



Middle East Situation

Lebanon – Flash Update #12

25 May – 07 June 2026

Displaced Lebanese mother and her daughter, who fled their home due to the conflict and are now staying in a collective shelter in Beirut. © UNHCR

Key figures

>1 million

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

134K

internally displaced people hosted in collective shelters (DRM)

642

operational emergency collective shelters (DRM)

11K

injuries since 2 March (MoPH)

3.6K

fatalities since 2 March (MoPH)

908.6K

Syrian refugees known to UNHCR (May 2026)

444.3K

Syrians (of whom some may be known to UNHCR as refugees) who have crossed back to Syria between 2 March – 31 May (Syria GAPC)

Overview

- The humanitarian situation in Lebanon worsened amid a renewed escalation of hostilities, leading to heightened protection risks, increased displacement, and growing humanitarian needs.
- Protection monitoring and Protection needs assessments indicate a **continued deterioration of the protection environment, driven by repeated displacement, insecurity, and housing instability.**
- **Vulnerabilities are increasing** as more households face homelessness, overcrowding, and unsafe living arrangements.
- **Syrian refugees and other non-Lebanese populations remain disproportionately affected**, encountering barriers to accessing safe shelter and facing heightened risks of exploitation and protection incidents. Psychosocial distress is also on the rise, particularly among children, with growing reports of fear, anxiety, sleep disturbances, and emotional distress linked to ongoing insecurity and uncertainty.
- The **Lebanon Flash Appeal**, launched in March, was extended for a further three months (June to August 2026) to enable humanitarian partners to continue rapidly delivering effective humanitarian assistance.

UNHCR response

Renewed displacement and prolonged uncertainty drive 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 an eventual end to the conflict and prospects for return, displacement remains high and humanitarian needs acute. UNHCR and its partners are delivering protection services, shelter assistance, core relief items (CRIs), and cash assistance 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.

REVISED FLASH APPEAL (MARCH – AUGUST 2026)

Under the leadership of the Government of Lebanon and the Minister of Social Affairs, and within the existing Lebanon Response Plan (LRP) framework, the Prime Minister of Lebanon and the UN Deputy Special Coordinator, Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator [presented the revised Lebanon Flash Appeal](#) at a launch event attended by representatives of the Lebanese Government, Ambassadors and donor representatives, as well as heads of UN agencies and international and national NGOs.



[Click to read UNHCR's revised appeal](#)

The Lebanon Flash Appeal - initially launched in March – was extended for a further three months (June to August 2026) to enable partners to rapidly deliver effective humanitarian assistance. The [revised appeal](#) calls for an additional **US\$ 331.5 million** to extend the ongoing multi-sector assistance to 1.4 million vulnerable people in need, totalling needs of **US\$639.9 million**. Pursuant to the revised Flash Appeal, UNHCR has correspondingly revised its Emergency Appeal and urgently seeks US\$ 94.2 million in flexible funding to ensure continuity of assistance amid persistent displacement and instability, and plans to assist 733,000 individuals (unique) – Lebanese and non-Lebanese, including refugees- impacted by the hostilities.

Coordination

Under the leadership of the Ministry 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. UNHCR is also a member of the Solutions Working Group, led by the Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator. 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

The protection environment continues to deteriorate amid intensified airstrikes, with rising civilian casualties, including among refugees. Insecurity is limiting access to essential services and humanitarian assistance, while overcrowding, poor shelter conditions, and eviction risks are increasing protection concerns, particularly for women, girls, and female-headed households. Many displaced families face growing housing insecurity due to rising rents, prolonged displacement, and limited resources, while some have returned to collective shelters following recent attacks and the destruction of their homes. Negative coping mechanisms, including reduced household spending and child labour, are increasing. People with specific vulnerabilities, including persons with disabilities, those with chronic health conditions, pregnant and breastfeeding women, widows, and female-headed households, continue to require targeted support, while psychological distress among children and caregivers is driving growing mental health and psychosocial support needs.

Among the 78 partners reporting under the Protection Sector in Lebanon, **UNHCR and its protection partners have contributed to reaching more than 242,500 individuals with targeted protection interventions** since the start of the renewed escalation, including child protection and Gender-Based Violence (GBV) prevention and response activities.

How UNHCR and Protection Sector partners are responding

242,500+

individuals reached by protection interventions, including general protection, child protection and GBV prevention and response (23% supported by UNHCR)

121,700+

individuals benefitting from information sessions, awareness sessions, and individual consultations (31% supported by UNHCR)

82,000+

Individuals receiving mental health psychosocial support, including community-based psychosocial support (11% supported by UNHCR)

12,000+

Syrian refugees supported to return to Syria with the UNHCR-facilitated return due to force majeure (April to May 2026)

- Since 2 March 2026, over 38,000 people were reached by UNHCR and its NGO partners through information sessions, awareness activities, and individual consultations on available services and protection risks, providing guidance on security, available services, and key protection risks like child protection and GBV risk mitigation for displaced families both inside and outside collective shelters.
- UNHCR and its partners provided **mental health and psychosocial support to nearly 8,700 individuals** through collective shelters, community development centres, and outreach activities. Support was delivered by trained social workers, counsellors, psychologists, and outreach volunteers through individual and group sessions, prioritising displaced people affected by insecurity, repeated displacement, and prolonged shelter stays.
- Recognising that displacement disproportionately affects persons with disabilities and creates additional protection risks, **UNHCR provided targeted support across multiple modalities**, including 1,029 reached with emergency protection cash, 925 supported through community development centres and outreach volunteers, and 50 provided with assistive devices and rehabilitation services. These interventions are delivered based on identified needs and may include more than one form of support per individual.
- **A total of 1,005 individuals at heightened risk, including 179 children, were provided with emergency case management support**, prioritising those facing acute and complex protection risks such as serious medical vulnerability, violence, family separation, eviction, or exploitation that require sustained follow up and support.
- Access to legal documentation—including birth registration, civil status records, and legal residency—remains a cornerstone of UNHCR's protection response for the refugee community in Lebanon, in parallel to the emergency response. As part of UNHCR's regular programming, **221 refugee children were assisted on birth registration and 144 refugees assisted to access legal residency** in May 2026.



12,000+ Syrian refugees supported to return (between April and May 2026), out

of a total of **72,900** supported since 1 July 2025

Syrian refugees who made the decision to return to Syria were provided with USD 100 cash grant per returning individual.

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.

More here

UNHCR supports evacuation of a vulnerable family from Rmeich

UNHCR and partners supported the evacuation of a vulnerable family from Rmeich, South Lebanon, under severely restricted access conditions near Lebanon's Blue Line. The family included two pregnant young Syrian refugee women in urgent need of medical care. Through close coordination with operational partners, the Lebanese Red Cross, and UNIFIL, the family was safely moved out of the affected area. Following the evacuation and through coordination and referral, both women were successfully linked to hospitals supporting high-risk pregnancies. They have since safely delivered their babies, who were later registered, helping ensure their legal identity and access to protection services. They are now in a safe shelter supported by UNHCR and managed by Caritas, where they continue to receive assistance and protection support. As a UNHCR protection colleague reflected, "Protection was mostly about continuity: staying in contact, verifying, re-checking, and persisting when plans failed, in a context where safety and decisions remained highly fluid."



A room in a UNHCR-supported safe shelter where vulnerable women and children receive protection support. © UNHCR

Shelter and core-relief items (CRIs)

Shelter needs remain significant as displacement becomes increasingly prolonged and return prospects remain uncertain. Many displaced families living in rented accommodation, hosting arrangements, or other non-shelter settings face mounting financial pressures due to rising rents, limited income opportunities, and depleted savings. At the same time, collective shelters continue to accommodate vulnerable populations beyond their initially anticipated duration, requiring ongoing maintenance, site management support, community engagement, referrals, and the preservation of minimum living standards.

How UNHCR and Shelter Sector partners are responding

182,644

people assisted through the distribution of core relief items (55% supported by UNHCR)

574

collective shelters assessed by the Shelter Sector (13% supported by UNHCR)

338

collective shelters with repair works completed (13% supported by UNHCR)

- **Scaling up shelter repairs and maintenance to sustain capacity:** UNHCR and its partners have planned repair and maintenance works in 76 collective shelters hosting more than 15,300 displaced people. So far, works have been completed in 46 shelters, while rehabilitation activities are ongoing in 11 others. An additional 19 shelters have been assessed and are awaiting approval before works can begin.
- **Provision of core relief items (CRIs) to displaced populations:** More than 87,000 displaced individuals in collective shelters have received over 223,700 CRIs to support their basic needs. An additional 14,000 displaced people living in host communities and informal settings have been assisted with more than 48,700 CRIs.
- As part of UNHCR's regular programming, more than **8,450 refugees received shelter assistance** in May 2026, including weatherproofing kits to reinforce and rehabilitate shelters. This support helped households better withstand adverse weather conditions and emergencies, including floods, strong winds, snow accumulation, and water leakage.



UNHCR partners carrying out shelter partitioning works inside a collective shelter to improve privacy and living conditions for displaced families. © UNHCR

Siblin Training Centre functions as collective shelter with multi-agency support

UNRWA's Siblin Training Centre in Month Lebanon, Chouf district, historically established as a vocational training centre serving Palestine refugee communities, is currently functioning as a collective shelter for people displaced as a result of the escalation of hostilities, while preserving its capacity for future educational use. The centre currently hosts nearly 2,000 displaced persons, including families displaced from multiple locations in the south, among them Palestinians, Syrians, and Lebanese, as well as 68 persons with disabilities requiring tailored support.

Humanitarian assistance is delivered in coordination with partners. WFP provides food assistance, while UNICEF-supported partners deliver psychosocial support, education, and youth activities. More recently, UNHCR and its partner Caritas Lebanon have been supporting protection services, including protection monitoring, case follow-up, and coordination with other partners to strengthen the overall protection response within the shelter.



Displaced families and humanitarian partners at the entrance of the Siblin Training Centre. © UNHCR

Despite congestion and continued arrivals, the centre remains operational, with UNRWA teams managing daily functions and coordination to ensure basic services and support across population groups in a highly fluid context.

Cash assistance

As of May 2026, over **137,000 vulnerable refugees impacted by the escalation were reached by UNHCR and WFP with Emergency Multi-Purpose Cash Assistance (EMPCA)**. From June onwards, refugee households affected by the hostilities and requiring continued cash support will be integrated into the regular MPCA programme. Prioritization will focus on households with significant socioeconomic and protection vulnerabilities, as well as those residing in or displaced from conflict-affected areas. In parallel, the Lebanon Cash Working Group has finalized and published the Emergency Multi-Purpose Cash Assistance (EMPCA) guidelines, which establish an inter-agency framework outlining minimum standards and key recommendations for EMPCA responses.

How UNHCR and Cash Sector partners are responding

490,000

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

137,000+

vulnerable refugees reached by the joint UNHCR-WFP Emergency Multipurpose Cash Assistance

- UNHCR's emergency protection response prioritizes support to the most vulnerable, with a focus on the protection of women, children, and people with disabilities. Alongside its core protection work - emergency protection case management, psychosocial support, community mobilization, and inclusive information provision and platforms for accountability inside and outside collective shelters, UNHCR continues to provide **emergency protection cash assistance (EPCA)** to identified vulnerable households and individuals of all nationalities. A total of 13,550 displaced refugees facing acute protection risks have been provided with EPCA, ensuring that those most at risk receive timely financial support to address immediate protection needs.
- UNHCR is progressing with the implementation of its **Cash for Shelter programme** for vulnerable refugee households living outside collective shelters. To date, around 180 of the 600 targeted households have received a one-time cash grant of USD 250 to help meet shelter-related needs. The remaining households have been identified, and most have already undergone eligibility assessments, paving the way for continued assistance in the coming weeks.
- As part of UNHCR's regular programming, a total of **180,000 highly vulnerable refugees were reached through the joint UNHCR-WFP multipurpose cash assistance programme (MPCA)**.

UNHCR'S regular programming

In parallel with emergency response activities, UNHCR continues to implement its regular programming for the refugee population in Lebanon:

- Maintain protection services, including case management, protection cash assistance, Gender-Based Violence and child protection support, and facilitates a voluntary return programme.
- Provide multi-purpose cash assistance (MPCA) and core relief items (CRIs) to vulnerable refugees.
- Assist with legal residency and civil documentation in coordination with partners.
- Deliver shelter support, including weatherproofing, rehabilitation of substandard shelters, and upgrades of collective shelters.
- Support Community Development Centres (CDCs) providing information, referrals, and access to services.

UNHCR revised Emergency Appeal for Lebanon

USD 94 million

The revised appeal calls for an additional **US\$ 331.5 million to extend the ongoing multi-sector assistance to 1.4 million vulnerable people in need**, totalling needs of US\$639.9 million. Within the framework of this appeal, **UNHCR requires US\$ 94 million** to reach **733,000** displaced people with protection, shelter, core-relief items, and cash assistance. These programmes 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 until August 2026.

As of the end of May 2026, UNHCR in Lebanon was **21% 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.

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

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