

Lebanese man displaced from South Lebanon packs up his few belongings before returning home after spending more than four months displaced. © UNHCR/Houssam Hariri

Key figures

499.7K
total internally displaced people (DRM, LRC, IOM)

36.2K
internally displaced people hosted in collective shelters (DRM)

354
operational emergency collective shelters (DRM)

12.2K
injuries since 2 March (MoPH)

4.3K
fatalities since 2 March (MoPH)

889.6K
Syrian refugees known to UNHCR (June 2026)

586.8K
Syrians who have crossed back to Syria between 2 March – 1 July (Syria GAPC). Some are known to UNHCR as refugees, while others have never approached UNHCR over the years.

Overview

- As of 6 July, almost 500,000 individuals remain internally displaced within Lebanon, as many families are unable to return to their home areas due to inaccessibility, destruction or continued insecurity.
- Protection monitoring shows a shift from large-scale displacement towards more complex return and local integration dynamics. While the overall number of displaced people is declining, those who remain displaced are facing growing challenges, including difficulty accessing adequate housing, worsening economic conditions, increased protection risks for women and children, and weakened social cohesion within communities.
- Returns to conflict-affected areas in Lebanon are taking place more quickly among Lebanese internally displaced persons (IDPs) than among displaced refugees. For Syrian refugees, returns to the South remain limited due to a mix of protection, legal, housing, and economic barriers. Rising rental costs, limited availability of affordable housing, unpaid rent debts, and, in some areas, additional municipal requirements continue to make access to housing and durable solutions more difficult.

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 ceasefire extensions have instilled hope for an eventual end to the conflict and prospects for return, displacement remains substantial and humanitarian and recovery 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.

SPOTLIGHT: Tracking displacement to deliver timely assistance

Since March 2026, UNHCR has reactivated its Displaced Refugees Tracking Tool (DRTT) to identify refugees displaced by the escalation of hostilities, assess their needs, and rapidly connect them with assistance. Implemented in collaboration with partners, including Intersos, Caritas, Amel, Makhzoumi Foundation, Nabad and Terre des Hommes, the DRTT builds on existing UNHCR systems, including registration data and the Refugee Assistance Information System (RAIS), enabling a coordinated and efficient response.

The DRTT consolidates information from multiple channels, including UNHCR's National Call Centre, the HELP website, MyUNHCR self-reporting platform, Community Development Centres, outreach volunteers, and partner referrals. This allows UNHCR to monitor population movements, update refugees' locations, identify emerging needs, and prioritize support for the most vulnerable.

Since 2 March, more than 27,000 displaced refugees have been individually identified and assessed through the DRTT. Most (75%) remain displaced outside their area of origin, while 16% are displaced within the conflict-affected governorate and 10% have returned.

To date, the DRTT has generated over 7,000 referrals, with 87% already completed. The most requested assistance includes cash support, food assistance, shelter, protection services, and hygiene items, helping ensure refugees receive timely support based on their needs.

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 situation in Lebanon remains challenging. Ongoing insecurity in the South, the return of Lebanese IDPs to conflict-affected areas where homes and basic services are damaged or destroyed, challenges to return among Syrian refugees, and worsening socio-economic conditions due to prolonged absence of livelihoods are shaping humanitarian needs for both displaced people and host communities. Albeit reduced but still continued military activities, including airstrikes, drone presence, and other security incidents in South Lebanon is undermining perceptions of safety and affecting prospects for safe, dignified and sustainable voluntary returns. Communities continue to report heightened anxiety, psychological distress, and uncertainty about the sustainability of the ceasefire, while unexploded ordnance, damaged homes, and limited access to basic services remain major barriers to return

Since 2 March 2026, **Protection Sector partners in Lebanon (80 organizations, of which 61% are local NGOs) have reached more than 332,965 individuals with targeted protection interventions,** including child protection and gender-based violence (GBV) prevention and response services.

How UNHCR and Protection Sector partners are responding

332,900+
individuals reached by protection interventions, including general protection, child protection and GBV prevention and response (27% supported by UNHCR)

168,300+
individuals benefitting from information sessions, awareness sessions, and individual consultations on how to access services or other information (37% supported by UNHCR)

17,200+
Refugees supported to return to Syria within the UNHCR-facilitated return due to force majeure procedure (April to June 2026)

- **Since 2 March 2026, UNHCR and its NGO partners have reached more than 62,500 people inside and outside collective shelters with protection information and counselling**. Through information sessions, awareness-raising activities, and individual consultations, affected populations have received guidance on security conditions, available assistance and services, and key protection concerns, including child protection and gender-based violence (GBV) risk mitigation. These interventions strengthen refugees' ability to make informed decisions, safely access available support, and reduce exposure to protection risks during displacement.
- UNHCR and its partners provided **mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) to more than 12,800 individuals** through collective shelters, Community Development Centres (CDCs), and outreach activities. Delivered by trained social workers, counsellors, psychologists, and outreach volunteers, these services helped displaced people cope with the psychological impacts of conflict and displacement, restore a sense of safety and dignity, and strengthen resilience, with priority given to those affected by insecurity, repeated displacement, and prolonged stays in collective shelters.
- **A total of 685 children and adults at heightened risk have received emergency case management support**, with priority given to those facing acute protection concerns, including serious medical vulnerabilities, violence, family separation, eviction, and exploitation. Through individualized assessments, tailored response plans, and coordinated referrals and follow-up, case management helps ensure that protection risks are addressed and people with the most complex needs can access appropriate support.
- **Voluntary repatriation resumes:** Following the conclusion of the Return due to Force Majeure programme on 30 June, UNHCR resumed voluntary repatriation activities on 1 July 2026. Between 1 April and 30 June, 17,292 Syrian refugees (3,899 families) who chose to return to Syria were provided with counselling, legal aid and received a $ 100 cash grant per returning individual under the Return due to Force Majeure programme, out of a total of 78,428 supported to return since 1 July 2025. In parallel, the Lebanese General Security Office extended its facilitation measures for another month, until 30 July 2026, allowing eligible Syrian refugees and Palestinian refugees from Syria departing through land border crossings to exit Lebanon without paying overstay fees or penalties and without being subject to a re-entry ban.
- **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, 362 refugee children were assisted on birth registration and 131 refugees assisted to access legal residency in June 2026. Since January 2026, UNHCR has assisted 1,083 refugees to access legal residency and 560 refugee children with birth registration.

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.

17,200+ Syrian refugees supported to return
(between April and June 2026), out of a total of **78,428** supported to return since 1 July 2025.

Syrian refugees who made the decision to return to Syria were provided with counselling, legal aid and $ 100 cash grant per returning individual.

Shelter and core-relief items (CRIs)

As of 6 July 2026, 37,000 people remain hosted in 354 collective shelters, down from a peak of 692 shelters. As displacement persists for many, access to safe and affordable housing is becoming increasingly difficult due to reduced housing availability, rising demand, and the depletion of household savings. These pressures are increasing the risk of overcrowding, evictions, negative coping mechanisms, and tensions with host communities.

How UNHCR and Shelter Sector partners are responding

186,300+
people assisted through the distribution of core relief items (55% supported by UNHCR)

544
collective shelters requiring repairs (14% supported by UNHCR)

410
collective shelters with repair works completed (17% supported by UNHCR)

- **Scaling up shelter repairs and maintenance to sustain capacity**: UNHCR and its partners continue to carry out repair and maintenance works in collective shelters that will continue hosting displaced people in the medium term. Works have been completed in 68 of the 76 planned collective shelters, benefiting more than 15,300 displaced people, while rehabilitation activities remain ongoing in the remaining eight shelters.
- **Provision of core relief items (CRIs) to displaced populations:** More than 88,400 displaced individuals in collective shelters have received over 224,800 CRIs to support their basic needs. An additional 15,322 IDPs and refugees living in host communities and informal settings have been assisted with more than 53,800 CRIs.

"We are going back home": Hope returns for an older couple after months of displacement

In a collective shelter in Tyre, Hussein and Mireh, both in their late 70s, spent more than four months as displaced after fleeing their village of Qana in southern Lebanon. Living in the shelter's overcrowded basketball courtyard, they endured uncertainty, limited privacy and the challenges of prolonged displacement. When a ceasefire was announced, the couple finally felt a glimmer of hope and began preparing for their return home. Despite the fear of what they may find upon arrival, Mireh says hope outweighs uncertainty. "We are going back to the place where we were born and raised. How beautiful it is to return to it," said Hussein. Like hundreds of schools across Lebanon that were transformed into collective shelters, this school benefitted from shelter upgrades from UNHCR and its partners, including repairs and the installation of partitions in the basketball courtyard. These improvements created more private family spaces, allowing displaced families to live with greater dignity, privacy and security. While many families like Hussein and Mireh's are hoping to return home, continued humanitarian support remains critical as displacement-related needs persist and recovery challenges continue.



Hussein and Mireh travel back to their home after spending more than four months displaced. © UNHCR/Houssam Hariri

Cash assistance

How UNHCR and Cash Sector partners are responding

12,336
Displaced individuals reached with cash for shelter assistance (11% supported by UNHCR)

137,500+
vulnerable refugees reached by the joint UNHCR-WFP emergency multipurpose cash assistance (10% supported through UNHCR funding)

15,674
Displaced refugees received UNHCR's emergency protection cash assistance

- As of June 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).
- 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 June, 1,370 vulnerable displaced refugees (274 households) received a one-time cash grant of $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.
- Emergency Protection Cash Assistance (EPCA) supports UNHCR's protection response, alongside emergency protection case management, psychosocial support, community mobilization, and inclusive information and accountability mechanisms for displaced populations inside and outside collective shelters. To date, 15,674 displaced refugees facing acute protection risks have received EPCA, enabling the most vulnerable households and individuals to address urgent protection-related needs through timely financial assistance.

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

$ 94 million

The revised inter-agency **Lebanon Flash Appeal** calls for **$ 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 $ 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 June 2026, UNHCR in Lebanon was **21% funded** – with overall needs totalling $ 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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