



LEBANON UPDATE

June-July 2025

UNHCR staff responding to calls at the National Call Centre, ensuring refugees receive timely and accurate information, including details on the Voluntary Return Programme. © UNHCR/Theresa Fraiha

698,282

Syrians have crossed back to Syria from neighbouring countries since the fall of the Assad regime on 8 December 2024 (as of 17 July)
(source: UNHCR)

199,204

Syrians estimated to have crossed from or via Lebanon into Syria since 8 December 2024 (as of 17 July)
(source: UNHCR)

108,032

Estimated new arrivals of Syrians into Lebanon since 8 December 2024 (as of 30 June)
(source: UNHCR)

82,632

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

Situation overview

- Since 8 December 2024, UNHCR estimates some **698,282 Syrians have crossed back to Syria** via neighboring countries, including 199,204 via or from Lebanon. Returns and movements occur through both official and unofficial border crossings, creating a fluid picture.
- On 1 July 2025, UNHCR has formally launched **its Self-Organized Voluntary Return Programme**. To date, more than 17,000 Syrian individuals have registered their interest in the facilitated Voluntary Return Programme and received counselling on the process steps and implications.
- New arrivals of 108,032 Syrians have been monitored since 8 December 2024 including 67,167 still residing in Bekaa and Baalbek-El Hermel and 29,430 still residing in Akkar and North since March 2025. In addition, some 11,435 new arrivals are reported in other areas, including due to onward internal movements from place of first arrival in Lebanon.
- So far in 2025, **120,606 individuals have been inactivated from UNHCR's registration records** in Lebanon due to verified return or presumed return, including 70,445 individuals who fled during the escalation of hostilities in Lebanon in 2024 and who remained in Syria.
- As of 30 June 2025, **UNHCR Lebanon had received just 22 per cent of its required funding**, with little visibility on funding projections in the coming months. This significant shortfall remains a major concern, as it severely affects our ability to support communities in need throughout Lebanon.

UNHCR RESPONSE

UNHCR continues to respond to the needs of vulnerable individuals, by providing protection services, cash assistance, core relief items, health care, shelter and psychosocial support.

VOLUNTARY RETURN

- On 1 July 2025, the General Directorate of General Security issued a circular waiving exit fees and fines and re-entry ban stamps for all Syrians and Palestinian refugees from Syria returning to Syria. Following this announcement, UNHCR officially launched its UNHCR-supported Self-Organized Voluntary Repatriation programme.
- As of 14 July, more than 17,000 individuals have registered their interest in the facilitated Voluntary Return Programme and received counselling on the process steps and implications. 54 per cent are from North and Akkar, 32 per cent from Bekaa, Baalbek and Hermel, and 15 per cent from Beirut, Mount Lebanon and South. The largest proportion of those with registered interest to return (30 per cent) intend to return to Homs governorate in Syria, while 8 per cent to Idlib.
- While 95 per cent of adults claim to be in possession of a national Syrian ID document to exit Lebanon and enter Syria, one-third of returning Syrian children born in Lebanon do not have birth certificates to facilitate their return and will be referred for legal assistance.
- On 2 July, UNHCR updated its [UNHCR HELP Lebanon – Voluntary Return page](#) and disseminated information on the voluntary return programme through its social media and outreach networks.

PRIORITIZED RESPONSE FOR THE MOST VULNERABLE

- UNHCR is coordinating closely with the authorities and other humanitarian organizations, and providing protection services, cash assistance, core relief items, health care, and psychosocial support for vulnerable families.
- UNHCR delivered monthly multi-purpose cash assistance (MCAP) to 246,780 refugees (53,171 households), including individuals with protection-related needs, ensuring timely financial support for the most vulnerable to address their urgent basic needs.
- In June, UNHCR and partners distributed core relief items—such as blankets, mattresses, jerry cans, kitchen sets, and solar lamps—to around 19,000 vulnerable individuals across Beirut and Mount Lebanon, the Bekaa, and North and South Lebanon.
- A total of 26 community centres are currently operating across the country, providing support to refugees, Lebanese internally displaced persons (IDPs), and host community members. Through these centres, women, men, boys and girls of diverse backgrounds can access protection, social, legal, learning, and other services and activities. In June, 26,000 individuals participated in information and awareness sessions covering available services, prevention of early marriage and gender-based violence (GBV), as well as feedback and complaints mechanisms, including protection from sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA). In addition, 5,823 people benefited from skills trainings, including artisans, photography, coding and electronics maintenance.
- UNHCR and partners continued providing shelter assistance to communities in need. In June, 92 shelters housing 815 people have either been repaired or rehabilitated.
- UNHCR and partners provided 678 in-person protection case management support to persons facing protection risks and persons with specific needs at heightened risk, including persons with disabilities and older persons.
- UNHCR and its partners conducted a total of 10,443 mental health consultations, with approximately 60 per cent taking place in the North of Lebanon.
- UNHCR provided various forms of legal assistance to refugees and asylum-seekers, including 2,834 legal consultations.
- Through its referral healthcare programme, UNHCR, through a Third-Party Administrator, covered 2,012 hospital admissions ensuring continuous access to a comprehensive hospitalization services.

RESPONSE FOR NEW ARRIVALS

- New arrivals of 108,032 Syrians have been monitored since 8 December 2024 including 67,167 still residing in Bekaa and Baalbek-El Hermel and 29,430 still residing in Akkar and North since March 2025. In addition, some 11,435 new arrivals are reported in other areas, including due to onward internal movements from place of first arrival in Lebanon.
- At the Government's request, UNHCR has integrated measures into its Referral Health Care Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) to guarantee that new arrivals can access life-saving hospital care. In June, 16 newly arrived individuals received treatment at hospitals contracted by UNHCR.

- In June, UNHCR and partners distributed core relief items to around 16,000 vulnerable individuals living in North Lebanon.

IMPACT OF UNDER FUNDING

UNHCR, alongside the entire humanitarian community, is experiencing an overall unexpectedly large and swift downturn in funding in 2025. Funding uncertainty and limited visibility on substantial funding projections is already forcing difficult decisions on activities possible to support, with UNHCR Lebanon focusing primarily on lifesaving and core mandate activities with both flexible and earmarked funds available.

Despite generous support from a wide range of donors, UNHCR was funded under 60 per cent of the USD 545.2 required for its response in Lebanon in 2024, as part of an ongoing downward trajectory of funding. As of 30 June 2025, UNHCR Lebanon had received just 22 per cent of its required funding.

A number of those in need will no longer receive support, while crucial activities around supporting return and those still in Lebanon may be deeply affected if more funds cannot be found:

- UNHCR had to discontinue 347,000 individuals from the UNHCR only cash component of the joint programme UNHCR-WFP joint cash programme, and will now support 216,700 people until June 2025 only.
- Return related activities for up to 400,000 people may be in jeopardy if support for planning and assistance is not forthcoming
- 83,000 IDPs and returnees can no longer receive cash for shelter support.
- 56,000 people can no longer receive Emergency Protection Cash Assistance.
- 40,000 refugees are no longer able to access primary healthcare. Additionally, 45,000 people, including pregnant women, will no longer receive secondary healthcare as of December 2025.
- 15,000 children will no longer benefit from community-based learning and education retention support. This comes on top of changes to education access in Lebanon for the current school year, which was also heavily impacted by the conflict in late 2024.
- Institutional support has been substantially reduced, including curtailing all community support projects for refugee hosting areas.

FUNDING | UNHCR is grateful for the support of donors who contributed to this operation

Australia | Canada | Denmark | European Union | France | Germany | Italy | Japan | Luxembourg | Monaco | Netherlands (Kingdom of the) | Republic of Korea | Spain | Sweden | Switzerland | United States of America | Central Emergency Response Fund

Other softly earmarked or unearmarked contributions:

Australia | Belgium | Canada | Denmark | France | Finland | Germany | Ireland | Netherlands (Kingdom of the) | Norway | Republic of Korea | Sweden | Switzerland | United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland | Private donors

CONTACT Juliette Stevenson | Senior External Relations Officer | stenvenso@unhcr.org | Beirut, Lebanon
Fabien Faivre | External Relations Officer | faivre@unhcr.org | Beirut, Lebanon