Middle East Situation
Lebanon – Flash Update #15
1-31 July 2026

A UNHCR staff member is assisting a displaced father at a collective shelter in south Lebanon. © UNHCR/Houssam Hariri

Key figures

360,132
total internally displaced people (GoL)

27,000
internally displaced people hosted in **259** collective shelters (GoL)

821,077
returned IDPs reported (GoL)

12,200
Injuries since 2 March (MoPH)

4,300
Fatalities since 2 March (MoPH)

874,415
Syrian refugees known to UNHCR

11,708
Registered refugees of other nationalities

Overview

Humanitarian needs remain high. Displacement is becoming protracted, with more than 821,000 IDPs have been reported as returned. However, returns are often not sustainable, as homes are damaged, destroyed, or located in areas where insecurity remains prevalent. There is widespread destruction of infrastructure, limited services, and livelihood opportunities. Protection concerns, include psychosocial distress, unexploded ordnance (UXO), child labour, and vulnerabilities affecting women and children remain elevated, while funding gaps continue to constrain the humanitarian response.

Security remains fragile. Ongoing military activity continues, mainly in southern Lebanon, and unresolved issues related to withdrawal, security arrangements, and disarmament has kept the situation tense and the ceasefire fragile. Diplomatic engagement continues through talks in Rome and high-level international discussions.

UNHCR Response

At the onset of the crisis, following the escalation of hostilities in March 2026, UNHCR's emergency response focused on life-saving assistance and the stabilization of families uprooted by the escalation of hostilities. Working countrywide, in all accessible affected locations, and through collective shelters, community centres and outreach networks, UNHCR and partners delivered core relief items, emergency shelter support, protection monitoring, legal and psychosocial assistance, referrals, and emergency cash to help families cope with sudden displacement, insecurity, loss of income, and unsafe or overcrowded living conditions. Six months after the initial escalation, with displacement no longer defined only by immediate flight but increasingly by damaged homes, exhausted resources and uncertain prospects for return, UNHCR, in alignment with Lebanon Response Plan, is working to help families regain safety, dignity and a measure of stability. This includes supporting the consolidation of collective shelters and inclusion of the emergency multi-purpose cash assistance into UNHCR's regular multi-purpose cash assistance programme.

Coordination

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.

Under the leadership of the Ministry of Social Affairs (MoSA) and within the Lebanon Response Plan (LRP) framework, UNHCR co-leads the Inter-Sector Coordination Group with MoSA, OCHA, and UNDP. UNHCR also co-leads the Protection Sector with MoSA and Oxfam. There are 91 protection partners delivering life-saving protection activities across the country. Sixty-two per cent are local actors. UNHCR also co-leads 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 a member of the Solutions Working Group, chaired by the RC/HC and including UNDP, IOM, OHCHR and UN Habitat.

Protection

The protection environment continues to be shaped by insecurity, displacement, and compounding protection risks the more protracted the hostilities become. Internally displaced Lebanese continue to return home within Lebanon following improved security, but many households continue to keep accommodation in displacement areas or return only temporarily due to fears of renewed hostilities, extensive housing damage, explosive ordnance contamination, limited livelihood opportunities and disrupted basic services.

Housing insecurity is a key protection concern, with rising rents, accumulated rental debts, and eviction threats reported, particularly affecting Syrian refugees and vulnerable returnee households. Psychosocial distress remains widespread among returnees and displaced populations, while child labour continues to be reported, driven by economic hardship and school disruption.

Syrian refugees continue to face heightened protection risks, including legal status, movement restrictions, discrimination, and barriers to humanitarian assistance. Access to healthcare remains a major challenge nationwide, especially for older persons, persons with disabilities, and people with chronic illnesses, due to high costs for medication, treatment, and transportation.

Protection partners continue to deliver protection monitoring, outreach, legal assistance, case management, mental health and psychosocial support, community-based protection interventions and cash assistance to address immediate risks while supporting vulnerable displaced and returning households in pursuing durable solutions.

How UNHCR and Protection Sector partners are responding

420,500+
individuals reached by protection interventions, including general protection, child protection and GBV prevention and response (22% supported by UNHCR)

186,400+
individuals benefitting from information sessions, awareness sessions, and individual consultations (36% supported by UNHCR)

1,100+
Registered refugees supported with birth registration and legal residency

- **Since 2 March 2026, UNHCR and its NGO partners have reached more than 66,600 people inside and outside collective shelters through information sessions, awareness activities, and individual consultations**, providing guidance on security, available services, and key protection risks like child protection and gender-based violence (GBV) risk mitigation. Timely and accurate information is critical to enable affected populations to make informed decisions, safely access available services,

reduce protection risks, and avoid harmful coping mechanisms, particularly in situations of displacement and uncertainty.

- UNHCR and its partners provided **mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) to more than 13,200 individuals** at collective shelters, community development centres, and through 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 focused on people affected by insecurity, repeated displacement, and prolonged stays in collective shelters.
- **UNHCR provides targeted support to people at heightened risk, including people living with a disability and the elderly**. This includes emergency protection cash assistance, which has reached more than 16,800 individuals, as well as the distribution of 3,500 dignity kits. These interventions are needs-based and may involve more than one form of assistance per individual. Delivering such support often requires 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 1,556 children and adults at heightened risk as a result of the March hostilities received emergency case management support,** prioritising those facing acute and complex protection risks such as serious medical vulnerabilities, violence, family separation, eviction, or exploitation. Case management involves a dedicated case worker, most likely requiring several individualised 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.
- UNHCR deploys a multitude of platforms to communicate with refugees and displaced populations. UNHCR's most used platform was its Help website, with **265,000 visits in July** and **over 950,000 visits since the hostilities**. UNHCR also communicates with those in need of support through its WhatsApp channel, National Call Centre, online contact form, complaint boxes, outreach volunteers, community development centres, and refugee-led Facebook groups.

Voluntary Repatriation

83,800+ Syrian refugees supported to return

Syrian refugees who made the decision to return to Syria were provided with USD 100 cash grant per returning individual. The return top-up grant of USD 300 per family was introduced on 14 July 2026 to provide additional support to families with at least one returning family member with a disability, serious medical condition, single parent or caregiver, child at risk, unaccompanied or separated child or a large family of eight or more members.

By the end of July 2026, 83,880 individuals had been assisted by UNHCR to return, including 66,588 under the voluntary repatriation and 17,292 under the return due to force marjeure (RFM) programmes. The RFM programme was run from 1 April 2026 to 30 June 2026 in response to the escalation of hostilities in Lebanon to provide humanitarian assistance to refugees returning to Syria without a viable alternative for safety. [Link to July dashboard]

Shelter and core-relief items (CRIs)

Lebanon's shelter response is undergoing a transition from emergency displacement management toward return and recovery. While the majority of displaced families continue to reside in rented accommodation, hosted arrangements, or other non-collective settings, many are facing mounting financial pressures due to high rental costs, reduced income opportunities, and depleted savings. At the same time, the Government of Lebanon has begun consolidating its emergency shelter response, progressively decommissioning collective shelters, many of which are schools scheduled to reopen for the upcoming academic year in September, while opening selected sites closer to areas of return.

As of the end of July, approximately 27,000 displaced people remained in 259 collective shelters, while more than 821,000 IDPs have been reported as returned. However, access to adequate shelter remains limited. Humanitarian partners continue to provide shelter repairs, site management, maintenance, community engagement, referrals, and cash assistance to support displaced households and facilitate transitions to more sustainable shelter solutions, including in areas of return.

How UNHCR and Shelter Sector partners are responding

191,000+
people assisted through the distribution of core relief items (54% supported by UNHCR)

7,800+
Vulnerable households supported with cash for shelter (8% supported by UNHCR)

8,200+
Refugees assisted with emergency shelter support

- **UNHCR distributed more than 280,300 core relief items to** more than 104,800 displaced individuals to support their basic needs since the start of the hostilities.
- UNHCR and the Shelter Sector assessed 634 collective shelters, of which 559 were deemed as requiring repair, with repairs for 447 shelters already completed.
- UNHCR and the Shelter Sector have supported **over 7,800 vulnerable displaced households with emergency cash for shelter**, who were facing limited shelter options, eviction risks, or unsafe living conditions. Through a one-time USD 250 cash grant, vulnerable families can meet urgent shelter-related needs such as rent, utilities, minor repairs, and other essential costs, enabling them to access safe shelter while preserving choice and dignity, in a context of large-scale displacement and overstretched shelter capacity.
- As part of UNHCR's regular programming, more than **9,100 refugees benefitted from shelter assistance**, including weatherproofing kits to reinforce and rehabilitate shelters and upgrades of common areas in shelters. This support helped households better withstand adverse weather conditions and emergencies, including floods, strong winds, snow accumulation, and water leakage.

Cash assistance

Many displaced in Lebanon are struggling to meet their most basic needs, especially since the escalation of hostilities. Cash assistance is a core component of UNHCR's humanitarian response in Lebanon, and the preferred modality of assistance by those forcibly displaced and the most vulnerable host community members. Cash assistance provides secure, timely, and dignified support. It enables individuals to meet their life-saving needs, access basic services, and make their own choices while contributing to local economies. UNHCR delivers cash through secure financial systems with strong data protection measures, ensuring efficient and accountable assistance.

From June 2026 onward, as part of the extended Lebanon Emergency Appeal, displaced refugee households affected by the hostilities and requiring emergency cash assistance (EMPCA) have been integrated into UNHCR's regular multi-

purpose cash assistance programme. Within its prioritization and targeting, households with heightened socioeconomic and protection vulnerabilities, including those living in or displaced from conflict-affected areas, will be considered.

How UNHCR and Cash Sector partners are responding

7,800+
Displaced households reached with cash for shelter assistance (7% supported by UNHCR)

14,400+
Displaced refugees reached with emergency multipurpose cash assistance (EMPCA)

16,800+
Displaced received UNHCR's emergency protection cash assistance (EPCA)

28,900+
Refugees received return cash grant since January 1st.

231,300+
Refugees reached with multipurpose cash assistance (MPCA) since January 1st.

7,300+
Refugees received protection cash assistance (PCAP) since January 1st.

- The current multi-purpose cash assistance (MPCA) cycle has been extended by two months, from August to October 2026, pending the finalization of the 2026 Vulnerability Assessment of Syrian Refugees in Lebanon (VASyR) findings, which will inform the design of subsequent programming and subsequent revision of the MPCA targeting model. This year's assessment will include dedicated analysis of post-December 2024 arrivals from Syria, conflict-affected refugee households, and refugees of other nationalities.
- To support those going through UNHCR's emergency case management, emergency protection cash assistance (EPCA) is provided 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.
- To enhance UNHCR's accountability to affected populations, **UNHCR began a Pulse Survey in July**. The Pulse Survey will be a monthly post-payment monitoring exercise conducted through the National Call Centre on recipients' experience and will help identify operational issues. Overall, the cash programme saw 92% of respondents reporting no difficulties with accessing assistance and 93% confirming clear SMS notifications, signalling that cash assistance continues to reach beneficiaries effectively. Ongoing monitoring also remains important to track market conditions and ensure that concerns are addressed.

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

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 six months, from March to August 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 July 2026, UNHCR in Lebanon was **24% funded** – with overall needs totalling US$ 472.3 million. Flexible and timely contributions are essential to:

- Maintain live-saving protection services;
- Support the evolving housing needs of displaced populations to ensure safe, dignified, and accessible shelters;
- Provide financial support to the most vulnerable displaced households, especially those outside shelters;
- Replenish essential supplies so UNHCR can respond quickly to any 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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Contact
Juliette Stevenson | Senior External Relations Officer | stevenso@unhcr.org | Beirut, Lebanon
Vi Tran | External Relations Officer | tran@unhcr.org | Beirut, Lebanon

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