



LEBANON EMERGENCY FLASH UPDATE 22 October 2024

UNHCR and Save the Children rehabilitated a school in Beirut where 500 displaced people and refugees live. They rehabilitated toilets, electrical systems and made partitions inside classrooms for privacy. © UNHCR/ Ximena Borrazas.

	1.2M affected people in Lebanon <small>(source: GoL)</small>
809,043 Internally displaced people in Lebanon <small>(source: IOM/DTM)</small>	
20,859 new displacements over the past week <small>(source: IOM/DTM)</small>	
191,402 registered IDPs in 1,002 collective shelters <small>(source: IOM/DTM)</small>	

Situation overview

- Multiple airstrikes and overflights continued across the Southern Lebanese border, areas in the Bekaa, Nabatieh, Jezzine, Kesrouane, Byblos, Batroun and Beirut.
- Lebanese authorities refer to 1.2 million people affected, while the joint IOM and UNHCR tracking shows that as of 21 October, **809,043 Lebanese and Syrian people** have been internally displaced in Lebanon (Source: [IOM/DTM round 55](#)).
- Since October 2023, UNHCR identified over **53,400** refugees who are secondarily displaced, including **43,000** since 23 September only, **96%** being Syrian refugees.
- UNHCR estimates that at least **340,000** Syrian refugees were residing in the cadasters most affected by the hostilities¹.
- 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 **2,467** deaths and **11,569** injured, according to the Lebanese Ministry of Health.
- Over **425,000** people² 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 **Protection activities, 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**.

¹ Refugees who resided in areas targeted by 8 or more airstrikes.

² Please note that these figures now encompass those identified by the relevant authorities as having left Lebanon and entered Syria. This new figure therefore goes beyond the initial estimations at official crossing points which was the basis of earlier reports by SARC. More info: [UNHCR Syria Flash Update 20 October](#).

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 23 September, nearly **49,000 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 **483,359 visits**, including **67,520** visits to the dedicated emergency page launched 1 October.
- UNHCR continues to process **claims** for information/referral from refugees and Lebanese displaced through its **complaint and feedback mechanisms**, including **4,800** average daily calls to the National Call Centre and **535 average** daily messages to the Online Contact Form in the past week.
- In areas not directly affected by strikes, 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, **UNHCR and partners are mobilized within and outside collective shelters**, delivering protection services—sharing information, offering counselling, responding to inquiries and complaints, mobilizing community for self-driven initiatives, and referring persons at heightened risk for services. Such programmes focus on supporting the most vulnerable among displaced families, particularly women, children, and persons with disabilities, to ensure their safety and dignity. As of 22 October 2024, **13 CDCs** are open for in-person presence, while CDCs increased mobile activities to reach displaced people within and outside collective shelters. In South, Bekaa and Beirut Mount Lebanon, partners are active in over **60 collective shelters** so far.
- Since the escalation of hostilities, **3,769 displaced persons at heightened risk** were referred for specialized support by Outreach Volunteers, with **162 referrals** in the past week only. Around **50%** of these referrals are women and girls. The 3,769 persons referred live among **17,102 family members**, also in need of specialized support.
- 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 across the country**, all identified as needing repairs, and started **upgrading works of 95 shelters** such as weatherproofing, partitioning, and rehabilitation of WASH. **25 sites** were completed so far.
- Since October 2023 overall, **25,467 affected people received shelter support**, including rehabilitation works, enhanced access to water, and improved privacy through gender separation.

Health

- UNHCR network of hospitals has been expanded for Beirut / Mount Lebanon (BML) region with 2 additional hospitals as one of the major hospitals in BML is partially functional due to security reasons linked to the current crisis. This follows the extension of network of hospitals in South and Bekaa regions **totaling 44 hospitals** in the country to provide life-saving services including emergency care for war-injured refugees. Among 15 hospitals in UNHCR network in the South, 3 are closed, 6 are partially functional, 3 resumed to provide only emergency services and only 3 have been functioning properly.
- UNHCR is procuring **ambulances** to support evacuation and transfers of critical patients, complementing the Lebanese Red Cross and Civil defense services, that are overwhelmed by the current needs.
- UNHCR is gathering and procuring the donation of **10 Interagency Emergency Health Kits (IEHK)** to support the Ministry of Public Health in addressing gaps in essential medicine and medical items supplies.
- UNHCR continues to support emergency medical care for refugees affected by the war. Since 23 September, UNHCR covered treatment of **135 war-wounded refugees** at its contracted hospitals, **171** since October 2023.
- 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.
- Following the identification of **a confirmed cholera case**, UNHCR is coordinating with the national cholera taskforce for the support to the response activities. It is contributing to the proposal prepared by WHO and UNICEF to International Coordination Group (ICG) requesting for oral cholera vaccine (OCV).

Basic assistance

- Since 23 September 2024, **161,602 core relief items (CRIs)** including mattresses, blankets, kitchen sets and solar lamps were distributed to **91,832 people**. Overall, since October 2023, over **307,317 CRIs** were distributed to **148,791 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 **275,100 Lebanese and refugees** affected are being assisted with some type of **cash assistance** as part of the emergency response, and **348,100 individuals** overall since October 2023.

In their own words

“

*This car is our home now.
We use it to rest and eat.*

”

A displaced Lebanese family, who like hundreds of thousands have fled their homes with nothing but the clothes on their backs. Listen to their story by clicking on [Instagram](#) or [X](#). © UNHCR/ Fayed Hajjar/ Road to Films

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