



Middle East Situation

Lebanon – Flash Update #10

4 – 10 May 2026

Children take part in recreational activities outside a school turned collective shelter in Saida, supported by UNHCR and partners as part of protection interventions that provide safe spaces, psychosocial support, and structured activities for displaced families. ©UNHCR/Leana Podeszfa

Key figures

1,049,328

displaced people registered through Lebanon's government relief platform (MoSA 1 April)

125,621

internally displaced people hosted in collective shelters (DRM 6 May)

622

operational emergency collective shelters (DRM 6 May)

8,311

injuries since 2 March (MoPH 6 May)

2,702

fatalities since 2 March (MoPH 6 May)

321,666

Syrians who have crossed back to Syria between 2 March – 6 May (Syria GAPC)

68,712

Lebanese have crossed to Syria between 2 March – 6 May (Syria GAPC)

Overview

- **Ceasefire under strain amid renewed strikes and evacuation orders:** Despite the ceasefire formally remaining in place, military activity has escalated, including through strikes in South Lebanon, Nabatieh, Western Bekaa, and a targeted attack in Beirut's southern suburbs, alongside repeated evacuation warnings affecting towns and villages in the south. Security reporting indicates a high volume of military activity and sustained risk of further escalation, with civilians, first responders, and infrastructure increasingly affected. Ongoing insecurity and evacuation orders continue to drive non-linear population movements, as families undertake short return attempts before relocating again due to security concerns.
- **The Lebanon Flash Appeal is only 38% funded,** with approximately US\$ 117 million received against US\$ 308 million required, while humanitarian needs deepen across shelter, food security, protection, health, and WASH sectors. The scale and pace of ongoing displacement are placing mounting pressure on an already overstretched response, constraining humanitarian partners' capacity to scale up and sustain life-saving assistance. Against this backdrop, the [Ministry of Social Affairs formally requested a three-month extension of the Flash Appeal \(June–August 2026\)](#), underscoring the need to ensure continuity of assistance amid persistent displacement and instability.

UNHCR response

The renewed escalation and displacement have driven widespread fear, anxiety, and psychological distress, particularly among communities already exhausted by years of instability and repeated displacement. While the ceasefire initially instilled hope in prospects for return, displacement remains high and humanitarian needs acute. UNHCR and its partners are delivering lifesaving protection services, shelter assistance, core relief items, and cash support to displaced Lebanese and refugees. Alongside the emergency response to internal displacement, UNHCR continues to implement its essential protection interventions, including community-based protection, shelter, multi-purpose cash assistance, and durable solutions programmes for refugees.



Spotlight | Making collective shelters safer for women and girls

In March–April 2026, the Ministry of Social Affairs (MoSA), together with UNFPA and UNHCR, led Lebanon's first **nationwide GBV Safety Audit** across **180 collective shelters**, under the framework of the GBV Working Group. Conducted during a period of large-scale displacement, the audit assessed shelter; water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH); and the conditions under which humanitarian assistance and services are delivered and accessed to identify structural and operational conditions that influence exposure to gender-based violence, with a focus on prevention, security, and dignity.

The audit confirms that while collective sites continue to provide vital shelter, they are not consistently protection-ready. Risks are structural and cumulative, driven by overcrowding, limited internal privacy, and insufficient lighting. Nearly **half of shelters lack internal locks**, one-third lack adequate partitioning, and **only 55% provide a women- and girl-friendly safe space**, constraining privacy and access to confidential support. Security risks increase at night, with **22.8% of shelters lacking adequate lighting around WASH facilities**, forcing women and girls to navigate dark areas or restrict use altogether. Access barriers remain severe for persons with disabilities and older women, with **45% of shelters not currently providing safe access for persons with disabilities**.

The audit also highlights gaps beyond infrastructure. **Information on GBV support services, protection from sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA), and available complaint and feedback mechanisms remains inconsistently visible**, with around half of sites lacking clear information on reporting pathways and access to support. Distribution settings, while largely operational, often lack crowd control, gender-sensitive layouts, or visible accountability messaging, increasing exposure to harassment and exploitation during assistance delivery. These challenges disproportionately affect female-headed households, adolescent girls, pregnant and lactating women, and women with disabilities, whose needs are insufficiently reflected in shelter design and site management practices.

The findings are already guiding risk-based prioritisation and coordinated sectoral action. GBV, protection, shelter, and WASH actors are aligning to scale up low-cost, high-impact measures identified in the audit, including improved lighting, internal locks and partitioning, expanded women- and girl-friendly safe spaces, and stronger visibility of GBV and complaint mechanisms. Protection sector partners, including UNHCR, have so far **reached 56,800 individuals with GBV prevention and response interventions**. This includes **1,885** people at heightened risk receiving mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS), **30,625** people reached through information sessions and awareness activities, and **305** people supported with Emergency Protection Cash Assistance (EPCA) to mitigate immediate protection risks. A total of **24,044 dignity kits** have also been distributed, which help women and girls meet essential hygiene needs with dignity, and access information on available GBV support services.

The GBV Working Group will conduct follow-up safety audits in the coming weeks to track improvements and strengthen accountability, while UNFPA and UNHCR continue to engage with government counterparts and jointly advance minimum protection standards across collective shelters.



Women rest on the floor of a classroom used as a collective shelter in Saida, South Lebanon, highlighting limited privacy in improvised shelter settings. ©UNHCR

Coordination

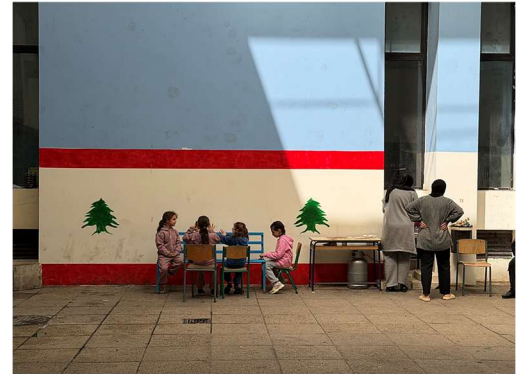
Under the leadership of the Minister of Social Affairs (MoSA) and within the Lebanon Response Plan (LRP) framework, UNHCR Lebanon co-leads the Inter Sector Coordination Group with MoSA, OCHA, and UNDP. UNHCR also co-leads the Protection Sector with MoSA and Oxfam; the Shelter/Core Relief Items Sector 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 the Agency co-leads with the Government and NGOs, while maintaining overall responsibility for the refugee response in line with its mandate.



Protection

Displaced Lebanese and refugee populations across Lebanon continue to face compounded protection risks linked to protracted displacement, economic pressure, and uneven access to services. Displaced refugees report increasing housing insecurity, with rising rental costs in Beirut and Mount Lebanon driving eviction risks, while movement restrictions linked to checkpoints, curfews, and raids due to persistent lack of legal residency constrain mobility in the North, Bekaa, Baalbek, and parts of the South. While community relations remain fragile due to economic pressure and competition over limited resources, some localised examples of solidarity and social cohesion persist, including host community support for livelihoods and mutual assistance. Child labour is widespread and increasing, reflecting poverty, displacement, and barriers to education, while GBV concerns include domestic violence linked to economic stress, harassment restricting women’s mobility, and rising early marriage as a coping mechanism.

Some IDPs remain in public and open spaces in Beirut and Saida, exposed to heightened protection and child protection risks due to inadequate shelter, lack of lighting, and WASH facilities, and insecure living conditions, particularly at night. At the same time, protection reach outside collective shelters remains limited, with **only 39% of people supported to date reached outside sites**, reflecting funding constraints, stretched partner capacity, and operational challenges that continue to hinder effective response to the most vulnerable. Among the 77 partners operating under the Protection Sector in Lebanon, UNHCR and its nine protection partners have, despite these constraints, reached **more than 24,300 individuals with targeted protection interventions**, including child protection, GBV prevention and response, protection for persons with specific needs, and community-based protection activities.



Displaced children play while their mothers prepare a meal in a collective shelter in Saida, where protection and shelter interventions aim to support family life, security, and dignity. ©UNHCR/Leana Podeszfa

How UNHCR and Protection Sector partners are responding

179,500+

individuals reached by protection interventions, including general protection, child protection and GBV prevention and response (14% supported by UNHCR)

82,800+

individuals benefitting from information sessions, awareness sessions, and individual consultations on how to access services or other information (15% supported by UNHCR)

64,400+

Individuals receiving mental health psychosocial support, including community-based psychosocial support (9% supported by UNHCR)

- UNHCR through its protection partners has provided mental health and psychosocial support to a total of 4,971 individuals.** This includes community-based psychosocial services delivered through collective shelters, community development centres, and outreach modalities by trained social workers, counsellors, psychologists, and community outreach volunteers. It encompasses support to families experiencing distress linked to insecurity, repeated displacement, and unstable living conditions, with a strong focus on children and individuals facing compounded vulnerabilities. As part of this response, in Bekaa and Baalbek-Hermel, child protection partners last week reached **297** children and caregivers through structured psychosocial, recreational, and awareness activities in collective shelters and informal tented settlements, addressing distress linked to displacement, bullying, and exposure to conflict, with partners reporting psychosocial impacts such as bed-wetting among children.
- To better understand GBV risks across displacement settings, GBV actors have been mobilised to support a nationwide GBV assessment**, with 37 focus group discussions and 21 key informant interviews planned, involving 17 agencies and organisations. Two trainings were conducted for enumerators on tools, methodology, and ethical standards. The assessment covers all governorates and multiple population groups, including women and girls from Lebanese and displaced communities, refugees, migrants, persons with disabilities, and LGBTIQ individuals. The methodology and timeline were endorsed by the



8,000+ Syrian refugees supported

through counselling and a one-time cash grant of USD 100, aimed at reducing risks and mitigating harm during their return back to Syria under the current challenging circumstances.

UNHCR launched the **return due to force majeure** procedure on 1 April to respond to humanitarian needs of Syrian refugees who perceive no viable alternative than to return to Syria.

Adolescent and Women Working Group (AAWG), with data collection closed on 8 May and publication expected by end-May, ensuring evidence-based prioritisation of GBV prevention and response.

- **Community-based protection through Community Development Centres (CDCs) continues:** 19 of 21 CDCs remained operational for most of the week, despite one temporary closure following insecurity in Beirut's southern suburbs. Since 2 March, CDCs have reached **9,724** displaced Lebanese and refugees (**63% women and girls**), through outreach, online sessions and centre-based activities, covering psychosocial support awareness, service information, feedback and complaint mechanisms, skills training and community mobilisation, supporting protection access amid ongoing displacement.
- **Outreach Volunteers (OVs) continue to play a critical role in identifying and referring people at heightened risk,** particularly those outside collective shelters. Since 2 March, **OVs have referred 2,228 displaced refugees at heightened risk**, within households comprising **13,840** individuals, nearly half displaced from the South. Notably, **22% of referred households lacked emergency shelter**, triggering referrals to protection assistance, emergency cash, MHPSS and follow-up by field protection teams. While displacement pressures ease in some areas, 59 OVs remain displaced, underlining both the reach and strain of frontline protection capacity.

Shelter and core-relief items (CRIs)

Displacement in Lebanon remains large-scale and fluid, with around one million people still displaced, the vast majority living outside collective shelters in rented accommodation, hosted arrangements, unfinished buildings, and public spaces. At the same time, over **125,000** displaced people remain in collective shelters, where renewed displacement from areas affected by airstrikes and evacuation orders – particularly the South and Nabatieh – has increased occupancy and overcrowding in Beirut, Mount Lebanon and other host areas, in facilities not designed for prolonged habitation. As displacement is becoming increasingly protracted and collective shelters established in schools and other non-residential buildings as an emergency measure will not be appropriate for medium- to longer-term accommodation, UNHCR, in its capacity as Shelter Sector co-lead, is analysing more sustainable shelter options for discussion with the Ministries of Social Affairs and Education.

How UNHCR and Shelter Sector partners are responding

175,100+

people assisted through the distribution of core relief items (53% supported by UNHCR)

360

collective shelters with ongoing repair activities (18% supported by UNHCR)

278

collective shelters with repair works completed (12% supported by UNHCR)

- **Advancing repair and rehabilitation of collective shelters under government coordination:** In an effort to improve security and functionality of collective shelters expected to remain operational, UNHCR will undertake repair and rehabilitation activities in **65** shelters, benefiting **13,006** displaced individuals (**3,372 households**), including refugees. So far, repair works have been completed in 33 sites, while nine remain under rehabilitation and a further 23 sites have been assessed and are pending government approval, reflecting continued efforts to improve security and functionality of shelters expected to remain operational. As part of shelter rehabilitation works, **UNHCR completed repairs in 10 collective shelters across Beirut and Mount Lebanon this week**, benefiting approximately 300 displaced families. Interventions included installation of partitioning kits to create private family spaces, roof and weatherproofing repairs, upgrades to toilets and plumbing, minor electrical works, and accessibility improvements for persons with disabilities, addressing protection risks associated with prolonged overcrowding and shared living conditions.
- **UNHCR also reached 84,726 people (19,714 households) inside collective shelters with CRIs**, with 218,402 items distributed to date, including mattresses, blankets, solar lamps, kitchen sets, and jerry cans. CRI support remains essential in high-occupancy sites, complementing shelter repairs and mitigating risks where access to basic household items remains limited. In addition, UNHCR has supported 8,694 people outside collective shelters, including **3,529** displaced refugees (**750 households**) and **5,165** displaced Lebanese (**1,038 households**), through **29,695** CRIs distributed, following referrals and case-by-case assessments. Assistance is prioritised for families sheltering in informal or sub-standard conditions, including unfinished buildings and individual accommodation lacking basic household items.
- **Improving accessibility and inclusion for persons with disabilities in shelters:** The Shelter Sector has identified **17** collective shelters where accessibility adaptations for persons with disabilities have already been implemented. Building on this, partners are planning to scale up adaptations based on referrals and site profiles,

prioritising shelters hosting higher numbers of persons with disabilities and coordinating closely with Government counterparts to improve safe and dignified access.

Rapid response for a mother and children at risk of eviction

In Mount Lebanon, a woman and her two children were at risk of eviction after being asked to leave a collective shelter in Chouf following unverified health-related concerns, exposing them to homelessness and heightened protection risks. Through UNHCR-supported emergency case management and coordination with Caritas, the family was safely relocated to another shelter, where they are now receiving secure accommodation and support.

“After we were asked to leave, I didn’t know where we would go with the children. Here we feel safe again,” the woman shared. The case highlights how rapid protection interventions can prevent sudden eviction from escalating into homelessness, while restoring a sense of security and stability for families affected by repeated displacement.

Cash assistance

Displaced Lebanese and refugees continue to face severe financial strain as displacement persists and basic costs remain out of reach for many households. For families living outside collective shelters, rising rents and limited affordable housing options are increasing eviction risks and reliance on informal, hosted, or sub-standard accommodation. At the same time, ongoing insecurity, movement restrictions and constrained livelihood opportunities limit households’ ability to generate income or relocate to safer areas. As essential expenses for shelter, food, healthcare, and transportation accumulate, many displaced households report growing dependence on borrowing, debt, and other negative coping strategies, reinforcing sustained and unmet cash needs across both displaced refugee and Lebanese populations.

How UNHCR and Cash Sector partners are responding

490,883

Lebanese reached with Emergency Multi-Purpose Cash Assistance through the Government-led SRSN

110,000

vulnerable refugees reached with emergency Multi-Purpose Cash Assistance

9,739

vulnerable refugees reached by UNHCR with Emergency Protection Cash Assistance grants

- **Emergency Protection Cash Assistance (EPCA) to mitigate acute protection risks:** UNHCR continues to scale up EPCA as a key protection tool for households facing eviction, homelessness, and exposure to hostilities. Since the start of the emergency, **2,009 EPCA grants have been issued, reaching 9,739 individuals**, including **714 persons with disabilities**, with increased coverage in areas experiencing renewed insecurity and displacement, notably the South, Nabatieh, and the North. As part of this response, protection teams identified 124 refugee households (479 individuals) unable to move away from hostilities due to financial, shelter, transport, and mobility constraints. All families were referred for EPCA assessment and followed up by field protection teams to help address immediate protection risks.
- **UNHCR, in coordination with WFP, has initiated a second round of targeted emergency Multi-Purpose Cash Assistance (MPCA) for refugees**, planned from next week. Payments will be delivered in phases, first by UNHCR and subsequently by WFP, ensuring continuity of assistance for refugees with verified needs. Initial delivery shows high access and usability, with approximately **97%** success for recurrent MPCA payments and **81%** for emergency payments.
- **Recognising that most displaced households reside outside collective shelters, UNHCR is advancing a Cash for Shelter programme targeting over 600 vulnerable refugee households**, providing USD 200 per household to support rent, utilities, and minor repairs. Household assessments are ongoing, with beneficiary selection based on vulnerability criteria and first disbursements expected shortly, complementing CRI distributions and addressing rising eviction risks.
- **Shift towards vulnerability-based cash targeting across population groups:** In response to sustained needs and funding constraints, efforts are underway to move from blanket emergency cash assistance as a first response step to vulnerability-based targeting, using updated eligibility criteria applied across all nationalities. This approach is reflected in an upcoming emergency MPCA guideline, currently under Cash Working Group review for endorsement, supporting harmonisation, prioritisation, and comparability of cash assistance.

Cash assistance supporting security, health, and dignity during displacement

When conflict forced Walida, a single mother living with chronic illness, to flee with her son Mohamad, displacement threatened her ability to access essentials needed to survive, including daily medication and an oxygen cylinder refill. Following a protection assessment and case management support, Walida received Emergency Protection Cash Assistance, which helped her cover part of her rent and purchase urgent medication, including refilling her oxygen cylinder.

"In moments like these, even small support can save someone... It helped me breathe easier – in every sense," Walida said. The cash assistance helped the family avoid eviction and stabilise their situation during a critical moment of displacement.

UNHCR Emergency Appeal for Lebanon USD 61 million

The inter-agency **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 40% of needs** to date. UNHCR is grateful to donors who have supported and welcomes additional flexible contributions that enable teams on the ground to adapt quickly as the situation evolves.

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

Contact

Juliette Stevenson | Senior External Relations Officer | stevens@unhcr.org | Beirut, Lebanon
Vi Train | External Relations Officer | tran@unhcr.org | Beirut, Lebanon

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