

## New Arrivals to North Lebanon

15 May 2025



39,195 new arrivals from Syria (8,746 families, including 8,293 Syrian families and 453 Lebanese families)



35 locations across North and Akkar Governorates, Northern Lebanon

The hostilities in the Tartous, Lattakia, Homs and Hama Governorates of Syria in early March continue to displace people into the North and Akkar Governorates of North Lebanon. Newly arrived refugees are now located across 35 distinct locations predominantly in Akkar in 30 villages near to the border with Syria, reaching 39,195 people in total. The continuing influx over preceding months is now becoming a protracted situation, with people still arriving in dire condition, while current response is greatly overstretched, insufficient to the growing needs and increasingly unsustainable due to lack of funding support.

Newly arrived refugees are staying across 30 villages in Akkar. Local authority official figures from Disaster Risk Management (DRM) cite 25,901 individuals (5,483 families, including 175 Lebanese families) as of 12 May in Akkar. The highest concentrations are in Massaoudiye (11,380 individuals/ 1,936 families), Hissa (1,938 individuals/439 families), Abboudieh (1,706 individuals/396 families), and Tall Bireh (1,608 individuals/365 families).

Following the Lebanese Red Cross (LRC) enumeration exercise, a total of 3,263 families/13,294 individuals were counted in North Governorate, of which an estimated 281 are Lebanese families, as of 12 May. Geographically, most families are residing in Jabal Mohsen area of Tripoli (1,743 families) and Dhour el Hawa (262 families). Arrivals continue in the low hundreds across both Governorates.









Core Relief Items Distribution in Abboudieh. ©UNHCR/ Houssam

## Needs and Response

- Families continue to arrive through unofficial border crossing points having fled under duress from Syria, although numbers have reduced due to reinforcement of borders from the Syrian side.
- UNHCR has submitted a formal proposal to register new arrivals who have fled to Lebanon since the change of Government in Syria in December 2024 and continues to follow up actively with relevant Government entities.
- Mobile info-desks are traveling to locations in Akkar and the North and have reached 793 newly arrived individuals to date. Key inquiries included health, legal aid, PWSN assistance, and UNHCR

registration. Forty six high-risk cases were referred. IOCC, LECORVAW, MOSA, UNHCR and Intersos are all engaged in the mobile info desks.

- Nearly 90% of the population is still living outside of collective shelters. Municipalities have now opened an increased number of 33 collective shelters, 26 in Akkar (1 inactive) and 7 in North (2 inactive) for those without alternative accommodation options. These buildings, mainly religious institutions, municipal halls, and disused buildings are accommodating approximately 3,515 people (774 families) at present and are already severely overcrowded and do not have sufficient latrines or showers.
- Most of the families who have been enrolled in Jabal Mohsen in the North have received assistance to date. The newest arrivals were supported on 15 May in Jabal Mohsen.
- Solidarités International installed 31 fire extinguishers and 5 fire blankets in 16 collective shelters as well as 25 solar lights in 18 collective shelters. A total of 28 Multi Sectorial Need Assessments (MSNAs) have been completed.
- Shelter repair works have been completed in 10 collective shelters, while repairs are ongoing in 6 additional shelters, and 11 shelters are being assessed: 1 newly added, while 2 are inactive. These interventions include weatherproofing through the installation or repair of doors and windows, the construction of partitions to better organize overcrowded spaces, internal WASH upgrades and the installation of fire extinguishers.
- WFP food assistance distribution is ongoing and covers all villages in Akkar and north providing hot meals/RTEs and/ or food parcels.
- UNHCR/Caritas provided UNIQLO clothing and ANERA distributed clothing items to over 2,500 individuals in and outside collective shelters across the North and Akkar.
- Next week, four shelter partners will begin distributing UNCHR/UNIQLO clothing to around 1,200 individuals in six Akkar villages.
- UNHCR coordinates the health response in close coordination with the Ministry of Public Health and several agencies (IOM, IMC, MSF, LRC, PUI, IRC, UNICEF, WHO). A total of 5,756 health general consultations have been conducted to new arrivals, 973 non communicable diseases (NCD) consultations and 832 Reproductive Health consultations. Mobile units of the Lebanese Red Cross have vaccinated 1,199 children.
- In view of the severity of needs in mental health, 572 MHPSS services have been provided though it remains insufficient in a context where most mental health partners have seen their funding reduced lately. Child Protection actors have been assigned geographically to the most affected areas to provide case management, psychological first aid and PSS. As of May 8th, 112 children have benefited from such support. Case-management was provided to 18 high case-management. High number of separated and
- unaccompanied children are being identified and cases referred to Himaya and Save the children for case management.
- Dignity kits are being distributed as part of the GBV response and as an entry point for GBV actors to provide awareness, create PSS groups and identify cases in need of case-management. By May 8th, 6,721 Dignity Kits have been distributed accompanied by Prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA) messaging. Some GBV actors participate to the mobile info-desk providing group PSS sessions and key GBV messaging.

Sector	Partners	Activities
	AICA, ANERA, IOM, IRC, LRC, NRC, SC, UNICEF/AND, UNHCR/Caritas, WVI	- Blankets, mattresses, and other basic items are being delivered to individuals as they arrive.
	AICA, B&Z, Caritas, CIL, DRC, GVC, ICRC, LRC, Nusaned, PCPM, SCI, SI, WeWorld, WFP	- Ready-to-Eat and hot meals are being provided and food parcels are being distributed.
	Caritas, ICRC, IMC, IOM, LRC, MSF-B, MoPH, Order of Malta, PUI, UNFPA, UNICEF, WHO, UNHCR	- Vaccination of children - Mobile medical teams - TB screening - Weapon wounded treatment - Support to safe deliveries - 2 Primary healthcare Satellite Units (PSU) - Nutrition screening
	DRC, IRC, NRC, PUI, UNHCR/INTERSOS, UNHCR/IOCC, UNHCR/Caritas, and AICA, AND, Intersos, Himaya, RMF, SCI, ABAAD, Akkarouna, I'm Possible, Shift, UNHCR and UNFPA through Lecrovaw	- Protection monitoring to understand risks & vulnerabilities and provide referrals - Identification and referrals of UASC - Case management for vulnerable children - Identification and referral for specialized services - GBV case management - Distribution of dignity kits.
	Careliban, NRC, PU-AMI, SI, UNHCR/RMF, UNHCR/Concern	- Shelter repairs are finished in 10 collective shelters, ongoing in 6, while 10 remain under assessment. - Installation of solar lights are completed. - Fire extinguishers are being distributed in collective shelters with partitions and fire blankets.
	ACF, CARE, DRC, I'm Possible, UNICEF/AND, UNICEF/SI, WE World, GVC	- Hygiene kits, disinfection kits, RRM kits and bottled water are being distributed - Water testing completed in 26 shelters: 13 shelters with clean water sources while 7 showed sources with various levels of contaminations. - Shelter repairs are being complemented with WASH repairs where needed

## Response Gaps

- **Health:** Access to essential health services remains limited due to funding cuts, especially in mental health and psychosocial support. UNHCR covers only part of secondary healthcare needs—60% of life-saving cases and 50% of deliveries—while critical conditions like cancer, dialysis, and blood disorders receive no support. Chronic medication shortages at PHCC/PSUs disrupt care for long-

term illnesses. Overcrowded facilities further increase the risk of disease outbreaks. Gaps in health coverage will lead to negative coping mechanisms and further protection risks.

- **Protection** Information desks operated by UNHCR, and partners have been operationalised and are supporting in identifying the most vulnerable as well as providing information on services available including birth registration. Limited freedom of movement, lack of livelihood opportunities, and resulting negative coping mechanisms—particularly child labor—remain key concerns requiring dedicated funding. Newly arrived children face barriers to access education, contributing to unsafe environments and increased child protection risks. Many children require psychosocial support (PSS) due to trauma experienced in Syria. Children are particularly affected by the absence of child-friendly spaces, and inadequate infrastructure in collective shelters hinders safe, confidential case management, putting both service quality and safeguarding at risk.
- Child labour is the most common coping mechanism adopted by new arrivals families and requires dedicated funding to be addressed. Lack of access to education for newly arrived children contributes to create unsafe environment.
- **Shelter** Nearly 90% of new arrivals are living in private housing while some collective shelters are unable to undergo necessary repairs due to funding gaps and structural limitations. Overcrowding persists, with no available housing capacity, and many shelters lack connections to water, sewage, and electricity networks. Overall, the shelter situation remains dire. Interaction with various authorities continues with the aim of identifying more or other sites where more prolonged stay is possible.
- **WASH** The locations where people are arriving to are not connected to municipal water supplies, have limited numbers of latrines and minimal washing facilities, limited water storage capacity and water trucking is not yet fully operational. There are also gaps in solid waste management for the collective sites aggravated by burning of waste.
- The Alawite Islamic Council sent an official letter to the Ministry of Social Affairs (MOSA), warning of the repercussions of the purported closure of UNHCR's office and the cessation of WFP assistance due to funding limitations. The letter urged MOSA to advocate for continued support for newcomers and Syrian refugees. UNHCR discussed the letter with MOSA representatives in the North and the Lebanon Response Plan General Supervisor in Beirut to respond and clarify that UNHCR is reducing its footprint in the North, not closing the office, and that services continue to be provided by WFP who will maintain activities until the end of August at present, including the provision of hot meals and Ready-to-Eat (RTE) food packages for new arrivals.
- Agencies are actively engaged in fundraising efforts to secure the necessary resources to extend support through December for new arrivals, however funding projections remain limited and further support is greatly needed to maintain the most basic levels of assistance. While a number of organizations are engaged in assistance, this does not reflect a robust response even in the short term as many are operating by reallocating funds where possible or using contingency available that currently cannot be sustained without funds. A more comprehensive approach to support to the response is needed, particularly as arrivals continue to grow and local areas are struggling to absorb people in mostly small villages with limited services; without funding, the situation, particularly in health, shelter, and WASH, is fast becoming impossible to maintain.

## CONTACTS

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