



Middle East Situation

Lebanon – Flash Update #13

07 – 21 June 2026

A UNHCR staff member speaks with a Syrian refugee woman at a collective shelter in North Lebanon, where she sought refuge after being displaced by the recent escalation of hostilities. © UNHCR/Houssam Hariri

Key figures

844,243

total internally displaced people (MoSA)

95K

internally displaced people hosted in collective shelters (DRM)

602

operational emergency collective shelters (DRM)

12K

injuries since 2 March (MoPH)

4,1K

fatalities since 2 March (MoPH)

908,670

Syrian refugees known to UNHCR (May 2026)

548,412

Syrians who have crossed back to Syria between 2 March – 24 June. Some may be known to UNHCR as refugees (Syria GAPC)

Overview

- **Month four of the conflict, the situation in Lebanon remains highly volatile and fragile**, as hostilities intensified between Israel and Hezbollah in mid-June and triggered renewed displacement toward Saida, Beirut, and the Bekaa. While the US-Iran Memorandum of Understanding refer to Lebanon and the ceasefire subsequently announced between Hezbollah and Israel created hopes of returning home, uncertainties persist.
- **Displacement remains fluid, with new movements, cautious returns and continued protection risks.** Many households are undertaking exploratory visits home to assess damage, security conditions, available services and jobs, and local accommodation options before deciding whether return is possible. These cautious movements are taking place amid rising rental costs, increasing prices of basic goods and services, and limited work opportunities. Despite signs of de-escalation, hostilities, movement restrictions and explosive remnants of war continue to restrict access and constrain safe and sustainable return.

UNHCR response

Renewed displacement and prolonged uncertainty drives widespread fear, anxiety, and psychological distress, particularly among communities already exhausted by years of instability and repeated displacement. While the several ceasefires initially instilled hope for 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.



Emergency Cash for Shelter Programme

Emergency cash for shelter is a key component of the revised Lebanon Flash Appeal, aligned with the Government of Lebanon's emergency shelter response. It targets conflict-affected populations, prioritizing households living outside overcrowded collective shelters, those at risk of eviction, and families residing in damaged or unsafe buildings. In a context of mass displacement of almost one million people and limited, overstretched shelter capacity, many affected families are relying on host communities or informal arrangements, increasing their vulnerability and exposure to protection risks. In this context, cash for shelter provides both immediate relief and a pathway towards greater stability.

Vulnerable displaced households receive a one-time cash grant of USD 250 to address urgent shelter needs, including minor maintenance, payment of utility bills such as water and electricity, rent, and other essential shelter related costs. With functioning markets and delivered as direct financial assistance, the programme enables families to access accommodation while preserving choice, dignity, and flexibility. To date, UNHCR together with the Shelter Sector partners supported 1,415 vulnerable displaced households, reflecting a coordinated, inter-agency approach.

At the same time, the Government has signalled its intention to reopen schools for the upcoming academic year, underscoring the urgency of supporting more families to transition into alternative accommodation.

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, chaired by the RC/HC and including UNDP, IOM, OHCHR and UN Habitat. 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 is characterized by legal precarity, deepening socio-economic vulnerability, and growing access constraints, with shelter insecurity and negative coping mechanisms emerging as core risks, particularly for the most vulnerable populations. Many conflict-affected people, particularly non-Lebanese and notably refugees, lack valid residency permits, birth or marriage registration, and other identification documents. This restricts their movement and access to services, increases exposure to arrest, detention or fines, and creates barriers to assistance, safe shelter, employment, education, and health care. Economic hardship, reduced assistance and limited job opportunities are also increasing protection risks across populations. Many displaced families are facing rising rent, eviction risks and limited shelter options, especially those living outside collective shelters. Those with vulnerable and specific profiles such as children, women and girls, persons with disabilities, older people, female-headed households and undocumented refugees and migrants face the greatest risks. Key concerns include child labour, school dropout, exploitation, domestic violence, harassment, movement restrictions, and barriers to assistance. Housing, land and property risks are also increasing, including evictions, insecure rental arrangements and exclusion from shelters during emergencies.

Among the 78 partners, 62% are local NGOs, reporting under the Protection Sector in Lebanon, **UNHCR and its protection partners have contributed to reaching more than 280,400 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 Shelter Sector partners are responding

280,400+

individuals reached by protection interventions, including general protection, child protection and GBV prevention and response (35% supported by UNHCR)

144,800+

individuals benefitting from information sessions, awareness sessions, and individual consultations on how to access services or other information (33% supported by UNHCR)

12,000+

Refugees supported to return to Syria within the UNHCR-facilitated return due to force majeure procedure (April to May 2026)

- **MyUNHCR is an online platform where refugees can report, update, and verify their information directly to UNHCR.** Originally created to support registration activities, the tool was adapted to allow refugees to self-report displacement and impact due to the escalation of conflict. According to collected information from MyUNHCR, while approximately 280,000 refugees were residing in areas affected by airstrikes and relocation orders during the crisis, it is estimated that 172,000 active refugees registered with UNHCR have been directly impacted by the conflict, including 136,000 who were forcibly displaced. Of those, around 27,000 Syrians (6,218 HH) have been identified through DRTT as having been counselled and referred for services. Nearly 78,000 refugees remain displaced today.
- **Since 2 March 2026, over 47,800 people inside and outside collective shelters were reached by UNHCR and its NGO partners through information sessions, awareness activities, and individual consultations,** providing guidance on security, available services, and key protection risks like child protection and GBV risk mitigation. Timely and accurate information is critical to enable affected populations to make informed decisions, safely access available services, reduce exposure to protection risks, and avoid harmful coping strategies, particularly in situations of displacement and uncertainty.
- UNHCR and its partners provided **mental health and psychosocial support to nearly 3,800 individuals** through collective shelters, community development centres, and outreach activities. MHPSS is a critical protection intervention, helping individuals cope with trauma and stress, restore a sense of safety and dignity, and strengthen resilience. 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 provides targeted support across multiple modalities.** Since 2 March, 1,112 individuals have been reached with emergency protection cash, and 1,366 supported through community development centres and outreach volunteers. These interventions are needs-based and may involve more than one form of assistance per individual. Delivering such support often require proactive identification, adapted outreach, and tailored assistance to address specific barriers related to mobility, access to services, social exclusion, and heightened protection risks.
- **A total of 613 children and adults at heightened risk have been 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. Case management involves a dedicated case worker, most likely requiring several individualized assessments, tailored response plans, and consistent follow-up over time, often involving coordination across multiple services and actors to ensure risks are mitigated and needs are comprehensively addressed.
- **The 2026 Vulnerability Assessment of Syrian Refugees (VASyR) started.** This year's assessment will include dedicated analysis of post-December 2024 arrivals from Syria, conflict-affected refugee households, and refugees of other nationalities.

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.



12,000+ Syrian refugees supported to return

(between April and May 2026), out of a total of

72,900 supported to return since 1 July 2025.

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

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, some 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. With the upcoming school year, many of these collective shelters should return to being schools, requiring support to medium-term shelter solutions, like cash for rent.

How UNHCR and Shelter Sector partners are responding

184,316

people assisted through the distribution of core relief items (48% supported by UNHCR)

544

collective shelters requiring repairs (14% supported by UNHCR)

395

collective shelters with repair works completed (17% 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 68 shelters. An additional 8 shelters have been assessed and are awaiting approval before works can begin.
- **Provision of core relief items (CRIs) to displaced populations:** More than 88,000 displaced individuals in collective shelters have received over 224,400 CRIs to support their basic needs. An additional 3,400 displaced households living in host communities and informal settings have been assisted with more than 52,300 CRIs.
- As part of UNHCR's regular programming, more than **8,450 refugees received shelter assistance**, 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.

Breathing through displacement

Conflict forced Walida, a single mother living with chronic illness, to flee her home with her son Mohamad. They arrived in Tripoli carrying little more than fear and uncertainty. Displacement had taken away their home, their stability, and their income – but for Walida, it also threatened something even more basic: her ability to breathe.

Struggling with serious health conditions, Walida depends on daily medication and an oxygen tank to survive. But after fleeing, these essentials became impossible to afford. The family found a small room to rent after a landlord reduced the rent to 100 USD. Still, they could only manage to pay 60 USD, living each day with the fear of eviction hanging over them.

Mohamad spent his days searching for any work to help support his mother. But opportunities were scarce. Following a protection assessment and case management support, Walida received Emergency Protection Cash Assistance (EPCA). The assistance gave them the solution when it was most needed, albeit temporary. Walida used part of the support to help pay the rent, easing the immediate pressure of losing their shelter. With the remaining amount, she bought urgently needed medication and refilled her oxygen tank. For Walida, the support was more than financial assistance. It was relief. It was dignity. It was the ability to breathe without fear – both physically and emotionally. “In moments like these, even small support can save someone,” Walida says softly. “It helped me breathe easier – in every sense.”



Inside the makeshift space of a family living in a collective shelter

Cash assistance

As of May 2026, over **14,400 vulnerable displaced refugees impacted by the escalation were reached by UNHCR with joint UNHCR-WFP Emergency Multi-Purpose Cash Assistance (EMPCA)**. In line with the extended Lebanon Appeal, from June onwards, households affected by the hostilities and requiring continued cash support will be integrated into the regular ongoing multi-purpose cash assistance programme. Prioritization will focus on households with significant socioeconomic and protection vulnerabilities, as well as those residing in or displaced from conflict-affected areas. As co-chair of the inter-agency Cash Working Group, UNHCR continues to coordinate and align the joint EMPCA programme with the Government's Shock Responsive Safety Net (SRSN) for displaced Lebanese, in terms of targeting, transfer value and duration of assistance.

How UNHCR and Cash Sector partners are responding

1,415

Displaced households reached with cash for shelter assistance (17% supported by UNHCR)

137,700+

vulnerable refugees reached by the joint UNHCR-WFP emergency multipurpose cash assistance (10% supported by UNHCR)

14,650

Displaced refugees received UNHCR's emergency protection cash assistance

- UNHCR's **emergency protection response** prioritizes support to the most vulnerable, with focus on 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 **14,650 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.
- The next cash cycle of the joint UNHCR-WFP multipurpose cash assistance programme (MPCA) will run from June to August 2026. Due to funding constraints, the number of refugee families receiving monthly assistance was **reduced from 80,000 to 67,000**, including a reduction from six to three months of assistance. Without additional resources, more families will be discontinued from the programme, more families will lose access to essential cash support, increasing their exposure to poverty, debt, eviction risks, and harmful coping mechanisms.

UNHCR'S regular programming

In parallel with emergency response activities, UNHCR continues to deliver its core protection and assistance programme for refugees to mitigate vulnerabilities and risk, and promote access to essential services across Lebanon:

- **Protection services:** Maintain protection services, including case management, protection cash assistance, gender-based violence (GBV) and child protection interventions, while facilitating informed and voluntary returns when conditions allow.
- **Basic needs assistance:** Provide multi-purpose cash assistance (MPCA) and core relief items (CRIs) to vulnerable refugee households.
- **Legal and civil documentation:** Support access to legal residency and civil documentation in coordination with partners and authorities.
- **Shelter support:** Deliver shelter interventions including weatherproofing, rehabilitation of substandard shelters, and upgrading of collective shelters.
- **Community-based support:** Support Community Development Centres (CDCs) as safe spaces for information, referrals, and access to multi-sectoral services.



UNHCR revised Emergency Appeal for Lebanon

USD 94 million

The revised inter-agency **Lebanon Flash Appeal** calls for **US\$639.9 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\$ 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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