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LEBANON EMERGENCY FLASH UPDATE 6 December 2024

Displaced begin returning to war-torn Baalbek after ceasefire, on 2 December.



201,820

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



786,443

Internally displaced
people have begun
returning to their
communities.
(source: IOM/DTM)

8,972

registered IDPs in 151
collective shelters
(source: DRM/LRC)

Situation overview

- A ceasefire between Israel and Hezbollah was announced on 26 November in the evening, effective as of 27 November.
- [UNHCR continues to monitor the evolving situation](#). UNHCR remains committed to coordinate with authorities and other humanitarian actors.
- Since the ceasefire, about [201,820 internally displaced persons \(IDPs\)](#) were reported currently on the move toward their places of origin (Source: IOM/DTM round 66 update) while many displaced are unable to return to communities due to damage and destruction, as well as restrictions imposed by the Israeli Army.
- Since the ceasefire, an estimated [34,000¹ Lebanese have crossed to Lebanon from Syria](#), through the Jdaidet Yabous and Joussieh border crossing, as of 4 December. About [11,000 people¹](#) are estimated to have crossed from Lebanon to Syria, with around 62 per cent Syrians and 38 per cent Lebanese nationals. The primary reason of crossing seemingly remains to be reaching and accompanying their families who had previously fled to Syria back into to Lebanon. Further movements will likely be affected by unfolding conflict and events in Syria.
- The overall situation remains [dynamic, with ongoing movements and challenges](#) in obtaining precise data on returns. Massive destruction indicates that reconstruction would be the biggest challenge moving forward, particularly as Lebanon was already struggling with an unprecedented financial and economic crisis before the conflict erupted.
- Since 23 September, over [425,000 Lebanese and refugees](#) affected are being assisted with some type of cash assistance as part of the emergency response, and over [515,850 individuals](#) overall since October 2023.

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 until the end of the year.
- 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**.
- The [Q3 2024 Protection Monitoring Report](#) on the situation of Syrian refugees is now available.

¹Syrian Arab Republic: Emergency Response Brief #7 | Global Focus



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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

UNHCR's protection emergency strategy aims to repurpose and scale up existing systems for all populations, focusing on rapid assessments, protection monitoring, community-based structures, maintaining communication channels, and case management for high-risk individuals.

- Since 23 September, over **54,952** 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 **853,573** visits.
- UNHCR continues to process **claims** for information/referral from refugees and Lebanese displaced through its **complaint and feedback mechanisms**, including over **9,800** average daily calls to the National Call Centre and **170** average daily messages to the Online Contact Form in the past week.
- As of 6 December, **19 CDCs out of 31** were physically open. Of the 12 closed centers, 9 centers are damaged due to the war. Over the past week, CDC partners reached **4,284 instances** through in-person, online or mobile activities. When CDCs are not able to operate, **UNHCR and partners are mobilized within and outside collective shelters**, delivering protection - sharing information, offering counselling, psychosocial support, responding to inquiries and complaints, mobilizing community for self-driven initiatives, and referring persons at heightened risk for services. With the closure of sites, CBP partners are redirecting their efforts towards activities through CDCs (in-person, mobile and online) and on IDPs in collective shelters that remain open and in areas of return/secondary displacement.
- Since the escalation of hostilities, **8,958 displaced persons at heightened risk** were referred for specialized support by Outreach Volunteers, with **561 referrals** in the past week. Of those, 48% were displaced. The most reported referrals were urgent shelter and basic assistance needs risks of evictions and medical conditions.
- To develop a harmonized data collection on the situation of IDPs, UNHCR has initiated the creation of **new protection monitoring tools within the Protection Sector**. Currently, UNHCR is piloting key informant interview and focus group discussion tools in several regions across the country. Following the announcement of the ceasefire, UNHCR, as the lead of the Protection Sector, developed a **rapid assessment tool** to determine the return intentions and obstacles for the return of IDPs.
- Since 23 September 2024, around **60,700 people** have been supported with **Emergency Protection Cash Assistance (EPCA)** to address specific protection needs. Since October 2023, this represents about **68,250 people**. **Around 67% of the persons reached are Lebanese**. EPCA was mostly used to address risks of eviction, risks and actual homelessness and resorting to harmful coping mechanisms.



Health

UNHCR health emergency strategy focuses on continuity of care and bolstering existing referral programmes, responding to war-wounded refugees, supporting primary health care centers affected by conflict, outbreak preparedness and response, and provide institutional health support.

- To facilitate refugees' access to life-saving services that include emergency care for refugees injured in war, UNHCR has expanded its hospital network in the South, Bekaa and Beirut Mount Lebanon regions **totaling 44 hospitals**. However, the conflict forced hospitals in high-risk areas to close or provide limited services. Since the ceasefire, out of the 10 hospitals in UNHCR network in the most affected regions of Bekaa and South that were either closed or partially functioning, 3 remain closed, 2 partially operational and 5 have resumed full operations.
- **60 trauma kits donated** by UNHCR to the Ministry of Public Health were distributed to support 35 hospitals to support the treatment of war injured patients.
- UNHCR is procuring **ambulances** to assist with the evacuation and transfer of critical patients, working alongside the Lebanese Red Cross and Civil Defense services, which are currently overwhelmed by the existing demands. The process is ongoing to prioritize the delivery of some ambulances to the Ministry of Public Health to address the most urgent needs.
- The UNHCR is actively providing emergency medical care for refugees impacted by the war. Since 23 September, UNHCR has supported treatment for **204 war-wounded refugees** at its contracted hospitals, with a total of **242** 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 care, and mental health. UNHCR also expanded its primary health care programme to include **outreach health services through mobile and satellite units** to serve the emerging health and mental health needs of displaced refugees and Lebanese.
- To support the national disease outbreak and response activities, UNHCR has deployed **two rapid response teams** to **facilitate disease surveillance**. It also dispatched Oral Rehydration Salts to two regions in light of high number of acute watery diarrhea cases, aiming to reduce dehydration and limit the risk of hospitalization when the health system is overstretched in responding to the emergency.



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Shelter and WASH

UNHCR shelter emergency strategy envisions to combine rapid response and repairs in collective sites and in other shelters and settlements to all population groups.

- Considering the rapid decrease in number of collective and the fluid context, current works in sites for collective shelters are being reviewed. UNHCR is monitoring the situation and will adapt to the changing context, including potential consolidation or decommissioning of collective shelters.
- In total UNHCR has supported 283 sites until 27 November with shelter interventions.
- Since September 2024, **94,400 people** are targeted to receive **Cash-for-Shelter** and **over 103,000** since October 2023. About **91%** of them are Lebanese. Cash-for-Shelter addresses their primary shelter needs such as rent and payment of utility bills.
- Since October 2023 overall, **96,728 affected people received shelter support**, including Cash-for-Shelter, rehabilitation works, enhanced access to water, and improved privacy through partitions.



Basic Assistance

UNHCR basic assistance emergency strategy focuses on cash assistance for vulnerable displaced families affected by the conflict, complemented with Core Relief Items distribution when needed.

- Since 23 September 2024, over **339,000 core relief items** (CRIs) including mattresses, blankets, kitchen sets and solar lamps were distributed to **195,134 people**, **85% of them being Lebanese**. Overall, since October 2023, over **485,000 CRIs** were distributed to **252,093 displaced people**.
- As the majority of IDP have left the collective sites, distribution of CRIs will be provided to people remaining in the sites if not provided before and assessments will take place to identify the CRI needs for the people displaced as well as areas of return
- In response to the escalation of the hostilities, UNHCR is expending temporarily its existing **multi-purpose cash assistance** (MPCA) to affected vulnerable refugee families with the expansion of the MPCA reaching **271,600 people**.

In their own words



We were so happy returning to our home. Eating just bread and onions was enough for us.



Hijezieh, Lebanese returnee to Tyre, South Lebanon. © UNHCR / Houssam Hariri

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CONTACT

Juliette Stevenson | Senior External Relations Officer | stenenso@unhcr.org | Beirut, Lebanon

Fabien Faivre | External Relations Officer | faivre@unhcr.org | Beirut, Lebanon