

Lebanon

September 2022

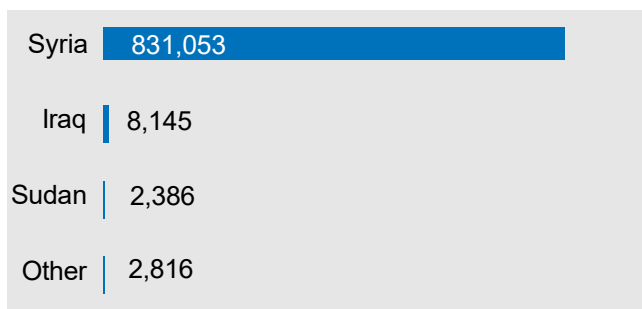
Lebanon remains the country hosting the **largest number of refugees per capita**, with the Government estimation of **1.5 M Syrian refugees** + some 13,347 refugees of other nationalities.

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**.

Syrian refugees holding valid legal residency has further decreased, hampering their access to **basic services, civil documentation** and increasing the **risk of deportation**.

POPULATION OF CONCERN

(registered refugees)

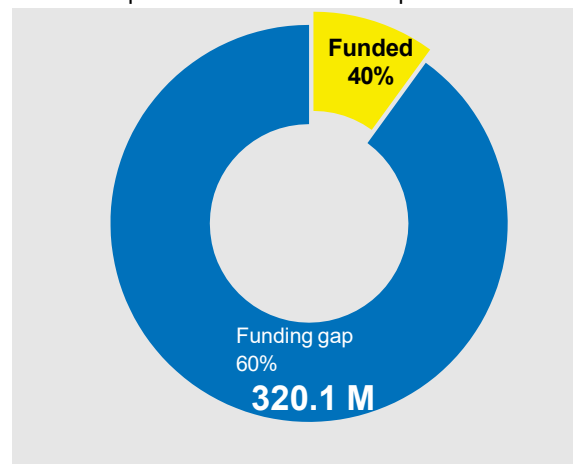


* Registration figures as of June 2022

** UNHCR registration of Syrian refugees in Lebanon has been suspended since May 2015 through a decision by the Government of Lebanon

USD 534.3 M

requested for the Lebanon operation in 2022



FUNDING (AS OF 13 SEPTEMBER 2022)

UNHCR PRESENCE

Staff:

584 National Staff

96 International Staff

Offices:

1 Country Office in Beirut

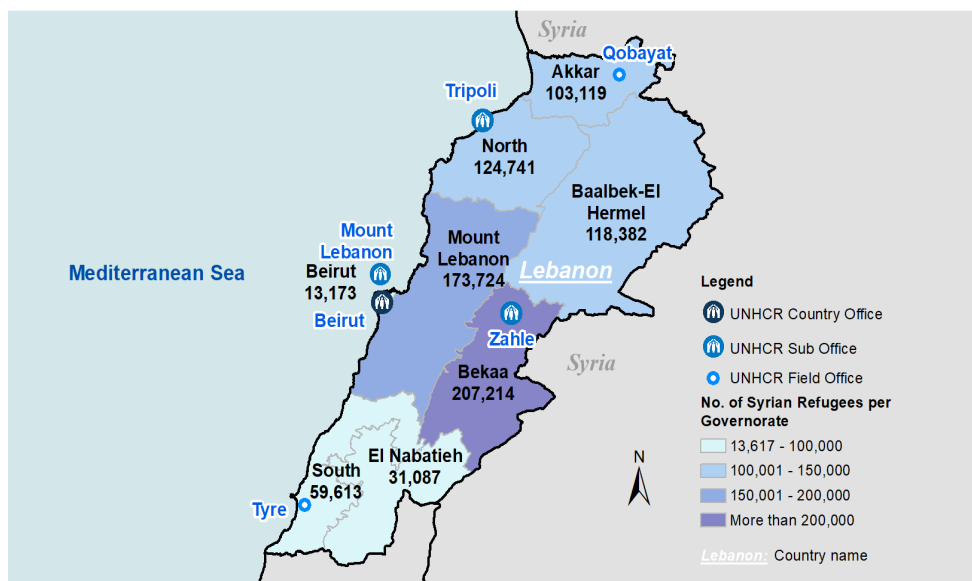
3 Sub-offices:

Tripoli, Zahle &

Mount Lebanon

2 Field Offices:

Tyre & Qobayat



Working with Partners

- Under the 2022 – 2023 Lebanon Crisis Response Plan (LCRP), UNHCR co-leads a multi-stakeholder, multi-faceted nexus response in conjunction with the Government of Lebanon (GoL) and UNDP, with contributions from a wide range of entities including local and international NGOs, civil society organizations, donors and academic institutions.
- Under the LCRP, UNHCR co-leads the Protection, Basic Assistance, Health, Shelter, and Social Stability sectors with the government and UN/INGO/NGO counterparts, ensuring the inclusion of refugees in the strategy, design and programming of various partners.
- Through the LCRP, UNHCR and partners seek to respond to the ongoing impact of the Syria crisis on Lebanon, including ensuring protection and providing immediate assistance to vulnerable people, supporting service provision through national systems, and reinforcing Lebanon’s economic, social, and environmental stability.
- Since 2015, Lebanon has received over USD 9 billion in support for displaced Syrians, vulnerable Lebanese, and Palestine refugees under the LCRP. In 2022, the Government of Lebanon and its national and international partners are appealing for USD 3.2 billion.
- In the extension of UNHCR’s sector co-leadership and programmes in the protection and shelter response to the Beirut port explosions, UNHCR is also a member of the Housing and the Social Cohesion, Inclusion and Gender sectors in the Reform, Recovery and Reconstruction Framework (3RF).
- In line with the Global Compact on Refugees and its “whole of society” approach, UNHCR is engaging with a network of 24 local civil society actors on displacement-related issues. The network has been active in countering misinformation around refugees in Lebanon by presenting facts, conducting research, hosting roundtables, and drafting policy briefs. The network members include NGOs, academia, think tanks, and faith-based organizations – some of which made pledges during the Global Refugee Forum in December 2019.
- In 2022, UNHCR has partnership agreements with 27 partners, of which 15 are international, 9 are national and three are UN agencies.

Main Activities

Protection

- UNHCR coordinates the protection response for refugees in Lebanon with the Government, UN agencies, and local and international partners, including activities related to registration of refugees, legal aid, civil documentation as well as psychosocial support, child protection and prevention of and response to gender-based violence (GBV). UNHCR also identifies and refers refugees for resettlement to third countries.
- UNHCR conducts Protection Monitoring (PM) with partners on an ongoing basis to analyse trends in the protection environment and risks facing refugees across Lebanon. According to the 2022 second quarter PM findings, refugees struggle to meet their basic needs in the face of Lebanon’s deepening crises. Food insecurity has become highly acute, with 95 per cent of refugee households reporting difficulties buying food due to lack of money.
- The PM findings demonstrate significant gaps in livelihoods with 54 per cent of refugees reporting a loss of employment and/or income, health with 33 per cent of those requiring medical treatment not having access to healthcare for financial reasons, and housing with 83 per cent of refugees not being able or having increased difficulty to pay rent.

In addition, during the quarter, an increasingly high number of refugees (77%) said they took on debt to pay for necessities, while 55% bought food on credit.

- In line with UNHCR's Global Campaign to End Statelessness by 2024, UNHCR supports the Ministry of Interior and Municipalities, General Directorate of Personal Status, to facilitate the birth registration and other vital events of refugees and Lebanese; UNHCR provides legal aid and services to stateless persons to acquire or confirm their Lebanese nationality; provides technical support to the Working Group on Statelessness; and works closely with UNICEF, in the context of the joint Global Coalition on Every Child's Right to a Nationality, to promote joint advocacy initiatives to prevent and reduce childhood statelessness.

Community Empowerment and Self-Reliance

- As part of accountability to affected persons, UNHCR engages refugees in decisions that affect their lives. UNHCR, together with partners, empowers and builds refugees' capacities through community engagement programmes and interventions in Community Development Centers (CDCs) that offer a safe space to learn, communicate, and share experiences.
- Through 25 Community Centers, including 19 CDCs and 6 Social Development Centers (SDCs) across the country, UNHCR supports people of diverse backgrounds, nationalities, genders, and age groups to access updated information, learn new skills, build social networks, and enhance their psychosocial well-being. CDCs also provide case management and psychosocial support services.
- As of 20 September, UNHCR recorded 153,261 participants in CDC activities. Participants can access different available services, including awareness sessions, skills training, learning activities, psychological support, information desk, case management and recreational activities.
- UNHCR currently engages 537 general and specialized Refugee Outreach Volunteers (OVs) from the refugee and host communities. OVs provide real-time insights into community protection risks and priorities and play an essential role in passing updated information on government policies, assistance available, and other information which impacts refugees' well-being in their communities.
- As of 20 September, OVs reached 515,367 refugees through 19,754 information sessions and 9,177 household visits, and referred 24,329 persons with specific needs to UNHCR and partners.
- UNHCR is strengthening OV capacities to support their communities in dealing with adversity, especially given Lebanon's increasingly difficult socio-economic situation and strained existing specialized services. UNHCR collaborates with partners on strengthening OVs capacities through specialized trainings on Mental Health and Psychological Support Orientation, Basic Helping skills, Peer-to-Peer Group Support, Psychological First Aid and Problem Management.

Education

- The school year 2021-2022 ended on 16 July 2022. UNHCR estimates that refugee children in second-shift schools received an average of 92 teaching days, and that around 150,000 children were enrolled.
- UNHCR's Refugee Education Community Liaisons referred more than 4,000 absent students to UNICEF and its partners for follow-up and support. UNHCR continued its Community-Based retention support programs. In total, 3,935 students participated in community-based homework support, and 1,443 students in more targeted retention support, including exam preparation.
- In the first half of 2022, UNHCR referred more than 11,900 out-of-school children identified by UNHCR's partners to the Dirasa (School Bridging Program). In addition, over 2,200 out-of-

school children and 159 youth attended Basic Literacy and Numeracy (BLN) programs implemented by UNHCR's partners, and 161 out-of-learning youth participated in 10 certified vocational trainings.

- With regards to higher education, UNHCR continued to support 83 students to access and enroll in the Lebanese Public University through the DAFI scholarships programme.
- UNHCR collaborated, along with UNICEF, WFP, and USAID/Qitabi, in supporting the Ministry of Education in implementing a six-week inclusive Summer School. Over 98,000 students (27% Syrian) were enrolled in the program in 455 schools of which 435 were primary and 20 were secondary schools. The Summer School aimed to mitigate learning losses and provide support to catch up for vulnerable children in a fun, safe, and inclusive learning environment. UNHCR also supported the provision of recreational activities, including sports and art, targeting over 45,000 children (36% Syrian) in 185 schools.

Health

- The degradation of the economic situation in Lebanon has negatively impacted access to healthcare and medicine. UNHCR's health care interventions aim to ensure access for refugees in Lebanon to primary and secondary health care.
- UNHCR operates a large referral care programme to subsidize hospitalization fees. The assistance includes covering a major part of the cost for refugees in need of obstetric care and urgent lifesaving interventions at hospitals, through a network of 32 contracted hospitals.
- In addition, UNHCR and partners support 170 primary health care centers across the country to provide general health care services, vaccinations, care for pregnant, family planning and care for chronic non-communicable diseases. In addition, UNHCR supports the delivery of mental health services that are scarce and limited in Lebanon.

Institutional and Community Support

- UNHCR provides institutional support to strengthen central and local authorities' capacity to respond to the needs of refugees and Lebanese communities hosting large numbers of refugees. The support to public institutions continues to focus on supporting service delivery and enhancing the capacities of public officials to respond to the current crisis.
- UNHCR continues to implement activities geared towards peacebuilding and social stability. Since the onset of the Syria crisis in 2011, more than 612 community support projects have been implemented by UNHCR in Lebanon as of the end of August 2022. Given the rapid decline in services, UNHCR targeted additional support to key municipal services, including implementing solid waste management and public infrastructure projects in 2022.

Shelter, Water, and Sanitation

- UNHCR aims to ensure the protection of vulnerable populations and contribute to social stability through mitigating the deteriorating shelter and economic conditions and improving access to physically adequate shelter while ensuring the security of tenure. Focus is given to lifesaving interventions addressing the shelter needs in informal settlements and disadvantaged urban/peri-urban areas.
- In informal settlements, refugees receive fire mitigation kits and shelter kits to reinforce or rebuild their shelters following emergencies (flooding, evictions, or fire incidents) and to help them withstand extreme weather conditions. Also, the most critical settlements are prioritized for site improvement works, allowing enhanced preparedness against floods and fire incidents.
- In urban/peri-urban areas, UNHCR applies an integrated area-based approach to respond to acute shelter needs in collective shelters and substandard shelter units located in identified

poor neighborhoods. Targeted refugees receive an integrated shelter/WASH response, including shelter rehabilitation and rehabilitation of common areas which allows vulnerable refugees to live in adequate shelters/buildings and benefit from secure tenure through free occupancy for one year.

- In response to the increased rental prices, debts, and high risk of eviction, UNHCR continues to focus on Cash for Rent assistance, targeting general and specific protection referral cases allowing the targeted families to adjust to the deteriorating economic situations and benefit from enhanced tenure security in shelters with an adequate standard.

Basic Needs

- UNHCR assists vulnerable displaced and refugee families to cover their most basic needs through the distribution of cash assistance as well as in-kind assistance. Since 2013, UNHCR has been providing Multi-Purpose Cash Assistance (MCAP) through ATM cards. Cash assistance strengthens the capacity of benefitting families to cover basic needs such as rent, food, and medication and reduces their vulnerability to exploitation and negative coping strategies. UNHCR's MCAP also enables refugees to contribute to the local economy by purchasing directly from local markets and shops.
- In 2022, UNHCR is targeting 144,000 severely vulnerable Syrian households and 2,400 refugee households of other nationalities for MCAP assistance. In addition, UNHCR provides Core Relief Items such as blankets, mattresses, and solar lamps. During the Winter season, UNHCR provides additional cash assistance to vulnerable families. Between October 2021 and February 2022, 276,784 refugee families (273,684 Syrians and 3,100 of other nationalities) and 42,972 Lebanese families were supported with winter cash assistance.
- As part of a regional UNHCR appeal in preparation for the 2022 – 2023 winter season, UNHCR Lebanon aims to assist around 1.4 million Syrian refugees (273,000 families) and 10,365 Iraqi and refugees of other nationalities (3,839 families) with winterization cash assistance for a period of up to four months. To complement the cash assistance programme and further support refugees living in harsh climatic conditions, UNHCR will support approximately 10,000 families with core relief items, through a needs-based approach.

COVID-19 in Lebanon and UNHCR Response to the Outbreak (as of 31 July 2022)

- As of 17 September 2022, Lebanon has reported 1,213,769 confirmed cases of COVID-19 and 10,657 fatalities since the start of the pandemic.
- 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 12 September 2022, UNHCR Lebanon has confirmed 10,813 COVID-positive cases among Syrian and non-Syrian refugees, and 464 deaths.
- UNHCR staff and partners maintained their collective outreach efforts, both in-person and remote, by embedding outreach efforts in UNHCR's activities at reception centres, mobile vaccination units across the country, and validation sites. As of 11 September 2022, 500,049 persons were reached and nearly half of them were registered on the e-Government IMPACT platform.
- In total, around 380,000 persons have been reached through UNHCR's mass media communication channels.

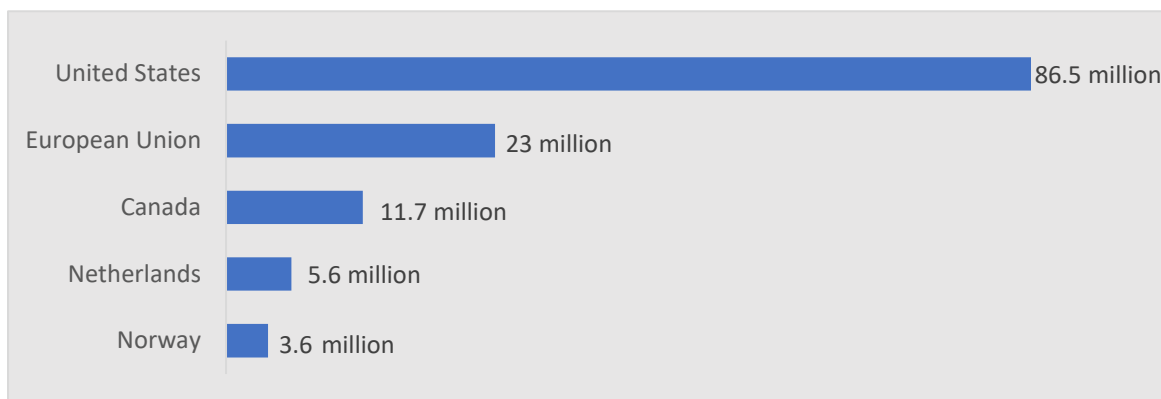
- According to the IMPACT platform as of 12 September 2022, 592,930 Syrian nationals have registered on the platform. Thus far, 596,345 vaccination doses have been administered to Syrian nationals consisting of 337,728 first doses, 239,752 second doses, 18,540 third doses, and 325 fourth dose.

Financial Information

UNHCR is grateful for the critical support provided by donors who have contributed to this operation as well as those who have contributed to UNHCR programmes with broadly earmarked and unearmarked funds.

EARMARKED CONTRIBUTIONS | USD (as of 13 September 2022)

Earmarked contributions for the operation amount to some **US \$ 150.5 million**



Denmark | Finland | France | Japan | Luxembourg | The Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Global Initiatives | Monaco | Norway | Private donors | Qatar Charity | Qatar | Spain | Sweden | Switzerland

OTHER SOFTLY EARMARKED CONTRIBUTIONS | USD

Japan | Norway | United States of America | Private donors

UNEARMARKED CONTRIBUTIONS | USD

Special thanks to the major donors of unearmarked contributions.

Belgium 11.9 million | Private donors Canada 10.5 million | Denmark 35.6 million | France 18.5 million | Germany 27 million | Ireland 11.8 million | Italy 10 million | Private donors Italy 14.5 million | Japan 21.7 million | Private Donors Japan 37 million | Private donors Republic of Korea 25.6 million | Netherlands 37.2 million | Norway 72.5 million | Private Donors Spain 51 million | Sweden 99.3 million | Switzerland 18.4 million | United Kingdom 40.1 million | Private Donors USA 26.2 million

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