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LEBANON EMERGENCY FLASH UPDATE 29 November 2024

A man looks at a war-torn commercial building in Nabatieh, Lebanon, on 28 November.

Situation overview

- A ceasefire between Israel and Hezbollah was announced on 26 November in the evening, effective as of 27 November at 4 am.
- Lebanese authorities refer to 1.3 million people affected by the recent conflict, while the joint IOM and UNHCR tracking shows that as of 25 November, prior to the ceasefire, 899,725 Lebanese and Syrian people have been internally displaced in Lebanon (Source: IOM/DTM round 65).
- Since October 2023 and up until 29 November UNHCR had identified over 105,000 refugees who are secondarily displaced, including over 90,000 since 23 September only, 99 per cent being Syrian refugees.
- Over 562,000 people¹ are estimated to have crossed from Lebanon to Syria since the escalation of hostilities, with around 63 per cent Syrians and 37 per cent Lebanese nationals.
- To date, the latest hostilities have resulted in some 3,961 deaths and 16,520 injured, according to the Lebanese Ministry of Health. The overall situation remains dynamic, with ongoing movements and challenges in obtaining precise data on returns. Massive destruction indicate 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.
- Many IDP families including those living in collective shelters have started returning to their areas of origin, with a notable reduction in the population of collective shelters. Most recent update from authorities indicated that almost 76% of people in collective shelters are reported to have left and that 296 collective sites out of 1,009 have closed.²
- Since 23 September, over 421,000 Lebanese and refugees affected are being assisted with some type of cash assistance as part of the emergency response, and over 511,000 individuals overall since October 2023.
- UNHCR emergency response continues while monitoring the evolving situation. UNHCR remains committed to coordinate with authorities and other humanitarian actors in the next phase.

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.**
- UNHCR continues calling on all actors to maintain and apply humanitarian principles and allow **equal access to assistance.**

¹Figures are undergoing verification and are subject to change.

² DRM report as of 29 November.



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LEBANON

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 **55,300** 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 **802,194** visits.
- UNHCR continues to process **claims** for information/referral from refugees and Lebanese displaced through its **complaint and feedback mechanisms**, including over **10,213** average daily calls to the National Call Centre and **200** 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 programmes. As of 28 November 2024, **17 CDCs out of 31** were physically open. Over the past week, CDC partners reached **5,419** through in-person, online or mobile activities including. When CDCs are not able to operate, **UNHCR and partners are mobilized within and outside collective shelters**, delivering protection services - 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. Since the escalation of hostilities UNHCR's partners accessed **285 collective shelters, with 40 CSs reached during the past week.**
- Since the escalation of hostilities, **9,030 displaced persons at heightened risk** were referred for specialized support by Outreach Volunteers, with **892 referrals** in the past week. Of those, 61% were displaced. The most reported referrals were urgent shelter and basic assistance needs risks of evictions and persons with serious medical care needs.
- 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. Following the ceasefire, many Lebanese IDPs in collective shelters have returned to their homes, some remain on-site due to various challenges and uncertainties. Displaced refugees who were not residing in collective shelters have shown varying behaviors, with some choosing to stay where they are and others making their way back home.
- Since 23 September 2024, around **55,000 people** have been supported with **Emergency Protection Cash Assistance (EPCA)** to address specific protection needs. Since October 2023, this represents about **63,400 people**. **Around 69% 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 ongoing conflict is forcing hospitals in high-risk areas to close or provide limited services. Within the UNHCR network, 2 are partially operational out of 11 hospitals in the Bekaa, while in the South, out of 15 hospitals, 3 are closed, 4 are partially operational and 8 are operational but limiting to mainly emergency care for war injuries.
- 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 **202 war-wounded refugees** at its contracted hospitals, with a total of **240** 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.



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.

- UNHCR and partners continue to provide upgrading works in collective sites, including partitioning, weatherproofing and repair of water and sanitation utilities. UNHCR is [targeting the repair of at least 450 collective sites](#) designated by the government across the country and hosting over [16,000 families, mainly Lebanese](#). Since the escalation of the hostilities, UNHCR shelter partners [assessed 467 sites across the country](#), all identified as needing repairs. Of those, repairs are /completed in [259 sites](#).
- 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 maintenance costs and payment of utility bills.
- Since October 2023 overall, [96,753 affected people received shelter support](#), including Cash-for-Shelter, rehabilitation works, enhanced access to water, and improved privacy through partitions.
- In light of the rapid decrease in number of collective and the fluid context, current works in sites for shelter and site management are on hold until at least Monday. UNHCR is monitoring the situation and will adapt to the changing context, including potential consolidation or decommissioning of collective shelters.



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, [339,288 core relief items](#) (CRIs) including mattresses, blankets, kitchen sets and solar lamps were distributed to [193,582 people](#), [85% of them being Lebanese](#). Overall, since October 2023, over [485,003 CRIs](#) were distributed to [250,541 displaced people](#).
- In response to the escalation of the hostilities, UNHCR is expanding temporarily its existing [multi-purpose cash assistance](#) (MPCA) to affected vulnerable refugee families with the expansion of the MPCA reaching [271,600 people](#).

Humanitarian Voices



The destruction around me is massive. People are arriving in large numbers. We should stand with them, so they are able to rebuild their lives from scratch



UNHCR's Houssam Hariri updates on the situation in southern Lebanon after a ceasefire. Now the airstrikes have stopped, families urgently need support to rebuild their lives. Follow on [Instagram](#) or [X](#) © UNHCR

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