



Middle East Situation

Lebanon – Flash Update #6

6 – 12 April 2026

More than 100 Israeli airstrikes hit locations across the country within just 10 minutes on Wednesday, 8 April, killing hundreds of people and injuring over 1,100, triggering a new wave of displacement, and deepening uncertainty and anxiety for civilians in Beirut, the Bekaa, and the South. ©UNHCR

PEOPLE FORCED TO FLEE

1,049,328

Displaced people registered through Lebanon's government relief platform (Source: MoSA 1 April)

140,682

Internally displaced people hosted in 684 collective shelters (Source: DRM 12 April)

6,588

Injuries and over 2,055 fatalities since 2 March (Source: MoPH 12 April)

207,770

Syrians who have crossed back to Syria between 2 March – 8 April (Source: Syria GAPC)

38,074

Lebanese have crossed to Syria between 2 March – 8 April (Source: Syria GAPC)

OVERVIEW

- Deadliest attacks in single day since new escalation of conflict in Lebanon**
On 8 April, a wave of over 100 Israeli airstrikes hit Beirut and multiple locations across Mount Lebanon, the Bekaa, and the South within a 10-minute period, killing over 300 people and injuring more than 1,100 according to the Ministry of Public Health and causing extensive damage to civilian homes and infrastructure. Lebanese authorities declared 9 April a national day of mourning. [The UN Secretary General condemned the attacks](#) and reiterated his call to all parties to immediately cease hostilities.
- Ceasefire ambiguity triggered premature returns**
Unclear information following the 7 April announcement of a two-week U.S.-Iran pause led some internally displaced people to begin returning to conflict-affected areas. These movements were quickly reversed after the large-scale airstrikes of 8 April confirmed that Lebanon was excluded from any ceasefire arrangement, triggering new displacement and widespread fear that nowhere in Lebanon is safe.
- Critical infrastructure strikes threaten access to the south**
The Qasmiyeh Bridge, the last operational crossing (of seven) connecting areas south of the Litani River to the rest of the country, was struck on 8 April, temporarily cutting access to large parts of southern Lebanon. Although movement was later partially restored, the strike has put access to large parts of southern Lebanon at risk, where thousands of civilians remain amid ongoing military operations.
- Border disruptions compound population movements and uncertainty**
Following an Israeli evacuation warning on 4 April, the Masnaa border crossing was temporarily closed, then [reopened on 9 April “with strict measures in place to ensure the safety of passenger and goods movement”](#). The temporary closure affected cross-border mobility and influenced return decisions.



COORDINATION

Under the leadership of the Minister of Social Affairs and within the Lebanon Response Plan (LRP) framework, UNHCR Lebanon co-leads the Inter-Sector Coordination Group with the Ministry of Social Affairs (MoSA), OCHA, and UNDP. UNHCR also co-leads the Protection Sector with MoSA and Oxfam; the Shelter/Core Relief Items Sector with MoSA and the Norwegian Refugee Council, and co-chairs the Cash Working Group (CWG) alongside MoSA and World Vision International.

In situations of internal displacement, UNHCR plays a coordination and response role within the sectors it co-leads with the Government and NGOs, while maintaining overall responsibility for the refugee response in line with its mandate.

SPOTLIGHT ON COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CENTERS

As hostilities intensify and displacement continues across Lebanon, **Community Development Centres (CDCs)** remain critical entry points where displaced Lebanese and refugees can access information, psychosocial support, and referrals in one safe, accessible location. Operating as one-stop hubs, CDCs help bridge immediate needs with specialised services at a time when movement is constrained and risks are high.

Despite hostilities forcing five CDCs to close, 16 remain operational across the country, providing psychosocial support, case management, legal aid, life-skills, and information sessions, while strengthening community engagement and social cohesion. So far, over 13,400 displaced refugees and Lebanese (54% women and girls) have accessed such services at the CDCs. By reducing the need for repeated travel between services, CDCs help limit protection, security, and financial risks for families already facing repeated displacement. In the current emergency, CDCs also support **community-based protection responses**, including referrals for persons at heightened risk and activities that help children, women, and older persons cope with stress and uncertainty.

These centres are a cornerstone of UNHCR’s commitment to refugees’ inclusive access to protection services, localisation, accountability to affected people, and community-driven solutions, ensuring assistance remains responsive, dignified, and grounded in community priorities. CDCs are reinforced by **Outreach Volunteers**, who extend protection services beyond the centres to reach families in collective shelters and public spaces and identify people at heightened risk; however, **80 out of 448 Outreach Volunteers (18%) are themselves displaced**, highlighting both the strength and the growing strain on community-based protection mechanisms.



A community-based activity at a UNHCR-supported CDC, providing a safe space for displaced families to connect, seek support, and restore a sense of routine. ©UNHCR

UNHCR RESPONSE

The escalation of violence is causing profound fear, anxiety, and psychological strain, especially among communities already exhausted by years of instability and repeated displacement. To meet the increasing humanitarian needs of displaced Lebanese and refugees, UNHCR and its partners are providing lifesaving protection services, shelter assistance, core relief items (CRIs), and cash support. Alongside the emergency response to internal displacement, UNHCR continues implementing its essential protection, including community-based protection, shelter, multi-purpose cash assistance and durable solutions programmes for the refugee population, which are now more critical than ever as the refugees are also impacted in multiple ways by the escalation of hostilities.

 **PROTECTION**

Protection monitoring this week shows many displaced families are living in extreme overcrowding, facing eviction and exploitation in the rental market, and struggling to meet basic needs amid rising insecurity. Child labour, family separation, and psychological distress are increasing, while lack of shelter alternatives is pushing some families to return prematurely to unsafe areas. Syrian refugees are consistently identified as being more exposed and having greater difficulties accessing services than other displaced groups, compounding vulnerability following the latest strikes.

How UNHCR is responding

Protection Sector partners, including UNHCR, have reached **93,072 displaced people across 448 collective shelters** and outside formal shelters in host communities with protection services. UNHCR's protection response during the week focused on households affected by repeated displacement and the latest strikes – including families with children, people with disabilities, and people facing eviction or unsafe living conditions – with rapid case management, psychosocial support, and emergency protection assistance.

- **Stabilising children after repeated displacement** Repeated displacement has a direct impact on children's feeling of safety and well-being. Protection partners report children exposed to prolonged periods without schooling, safe spaces or routine, alongside heightened fear and anxiety after successive airstrikes. In the days after the 8 April attacks, separated children were identified in Beirut and Mount Lebanon. Through a comprehensive package of services, Child Protection partners have upscaled their support to identify and support children who have been directly impacted, were wounded, or got lost due to the successive airstrikes. As a rapid response measure, partners in the Child Protection WG, co-led by MOSA, UNICEF, and IRC, have activated dedicated hotlines to facilitate rapid referrals and follow-up, including family tracing and reunification.

UNHCR and its child protection implementing partners also **reached 1,107 children with psychosocial support** this week, through structured activities in collective shelters and communities. In one shelter in the Bekaa, a displaced Outreach Volunteer is providing weekly maths, Arabic, and English lessons to displaced refugee children, helping restore a sense of routine and continuity after weeks of disruption. These community-based initiatives have become a critical lifeline for children affected by repeated displacement and instability.

- **Assisting out-of-shelter displaced families:** UNHCR teams identified displaced families living outdoors, in vehicles and unfinished buildings during field visits in Saida and Beirut. In Saida alone, around **135 Syrian refugees** were found sleeping along the corniche and near public buildings after being evicted from shelters, denied access to collective sites, or afraid to return home. Recent assessments among displaced refugee households indicate that cash assistance is the most frequently identified primary need (82%), followed by food (45%) and shelter support (31%).

In response, UNHCR and partners carried out immediate protection assessments, prioritising families with children, medical needs, and disabilities. The most vulnerable households were referred on the spot for protection interventions, including psychosocial support, emergency case management, and emergency protection cash assistance, while follow-up and advocacy with authorities and shelter partners are ongoing to secure safer accommodation options where possible. Through emergency protection cash assistance, UNHCR has supported over 450 highly vulnerable refugee families since early March, helping them meet urgent needs such as rent, transport, food and medical costs, and reduce immediate protection risks linked to repeated displacement and unsafe living conditions.

- **Supporting refugees returning to Syria:** As of 1 April, UNHCR support for those returning to Syria due to the security environment in Lebanon, under "force majeure", is available to refugees. It builds on the pre-existing facilitated return programme, while taking into account the adverse circumstances in Lebanon following the escalation. Information is being disseminated through UNHCR's Lebanon HELP platform, and refugees reaching out for support to return are counselled and supported with any documentation needs, and with a USD 100 return cash grant per person to help cover transport-related costs. The support provided aims to reduce protection risks during return and ensure informed decision-making in a highly constrained context. To date, **over 400 families have been counseled and assisted**, with increased engagement from refugees through UNHCR's information platforms following targeted outreach and helpline messaging.

Returning to Syria amid uncertainty: Voices from Lebanon

After buildings near his home were bombed and destroyed, Mahmoud, 23 and a father of two, felt compelled to urgently return to Syria through the Masnaa – Jdeidet Yabous border crossing. Today, he hopes to find work so he can continue supporting his children and parents despite the difficulties.

"I prefer to live near my children and share what little we have."

UNHCR is supporting refugees who return due to force majeure, providing counselling, advice, and some cash support to help reduce risks during the journey and promote informed decision-making in an extremely constrained and volatile context. ©UNHCR



SHELTER AND CORE-RELIEF ITEMS

Expanding shelter options amidst ongoing displacement remains a key priority, as existing collective shelters are operating at or near capacity and administrative approvals for temporary solutions, including school-based adaptations, remain limited. While repair and rehabilitation of existing collective shelters continue, the pace of expansion has not kept up with displacement trends, leaving limited alternatives for newly displaced families.

How UNHCR is responding

UNHCR and its partners continue to work in close coordination with the Ministry of Social Affairs and Government-led Disaster Risk Management (DRM) structures to support people displaced by ongoing hostilities and evacuation orders with access to shelter and essential items. Over the past week, the shelter response has continued to scale, with Shelter Sector partners, including UNHCR, increasing the number of collective sites under assessment and repair from **578 to 643 nationwide**. As of 10 April, **448 sites** have been identified as requiring repairs, with repair works underway in **134 sites**, approximately 31% of which are supported by UNHCR, and **83 sites** completed to date. Interventions continue to focus on basic repairs, WASH improvements, and measures to enhance privacy and safety in overcrowded shelters.



Through its emergency response, UNHCR is supporting displaced families in Lebanon with essential household items as they navigate repeated displacement and uncertainty. ©UNHCR

In parallel, Shelter Sector partners have delivered core relief items to over **38,100 households across 647 collective shelters**, while also supporting a further **9,161 households** living outside collective shelters, ensuring assistance continues to reach both in-shelter and out-of-shelter displaced populations. UNHCR directly supported approximately 41% of all households reached with core relief items inside and outside of collective shelters.

- **Shelter repair priorities adjusted to reflect refugee presence in collective sites:** Recent field visits and protection monitoring identified Syrian refugee households residing within collective shelters initially appearing to host only Lebanese displaced populations. In response, UNHCR adjusted its prioritisation of collective shelters prioritised for rehabilitation to sites where mixed or refugee populations are present. The rehabilitation works focus on internal partitioning, WASH improvements, and weatherproofing to address overcrowding, privacy, and minimum living standards.
- **Coordinated convoys deliver CRIs to hard-to-reach areas:** On 3 April, UNHCR participated in a coordinated convoy with DRM in the South, enabling the delivery of core relief items to hard-to-reach locations affected by ongoing insecurity and access constraints. Through this operation, approximately **2,000 internally displaced people (398 households)** were assisted with **6,000 core relief items**, complementing distributions ongoing in collective shelters and informal settings. On 10 April, UNHCR also supported a humanitarian convoy to Tyre, delivering shelter repair kits and clothing assistance to approximately **1,200 displaced families (around 4,000 individuals)** across collective shelters and informal settings, and initiating repairs in three shelters damaged by shelling. In parallel, UNHCR contributed core relief items to an inter-agency humanitarian convoy that

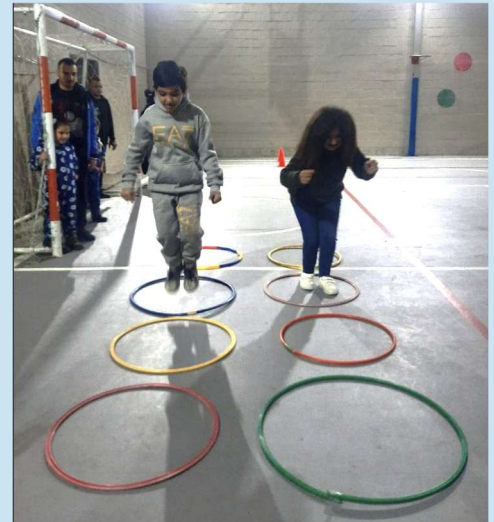
successfully reached Nabatiyeh. These convoys form part of UNHCR’s efforts to maintain assistance to internally displaced and refugee populations located in collective shelters and outside formal shelter sites in hard-to-reach areas, particularly in areas where regular access is disrupted and needs cannot be met through routine distribution channels.

- **Introducing cash for shelter:** The **Cash for Shelter** intervention has now been officially launched, following the dissemination of the Cash for Shelter Guidance to sector partners. Initial sector partner capacity mapping indicates the ability to support approximately **8,200 households** through Cash for Shelter assistance. Further capacity mapping is ongoing, as additional Shelter Sector partners are expected to receive funding and operationalise the intervention.

Ensuring access to support for displaced persons with disabilities

Accessing safe and appropriate shelters remains difficult for persons with disabilities and their families. Through coordination under the Protection Sector, UNHCR and partners are supporting access to specialised shelter and care for displaced persons with disabilities. One Lebanese organisation, **Friends of the Disabled Association (FDA)**, has expanded its emergency response to assist **18 displaced families (around 60 people), including 11 persons with disabilities**, by providing safe accommodation, rehabilitation services, psychosocial support, and essential assistive devices such as medical beds and wheelchairs. FDA also continues to support displaced students through remote educational follow-up and regular contact with families, helping maintain stability for children with disabilities during the crisis.

While this support has been vital in ensuring dignity and continuity of care for highly vulnerable groups during displacement, needs continue to outpace resources, particularly for specialised equipment, medical supplies, and basic running costs.



Children take part in a recreational activity in a collective shelter in Lebanon, supported by a local partner. © Friends of the Disabled Association

CASH ASSISTANCE

Cash assistance remains a core pillar of the emergency response, particularly for displaced households living outside collective shelters who require flexibility to meet urgent needs such as rent, food, health care, and transport. Experience shows that cash is one of the most effective tools to **mitigate protection risks, prevent negative coping strategies and support informed decision-making**, where markets continue to function. As co-chair of the Cash Working Group (CWG) with the Ministry of Social Affairs and World Vision International, UNHCR continues to support coordination, harmonisation and complementarity across emergency cash responses. However, available funding remains insufficient to match the scale of displacement and rising needs, and additional resources are required to expand cash assistance in step with evolving humanitarian conditions.

UNHCR Emergency Appeal for Lebanon USD 61 million

The **Lebanon Flash Appeal** calls for **US\$ 308.3 million** to provide lifesaving assistance and protection to one million affected people over three months, from March to May 2026. Within the framework of this appeal, **UNHCR requires US\$ 61 million** to reach **600,000** displaced people with protection, shelter, core-relief items, and cash assistance. These programs are aimed to reinforce and complement the Government-led emergency response, and the funding for the appeal should enable humanitarian partners to rapidly scale up assistance across priority sectors over the three-month period. Confirmed funding and projections against the emergency appeal reach approximately a **third of needs** to date.

As of end of March 2026, UNHCR in Lebanon was only **around 20% funded** – with overall needs totalling US\$ 472.3 million. Flexible and timely contributions are essential to:

- Maintain live-saving protection services;
- Improve and scale-up collective shelters so they are safe, dignified, and accessible;
- Provide financial support to the most vulnerable displaced households, especially those outside shelters;
- Replenish essential supplies so that UNHCR can respond quickly to further waves of displacement.

UNHCR is grateful to donors who have already stepped up to support and welcomes additional flexible contributions that enable teams on the ground to adapt quickly as the situation evolves. Special thanks to France, the EU, Ireland, Italy, Norway, Sweden, and Switzerland for their swift support to UNHCR's emergency response.

UNHCR and partners presence

UNHCR maintains presence in Lebanon through its Country Office and three Field Offices (Beirut, Tripoli, and Zahle) with a workforce of more than 300 personnel. We deliver our programmes with 13 I/NGO partners (9 national, 4 international) and in close coordination and collaboration with the Government of Lebanon.



UNHCR is grateful for the support from our donors who contributed to this operation

Australia | Austria | Canada | China | Denmark | European Union | Finland | Germany | Iceland | Ireland | Italy | Monaco | Netherlands (Kingdom of the) | Norway | Republic of Korea | Sweden | Switzerland | Private donors

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