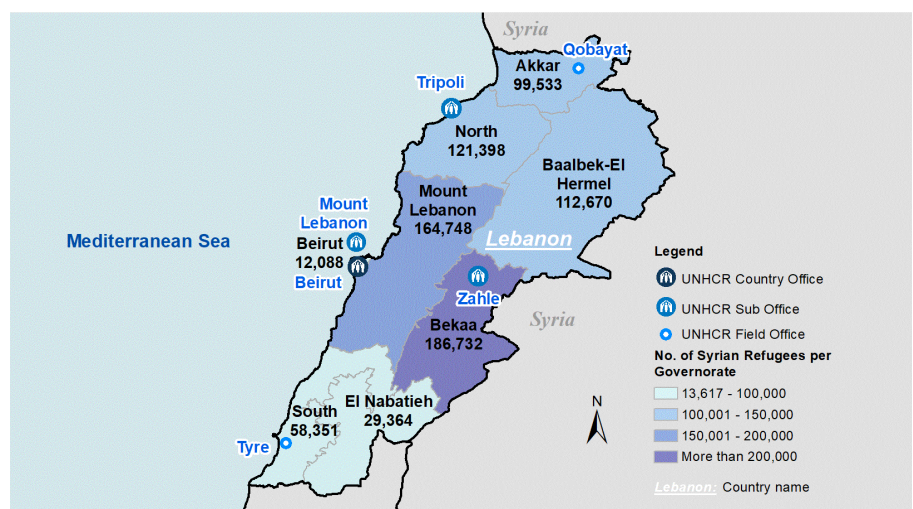
UNHCR PRESENCE

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-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 appealed 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 Q4, selected civil society actors submitted pledges around the topics of civil documentation and education ahead of the Global Refugee Forum. Representatives from Lebanon civil society also participated in the GRF in Geneva in December 2023.
- In 2023, UNHCR had 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 Q3 2023 PM findings demonstrate that 93% of refugees faced difficulties feeding their households, 87% struggled to pay rent, 44% reported decreasing livelihoods, and 36% 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 Centers (CDCs) and six Social Development Centers (SDCs), UNHCR supports persons of diverse backgrounds to access updated information. In addition, the CDCs offer learning possibilities, including basic literacy and numeracy activities, as well as digital and computer skills, building social networks, and enhancing their psychosocial well-being. In 2023, UNHCR recorded over 243,410 instances of participation (61,020 individuals) through community centers, of which 72% were women and girls. Refugees and Lebanese participated in CDC activities such as skills training (21%) and learning activities, including computer and language classes (14%). The participants also received psychosocial support (13%) or case management (6%) and attended awareness sessions on various topics (10%).
- To complement CDC empowerment activities, UNHCR and its partners mobilized 568 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 2023, OVs reached over 401,620 persons through 25,622 awareness and information sessions and 15,740 household visits and referred more than 38,840 persons at risk, of whom 48% were women and girls.
- 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 2023, 62 OVs provided over 5,710 persons with community-based psychosocial support services, of whom 65% were women.

Education

- The current 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.
- By the end of 2023, UNHCR's education partners reached over 112,020 refugee children with awareness sessions and more than 9,140 children with homework and language support activities to support their retention in school and transition to higher grades, including 1,000 students (Syrian and Lebanese) benefiting from reinforcement classes for official exams.

- UNHCR partners identified over 18,750 out-of-school refugee children to enroll in the School Bridging Programme and more than 13,180 children have been referred to available education pathways within the sector network. In addition, by the end of the year, 3,584 children and 255 youth had acquired foundational skills through the Basic Literacy and Numeracy Programme.
- 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 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 2023, 68 students (Including 48 women) benefitted from the DAFI scholarship in Lebanon, and 14 successfully graduated. A total of 18 refugee students have departed through other Education Complementary Pathways opportunities, such as the Bourse Elysee to France, the JISR/JICA to Japan, and the WUSC/SRP to Canada. UNHCR disseminates, facilitates, and takes part in the selection process.
- UNHCR implemented 22 accredited short vocational trainings for 331 vulnerable Lebanese stateless and out-of-school refugee youth. The placement rate, 12 months after graduation was 88%, of which 78% were working in their learning domains and 10% were moving further in education programmes.

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. From 1 January to 31 December 2023, UNHCR supported more than 60,353 hospital admissions for 55,916 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.
- From 1 January to 31 December 2023, UNHCR supported 62,332 primary healthcare and 56,399 mental health consultations.
- 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 2023, UNHCR implemented 56 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 74,000 people. UNHCR and its partners support efforts undertaken by the Government of Lebanon to assist affected people, including some 3,990 Syrian refugees displaced at the end of December 2023, with distributions of Core Relief Items, fixing and equipping collective and temporary shelters, emergency repairs for damaged dwellings as well as through ensuring mainstreamed protection, gender-sensitive approaches and refugee inclusion across the humanitarian response.

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.
- UNHCR supported 189,209 refugees living in informal tented settlements in preparing for winter and responding to emergencies (flooding, evictions, or fire incidents). Support included the distribution of shelter and fire kits and fire mitigation awareness sessions.
- To ensure the optimized durability of the shelters in informal settlements, UNHCR conducted shelter training for 2,500 refugees on the assembly and maintenance of the kits. UNHCR also gave advanced Training of Trainers (ToT) for 90 refugees in the areas of wood construction and repairs.
- In total, 1,860 refugees received shelter and fire mitigation kits to reinforce or rebuild their shelters exposed to emergencies. Also in informal settlements, site improvement works were undertaken at 131 sites, allowing preparedness against floods and fire incidents for 16,438 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 over 6,670 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 related high risk of eviction, UNHCR is focusing on Cash for Rent assistance, targeting general and specific protection referral cases. In total 9,455 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

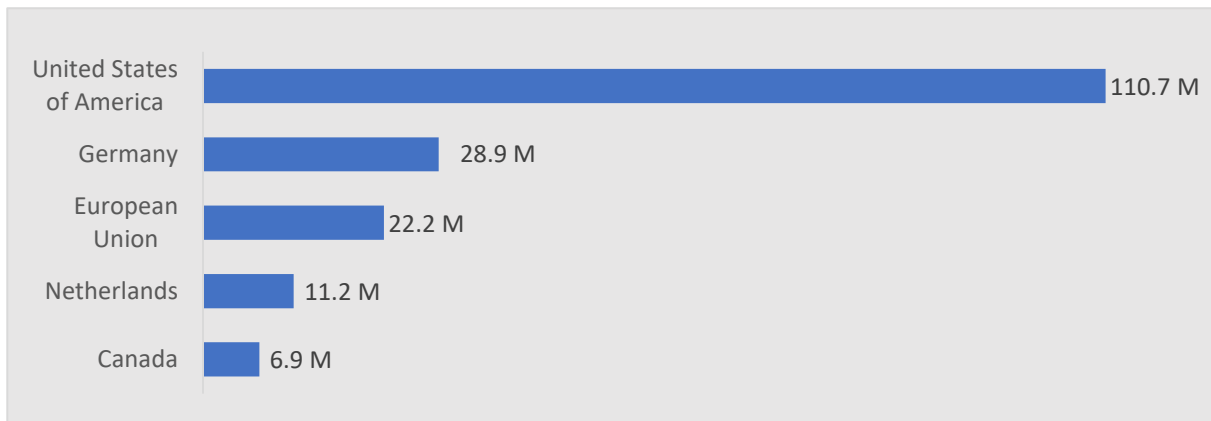
- UNHCR assists vulnerable asylum-seekers, stateless persons and refugees to cover their most basic needs through the distribution of cash assistance as well as in-kind assistance.
- Since 2013, UNHCR has been providing Multi-Purpose Cash Assistance (MCAP) through ATM cards. Cash assistance strengthens 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 2023, UNHCR assisted over 129,030 vulnerable Syrian refugee households and over 2,590 refugee households of other nationalities with monthly MCAP.
- In response to the situation in the South, UNHCR temporarily expanded in December its multi-purpose cash assistance programme to provide vulnerable refugee families, not or partially assisted under regular cash assistance for basic needs programmes, with one-off cash assistance for basic needs to support refugees facing additional expenses and/or livelihoods losses as a result of the situation in the South. UNHCR targeted over 10,280 refugee families known to be residing in the most affected districts.
- Due to budget constraints, UNHCR could not implement any Winter Cash Assistance this year 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 15 December 2023) ¹

Earmarked contributions for the operation amount to **USD 218.3 M** in total *



Other donors of earmarked contributions for the operation

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

OTHER SOFTLY EARMARKED CONTRIBUTIONS | USD²

United States of America 10.5 million | **Australia for UNHCR** 10 million | **UNO-Flüchtlingshilfe** 8.6 million | **Finland** 5.2 million | **USA for UNHCR** 3.6 million | **Private donors in China** 2.9 million | **Private donors in the Republic of Korea** 2.9 million | **Denmark** 2.5 million | **UK for UNHCR** 2.4 million | **Private donors in the Netherlands** 2.2 million | Argentina for UNHCR | España con ACNUR | Iceland | Japan | Japan for UNHCR | Russian Federation | Slovenia | Sweden for UNHCR | Switzerland for UNHCR | Private donors.

¹ Excluding indicative allocation of funds and adjustments.

*The table includes the five largest donors to UNHCR Lebanon operation in 2023.

² 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| USD³

Sweden 69 million | **España con ACNUR** 68.1 million | **Norway** 63.1 million | **Japan for UNHCR** 44.3 million | **United Kingdom** 41 million | **Netherlands** 36.3 million | **Denmark** 35.6 million | **France** 27.4 million | **Private donors in the Republic of Korea** 24.7 million | **Germany** 23.3 million | **Switzerland** 18.9 million | **Japan** 16.3 million | **Private donors in Italy** 15.4 million | **Sweden for UNHCR** 12.9 million | **Belgium** 11.9 million | **Ireland** 11.9 million | **USA for UNHCR** 10.8 million

Algeria | Angola | Australia | Austria | Bulgaria | Canada | Estonia | Finland | Grand Duchy of Luxembourg | Iceland | Kingdom of Saudi Arabia | Malta | New Zealand | Peru | Philippines | Portugal | Principality of Monaco | Republic of Costa Rica | Republic of Indonesia | Republic of Korea | Republic of Montenegro | Republic of Singapore | Russian Federation | Serbia | State of Kuwait | Switzerland for UNHCR | Thailand | Türkiye | UK for UNHCR | Uruguay | Private donors

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³ 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.