



## LEBANON EMERGENCY FLASH UPDATE 29 October 2024

A damaged building after Israeli shelling in the Ghobeiry neighbourhood on the outskirts of Beirut © UNHCR/ Ximena Borrazas.



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

**834,746**  
Internally displaced  
people in Lebanon  
(source: IOM/DTM)

**15,957**  
new displacements  
over the past week  
(source: IOM/DTM)

**189,151**  
registered IDPs in  
1,015 collective  
shelters  
(source: IOM/DTM)

### Situation overview

- Over a month ago, Israel dramatically intensified its airstrikes on Lebanon, triggering a humanitarian emergency.
- Lebanese authorities refer to 1.2 million people affected, while the joint IOM and UNHCR tracking shows that as of 28 October, **834,746 Lebanese and Syrian people** have been internally displaced in Lebanon (Source: IOM/DTM round 57).
- Since October 2023, UNHCR identified over **75,000** refugees who are secondarily displaced, including **58,500** since 23 September only, **98%** 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>.
- To date, the latest hostilities have resulted in some **2,672 deaths and 12,468 injured**, according to the Lebanese Ministry of Health.
- Over **440,000 people**<sup>2</sup> are estimated to have crossed from Lebanon to Syria since the escalation of hostilities, with around 71 per cent Syrians and 29 per cent Lebanese nationals.
- The **most urgent needs** are access to safe shelters, core relief items, healthcare, food, cash assistance, and protection services.

### 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 **Protection activities, 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> The numbers of new arrivals in this document are based on "SARC Emergency Response For Lebanese Refugees and Syrian Returnees" (issued 21 October). Figures are undergoing verification and are subject to change. More info: [UNHCR Syria Flash Update 25 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

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, nearly **53,000 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 **557,499** visits, including **8,141** visits this week.
- UNHCR continues to process **claims** for information/referral from refugees and Lebanese displaced through its **complaint and feedback mechanisms**, including **4,800** average daily calls to the National Call Centre and **359 average** daily messages to the Online Contact Form in the past week. Trends are slowly settling back to more regular numbers from a spike around the second week of the emergency.
- 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. When CDCs are not able to operate, **UNHCR and partners are mobilized within and outside collective shelters**, delivering protection services—sharing information, offering counselling, responding to inquiries and complaints, mobilizing community for self-driven initiatives, and referring persons at heightened risk for services. Such programmes focus on supporting the most vulnerable among displaced families, particularly women, children, and persons with disabilities, to ensure their safety and dignity. This week, UNHCR's partners accessed **65 collective shelters**, bringing their reach to a total of **169 shelters** in which they shared information, provided psychosocial support, and referred protection risks and incidents. As of 25 October 2024, **14 CDCs** were physically open to receive refugees, IDPs and host community members. Since 23 September, CDC partners reached **9,748** (59% women and girls) through in-person, online or mobile activities of whom **4,111 were IDPs**, **1,761** during the past week alone (88% Lebanese, 52% women and girls).
- Since the escalation of hostilities, **4,760 displaced persons at heightened risk** were referred for specialized support by Outreach Volunteers, with **899 referrals** in the past week. **Specific needs** include families lacking basic needs, risk of evictions, women-headed household at risk, family separation, persons with serious medical conditions and persons facing psychological distress and trauma.
- 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 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 hospitals capacity enhancement.

- The ongoing conflict forcing hospitals in high-risk areas to close or provide limited services. To facilitate refugee's access to life-saving services that include emergency care for refugees injured in war, UNHCR has expanded its hospital network in the South, Bekaa, Beirut and Mount Lebanon regions totalling **44** hospitals. Within the UNHCR network of 15 hospitals in the South, 3 are closed, 3 are partially operational, and 9 are operational but limiting to mainly emergency care for war injuries and the access to those facilities remain unsafe due to ongoing conflict.
- UNHCR is procuring **ambulances** to assist the Ministry of Public Health, the Lebanese Red Cross and Civil Defence with the evacuation and transfer of critical patients to the hospitals since their capacities are overwhelmed by the existing demands.
- The UNHCR is actively providing emergency medical care for refugees impacted by the war. Since 23 September, UNHCR has supported treatment for **148** war-wounded refugees at its contracted hospitals, with a total of **186** 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 health care, and mental health. Coordination is ongoing to explore possibilities to support with **Primary Health Satellite Units (PSU)** in areas where displaced refugees are and provide additional staffing capacity for mental health consultations.
- Following the identification of a confirmed cholera case, active search is ongoing and no new case has been identified. The MoPH has put on hold the submission of a proposal to International Coordination Group (ICG) for oral cholera vaccine (OCV) pending the results of active surveillance. UNHCR has disseminated **cholera prevention messages** through its communication channels and is planning to dispatch oral rehydration salts to the North and Bekaa regions.



## 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 rehabilitation of water and sanitation utilities. UNHCR is **targeting the repair of at least 420 collective sites** designated by the government across the country and hosting over **16,000 families**.
- Since the escalation of the hostilities, UNHCR shelter partners **assessed 360 sites across the country**, all identified as needing repairs. Of those, repairs are ongoing/completed in **135 sites**.
- Since October 2023 overall, **39,908 affected people received shelter support**, including rehabilitation works, enhanced access to water, and improved privacy through gender separation.



## 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, **208,075 core relief items** (CRIs) including mattresses, blankets, kitchen sets and solar lamps were distributed to **130,273 people**. Overall, since October 2023, over **353,790 CRIs** were distributed to **187,232** 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.
- Since 23 September, over **282,994** Lebanese and refugees affected are being assisted with some type of cash assistance as part of the emergency response, and **355,994** individuals overall since October 2023.

### In their own words



*We are, as the saying goes, surviving on thin air.*



Hundreds of thousands have fled their homes with only the clothes on their backs. Listen to their story on [Instagram](#).

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