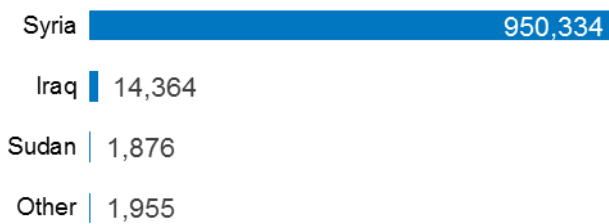


Lebanon

December 2018

POPULATION OF CONCERN

Country of origin

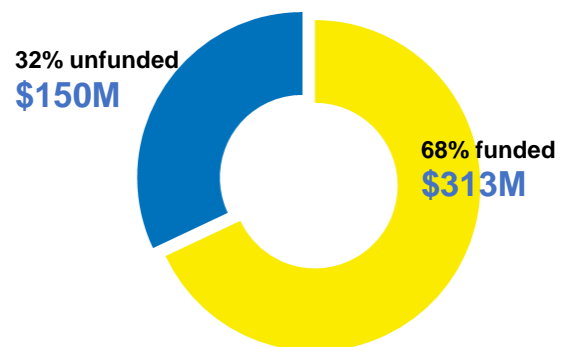


Registration figures as of 31 December 2018. UNHCR registration of Syrian refugees in Lebanon has been suspended since May 2015 through a decision by the Government of Lebanon.

FUNDING

USD 463 M

requested for the Lebanon operation



This report provides a summary of key developments and results in 2018 in narrative and numbers (please see also an indicator report at the end of the document).

OPERATIONAL CONTEXT – YEAR IN REVIEW

National elections held in May, followed by an extended government formation process that was only concluded in January 2019, brought many of Lebanon's challenges to the fore. While the protracted presence of an estimated 1.5 million Syrian refugees was not a major election campaign issue, it resurfaced after the Brussels II Conference. Some political leaders accused the international community of trying to integrate the refugees, and exerted pressure on UNHCR to start organising repatriation. UNHCR reaffirmed its respect for Lebanon's non-integration policy and gave more visibility to the work the Agency has been undertaking since 2017 to identify the factors that will make refugees feel confident to return and contribute towards the removal of obstacles to large-scale safe, dignified and sustainable returns.

Growing frustration and less intercommunity interaction marked the protection environment in many communities and an anti-refugee discourse became more prominent. Refugees reported more verbal harassment and less inclination to report incidents to the authorities. The main sources of tensions remained competition over jobs and pressure on services; refugees were also increasingly blamed for environmental pollution. Local authorities announced measures like curfews and evictions in reaction to incidents involving Syrians. In this environment, it was challenging to make substantial progress on protection priorities aimed at making the temporary stay of the refugees more safe and dignified, despite several recommendations to this end in the Brussels II Partnership Paper. Still, some progress was made through changes in legal residency and birth registration policies.

Syrian refugees remained limited in their freedom of movement due to lack of legal residency, poverty and high debts. Restrictive measures imposed by individual municipalities were difficult to address holistically due to the absence of a government. The 2018 Vulnerability Assessment of Syrian Refugees in Lebanon (VASyR) showed

that 51% of refugees live below the extreme poverty line, increased debts, worsened shelter conditions, and an increase in the proportion of married girls aged 15-19 years, from 23% in 2017 to 30% in 2018. Refugees of other nationalities faced increasing food insecurity and difficulties obtaining legal residency, putting them at risk of refoulement if arrested and lacking resettlement prospects. UNHCR made several interventions to prevent deportations.

Nonetheless, political actors reaffirmed their commitment to international standards, including non-refoulement. Given slow economic growth, anticipated austerity measures, and the pressure such a large refugee population is adding to infrastructure and services, it is remarkable that tensions have not risen further. It is thus critical that international partners sustain robust support for the response, and invest in infrastructure and job creation to preserve the ability of local communities to continue hosting refugees until larger numbers feel able to return in safety and dignity. It is also critical that third countries increase resettlement and other pathways, as a way to provide some of the most vulnerable and at risk with a durable solution, and tangibly demonstrate responsibility-sharing with Lebanon.

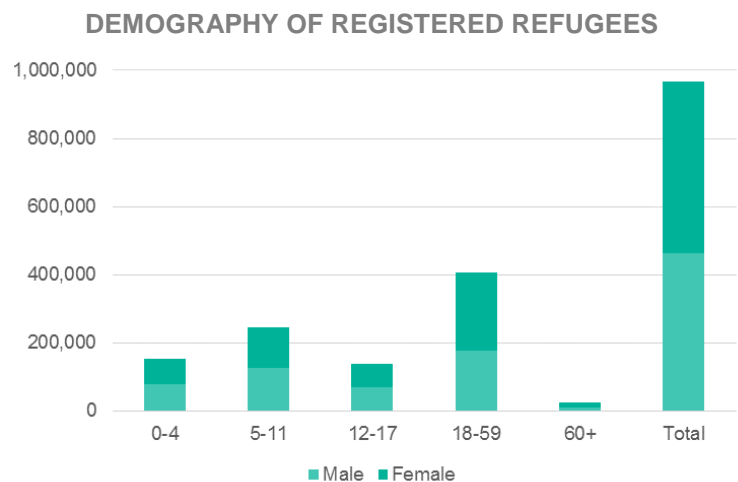
KEY ACHIEVEMENTS AND RESULTS

ACCESSING PROTECTION

Registration and data management

At the end of 2018, 948,800 Syrians and 18,200 refugees and asylum-seekers originating from countries other than Syria (79% from Iraq) were registered with UNHCR in Lebanon. The Government estimated that it hosts 1.5 million Syrian refugees, a figure also reflected in the Lebanon Crisis Response Plan as a basis for planning purposes for protection and assistance programmes run by UNHCR and partners.

- UNHCR continued sensitizing the authorities to the importance of resuming registration for Syrian refugees, suspended since May 2015. This would enable the Government and the international community to know the size and profile of the entire Syrian refugee population to appropriately plan and effectively respond to their needs. Through its reception centres and outreach mobile missions, UNHCR continued to provide counselling interviews to Syrians who approached or contacted UNHCR with the intention of registering, to inform them about the Government's decision to suspend registration, and assess their vulnerabilities for assistance.
- While registration of Syrian refugees who arrived after 2015 remained suspended, UNHCR verified and updated a total of 542,454 individual files of refugees registered and renewed the registration certificates of 129,405 refugees, while 78,320 cases were inactivated/closed due to deaths and departures, including returns to Syria and resettlement to third countries.



- In coordination with the Ministry of Social Affairs (MOSA) and in line with the procedure established in 2015, a total of 29,496 babies born to Syrian refugees registered with UNHCR were added-on to their parents' file.

Legal residency

Lack of legal residency continues to be a key impediment to a secure and dignified life for refugees by increasing the risk of arrest and detention, and limiting refugees' ability to move freely. For refugees of other nationalities, the lack of legal residency can also lead to deportation and refoulement. According to the 2018 VASyR, 27% of all Syrians (registered and non-registered) have valid residency (compared to 26% in 2017).

- UNHCR reinforced the capacity of the Directorate-General of General Security (GSO) to issue residency permits by providing technical and material support. By the end of 2018, 14 GSO centres were fully equipped to efficiently and securely process residence permits for refugees. The increase in capacity helped reduce both the waiting times and number of visits refugees had to make to have their applications processed; in 2018, 30% of those who approached GSO and were not able to renew their residency stated that it was mainly due to limited GSO capacity, compared to 70% in 2017. This enhanced institutional capacity should lead to an increase in the overall number of refugees with legal residency in 2019.
- In parallel, UNHCR continued to advocate with the Government of Lebanon to promote an inclusive implementation of the residency renewal fee waiver. While there was no new instruction publicly issued, it did help individual cases in renewing their residency free of charge. A positive policy development was the publication of a new GSO regulation in April 2018 allowing Syrian minors between 15 and 18 years of age to renew their residency using a civil extract.

Civil documentation

The vast majority of refugees are able to obtain some sort of documentation attesting to their key civil events (birth, marriage, divorce and death) that had occurred in Lebanon. However, very few manage to complete civil registration procedures due to a complex system with onerous documentary requirements and relatively high costs. As a result, only 21% of Syrian children born in Lebanon and 20% of Syrian couples married in Lebanon have their

birth or marriage registered with the civil registry authority (the Foreigners' Registry). This data, however, does not take into account more recent positive developments in the regulatory framework adopted in 2018.

- UNHCR continued to advocate for the removal of remaining barriers preventing Syrian refugees to register the birth of their children born in Lebanon. Following UNHCR legal and technical advice as well as advocacy by multiple parties, policy decisions were taken in 2018 to reduce documentation requirements and exceptionally waive late birth registration procedures for Syrian children born between 1 January 2011 and 8 February 2018.

In 2018:

542,500 individual data records updated

3,900 border visits conducted

14 GSO centres equipped with IT equipment, cabling and furniture

40,000 families received individualized legal counselling on how to register the birth of their children

6,000 vulnerable families assisted to register the birth of their child

7,200 families counselled on marriage registration to facilitate the birth registration of their children and increase protection of women in case of separation, divorce or disappearance of their husband

700 couples who married unofficially helped to obtain retroactive proof of their marriage

78 community centres supported with staff and activities benefiting both Lebanese and refugees

665 outreach volunteers mobilized

However, the regulatory framework on birth registration remains unchanged for Lebanese nationals, asylum-seekers and refugees of other nationalities, and other foreigners.

- To help refugees obtain civil documentation, UNHCR and partners provided individualized legal counselling and informed refugees on civil registration procedures through mass communication channels, community-based approaches, legal counselling at community centres and UNHCR reception centres, as well as through outreach volunteers, protection monitors and partners.
- In the second half of 2018, UNHCR began supporting the Directorate General of Personal Status (DGPS) with staffing and equipment to increase its capacity to register civil events. This helped the implementation of positive policy decisions adopted by the DGPS to facilitate birth and marriage registration of Syrian refugees, with results expected in 2019.

SGBV prevention and response

- In 2018, UNHCR focused on SGBV prevention through outreach and awareness-raising activities. A network of community mobilisers, including outreach volunteers and community groups, sensitized community members on gender equality, legal and health issues related to early marriage, women and children's rights, protection from sexual exploitation and abuse, and positive parenting.
- As part of a holistic, context-specific response, UNHCR also provided case management services in mobile and static safe spaces, complemented with specialized services, such as protection cash, shelter or legal services, and a variety of channels for two-way communication between persons of concern and UNHCR to ensure the inclusion of marginalized groups. Close to 2,800 survivors received case management services, and more than 50,000 people (33,200 women and 17,800 men) benefitted from services in safe spaces country-wide.
- UNHCR continued strengthening its systems on Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) by further integrating the work on PSEA within the broader SGBV prevention and response strategy. This included building on existing referral pathways for victims, the provision of relevant services, and conducting refresher sessions for all UNHCR staff.

Child protection

- In 2018, UNHCR provided case management services to 2,900 children at risk, developed individualized case plans and facilitated and coordinated timely access to services to address identified child protection concerns. Most of the cases identified involved children experiencing exploitation and abuse, including physical violence as a form of discipline, child marriage and child labour.
- In order to ensure multi-sectoral response to such cases, 500 children benefitted from specialized



Born with autism spectrum disorder – a developmental disability that impairs his social communication and interaction skills – 10-year-old Samer from Mosul, Iraq has lived most of his life in relative isolation, struggling to communicate, share feelings or interact with people around him. In 2018, Samer started attending free weekly activities – recreation, art workshops, and games - at a community centre funded by UNHCR and run by the NGO Caritas.

services including legal aid, mental health support and access to safe shelters.

- Complementary activities contributed to enhancing the psychosocial wellbeing of over 30,000 children, who participated in community development centre activities.

Targeted responses for groups with specific protection needs

UNHCR and its partners give particular attention to refugees with specific needs, including women and children, persons with disabilities, older persons, LGBTI individuals and other groups. Refugees with specific needs are prioritized and targeted throughout all programmes. Nevertheless, the insufficient development and capacity of a national social protection system, coupled with the limited capacity of the complementary humanitarian safety net left refugees in need without access to the specialized services they needed; mental health support and safe shelters for refugees with mental health conditions and for single women with several children were some of the areas where gaps were notable.

- The role of case management partners was crucial in identifying the most vulnerable, providing counselling, emotional support and follow up on their situation. Social support and counselling were provided to 9,700 refugees with serious medical conditions, mental illness or other protection concerns. Many of these refugees were unable to meet the basic needs of their families due to lack of a stable income and other factors contributing to their vulnerability. The high cost of living, particularly rent, continued to affect the lives of refugees who are at risk of being evicted or becoming homeless.
- In education, UNHCR expanded its support to children with specific learning difficulties in 2018, partnering with local associations to help 150 children with hearing impairments, blindness, autism or attention deficit disorders. Accessibility improvements are also a key feature of UNHCR's school rehabilitation and expansion works. Nevertheless, more than 1,000 children with different disabilities were identified in the 2017-2018 'Back to School' campaign as being without any learning opportunity. Specialized education and support services are currently only available in private schools and budget constraints do not allow for the individual funding these children require.
- UNHCR's shelter and WASH interventions consider persons with specific needs in its prioritization of all household-targeted initiatives. In 2018, 300 protection cases were targeted and assisted through shelter rehabilitation and repair/maintenance works. Access to WASH services for persons with disabilities is prioritised through tailored approaches, including in shelter rehabilitation works.

Border monitoring

UNHCR maintains a regular presence at official land border crossing points to gain a better understanding of the profiles of Syrians entering and exiting Lebanon, and of the reasons for these movements.

- In 2018, UNHCR conducted 3,900 border monitoring interviews at the main border crossing points in the East and North, reaching a total of 9,200 individuals. Interviewers sought to identify individuals facing protection risks or with specific vulnerabilities, referrals to the Ministry of Social Affairs for consideration under the humanitarian admission criteria, and enabled counselling on border admission and exit regulations (for instance on regularization of stay or payment of fines to avoid a re-entry ban).
- In July 2018, the GSO issued a memo allowing Syrian refugees who previously renewed their residency based on a UNHCR certificate, and then overstayed, to exit the country without paying any fees and without being issued a re-entry ban; this exemption is currently not extended to other residency categories. UNHCR continues to advocate for an expansion of the waiver of overstay fees with no re-entry ban to all Syrian refugees.

Detention monitoring

Detention of refugees and asylum-seekers on charges of immigration-related offences remained widespread throughout Lebanon in 2018. UNHCR and its partners conduct regular visits to places of detention, including ISF prisons and police stations, to identify persons of concern in need and provide legal aid and material assistance. UNHCR does not currently have access to military detention facilities or GSO retention centres, with the exception of the GSO retention centre for non-Syrian asylum-seekers and refugees in Beirut.

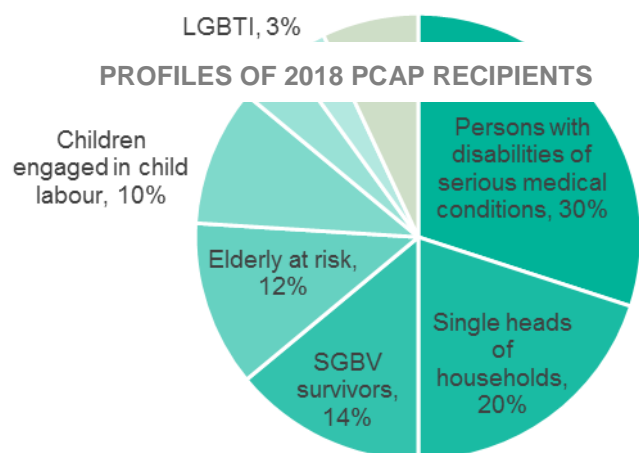
- Syrians lacking valid residency permits or any identity document were subject to arrest at checkpoints or during raids; most are released following several days of administrative detention. UNHCR conducted more than 1,100 monitoring visits in detention facilities; more than 6,000 Syrians received counselling, 1,000 Syrians benefitted from legal aid and 13 benefitted from legal representation. More than 4,000 of the most vulnerable Syrian detainees were also provided with core relief items and medical attention.
- Other foreign nationals (excluding Syrian, Palestinian and stateless individuals) without valid residency are administratively detained, which can lead to their deportation or release. Consequently, UNHCR prioritized interventions with the GSO to halt deportation. Through daily visits, some 340 individuals registered with UNHCR were identified and assisted with expedited refugee status determination and resettlement assessment. UNHCR's advocacy prevented the deportation of 47 refugees. However, finding solutions for refugees who did not qualify for resettlement was challenging. Despite UNHCR's interventions, seven refugees were deported by Lebanese authorities, of whom five had decided to close their case with UNHCR and renounced opposing their deportation following lengthy periods of detention and in light of the absence of resettlement prospects.

DIGNITY IN EXILE

UNHCR's efforts in 2018 helped preserve vital access to shelter, health care, and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) to help vulnerable refugees survive day to day and reduce their vulnerability to exploitation and other protection risks.

Basic needs

After many years of displacement in a situation where predictable livelihood opportunities are scarce, living costs high, and competition over jobs increasing, the needs of refugees in Lebanon remain immense. UNHCR continued helping the most severely vulnerable refugee families meet their basic needs through cash-based interventions as an integral part of a comprehensive protection response. In 2018, some 840,000 individuals received more than USD 141 million in direct cash transfer assistance from UNHCR.



- UNHCR supported more than 3,600 cases through the Protection Cash Assistance Programme (PCAP) in 2018. PCAP aims to mitigate protection risks or address protection incidents, including by helping refugees to transition into safety, as well as to assist those resorting to negative coping mechanisms or experiencing abuse, exploitation or harm because they are unable to meet their basic needs as a result of their protection profile. Beneficiaries are supported with cash, case management and other assistance (such as shelter, medical care, psychological counselling, legal aid, livelihood activities and vocational training) in a complementary manner, as part of an individualized response plan. The amount and duration of PCAP is individually tailored based on the level of assistance required to address or resolve the specific protection risk or concern.
- The monthly multipurpose cash assistance (MPCA) program constitutes the broader proactive assistance approach that serves to reduce beneficiaries' vulnerability to exploitation or other protection risks. UNHCR reached on average 33,251 refugee families (226,000 individuals) each month with MPCA. UNHCR's regular outcome monitoring activities showed that MPCA allows families to rely less on debt; the percentage of families taking out debt in the past month was significantly lower among those assisted (78% compared to 92%). Assisted families are also paying off debts at a higher rate, with 4% of total monthly expenditure spent on repaying debts among families enrolled in the MPCA program, compared to 1% among those not assisted. Additionally, MPCA recipients rely less on other negative coping strategies such as child labour, with 9% of families who were receiving MPCA not adopting any negative coping strategies, compared to 2% of non-assisted families.
- As only 19% of Syrian refugee families (37% of severely vulnerable Syrian families) received monthly multipurpose cash assistance from UNHCR or a partner agency to help cover their basic survival needs in 2018, UNHCR also provided winter cash assistance to close to 170,000 families (908,900 individuals) to mitigate economic shocks associated with harsh weather conditions and the reduction of income generating opportunities during this period.
- Refugees can withdraw their PCAP, MPCA or seasonal cash assistance through the common LOUISE card at any ATM in Lebanon.



Manar and her family were uprooted from Homs in 2012 and sought refuge in Lebanon the following year. After her husband was killed in a traffic accident, she is now head of the family. As a recipient of MPCA from UNHCR, she can prioritize her monthly spending for herself and her three children, Aseel, 6, Abdullah, 9, and Osaima, 12. She uses the money to pay for the children's transportation to school. "I am very happy that I am now able to pay for something," she adds.

Health care

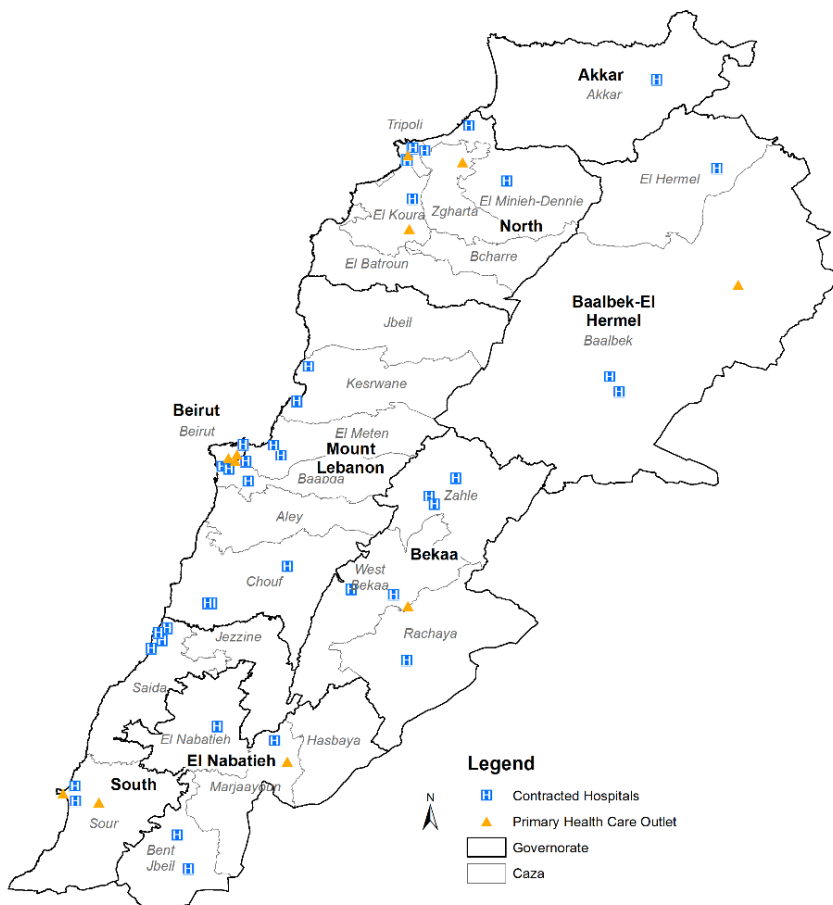
UNHCR and partners continued to work to improve the health status of refugees by supporting access to essential preventive and curative health care services.

- UNHCR helped refugees to access primary health care (PHC) services by subsidizing the cost of consultations and medication through 12 PHC centres (complementing additional centres supported by other health sector partners), including two specialized centres for psychiatric services. In 2018, 73,700 PHC consultations were supported by UNHCR (59% for women and 23% for children under 5 years old). Services include free childhood vaccination; subsidized consultations for acute illnesses, reproductive health, non-communicable diseases and mental health; and subsidized diagnostic tests for the most vulnerable groups. Vaccines and essential acute medicines were provided free of charge with a small handling fee for chronic disease medicines.
- UNHCR is the main humanitarian agency helping refugees to access secondary and tertiary health care in Lebanon. Child birth, life-saving and emergency interventions are prioritized to reduce preventable deaths. In 2018, UNHCR supported 78,800 lifesaving and obstetric hospital referrals for close to 74,600 refugees, of which 60% were deliveries. Refugees were able to access subsidized treatment for acute life-threatening conditions and deliveries through a cost-sharing program through UNHCR's network of 40 hospitals nationwide. Treatment as a consequence of SGBV, torture and acute malnutrition is fully covered by UNHCR.

Education

UNHCR's approach to education aims to increase the involvement and responsibility of parents and the broader community, to increase in the percentage of children who stay enrolled in the formal education system. UNHCR's programs also focus on identifying and providing support to out of school children. Enrolment of refugees in public schools has increased by 13% in 2017-2018, according to official figures from the Ministry of Education and Higher Education (MEHE). Nevertheless, the total number of refugee children enrolled corresponds to less than 50% of the Syrian refugee population.

MAP OF UNHCR-SUPPORTED PRIMARY HEALTH CARE CENTRES AND NETWORK OF CONTRACTED HOSPITALS



Key UNHCR programs in 2018 included:

- Foreign language groups: 974 students participated, of whom 71% passed the exit test and a 75% retention rate was recorded.
- Education Community Liaison volunteers (ECLs): ECLs were based in public schools to create a more protective learning environment. In 2018, 389 ECLs were deployed in 419 public schools (up to 83,800 indirect beneficiaries). Parents of children in schools with an ECL presence reported a decrease in the use of corporal punishment in some schools, and that the ECLs facilitated communication and cooperation with school directors.
- Homework support groups: 421 groups helped more than 4,000 refugee children to cope with the Lebanese curriculum in a supportive environment, while empowering community volunteers to assist refugee children in their homes.
- Formal and non-formal vocational education for youth: UNHCR provided 2,555 youths attending vocational education in Lebanon with financial support for transport and educational material. This activity complemented UNICEF's support, which covered the enrolment fees.
- Infrastructure improvement: construction works for the public school infrastructure improvement project started in September 2018, targeting 5 schools for rehabilitation and 11 schools for expansion, to benefit at least 4,200 refugee and Lebanese students.
- UNHCR also worked to support evidence-based programming and reporting at MEHE, as well as providing staffing support to roll out a new School Information Management System (SIMS), and to strengthen the capacity of the Ministry to conduct regular monitoring and verification of student attendance/enrolment.



Syrian refugee children at a homework support group in Zgharta district, North Lebanon. © UNHCR/Hasan Shaaban

Shelter and WASH

UNHCR assisted 170,000 vulnerable refugees (31,500 households) to improve their basic shelter conditions and improved access to water for 200,000 persons of concern in 2018, with priority given to people living in hazardous conditions and exposed to health and protection risks.

- UNHCR continued to lead the shelter response for refugees living in informal settlements across Lebanon with proactive shelter and settlement solutions, as well as responding in emergencies due to extreme weather events, fires and evictions. In 2018, UNHCR became the sole provider of shelter assistance in informal settlements in Lebanon with the exception of the Aarsal municipality. Close to 159,000 refugees (29,000 families) living in informal settlements received shelter assistance, including weatherproofing and insulation kits. Of these, 1,000 households received assistance through a cash modality to provide shelter materials as part of a successful pilot project conducted in the Bekaa region. Findings proved that cash is a cost effective modality that provides flexibility in addressing refugee needs, improved access and investment in local markets, with greater involvement of small and medium suppliers.
- Site improvement works to mitigate the risk of flooding, improve access to and within informal settlements, and fence off hazardous areas benefitted 4,200 refugees (842 households) in the Bekaa and Akkar region.

- UNHCR provided lifesaving sanitation services for approximately 11,250 refugees through latrine installation/rehabilitation, grey water system and septic tank construction, desludging in informal settlements and collective shelters, and connection to existing sewage systems following successful advocacy.
- Environmental health and hygiene campaigns reached 41,500 refugees to raise awareness on hygiene practices, water conservation and other behaviours to reduce health risk and to address environmental concerns.

SUPPORTING HOST COMMUNITIES TO PRESERVE SOCIAL STABILITY

UNHCR's Community Support projects as well as area-based shelter and WASH interventions in 2018 aimed to mitigate protection risks and help municipalities, local authorities and communities manage the increased demand on public services.

- In the urban and peri-urban context, UNHCR targeted 13 deprived or less serviced areas across Lebanon to assist 9,200 refugees (1,880 households) living in substandard conditions to rehabilitate their rented shelter in addition to securing written lease agreements. For the majority, the support also provided relief from the financial burden of rental payment for a period of up to 12 months.
- UNHCR assisted 33 municipalities to develop and implement integrated solid waste management programmes to mitigate negative environmental impacts through strategy development, community engagement, and asset provision (sorting facilities, trucks and bins). These projects benefited 97,800 Lebanese and 56,400 refugees.
- More than 75,000 Lebanese and 86,000 refugees benefitted from projects focused on expanding water systems, constructing storm water channels and other vital infrastructure. Flood risk for 10,300 Lebanese and 5,600 refugees in four municipalities was reduced through the construction of a storm water channel.

UNHCR also implemented Solidarity Initiative projects to help communities preserve the protection space and promote peaceful coexistence.

- 126 such initiatives were implemented in 2018, with a focus on improving the protection environment for persons with specific needs including SGBV survivors, female heads of household, older persons without family support and persons with disabilities. These projects aim to increase interaction between host and the refugee communities, build understanding, and facilitate basic joint/fair income generating possibilities.

REALISING SOLUTIONS TO DISPLACEMENT

Resettlement

UNHCR estimates that as many as 10% of the Syrian refugees in the countries in the region, including Lebanon, have resettlement needs. Resettlement and the identification of complementary pathways remained a key component of UNHCR's efforts to find durable solutions for the most vulnerable and at risk refugees.

- In 2018, 9,805 refugees departed for resettlement in third countries,



and files for 8,393 refugees were submitted. UNHCR had initially planned to submit at least 15,000 Syrians and 1,300 refugees of other nationalities for resettlement consideration in 2018, but these target was reduced in light of fewer pledges from resettlement countries.

- UNHCR is also actively involved in training emerging resettlement countries to strengthen their resettlement activities, as well as seeking solutions for refugees through other complementary pathways and family reunification programs.

Repatriation

Some 16,700 refugees returned individually or through GSO-facilitated movements to Syria in 2018. In the return intention survey conducted by UNHCR in mid-2018, 88% of Syrian refugees expressed a wish to return in the future, and mentioned concerns relating to safety and security, housing, land and property, and lack of access to services and livelihoods as the primary factors preventing their return at the moment.

- GSO began facilitating group refugee returns in April 2018, totalling 11,133 individuals by the end of the year. In August 2018, the GSO issued a memo informing that 17 of its existing centres around the country will, in addition to issuing legal residency, receive requests from refugees wishing to return to Syria. GSO assists refugees registering their interest to return with exit formalities and seek clearance for their return with the Syrian authorities. Refugees who have expired legal residency and who register for return at these centres will have their overstay fees waived without being issued a re-entry ban.
- UNHCR is not involved in organizing these return movements but liaises closely with the GSO regarding planned movements and conducts pre-return interviews to assess intentions and motivations of the refugees intending to return, and any documentation or other needs they may have. The poor socio-economic situation in Lebanon and access to more affordable health care in Syria, wish to reunify with family members in Syria, and a sense of improved security in Syria were indicated by refugees as the primary reasons for their decision to return.
- UNHCR is also present at the departure point of group return movements to attend to any queries or needs refugees may have and to address protection concerns such as separation of families. Where possible, UNHCR supported refugees with obtaining legal and civil documentation, and vaccinations before departure to Syria.
- An inter-ministerial group on return was convened by UNHCR to take stock of developments and challenges in regard to the voluntary repatriation of refugees to Syria, while the Durable Solutions Group led by UNHCR remained the forum for coordination among relevant UN agencies, I/NGOs and donors. UNHCR also continued to engage with stakeholders to promote respect for international standards.

LEADERSHIP, COORDINATION AND PARTNERSHIP

- UNHCR, as the coordinator of the humanitarian refugee response under the Lebanon Crisis Response Plan (LCRP), led by the Ministry of Social Affairs, continued to play a leading role in inter-agency and inter-sector coordination. In 2018, \$1.4 billion was allocated for LCRP programmes and interventions, with more than 150 national and international NGOs, UN agencies and line ministries participating in the response. Entities such as the Lebanon Humanitarian International NGO Forum and National NGO Forum continued to play a critical function in providing key local and civil society perspectives.
- In these fora and within the sectors, UNHCR promotes the centrality of protection and a holistic and complementary approach to the support provided through a direct coordination role and dedicated staffing support. UNHCR continued to co-lead the Protection, Basic Assistance, Health, Shelter, and Social Stability

Sectors within the LCRP, with a focus on preventing a deterioration of the well-being and dignity of the most vulnerable people targeted through the response. For example, \$446.5 million was injected in the local economy in forms of direct transfers.

- UNHCR was also actively engaged in all three pillars of the UN Joint work plan for 2018 as part of the UN Strategic Framework for Lebanon focusing on peace and security, stability and governance, and poverty reduction and sustainable development. UNHCR played a role in ensuring that refugees are reflected in relevant UN plans, as well as a co-lead of the outcome group on Social Protection.

UNHCR Lebanon is grateful for the support of its donors, including major donors of unearmarked and regional funds, as well as private donors, throughout 2018:



PROGRESS AGAINST TARGETS

January - December 2018

Syrian refugees and asylum-seekers

Protection	Reached Jan-Dec	2018 Target (prioritized)*	2018 Target (if fully funded)
Legal assistance and counselling provided	35,362	27,530	40,720
Persons submitted for resettlement and humanitarian admission	7,808	9,500	9,500
Monitoring visits to detention centres conducted	1,124	1,292	1,925
Persons assisted through SGBV psychosocial support	2,782	1,940	4,270
Community groups and volunteers supported	645	606	855
Individuals/cases receiving protection or emergency cash assistance	3,130	3,845	12,700
Children registered and issued documentation under regular birth registration procedure	7,069	6,500	14,000
Basic Assistance			
Average number of households assisted with monthly multi-purpose cash grants	31,725	33,435	78,869
Households receiving seasonal support (winter 2018-19)	167,339	165,000	170,000
Health			
Individuals benefitting from referral health care	74,153	65,000	100,000
Education			
Children enrolled in primary education	213,358	210,000	300,000
Students enrolled in upper secondary education	2,555	1,585	4,350
Shelter and WASH			
Shelter maintenance tool kits and materials provided	29,037	23,998	50,250
Households benefitting from shelter upgrades in exchange for an occupancy agreement	1,880	2,030	8,120
Individuals with access to improved sanitation	27,134	12,600	56,100
Individuals assisted with improved access to adequate quantity of safe water for drinking and for domestic use	199,754	214,200	374,000
Institutional and community support	2018 Expenditures (USD)		
Institutional support (rehabilitation of infrastructure, staffing and training, equipment, supplies, medications and vaccines)	16 million		

Community-based projects (health, education, livelihoods, WASH, roads and community facilities)	6 million
Total invested	22 million

Refugees and asylum-seekers (other nationalities)

Protection	Reached Jan-Dec	2018 Target (prioritized)*	2018 Target (if fully funded)
Legal assistance provided	2,652	2,630	2,800
Monitoring visits to detention centres conducted	761	835	1,200
Persons submitted for resettlement and humanitarian admission	585	1,300	1,300
Persons departed through resettlement	433	400	450
Individuals/cases receiving protection or emergency cash assistance	481	475	700
Children registered and issued documentation under regular birth registration procedure	84	250	300
Persons assisted through SGBV psychosocial support	151	100	200

Basic Assistance

Average number of households assisted with monthly multi-purpose cash grants	1,526	1,773	2,800
Households receiving seasonal support (winter 2018-19)	2,539	2,759	2,759

Health

Individuals benefitting from life-saving emergency and obstetric referral health care	420	550	1,000
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Education

Children enrolled in primary education	1,410	1,400	1,600
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Stateless

Protection	Reached Jan-Dec	2018 Target (prioritized)*	2018 Target (if fully funded)
Legal assistance provided	361	350	450