

# Health Care Programme - Lebanon

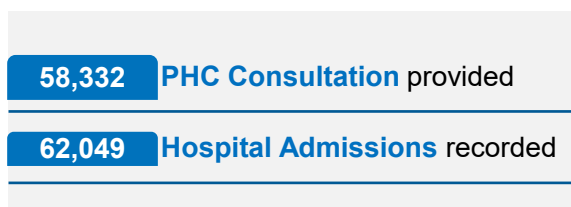
December 2021

Lebanon remains the country hosting the **largest number of refugees per capita**, with the Government estimation of **1.5 M Syrian refugees** + some 14,815 refugees of other nationalities.

The socio-economic downturn coupled with the COVID-19 pandemic and Beirut blast have all contributed to **nine out of ten Syrian refugees living in extreme poverty**.

The **health services are largely privatized in Lebanon** and under further pressure due to the pandemic, accessing basic and lifesaving care has become more challenging for refugees.

## 2021 Health Achievements



Breakdown Of Subsidized Hospitalizations in 2021



## Working with Partners

UNHCR co-leads the health sector as part of the inter-agency coordination under the framework of the Government-led Lebanon Crisis Response Plan (LCRP) and is also engaged in the National COVID-19 Response to support the prevention, containment, and treatment of COVID cases. In 2021, UNHCR has partnership agreements with five implementing partners: IOCC, Relief international, Makhzoumi Foundation, Amel, and Restart.

## Main Activities

The degradation of the economic situation in Lebanon has affected access to healthcare and medicine. UNHCR implements a substantial health care programme to ensure refugees in Lebanon have access to primary health- and hospital care.

### Hospital Care

UNHCR is the main humanitarian agency working to ensure access to secondary and tertiary health care for refugees in Lebanon. In a network of 33 contracted hospitals, refugees can, at subsidized costs, access treatment for urgent life-saving conditions, conditions that may lead to permanent disability, and obstetric care. By the end of 2021, UNHCR supported 62,049 hospital admissions, of which 58.4% were related to pregnancy and childbirth.



Ismail, a three-month-old Syrian refugee child, receives treatment for pneumonia at a hospital in Beirut. © UNHCR/Raefah Makki

### Primary Health Care (PHC)

Refugees have access to PHC services such as free childhood vaccinations, subsidized consultations for acute illnesses, reproductive health, non-communicable diseases, and mental health, as well as subsidized diagnostic tests for the most vulnerable groups at 149 PHC facilities across the country supported either by UNHCR, its implementing partners or by other actors. In 2021, the facilities receiving support from UNHCR and its implementing partners provided 58,332 consultations to refugees and other vulnerable groups.

### COVID-19 Response

Since the start of the pandemic, UNHCR has been supporting the national COVID-19 response in close collaboration with WHO and other partners. UNHCR has focused on three main areas of intervention: **prevention** through community engagement and awareness-raising, **containment** of transmission through the setting up of isolation procedures in overcrowded settings, and **treatment** through the expansion of the national hospitalization capacity for case management.

As of December 2021, UNHCR Lebanon has supported 13 hospitals with donations of advanced medical equipment, supplies, medications, and Protective Personnel Equipment (PPEs). Through donations, the capacity of the Lebanese health care system was increased with 100 ICU beds and 586 regular beds for COVID treatment. UNHCR has supported the rehabilitation of two Primary Health Care Centers (PHCs) for COVID-19 vaccination in rural areas of Bekaa and North Lebanon and the provision of medical supplies and a loan of medical equipment for three large vaccination sites.

UNHCR had an active role in the national COVID-19 vaccination campaign in the administration of 27,623 vaccine doses through mobile vaccination units in 2021. Additional doses were administered in the supported PHC centers, including 6,756 doses in the Bekaa and 3,469 doses in Northern Lebanon.

### Remaining Gaps

Due to limited financial resources, UNHCR is focusing on referrals of urgent life-threatening conditions and urgent conditions that might lead to severe permanent disability. Therefore, refugees with conditions requiring long-term, specialized, and high-cost treatment – such as cancers, immunological, and neurological conditions – are not covered. The same goes for diagnostic tests carried out at the out-patient level for severe but non-urgent health conditions. This can include expensive radiological procedures (MRI, CT, and PET scans) as well as laboratory examinations.

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## Financial Information

UNHCR is grateful for the support provided by donors who have contributed to the Health programme as well as major donors of flexible and unearmarked funds in 2021:

Belgium | Canada | Croatia | Czechia | Denmark | European Union | Finland | France | Germany | Ireland | Italy | Japan | Luxembourg | Monaco | Netherlands | Norway | Private donors | Spain | Sweden | Switzerland | United Kingdom | United States of America

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