



People are fleeing their homes in Lebanon following airstrikes.
Photo: © UNHCR/Houssam Hariri

LEBANON EMERGENCY REGIONAL UPDATE 23 OCTOBER 2024

Key Figures



1.2 million people are estimated to be affected inside Lebanon according to Lebanese authorities



809,000 people have been internally displaced inside Lebanon according to joint IOM and UNHCR tracking¹ as of 20 October

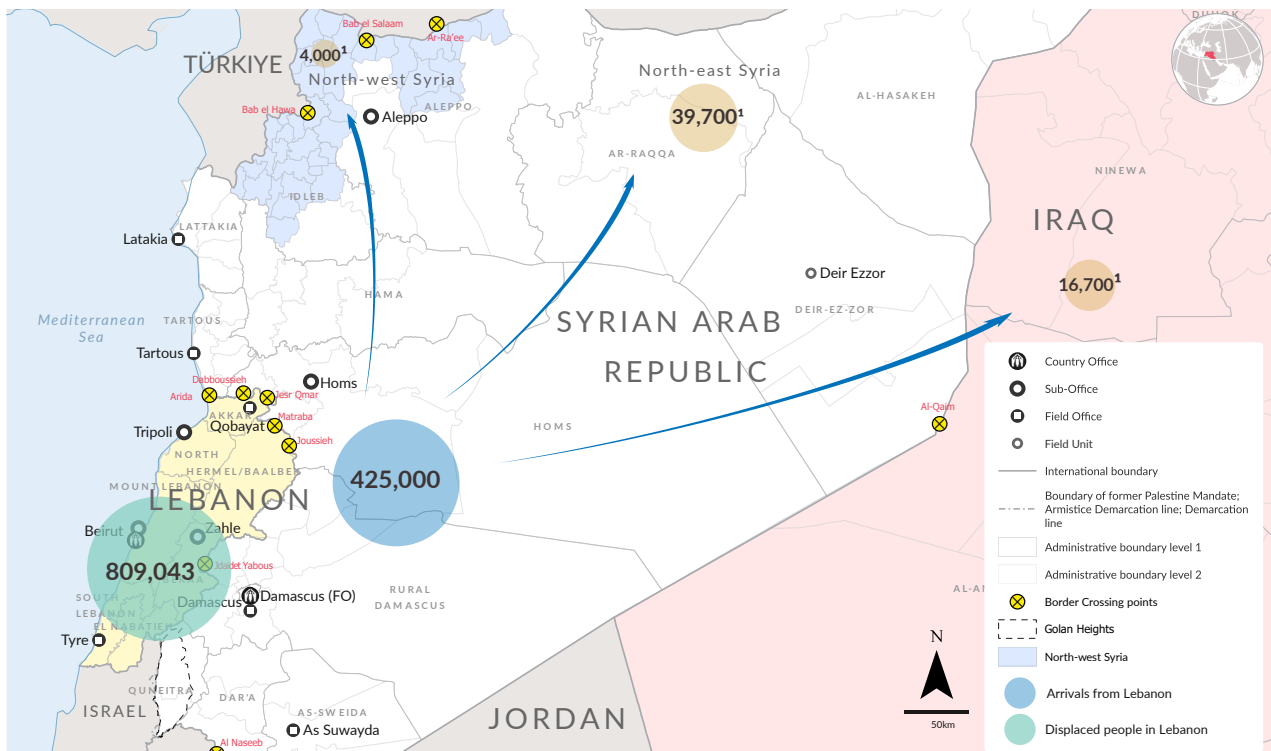


53,400 refugees identified by UNHCR are secondarily displaced inside Lebanon due to the conflict, including **43,000** since 23 September only, 96% being Syrian refugees



425,000 people (around 70% Syrians and 30% Lebanese) are estimated to have crossed from Lebanon to Syria as of 21 October

¹ DTM Round 55 <https://dtm.iom.int/reports/lebanon-mobility-snapshot-round-55-21-10-2024>



¹ Figures for north-west and north-east Syria and Iraq may include individuals already counted in the overall total of 425,000 people entering Syria, as some continued to other locations after crossing the border

Regional overview of displacement. The boundaries and names shown and designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations | Printing date: 20 October 2024 | Sources: IOM, UNCS, UNHCR, SARC | Author: UNHCR - MENA DIMA | Feedback: jorrbdima@unhcr.org

A regional displacement crisis is unfolding in Lebanon, the Syrian Arab Republic and beyond, which will have serious implications for the region and its people. In addition to the tragic loss of life and massive displacement, Lebanese and Syrians are experiencing a fundamental destabilization of families and communities, compounding the previous multiple crises.

On 23 September, Israel dramatically intensified its airstrikes on Lebanon, the deadliest and most devastating the country has seen in decades. Many people in Lebanon had to instantly flee their homes, with nearly 120,000 people newly displaced within less than a week of the hostilities starting. One quarter of Lebanese territory is now under Israeli military evacuation orders, according to the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights. UNHCR estimates that at least 340,000 Syrian refugees were residing in the areas targeted by a considerable number of airstrikes.

Almost immediately after 23 September, a significant number of people started crossing into Syria to flee the violence. Most entered through the Jdaidet Yabous border crossing. UNHCR teams quickly deployed to the border crossings along with the Syrian Arab Red Crescent to support new arrivals with their urgent needs. Many had walked for hours to reach the borders, arriving exhausted, injured and scared. The Government of Syria has kept the borders open for Syrians, Lebanese and others fleeing Lebanon. Decongestion at the border was greatly helped by the Syrian Government's announcement of a waiver of mandatory US\$ 100 exchange required of each Syrian for entry, announced on 29 September and extended until the end of October.

On 4 October, Israeli airstrikes hit the Lebanon-Syria border at Masnaa/Jdaidet Yabous, leaving a huge crater on the main road used by Syrians and Lebanese fleeing into Syria. Despite the damages, new arrivals continued to walk 4 km through no man's land towards the Syrian border crossing point Jdaidet Yabous, while UNHCR organized buses to transport the most vulnerable directly to the border. People are continuing to flee into Syria. On 21 October, another Israeli airstrike targeted the Masnaa road connecting Lebanon to Syria.

In Lebanon, with so many people displaced and aid systems overstretched, Syrians and Lebanese will become even more impoverished. Tensions between communities, already highly strained, risk becoming heightened. Many of the displaced are living on the streets, with Syrians facing particular challenges in accessing collective shelters.

In Syria, Lebanese refugees are arriving in large numbers, some needing urgent support, as well as transiting to other countries in the region and beyond. Hosting centres have been established by the Syrian authorities to provide shelter options for vulnerable Lebanese families who do not have alternative accommodation. Local capacities are being stretched even further as many Syrians who have fled Lebanon are being hosted by family members and friends who are themselves destitute in a country already devastated by war and economic collapse. Even before the conflict, 90 per cent of Syrians were in need of humanitarian assistance.

Both Lebanon and Syria require a significant and renewed commitment to sustained international support. In Lebanon, through both humanitarian and development actors, immediate support is needed for both Lebanese populations and refugees, the majority of whom are Syrian. In Syria, there is a need not only to provide life-saving emergency relief at the borders, but also to inject much-needed resources for humanitarian early recovery efforts both to boost the capacity of receiving communities and to assist those returning under adverse circumstances to do so in dignity and in a more sustainable manner.

As of 22 October, the rate of new arrivals at the Syrian borders remains steady but has decreased compared to the initial phase of the influx from Lebanon.

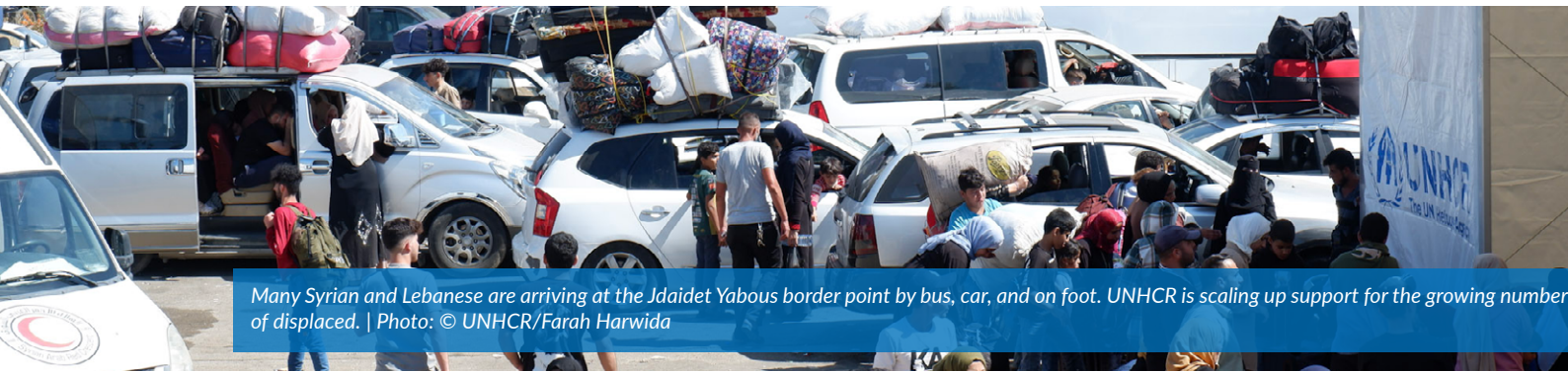
Operational Updates

LEBANON

UNHCR continues to respond to the needs of refugees and Lebanese displaced across Lebanon, coordinating closely with the authorities and other humanitarian organizations and providing protection services, emergency cash assistance, core relief items, access to safe shelter, health care, and psychosocial support.

UNHCR response since the escalation of hostilities in September:

- 161,602 core relief items (CRIs) distributed to 91,832 people.
- 275,100 Lebanese and refugees affected assisted with cash assistance.
- 3,769 displaced people referred for specific support by outreach volunteers.
- 49,000 people have followed the new UNHCR Lebanon WhatsApp Channel to receive messages on awareness and security, rising scam risks, and emergency resources.
- UNHCR is targeting the repair of at least 420 collective shelters designated by the Government, hosting over 16,000 families.
- UNHCR has completed repairs and upgrading work in 23 sites.
- Coverage of treatment of 135 war-wounded refugees at UNHCR contracted hospitals.
- 60 trauma kits delivered to the Ministry of Public Health.
- Procurement of 10 ambulances to support evacuation and transfers of critical patients.
- Facilitating the donation of 10 Interagency Emergency Health Kits (IEHK), that can support up to 100,000 people with essential medicine and medical supplies for three months, to the Ministry of Public Health.
- 13 community development centres (CDCs) are open for in-person protection, and psychosocial, social, and legal support, reaching 4,920 people, while mobile activities have increased to reach IDPs at collective shelters (partners are active in 60 collective shelters).



Many Syrian and Lebanese are arriving at the Jdaidet Yabous border point by bus, car, and on foot. UNHCR is scaling up support for the growing number of displaced. | Photo: © UNHCR/Farah Harwida

WHOLE OF SYRIA

Syria

UNHCR is coordinating the inter-agency response to the influx and leads the Protection and Shelter/ NFI sectors in Syria. UNHCR is present at five formal border crossing points through its existing Border Health and Protection Support Points (BHPSPs) run by its partner the Syrian Arab Red Crescent (SARC) and is providing immediate assistance to those who have been affected, including at their destinations.

UNHCR response since the escalation of hostilities in September:

- Over **33,500** people have benefitted from UNHCR transportation services from the destroyed area near Masnaa crossing point (Lebanon) to the Syrian side as well as onward to their intended destinations in Syria.
- Through partners, UNHCR is providing medical assistance, including primary and emergency health services. Mobile clinics managed by SARC are operational to respond to health needs. So far, over **2,000** individuals have been provided with emergency medical services at the crossing points.
- Over **420,000** core relief items have been distributed to almost **250,000** individuals (50,000 households).
- An estimated **48,000** individuals have received legal support at the Syrian crossing points through UNHCR and its legal partners Syria Trust and SARC. Assistance was also extended to vulnerable Iraqi and Sudanese for immigration challenges at the border.
- As a complement to the assistance at the border, more than **18,000** displaced people have been reached through UNHCR's **114** community centres, outreach volunteers and mobile teams, receiving legal, medical, and protection services.
- UNHCR installed three rub-halls at the Jdaidet Yabous border crossing point and surrounding areas to expand the resting area for over 500 new arrivals.

North-east Syria

Over 39,700 people have recently arrived in Ar-Raqqa, Al-Hasakeh and Deir-ez-Zor Governorates.

UNHCR response since the escalation of hostilities in September:

- At the Tabqa crossing point, which facilitates access into Al-Hasakeh in north-east Syria, UNHCR installed emergency shelter facilities that serve as a support station for UN agencies to assist new arrivals.
- Over **27,500** food parcels have been distributed to returnees crossing through Sfayan and Tabqa crossing points since 2 October.
- Over **32,000** core relief and winter items distributed to new arrivals in Ar-Raqqa, Al-Hasakeh and Deir-ez-Zor Governorates, including through UNHCR's community centres.
- On 19 October, **1,430** people who recently arrived from Lebanon approached the community centres in Ar-Raqqa and Al-Hasakeh. Focus group discussions and awareness sessions were conducted and medical in-kind assistance including wheelchairs was distributed.
- In Deir-ez-Zor, **490** individuals have been provided with legal counselling and **170** individuals assisted with court and administrative interventions.

² Figures are preliminary as no comprehensive data has been collected covering all locations in north-west Syria yet.

North-west Syria

As of 16 October, UNHCR partner REACH estimates that around 4,000 Syrians fleeing the conflict in Lebanon have arrived in north-west Syria, mainly in communities in Jarablus, Idlib, Maaret Tamsrin, Ariha, Jisr-Ash-Shugur, Afrin, and Ehem.²

UNHCR's monitoring indicates that the households arriving in north-west Syria are primarily from the north-west originally and have sought refuge with relatives. Women head two-third of these households.

UNHCR response since the escalation of hostilities in September:

- UNHCR has mobilized community protection networks, outreach teams, and protection monitors to monitor new arrivals and provide support. Newcomers are informed about available services at community centers and through outreach programs, with referrals to additional service providers as needed.
- UNHCR is prepared to distribute essential items, including 800 pre-positioned tents and 830 core-relief item kits.
- UNHCR is enhancing temporary reception where people are entering north-west Syria by setting up four shading areas. One of the new areas will be insulated to provide shelter for individuals awaiting entry, while the other three will serve as hubs for service provision. UNHCR is disbursing CRI kits to equip the shading areas.



UNHCR Representative in Lebanon Ivo Freijsen, centre, and colleagues, talk during a visit to a school in Tripoli, Lebanon, where people displaced by the hostilities in the country are living. UNHCR, and partner Caritas Lebanon, distributed humanitarian aid at the school to support forcibly displaced people there. | Photo: © UNHCR/Ximena Borrazas

IRAQ

UNHCR is aware of some 16,700 Lebanese individuals arriving in Iraq since the escalation of hostilities in Lebanon. The main points of entry include the Al-Qaim border crossing and the airports in Baghdad and Najaf. Many Lebanese arrivals to Iraq are currently hosted in Najaf and Karbala (approximately 46% of the new arrivals). An estimated 62% of the Lebanese arrivals are women and children.

UNHCR has also started to observe a small number of Syrians and other nationals from Lebanon arriving in Iraq and approaching UNHCR.

UNHCR response since the escalation of hostilities in September:

- UNHCR and its partner remain present at the Al-Qaim border. UNHCR has requested full access given the current limitations to access and monitor new arrivals from Lebanon.
- Through its partners, UNHCR is also present in Najaf, Karbala, Baghdad, Salah al-Din and other Governorates, maintaining contact with local authorities to gather information on new arrivals.
- To respond to the critical protection needs of new arrivals from Lebanon, UNHCR, in collaboration with existing partners in Federal Iraq, has started providing child protection, gender-based violence, and mental health and psychosocial support to individuals seeking assistance at community centres.
- UNHCR continues to liaise with the Government and local authorities to gather information on the Government plans which respond to the needs of individuals displaced from Lebanon.

Funding Requirements

The Inter-Agency [Flash Appeal for Lebanon](#) was launched in support of the Government-led emergency response and to enable humanitarian partners to rapidly deliver humanitarian assistance. The Appeal seeks \$425.7 million to assist 1 million people affected by the crisis from October – December 2024.

The [Inter-Agency Emergency Appeal for the Influx](#) from Lebanon to Syria outlines the initial inter-agency and inter-sector response and activities to support Syria's efforts to protect and assist Syrians, Lebanese refugees, others fleeing Lebanon, and host community members. It seeks preliminary requirements of \$324 million for October 2024 – March 2025 for 55 partners to respond to the crisis, working in support of the Syrian authorities.

For the latest operational updates on UNHCR's response to the Lebanon Emergency, please visit [Middle East and North Africa on UNHCR's Global Focus](#).



UNHCR handing over the Governor of Rural Damascus relief items. These items will be distributed for new arrivals at Dwier Collective Shelter, which is under preparation. | Photo: © UNHCR/Ola Kabalan

For more information, please contact the UNHCR MENA Regional Office in Amman (Jordan) at: MENAreporting@unhcr.org