



**LEBANON EMERGENCY**  
**FLASH UPDATE**  
**18 October 2024**

Ten trucks loaded with humanitarian aid arrived at the UNHCR warehouse in Beirut on Wednesday 16 October for distribution to displaced families. © UNHCR/ Ximena Borrazas.



**1.2M**  
affected  
people in Lebanon  
(source: GoL)

**779,613**  
Internally displaced  
people in Lebanon  
(source: IOM/DTM)

**55,698**  
new displacements  
over the past week  
(source: IOM/DTM)

**191,518**  
registered IDPs in 984  
collective shelters  
(source: IOM/DTM)

**Situation overview**

- Three weeks ago, Israel dramatically intensified its airstrikes on Lebanon, a country that has already been through loss and destruction.
- Lebanese authorities refer to 1.2 million people affected, while the joint IOM and UNHCR tracking shows that as of 17 October, **779,613 Lebanese and Syrian people** have been internally displaced in Lebanon ([Source: IOM/DTM round 54](#)).
- Since October 2023, UNHCR identified over **50,000** refugees who are secondarily displaced, including **39,500** 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 hostilities<sup>1</sup>.
- 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 **2,412 deaths and 11,285 injured**, according to the Lebanese Ministry of Health.
- Over **405,000 people**<sup>2</sup> 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 **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.**

<sup>1</sup> Refugees who resided in areas targeted by 8 or more airstrikes.

<sup>2</sup> 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 17 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, over **46,000 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 **433,276** visits, including **63,542** visits to the dedicated emergency page launched 1 October.
- UNHCR continues to process **claims** 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 bombardment, 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, **partners are mobilized in collective shelters** to identify focal points in each sites, map existing capacity, share information, refer Protection risk cases and deliver psychosocial support. As of 18 October 2024, **18 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 **61 collective shelters** so far.
- Since the escalation of hostilities, **4,060 displaced persons were referred for specific support** by outreach volunteers, with **1,415 referrals** in the past week only.
- 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.



### Health

- UNHCR expanded its network of hospitals in the South and Bekaa, enhancing access to critical health treatments through **44 contracted hospitals**, supporting continuous access to life-saving health care for all. Among the **44** contracted hospitals in the country, **3 in the South** are completely out of service, **7** partially functional (1 Beirut and 6 South) with very limited services and only **34** are able to run in full capacity. **Two additional hospitals** were added to UNHCR network in Beirut Mount Lebanon to accommodate additional needs following recent strikes in the region.
- UNHCR is in the process of procuring **10 ambulances** to support evacuation and transfers of critical patients, complementing LRC and Civil defense services that are overwhelmed by the current needs.
- UNHCR is facilitating the process to donate **10 Interagency Emergency Health Kits (IEHK)** to support Ministry of Public Health (MoPH) in addressing gaps in essential medicine and medical items supplies. A IEHK is a set of prepackaged boxes of assorted medicines, medical supplies and basic equipment used for management of common acute infections and non-communicable diseases at the primary health centre level. One kit can support up to 10,000 persons for 3 months.
- UNHCR continues to support emergency medical care for refugees affected by the war. Since 23 September, UNHCR covered treatment of **125 war-wounded refugees** at its contracted hospitals and **163** since October 2023.
- Following the **identification of a cholera case**, UNHCR is coordinating with MoPH and other health actors for the support to the national response activities.



### Basic assistance

- Since 23 September 2024, **153,870 core relief items (CRIs)** including mattresses, blankets, kitchen sets and solar lamps were distributed to **86,261 people**. Overall, since October 2023, over **299,585 CRIs** were distributed to **143,220 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 **272,450 Lebanese and refugees** affected are being assisted with some type of **cash assistance** as part of the emergency response, and **345,450 individuals** overall since October 2023.



### 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 75 shelters** such as weatherproofing, partitioning, and rehabilitation of WASH. **23 sites** were completed so far.
- Since October 2023 overall, **9,578 affected people received shelter support**, including rehabilitation works, enhanced access to water, and improved privacy through gender separation.



In their own words



“

*What we're going through brings back the same trauma as when we had to flee from Syria. Now we are displaced once more. The children were very afraid.*

”

*A Syrian refugee family forced to be displaced are now living in a collective shelter in northern Lebanon  
©UNHCR/Houssam Hariri*

**FUNDING** | UNHCR is grateful for the critical support provided by donors who have contributed to this operation

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