



LEBANON EMERGENCY FLASH UPDATE 15 October 2024

Rapidly increasing numbers of people fleeing their homes in Lebanon, after neighbourhoods of Beirut are hit by airstrikes. © UNHCR/Houssam Hariri.



1.2M
affected
people in Lebanon
(source: GoL)

746,584
Internally displaced
people in Lebanon
(source: IOM/DTM)

63,451
new displacements
over the past week
(source: IOM/DTM)

188,138
registered IDPs in 953
collective shelters
(source: IOM/DTM)

Situation overview

- Three weeks ago, Israel dramatically intensified its airstrikes on Lebanon, a country that has already been through loss and destruction. These weeks have been the deadliest – and the most devastating – for Lebanon in decades.
- Lebanese authorities refer to 1.2 million people affected, while the joint IOM and UNHCR tracking shows that as of 14 October, **746,584 Lebanese and Syrian people** have been internally displaced in Lebanon (Source: IOM/DTM round 53).
- Since October 2023, UNHCR identified over **45,000** refugees who are secondarily displaced, including **34,000** since 23 September only, **98%** being Syrian refugees.
- UNHCR estimates that at least **340,000** Syrian refugees were residing in the cadasters most affected by the hostilities*.
- The **most urgent needs** are access to safe shelters, core relief items, healthcare, food, cash assistance, and protection services.
- To date, the latest hostilities have resulted in some **2,350 deaths and 10,924 injured**, according to the Lebanese Ministry of Health.
- Over **283,000 people** are estimated to have crossed from Lebanon to Syria since the escalation of hostilities, with around 70 per cent Syrians and 30 per cent Lebanese nationals.

Key highlights

- In support of the Government-led emergency response, the humanitarian community launched a **Flash Appeal** to enable partners to rapidly deliver humanitarian assistance. The appeal seeks **\$425.7 million to assist 1 million people** affected by the crisis over the next three months.
- **As part of the Interagency response, UNHCR has released an Emergency Appeal for Lebanon, urgently seeking to \$111 million** to scale up the response and cover immediate needs across all vulnerable population groups, including Lebanese and refugee.
- UNHCR Emergency Appeal for Lebanon includes increased requirements for **procurement and distribution of core relief items, cash assistance and support to institutions in the response.**
- UNHCR continues calling on all actors to maintain and apply humanitarian principles and allow **equal access to assistance.**

* Refugees who resided in areas targeted by 8 or more airstrikes.



UNHCR RESPONSE

On 1 October, UNHCR declared an **internal Level 3 Emergency for Lebanon and Syria** to scale up its response efforts and coordination on the ground. 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.**



Protection

- Since 20 September, over **44,000 people** have followed the new **UNHCR Lebanon WhatsApp Channel** to receive messages on awareness and security, rising scam risks, and emergency resources; separately, the **HELP Lebanon** website has received over **392,737** visits, including **59,750** visits to the dedicated emergency page launched 1 October.
- UNHCR continues to process an **observed uptick in claims** from refugees and Lebanese IDPs through its **complaint and feedback mechanisms**, including **8,828** average daily calls to the National Call Centre and **840 average** daily messages to the Online Contact Form.
- UNHCR continues to ensure the **provision of protection assistance**, with emphasis on high-risk cases and access to specialized services (safe shelter, legal and social services) and complementary community-based support.
- In areas not directly affected by bombardment, UNHCR continues to support **community development centres (CDCs)** for safe 'one-stop-shop' support services and activities, including protection, psychosocial, social and legal programme. When CDCs are not able to operate, **partners are mobilized in collective shelters** to identify focal points in each sites, map existing capacity, share information, refer Protection risk cases and deliver psychosocial support. 13 CDCs are open for in-person presence, while mobile CDCs activities increased to 30% of all activities to reach IDPs at collective shelters. In South, Bekaa and Beirut Mount Lebanon, partners reached over 60 collective shelters so far.
- Since the escalation of hostilities, **2,883 displaced persons were referred for specific support** by outreach volunteers, with **881 referrals** in the past week only.
- Through undertaking protection monitoring, UNHCR and its partners **provide data and protection analysis** for the Protection snapshots issued by the sectors, contributing to collective advocacy.



Shelter and WASH

- UNHCR and partners continue to provide upgrading works in collective shelters, including partitioning, weatherproofing and rehabilitation of water and sanitation utilities. UNHCR is **targeting the repair of at least 420 collective shelters** designated by the government across the country and hosting over **16,000 families**.
- Since the escalation of the hostilities, UNHCR shelter partners **assessed 340 sites**, with all identified as needing repairs and started **upgrading works of 75 shelters** such as weatherproofing, partitioning, and rehabilitation of WASH in Beirut Mount Lebanon, Bekaa, South, North, and Akkar. **23 sites** were completed so far.
- Since October 2023 overall, **9,578 affected people received shelter support**, including rehabilitation works, enhanced access to water, and improved privacy through gender separation.



Health

- UNHCR expanded its network of hospitals in the South and Bekaa, enhancing access to critical health treatments through **42 contracted hospitals**, supporting continuous access to life-saving health care for all. Among the 15 contracted hospitals in the South, three are completely out of service, nine partially functional with very limited services and only three are able to run in full capacity. **Two additional hospitals** have been added to UNHCR network in Beirut Mount Lebanon to accommodate additional needs following recent strikes in the region.
- UNHCR is in the process of procuring **10 ambulances** to support evacuation and transfers of critical patients, complementing LRC and Civil defense services that are overwhelmed by the current needs.
- UNHCR continues to support emergency medical care for refugees affected by the war. Since 23 September, UNHCR covered treatment of **123 war-wounded refugees** at its contracted hospitals.
- UNHCR continues to support **primary health care centres** to ensure continuum of services for all, including through support for non-communicable disease, maternal and child health care, and mental health.



Basic assistance

- Since 23 September 2024, **141,452 core relief items (CRIs)** including mattresses, blankets, kitchen sets and solar lamps were distributed to **78,612 people**. Overall, since October 2023, over **390,201 CRIs** were distributed to **135,571 displaced people**.
- In response to the escalation of the hostilities, UNHCR is expending its existing **multi-purpose cash assistance (MPCA)** to affected vulnerable refugee families, in addition to the provision for both refugees and Lebanese of **Emergency Protection Cash Assistance (EPCA)** to address specific protection needs as well as **Cash for Shelter** support to address their primary shelter needs such as maintenance costs and payment of utility bills.
- As a result, and since 23 September, **over 268,650 Lebanese and refugees affected** are being assisted with some type of cash assistance as part of the emergency response, and **341,611 individuals** overall since October 2023.



Voices from the field



“

It is a disaster. A real crisis, a terrible humanitarian crisis.

”

*Dolshan, a Syrian refugee, poses on the sofa in her temporary flat in Beirut after having to flee Dahiye due to heavy shelling.
© UNHCR/Ximena Borrazas.*

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