



UNHCR
The UN Refugee Agency

Middle East Situation

UNHCR Emergency Appeal for Lebanon

March–May 2026

Key Figures



1.3 million people
projected affected
by the emergency



600,000 unique
individuals
targeted by UNHCR



US\$ 61 million
required

Overview

Since 2 March, nearly one million people have been displaced from southern Lebanon, the Bekaa, and Beirut's southern suburbs as Israeli evacuation orders were issued and airstrikes continue. Families are still on the move, seeking safety and shelter. Refugees are also among those directly impacted by the attacks, evacuation orders and displacement, notably since Lebanon remains the country hosting the largest refugee populations per capita globally. The hostilities are driving extreme fear, anxiety, and psychological distress, particularly among communities already worn down by years of instability and repeated displacement.

Under the leadership of the Government of Lebanon and the Minister of Social Affairs, and within the existing Lebanon Response Plan (LRP) framework, UNHCR's support complements and reinforces the Government-led emergency response and its dedicated efforts to speedily sustainably the large number of civilians – Lebanese and non-Lebanese, including refugees – impacted by the hostilities. The [Lebanon Flash Appeal](#) calls for US\$ 308.3 million to provide lifesaving assistance and protection to up to 1,000,000 people. In line with the Lebanon's Flash Appeal and under this Emergency Appeal, UNHCR plans to assist 600,000 individuals (unique) for an initial period of three months.

Within the overall funding requirement of US\$ 472.3 million for its operations in Lebanon, during 2026, UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency, urgently seeks US\$

61 million in flexible funding to scale up its emergency response for three months. In this emergency situation with internal displacement of both Lebanese and refugees, UNHCR plays a coordination as well as a response role within the sectors its co-leads, namely protection, shelter and core relief items, and cash assistance. While maintaining overall responsibility for the refugee response according to its mandate. To respond to the urgent and growing humanitarian needs of displaced Lebanese and refugees, UNHCR, together with partners, is **delivering lifesaving protection services, shelter support and core relief items (CRI), as well as cash assistance to cover basic needs like shelter, food and medical costs and mitigate protection risks.**

UNHCR was able to immediately launch its emergency response on 2 March by leveraging existing community-based protection and operational infrastructures, to support both Lebanese and refugees fleeing from or remaining in areas under attack and evacuation orders. During the initial two weeks of the emergency response, UNHCR has focused on rapid protection monitoring, distribution of core-relief items to displaced in collective shelters and shelter improvements, emergency cash assistance, counselling and referrals of individuals with specific vulnerabilities and community mobilization. As needs and displacement surges across both refugee and Lebanese communities, UNHCR is, in line with the Flash Appeal, urgently scaling up both area-based and individual protection and assistance support.

UNHCR CONTRIBUTION to the Lebanese Government-led emergency response



Protection

- **Provision of protection assistance and services**, through case management (including child protection), access to specialized services) with a particular focus on displaced with specific needs such as disability or older age and complementary community-based support.
- **Scaling up protection and border monitoring.**
- **Capacity support for the Ministry of Social Affairs**, including social workers in collective shelters, to support a sustainable and nationally-led response.
- **Reinforcement of community structures and outreach** through Community Development Centres (CDCs), receiving an increasing number of displaced refugee and Lebanese families, where information, counselling and psychosocial support is provided, and referrals to needed services are made.
- **Emergency protection cash**, through a one-time grant of USD 150, to help address pressing protection concerns of the most vulnerable, directly impacted and displaced refugees.



Shelter

- **Maintenance and repair of public buildings** serving as collective shelters, including partitioning, accessibility (for displaced with low mobility), as well as window, door and bathroom improvements to enhance dignity of living conditions.
- **Shelter kits and other improvements of shelters** for displaced staying outside of collective shelters.
- **Provision of cash for shelter to highly vulnerable families** renting or hosted in adequate accommodation.
- **Core-relief items** such as high-thermal blankets, sleeping mats, solar lamps, mattresses, and kitchen sets to displaced staying in collective shelters or remaining in hard-to-reach areas.



Cash Assistance

- **Emergency multi-purpose cash assistance (EMPC)** for displaced refugees in complementarity with the Government's Shock Responsive Safety Net (SRSN). This assistance will be aligned with the SRSN's methodology and comprise one off payments of up to USD 145 to households.

Financial Requirements by Sector for Three Months (March–May 2026)

Sector	Financial requirements (US\$ million)
Protection (including violence against women and children)	15,836,400
Cash Assistance	13,340,000
Shelter (including core relief items)	31,823,600
TOTAL	61,000,000

The Importance of Flexible Funding

In this dynamic operational environment, flexible funding is vital for UNHCR to remain agile and ensure the response is efficient and adaptive in order to provide protection and assistance to the people who need it most. The financial requirements presented here are based on the

current context and may be adjusted as the situation evolves. **To all donors, especially those who provide funding that is flexible and not earmarked for a particular use, UNHCR extends its most sincere thanks.**

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