



Lebanon

Protection Snapshot: Displacement Post-Escalation



1.2 mil
Displaced (self-registered)



630
Collective shelters



2,294
Killed



7,544
Wounded

The Protection Sector Emergency Snapshot is produced by the Protection Analysis and Monitoring Task Force (PAMTF), drawing on information and secondary data from sector lead agencies in the context of the ongoing escalation of conflict and displacement. It consolidates inputs from Protection, Child Protection, and GBV partners, including dedicated protection monitoring actors. The snapshot reflects field observations, community-level insights and operational updates from frontline teams engaged in protection service delivery and monitoring.

Executive Summary

Lebanon is facing its most acute humanitarian crisis in decades following a rapid escalation of hostilities in early March, marked by mass civilian casualties, widespread infrastructure damage, and over 1.2 million people internally displaced. The conflict has expanded geographically, disrupting health, water, transport, and shelter systems, while repeated displacement cycles and movement restrictions have severely constrained civilian safety and humanitarian access. Vulnerable groups, such as children, women, older persons, persons with disabilities, Syrian displaced, Palestinian refugees, and migrant workers face heightened protection risks amid overcrowding, legal insecurity, and rising discrimination. A ceasefire announced on 16 April has not yet addressed uncertainty among displaced populations, who continued experiencing insecurity, limited return prospects, and deepening protection, psychosocial, and social cohesion challenges nationwide.



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Situation Overview

The reporting period was characterized by a dramatic and lethal intensification of hostilities that has plunged Lebanon into its most severe humanitarian crisis in decades. Following the collapse of a brief diplomatic window on 07 April, the conflict reached a violent peak on 08 April, when over 100 strikes were carried out in a ten-minute window, resulting in more than **300 deaths and 1,200 injuries** in that single day¹. The fatalities included 30 children, 71 women and 9 elderly people². This surge led the Lebanese government to declare a National Day of Mourning on 09 April, highlighting the profound psychological and physical toll on the civilian population. By 16 April, the Ministry of Public Health confirmed that total fatalities since the March 2 escalation had surpassed **2,089, with 6,762 injured**, including over 166 children killed and more than 648 injured³. The geographic scope of the conflict has expanded beyond border regions, with blanket evacuation orders now covering approximately 600 square miles, encompassing the entirety of Beirut's southern suburbs (Dahyeh) and all territory south of the Litani River⁴. This expansion has triggered secondary and tertiary displacement as families flee areas previously considered safe. Displacement has reached critical levels, with over 1.2 million

¹ [WeWorld Flash Update #3 – Heavy attacks on Lebanon Deepen Destruction and Uncertainty \(09 April 2026\)](#).

² [Lebanon NNA](#).

³ [UNICEF Situational Analysis April](#). Also, OHCHR has documented patterns of attacks on civilians in populated areas and residential buildings as well as on medical

personnel and relief organizations in Lebanon that may amount to serious violations of international humanitarian law.

⁴ [Lebanon Crisis Situation Analysis: Trends, Impacts, and Area Profiles – 8 April 2026](#).

individuals now internally displaced⁵. The displacement is increasingly circular and fluid. For example, the brief rumors of a ceasefire on 07 April prompted many families to attempt return to the South and Saida, only to be caught in the intensified bombardments that followed on 08 April⁶.

Critical civilian infrastructure has been damaged, further isolating vulnerable populations and hampering the protection response. These included damage to Tibnine Governmental Hospital (Bint Jbeil), also targeting paramedics in Mayfadoun (Nabatieh)⁷ and at least 17 major water systems across the South, Bekaa, and Baalbek-Hermel. The disruption of access to water for over 2.6 million people has created an environment ripe for public health causing crises within overcrowded shelters⁸. Furthermore, the targeted destruction of transport infrastructure, including several bridges over the Litani River including the Qasmieh Bridge targeted on 08 April, has effectively cut off people residing south of the Litani river from humanitarian convoys and essential medical supplies⁹.

On 16 April 2026, a **10-day ceasefire** was announced, triggering mixed reactions across Lebanon. While celebrations were reported in parts of Beirut, uncertainty persists regarding compliance and enforcement by the parties to the conflict. Many IDPs remain hesitant to return applying cautious approach and trying to assess the situation at their homes. Still, some families were reported to be moving toward southern villages and the southern suburbs of Beirut, despite security warnings. As of 20 April 2026, the number of Collective Shelters (CS) has decreased from **709** to **630** while population at CSs decreased from 141,733 to **111,600**). Following the ceasefire, several security incidents have been reported, including the targeting of vehicles in Qounine (Bint Jbeil). Many municipalities in the South urged residents not to return until the situation becomes clearer, while IDF have also issued warnings discouraging returns to areas south of the Litani River.¹⁰ The exclusion of the ten-kilometer buffer zone from the scope of the ceasefire is expected to significantly undermine guarantees for safe, voluntary, and dignified return, affecting a large number of IDPs, particularly those displaced from southern areas.



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Main Protection Risks and Concerns

Population Profile of Displaced

Affected Populations: The demographic profile of the displaced population reflects deep-seated vulnerabilities, with children and women constituting the vast majority of those currently in need of protection. Of the approximately 1.2 million individuals displaced as of mid-April, an estimated 390,000 are children, many of whom are experiencing the psychological trauma of repeated displacement after having been first uprooted during the 2024 hostilities.¹¹

Groups at Heightened Risk: The escalation has markedly intensified protection risks for specific marginalized groups, who face compounded and intersecting barriers to safety and assistance. Older persons and persons with disabilities remain among the most physically and socially isolated groups. As of 10 April, approximately 6,600 older persons and 2,876 persons with disabilities were recorded in CSs. Many face critical gaps in access to essential chronic medications, including for cancer and dialysis, alongside severe mobility constraints in non-accessible shelter environments.¹²

Female-headed households and adolescent girls continue to face elevated risks, with a recent UN Women analysis underscoring that overcrowding and lack of privacy in shelters are directly increasing exposure to household tensions and gender-based violence risks.¹³ Migrant workers including Bangladeshi, Ethiopian, Afghan, Egyptian, and Kenyan nationals are increasingly identified among affected populations, often in highly precarious conditions. Many have been abandoned by employers, lack valid residency or documentation, and face significant barriers to movement, assistance, and protection services. Their irregular legal status further heightens exposure to detention, exploitation, and exclusion from formal shelter systems. Reports also indicate that some remain trapped in conflict-affected areas without safe evacuation options or access to basic needs, including food and healthcare.

As per a recent assessment¹⁴ conducted with individuals lacking legal documentation by Frontiers, 48% of respondents reported displacement. Movements were primarily toward Beirut (27%), Aley (27%), and Akkar (17%), driven by proximity, relative stability, and existing social and family networks. Access to adequate shelter remains limited, with only 11% residing in collective shelters, while most rely on informal arrangements staying with relatives (31%) or renting (9%) often in overcrowded conditions that heighten protection risks, especially for those lacking legal documentation. Individuals who chose to stay cited perceiving their area as safe (61%), lack of alternative options (8%), as well as social/psychological burdens and physical or special needs constraints.

⁵ [Lebanon Humanitarian Flash Update No 17](#)

⁶ [WeWorld Flash Update #3 – Heavy attacks on Lebanon Deepen Destruction and Uncertainty \(09 April 2026\)](#)

⁷ [Tensions Monitoring System, Tensions Pulse 11 – 17 April 2026.](#)

⁸ [Lebanon Humanitarian Flash Update No. 6.](#)

⁹ [Lebanon: Israeli Strikes Kill hundreds, Damage Vital Bridge.](#)

¹⁰ [Tensions Monitoring System, Tensions Pulse 11 – 17 April 2026.](#)

¹¹ [Lebanon Humanitarian Flash Update No. 6.](#)

¹² [WHO Lebanon Health Emergency Situation Report #18 \(10 April 2026\)](#)

¹³ [Lebanon Humanitarian Flash Update No. 6.](#)

¹⁴ [Frontiers Rights – Analysis of the Displacement Situation and Needs of Stateless Persons During the Recent Israeli War 2026](#)

Since the escalation, UNHCR has assessed the needs of more than 18,000 displaced Syrians and refugees of other nationalities who have been displaced by the conflict and referred to humanitarian assistance and services.¹⁵ Growing reliance of displaced Syrians and refugees of other nationalities on host communities and informal arrangements is reducing visibility of their needs and constraining access to protection services. Informal settlements remain highly vulnerable to fires and arbitrary evictions, driving further secondary displacement and returns due to force majeure. While new displacement has stabilized and collective shelter capacity remains available, significant gaps persist in access to adequate shelter for post December 2024 arrivals from Syria. Top three needs reported by displaced Syrians are cash support (82%), food aid (45%) and shelter accommodation (30%).

Displacement Dynamics & Movement Patterns **Displacement Trends: Increasing and becoming more cyclical and unstable compared to the previous reporting period.**

Displacement during the reporting period is characterized by heightened fluidity, circularity, and fragmentation, driven by volatile shifts in hostilities and rapidly changing information around ceasefire. Compared to earlier reporting periods, where displacement was more linear and primarily south-to-north, recent dynamics show a clear shift toward repeated secondary and tertiary displacement cycles, reflecting reduced predictability and limited perception of safety even in areas of return.¹⁶ Following the brief pause in hostilities on 7 April, a significant number of families attempted to return to areas of origin in the South, including Nabatieh. However, renewed and intensified airstrikes on 8 April triggered immediate re-displacement, underscoring a shift from attempted stabilization (as observed in the previous snapshot [#1](#) and [#2](#)) to rapid reversal of return movements within 24–48 hours.

For Palestinian refugees, in Central Lebanon, families residing near Burj Barajneh, Shatila, and Mar Elias camps have temporarily moved within or between camps following nearby strikes and issued warnings.

In terms of cross border movement almost 300,000 individuals crossed into Syria since 02 March. This figure includes 250,961 Syrians and 43,803 Lebanese nationals.¹⁷

Main Routes Used by Displaced Families: Worsening restriction and corridor compression compared to the previous reporting period: Movement corridors have become increasingly constrained and concentrated, reflecting progressive degradation of mobility infrastructure across reporting periods. Compared to earlier reports where multiple north–south and intra-governorate routes remained partially functional, current dynamics show corridor compression due to sustained infrastructure damage and congestion pressures.

Primary land routes toward the North and the Bekaa including the coastal highway and mountain passes via Aley and Chouf continue to experience severe congestion as populations flee both the South and Beirut's southern suburbs.¹⁸ At the same time, destruction of critical infrastructure south of the Litani River, including bridges such as the Qasmieh Bridge, has significantly restricted access and exit options. This has left approximately 150,000 people still south of the Litani River with severely constrained mobility and limited access to humanitarian assistance¹⁹.

Cross-border movements toward Syria have also faced heightened disruption. The Masnaa/Jdeidat Yabous crossing was closed from 4 to 8 April (evening) due to security threats, redirecting flows toward the northern Arida crossing, which remained pedestrian-only, and the Jousieh crossing in the Bekaa²⁰. As of April 6, the cross-border movements resumed under increasingly restricted and fragmented access conditions. Compared to previous reporting periods, this reflects a more constrained but sustained outward mobility trend, with increasing reliance on fewer functional crossings.²¹

Areas of Initial Arrival and Temporary Accommodation: Increasing pressure and saturation, with declining absorption capacity compared to previous reporting period. The geography of displacement continues to shift as traditional reception areas reach saturation, marking a clear progression from earlier reports where Beirut and Mount Lebanon functioned as primary absorption zones with relatively higher capacity. Before the ceasefire, Beirut and Mount Lebanon hosted approximately 68% of the internally displaced populations, and due to insufficient capacity many new IDP arrivals were increasingly redirected toward the North (Tripoli and Akkar) and the Bekaa Valley reflecting a geographic redistribution of pressure compared to earlier phases of concentration in central governorates.²² In these areas, CSs, primarily public schools, were under severe strain until the announcement of the ceasefire. NRC reported that on average 15 people shared a single classroom and up to 23 people shared a single toilet, indicating a deterioration in living standards compared to earlier reporting periods where overcrowding was high but less extreme.

Attacks on Civilian Infrastructure, Access to Services and Shelter

Deteriorating sharply compared to the previous reporting period, with expansion of informal sheltering and reduced service availability.

Humanitarian infrastructure is under extreme and escalating strain, with a marked shift from capacity stress (as noted in earlier reports) to system-wide saturation and substitution into informal, high-risk coping arrangements. As of 16 April, more than 140,000 IDPs were hosted across 709 CSs, while close to

¹⁵ [UNHCR, Middle East Situation – Lebanon: Flash Update #7, 13-19 April 2026.](#)

¹⁶ [WeWorld Flash Update #3 – Heavy attacks on Lebanon Deepen Destruction and Uncertainty \(09 April 2026\)](#)

¹⁷ [UNHCR, Middle East Situation – Lebanon: Flash Update #7, 13-19 April 2026.](#)

¹⁸ [QCHA Lebanon: Flash Update #15 - Escalation of hostilities in Lebanon \(as of 6 April\)](#)

¹⁹ [QCHA Lebanon Flash Update #14 - Escalation of hostilities in Lebanon \(as of April 2\)](#)

²⁰ [L'Orient Today. Government Announces Reopening of Masnaa Border Crossing](#)
²¹ [IOM Escalation in the Middle East and Beyond - Mobility Report. 31 March - April 7 2026](#)

²² [IOM Escalation in the Middle East and Beyond - Mobility Report. 31 March - April 7 2026](#)

one million IDPs were residing outside formal shelters, including in private rentals, unfinished buildings, host communities, garages, and open public spaces.²³ This reflects a clear expansion of informal displacement modalities compared to earlier reporting periods, where reliance on collective shelters was comparatively higher.

In contrast, Palestinian camps are increasingly perceived as relatively safer, leading to inflows of displaced populations of different nationalities. This has resulted in overcrowding and increased pressure on already limited services. In displacement settings, including shelters, conditions are further strained by high population density and limited capacity, affecting living conditions and protection outcomes.

The health sector has experienced severe cumulative impacts. The World Health Organization (WHO) verified 92 attacks on healthcare facilities by 17 April, resulting in the full closure of 6 hospitals and 51 primary healthcare centers, predominantly in the South and Beirut's southern suburbs.²⁴ Compared to earlier reporting periods, this indicates a progressive erosion of service continuity and geographic concentration of healthcare availability in safer areas. These disruptions have resulted in critical gaps in maternal health services and chronic disease management. Pregnant women in overcrowded shelters report limited access to nutrition and obstetric care, while approximately 6,600 elderly persons in shelters continue to face acute challenges in accessing insulin, dialysis, and other life-sustaining treatments.

Restrictions to Freedom of Movement

Access to Municipalities & Entry Restrictions: Increasing restrictions compared to the previous reporting period, with growing de facto containment effects.

Movement restrictions remain severe, particularly for populations displaced south of the Litani River, where infrastructure destruction has effectively isolated more than 100,000 people. Compared to earlier reporting periods, there is a clear intensification of de facto containment effects, where physical infrastructure damage is increasingly compounded by administrative and municipal saturation.

Protection monitoring indicates that multiple municipalities have declared full occupancy of municipal buildings, private housing, and rental units. While not formal closures, these declarations function as de facto administrative entry barriers, significantly constraining onward movement and settlement options for newly displaced populations.²⁵ In Tyre and surrounding areas, isolation due to damaged infrastructure has further reduced access. These constraints are significantly undermining service delivery capacity and increasing reliance on limited community-based support mechanisms, which remain insufficient relative to needs.

Treatment at Checkpoints: Increasing protection risk and securitization compared to the previous reporting period.

Security measures along major transit routes and entry points to hosting areas have intensified, with increased documentation checks and vehicle searches by the Lebanese Armed Forces.

Compared to earlier reporting periods, this reflects a heightened securitization of displacement flows, particularly affecting non-Lebanese populations. Displaced Syrians and other non-Lebanese nationals face elevated risks due to lack of valid documentation, increasing exposure to detention and deportation. Cases have been reported of individuals with irregular status being stopped at checkpoints and instructed to return to areas of origin despite ongoing insecurity. Post-2024 Syrian arrivals and migrant workers face particularly severe mobility constraints, driven by heightened fear of detention or deportation. In some instances, the combination of restricted mobility and lack of viable shelter options has contributed to involuntary cross-border movements, indicating a blurring of forced and constrained mobility pathways under deteriorating protection conditions.



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Legal Identity, Documentation, and Access to Justice

Legal and Documentation needs: Increasing deterioration with expanded scale and severity of documentation loss and legal vulnerability compared to the previous reporting period.

The rapid and largely unplanned nature of displacement during the reporting period has generated a sharp increase in documentation-related protection needs, as many households fled with little or no prior notice. Protection monitoring indicates that a significant proportion of the approximately 1.1 million displaced individuals lost or were forced to leave behind essential civil documentation, including national ID cards, family booklets, and property deeds. These documents remain critical for accessing humanitarian assistance, registering children in education systems, and confirming residency at checkpoints.

Compared to earlier reporting periods, where documentation loss was present but more contained, the current phase reflects a broader scale of systemic documentation erosion linked to mass, repeated, and rapid displacement cycles, reducing households' ability to re-establish legal identity across locations.

Displaced Syrians are disproportionately affected, with irregular documentation status significantly increasing exposure to detention and deportation. Migrant workers face acute legal vulnerabilities linked to sponsorship (kafala-type) arrangements

²³ Interagency Collective Shelter Targeting Summary 15 April 2026

²⁴ WHO, Lebanon Health Emergency Situation Report #20 (17 April 2026).

²⁵ Lebanon Crisis Situation Analysis: Trends, Impacts, and Area Profiles – 8 April 2026.

and irregular entry pathways. Cases continue to be reported of individuals unable to renew residency due to absent or deceased sponsors, placing them at immediate risk of detention and deportation. Lack of formal documentation including absence of work or housing contracts further restricts access to justice and increases exposure to exploitation, forced eviction, and abuse. For both migrants and Syrian returnees who have re-entered irregularly, fear of arrest continues to significantly constrain access to services and legal remedies. For individuals lacking legal documentation, as per a recent assessment, only 48% of displaced individuals took their documents. Approximately one-third lacked documentation or had only partial documentation, increasing their legal vulnerability.

Access to Justice: Deteriorating sharply, with near-complete functional breakdown of justice and civil registry systems in affected areas compared to previous reporting period

Access to justice has been severely disrupted, with judicial infrastructure in high-conflict areas including the South, Nabatieh, and Beirut's southern suburbs effectively non-operational. The closure of local courts and civil registry offices has halted the registration of key civil events, including births, deaths, and marriages occurring during displacement.

Compared to earlier reporting periods, where judicial disruption was partial or localized, the current phase reflects a near-systemic paralysis of civil registration and justice services in affected areas, significantly deepening legal invisibility for displaced populations.

This creates heightened long-term risks of statelessness, particularly for newborn children born during displacement, and complicates future inheritance and property claims. The absence of functioning legal pathways also increases exposure to exploitation in informal rental markets and limits avenues for redress in cases of abuse or eviction.



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Stigmatization and Denial of Services

Increasing deterioration, with wider geographic spread and normalization of discrimination and social exclusion compared to previous reporting period.

Discrimination against non-Lebanese populations remains a persistent and increasingly visible protection concern. Migrants and Displaced Syrians continue to report exclusion from assistance, restricted access to CS, and discriminatory practices within the housing market. Misinformation and incitement, including through social media, have contributed to heightened hostility and reduced willingness among affected populations to seek support. Compared to earlier reporting periods, where stigmatization was present but more localized, the current phase reflects a clear intensification and broader normalization of discriminatory narratives, particularly in the context of sustained displacement pressure and shelter saturation. Migrant communities report acute food insecurity, loss of income, and limited humanitarian outreach, with some informal shelter arrangements at risk of closure due to funding constraints. These vulnerabilities are increasingly compounded by reduced service access and shrinking protection space.

Localized tensions have also escalated, particularly following the events of 8 April, as host communities and municipalities face mounting pressure from the displacement crisis nearing saturation thresholds. Anti-IDP discourse has intensified, often intersecting with sectarian narratives. Opposition, both online and in person, to the establishment of new collective shelters in areas such as Karantina and Ain Saade reflects growing resistance to further absorption of displaced populations.²⁶

In the private rental market, OHCHR reports continued discrimination, including refusal to rent to displaced families from specific backgrounds and demands for excessive security deposits. For those residing in public spaces such as the Beirut Waterfront, informal security arrangements and neighborhood-level screening practices restrict movement and increase exposure to verbal and physical harassment.²⁷ These dynamics indicate an increasing framing of displacement as a security concern rather than a humanitarian condition, contributing to self-exclusion from services among the most vulnerable groups.

Theft, Extortion, Forced Eviction and Housing Exploitation

Increasing deterioration with expansion of informal housing exploitation and eviction risks across groups compared to previous reporting period.

With collective shelter systems operating beyond capacity, the majority of IDPs are compelled to rely on informal and largely unregulated housing arrangements. This shift has significantly expanded exposure to exploitation within rental and accommodation markets. Compared to earlier reporting periods, where informal housing risks were present but less systematic, the current phase reflects a more entrenched and widespread pattern of housing exploitation linked to prolonged displacement and market saturation. Families from areas under evacuation orders face increasing eviction risks due to inability to meet rapidly rising rental costs, including inflated security deposits and informal fees. Migrant workers residing in informal or employer-linked accommodations face heightened vulnerability to forced eviction, particularly following loss of employment. In some cases, exploitative practices including wage withholding, confiscation of personal belongings, and coercion

²⁶ UNDP, [Tensions Monitoring System, Tensions Pulse 11 – 17 April 2026](#).

²⁷ [UNDP Weekly Tensions Pulse 21-27 March 2026](#).

have been reported, further compounding housing insecurity and limiting safe exit options.

Child Protection Risks, Family Separation and Access to Education

Increasing deterioration with rising cumulative psychosocial impact and expanded family separation patterns compared to previous reporting period.

Compared to earlier reporting periods, where child protection risks were already elevated but more concentrated in initial displacement phases, the current period reflects a deepening of cumulative psychosocial harm with widespread reports of distress, fear, and anxiety linked to prolonged and repeated displacement.

Child protection concerns remain critical, particularly for children outside CSs, where risks of violence, child labor, exploitation, and early marriage are increasing. Children in shelters are also facing protection risks due to limited supervision and overcrowded living conditions, which impact their safety and wellbeing. Reports indicate increasing instances of peer-to-peer aggression, as well as violent interactions between children and caregivers, often linked to stress, frustration, and prolonged displacement. These conditions underscore the urgent need to strengthen child safeguarding measures, provide structured activities and psychosocial support, and support caregivers with positive parenting approaches to mitigate risks and promote a safer environment for children.

Since 2 March, a total of 38 unaccompanied and separated children (UASC) has been identified, of whom 13 were successfully reunited with their caregivers or placed with extended family members, while the remaining are under active tracing and provided with necessary support. Among migrant and displaced populations, patterns of family separation are increasingly observed, including cases where dependents are sent across borders for safety while adult income earners remain in Lebanon. This dynamic significantly increases protection risks for both children and caregivers, including reduced supervision, increased exploitation risk, and weakened family-based protection mechanisms.

In general, Child Protection services demonstrate comparatively strong coverage in the North, Akkar, and Bekaa, where the majority of CSs are reached and no UASC have been identified within covered sites. In Beirut and Mount Lebanon, coverage remains more limited, with services extending to slightly over half of shelters. Across all regions, common operational constraints include insufficient child-friendly spaces and limited internet connectivity, which continue to affect access to learning and structured child-focused activities.

Also, the escalation has derailed the academic year for a large share of Lebanon's children, with hundreds of thousands experiencing abrupt learning interruption. Schools have shifted from learning spaces to emergency survival spaces, making sustained education delivery structurally impossible in many areas. Children lose materials, routines, safe study spaces, and

connections to teachers.²⁸ These developments signal that education is no longer intermittently disrupted but it is systematically inaccessible for a significant number of children of all nationalities living in Lebanon.

Gender based Violence Risks

Increasing deterioration, with broader exposure and reduced access to protective services.

According to UNFPA, approximately 620,000 IDPs are women and girls, including 13,500 pregnant women. The lack of privacy in CSs and informal accommodation continues to significantly heighten exposure to gender-based violence (GBV) risks, such as sexual harassment, exploitation, and intimate partner violence. Women and girls are also assuming increased caregiving responsibilities while simultaneously facing reduced access to services and protection mechanisms. Compared to earlier reporting periods, where GBV risks were already high but more localized around displacement sites, the current phase reflects a widening of exposure across both formal and informal shelter settings due to system-wide overcrowding and reduced protection space.

Migrant women face particularly heightened GBV risks, including severe exploitation linked to dependency on employers or informal agents. Documented cases include physical violence, sexual exploitation, deprivation of liberty, and coercion. Structural barriers including irregular legal status, fear of detention, and limited access to services significantly constrain reporting and access to assistance.



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Mental Health and Psychosocial Need

Increasing deterioration, with expanding and deepening psychosocial distress across affected population

Migrant workers and displaced non-Lebanese populations report elevated psychosocial distress driven by isolation, loss of income, exposure to violence, and uncertainty regarding legal status. Barriers accessing MHPSS services remain significant, including limited awareness, mobility constraints, and prioritization of immediate survival needs over psychosocial support.

²⁸ [Basmeh & Zeitooneh, Impact of the War on Children's Education in Lebanon.](#)

Compared to earlier reporting periods, where psychosocial distress was significant but less systematically documented across groups, the current phase reflects a more widespread and chronic pattern of distress linked to prolonged displacement and compounded vulnerabilities.

Inter-Communal Tensions

Intensification and formalization of exclusionary and restrictive local measures compared to previous reporting period.

Inter-communal tensions have escalated, particularly following the airstrike on Ain Saade and events on 8 April, which triggered a surge in inflammatory anti-IDP rhetoric, often with sectarian undertones. These dynamics have contributed to increased social fragmentation and heightened protection risks in displacement-hosting areas. Compared to earlier reporting periods, where tensions were present but more localized, the current phase reflects a clear escalation and geographic spread of inter-communal tensions linked to cumulative displacement pressure and service saturation.²⁹ Security-related incidents have also contributed to the emergence of localized screening practices by municipalities, alongside with increased host community calls for relocation of IDPs to more isolated areas. Some municipalities have implemented restrictive measures, including the Rmeich municipality's night curfew on displaced Syrians, further formalizing exclusionary practices at local level.

Rising pressure on services and prices has further exacerbated tensions, as the cost of fuel and other essential commodities continues to increase, intensifying competition over scarce resources and humanitarian assistance.³⁰

Priority Protection Response Gaps and Recommendations



Shelter and Overcrowding:

Overstretched and decongested collective shelter system: With majority of CSs operating at or beyond capacity, minimum standards for space, privacy, WASH, and safeguarding are severely compromised, disproportionately affecting women, children, older persons, and persons with disabilities.

- ⇒ **Recommendation:** Urgently expand safe and decentralized shelter options, including rehabilitation of alternative sites, while enforcing minimum protection standards and prioritizing decongestion of overcrowded schools and public buildings.

Protection from Exploitation and Eviction:

Protection coverage gaps in informal settlements and outside collective shelters: The majority of IDPs (nearly one million) are outside CSs, with limited systematic protection monitoring in informal sites, unfinished buildings, and public spaces. This has created significant blind spots in identifying protection risks, particularly for migrants, displaced Syrians, and other highly mobile or undocumented populations.

- ⇒ **Recommendation:** Scale up mobile protection teams and community-based outreach, prioritizing informal settlements, host communities, and urban informal sites across Beirut, Mount Lebanon, Bekaa, and the North, with strengthened disaggregated monitoring.



Legal Identity and Documentation

Bottlenecks with civil documentation and access to legal identity

The disruption of civil registries and court services has significantly constrained access to legal identity, including birth, death, and marriage registration. This is increasing risks of statelessness and long-term exclusion from services, particularly for newborns and undocumented populations.

- ⇒ **Recommendation:** Deploy mobile civil registration and legal aid services to restore basic documentation processes, prioritize urgent birth registration, and support replacement of lost civil documents, with targeted outreach to refugees and migrants.



Inter sectoral Coordination:

Limited coordination under rapidly expanding caseloads can affect response efficiency and efficacy: The scale and speed of displacement has exceeded current coordination and surge response capacity, risking fragmentation across sectors and uneven service delivery.

- ⇒ **Recommendation:** Strengthen inter-sectoral coordination mechanisms, enhance surge planning, and ensure integrated response planning across protection, shelter, health, MHPSS and education actors.



Access to Services:

Severe gaps in healthcare access and service continuity:

The closure of hospitals and PHCs, alongside broader system saturation, has created critical gaps in maternal health, chronic disease management, and emergency care, particularly in the South and Beirut's southern suburbs.

- ⇒ **Recommendation:** Restore and scale mobile health units and PHC functionality, strengthen referral pathways for chronic and emergency care, and prioritize continuity of maternal, neonatal, and life-saving services.

Insufficient targeted protection services for high-risk groups:

Migrants, displaced Syrians, women and girls, children, older persons, and persons with disabilities face uneven and often limited access to specialized protection services, including GBV, child protection, education and MHPSS support.

- ⇒ **Recommendation:** Expand targeted, specialized protection programming, including GBV case management, child protection services, disability-inclusive response, and migrant-sensitive protection mechanisms.



Overstretched case management capacity: Rapidly increasing caseloads have outpaced existing referral and case

Hajar, and her daughter, Jana, were living in Kfar Sir, Nabatiyeh, in the south of the country before the recent escalation forced them to flee once more. © UNHCR/Houssam Hariri

²⁹ UNDP, Tensions Monitoring System, Tensions Pulse 11 – 17 April 2026.

³⁰ UNDP, Tensions Monitoring System, Tensions Pulse 11 – 17 April 2026.

management systems, leading to bottlenecks in GBV, CP, MHPSS, and legal aid services.

- ⇒ **Recommendation:** Strengthen Inter-Agency referral pathways for emergency response, increase case management staffing and surge capacity, and streamline coordination between protection, health, and shelter actors.



Freedom of Movement:

Restricted mobility and protection risks at checkpoints and municipalities: Damaged infrastructure, checkpoint practices, and municipal entry restrictions are limiting freedom of movement and exposing non-Lebanese populations particularly Syrians and migrants to detention, deportation, or forced return risks.

- ⇒ **Recommendation:** Engage authorities to ensure protection-sensitive mobility management, reduce arbitrary restrictions, and prevent forced returns to unsafe areas, while ensuring humanitarian exemptions for vulnerable groups.