




HIGHLIGHTS

- New report says half of all 68 UNRWA schools in Lebanon have been directly impacted by conflict and violence.
- 'Grand Bargain' at World Humanitarian Summit sees donors commit to more and longer-term funding in exchange for greater efficiency and transparency from aid agencies.
- Nearly \$30 million in cash assistance delivered to vulnerable families in Lebanon since January.
- Around 60 million people – half of them children – are displaced around the world.

FIGURES

# of refugees	1,048,275
52.5 %  47.5 %  53 % 	
# of returnees	35,000
# of Palestine Refugees from Syria (PRS)	40,807
# of Palestine Refugees from Lebanon (PRL)	277,985
# of targeted host communities	1,500,000
Total Lebanese population	4.4 M

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Palestinian refugee girls in class. Source: UNRWA

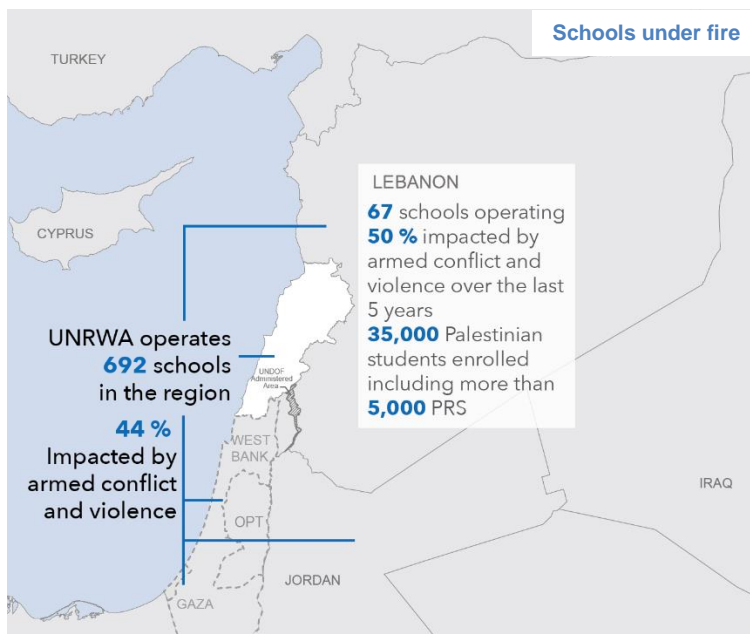
In this issue

- UNRWA schools impacted by conflict P.1
- WHS sets course for global response P.3
- Supporting families through cash P.4
- Funding update P.5
- Education for youth in Bab el Tebbaneh P.6

Half of all UNRWA schools impacted by conflict

New report highlights damage and disruption to Palestinian schools

Nearly half of all UNRWA schools, from Gaza to Lebanon, have been directly impacted by armed conflict and violence since the beginning of the Syria crisis, according to a new report released by UNRWA at the [World Humanitarian Summit](#) (WHS). In 'Schools in the front line', UNRWA estimates that 302 – or 44 per cent – of all its schools have been directly affected by violence in the last five years, either through physical damage or a significant disruption of education services. In Syria, 34 of the 118 UNRWA schools have been fully or partially damaged, and 12 currently operate as collective shelters for over 2,500 IDPs.



Schools are also severely affected by conflict in Lebanon: in an [opinion piece](#) published on 23 May, UNRWA commissioner-general Pierre Krähenbühl says over 50 per cent of the Agency's schools in Lebanon have been impacted at one time or another, with classes suspended for up to a week at a time.

UNRWA schools play a key role in Lebanon, as Palestine refugees face many challenges in accessing public schools in the country. The 67 UNRWA-operated schools serving the Palestine refugees who live in the 12 camps and 42 gatherings in Lebanon operate in very challenging conditions to provide education to almost 35,000 Palestine refugee students, including about 5,000 Palestine refugee children from Syria.

Major challenges in Ein el Hilweh camp

The UNRWA report highlights Ein el Hilweh camp (EEH) in Saida, southern Lebanon, which experiences frequent unrest, including violent confrontations between armed groups which took place in August 2015. During the fighting, six out of nine UNRWA schools in EEH sustained major damage due to small-arms fire and rocket-propelled grenades, and seven

of the schools were used or entered by members of the armed factions. The report notes that 810 students left EEH schools after the clashes because of security concerns.

During his visit to EEH camp on 18 May, Lebanon Humanitarian Coordinator Philippe Lazzarini visited Marj Ben Amer school, one of the schools that was occupied by armed men during the August clashes, alongside the heads of UNDP and OCHA as well as the Deputy Director of UNRWA. Nesrin Ayoub, the school principal, highlighted severe damage to the school, from unexploded ordnance to shattered windows and bullet-pocked walls. After repairing the classrooms, UNRWA organized intensive psychosocial support for students and teachers. The students also follow a rigorous evacuation drill to reach designated safe havens during the frequent eruptions of violence in the camp.

Promoting education in emergencies

Since it was created in 1949, UNRWA has educated three generations of Palestine refugees, or more than four million refugee children. Altogether, the Agency's 692 schools in the Gaza Strip, Jordan, Lebanon, Syria and the West Bank currently provide free education for around half a million refugee children.

In response to the intense violence affecting its schools,

UNRWA is implementing an 'Education in Emergencies' programme that aims to ensure continued education for Palestinian children during violence and conflict. The strategy includes strengthening the security of schools, identifying alternative safe learning spaces, engaging in advocacy, and providing psychosocial support to students and teachers.

Schools are protected civilian spaces under international humanitarian law. Following UNRWA-led advocacy in August 2015, the EEH Higher Security Committee released a statement "condemning the use of UNRWA installations for armed operations" and stating that "this should not be repeated".

UNRWA's approach was highlighted at the WHS side event on 'Delivering quality education in emergencies', where ten organizations shared practical experiences and discussed innovative solutions to the challenges of providing education in conflicts and emergencies. One of the key outcomes of the WHS was the launch of 'Education Cannot Wait', a Fund for Education in Emergencies that mobilized an initial commitment of \$90 million from donors and the private sector, with greater commitments expected in the run-up to the next UN General Assembly in September.

UNRWA calls for more education funding as \$81 million deficit looms

With the 2016-2017 school year just around the corner, the UNRWA report urges all armed actors not to target its schools or use them for military purposes, and to guarantee children's safe access to schools. Funding for the new school year also remains a key issue for the Agency, which faces an \$81 million deficit.

The report calls on donors to continue to fund the Agency's education, protection and psychosocial support activities. In his 23 May opinion piece, Pierre Krähenbühl highlighted the example of EEH schoolgirl Batoul, a 14-year-old Palestine refugee from Syria who lost her father and brother in the war but went on to become the highest-performing student in her school. "Batoul has shown the courage to act," he wrote. "We must act decisively to help her and hundreds of thousands of UNRWA students realize the dreams they are working so hard to keep alive."

During the August 2015 unrest, six out of nine UNRWA schools in EEH sustained major damage due to small-arms fire and rocket-propelled grenades.



Humanitarian Coordinator Philippe Lazzarini and School Principal Nesrine Ayoub at Marj Ben Amer school at Ein el Hilweh camp. Source: UNRWA/Ghazi Elamry

World Humanitarian Summit sets new course for emergency response

Global commitment to better funding and more effective aid

The first-ever [World Humanitarian Summit](#) has sealed a “Grand Bargain” that aims to reshape humanitarian aid financing and reduce the suffering of millions of people around the world.

Donors and aid agencies signed up to the deal which strives to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of investment in the emergency response. Donors



UNSG Ban Ki-moon and Turkish President Erdogan on stage at the closing ceremony of the WHS. Source: OCHA

The ‘Grand Bargain’ struck at the Summit strives to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of investment in the emergency response.

will commit to providing more and longer-term funding, along with less earmarking. In exchange, aid agencies have committed to greater efficiency and transparency – and less competition – in raising and spending the funds. The deal also entails more engagement with the private sector; a rethink of World Bank financing eligibility criteria to help middle-income countries like Lebanon and Jordan which are hosting a large number of Syrian refugees; a bridging of the humanitarian-development divide; and a greater focus on crisis prevention and disaster risk reduction.

The Summit, held on 23-24 May in Istanbul, brought together 173 Member States, 55 Heads of State and Governments, around 350 private sector representatives, and over 2,000 people from civil society and NGOs. Altogether, some 1,500 commitments were made in addition to the Grand Bargain, including:

- The [‘Education Cannot Wait’ Fund](#) to help provide quality education to children and youth in crises (see article on UNRWA schools).
- The [Global Preparedness Partnership](#) to better prepare 20 countries most at-risk of crisis.
- The [One Billion Coalition for Resilience](#) which aims to mobilize one billion people to build safer and more stable communities worldwide.

A call for transformative change

Addressing reporters at the end of the Summit, UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon called for the commitments to be taken forward to create transformative change from the top down and from the ground up.

“We have the wealth, knowledge and awareness to take better care of one another. But we need action, based on the [five core responsibilities](#) of the [Agenda for Humanity](#),” Ban stressed, referring to the principles that guided the hundreds of events organized at the Summit.

In September, the Secretary General will report to the United Nations General Assembly on the Summit’s achievements. He will also propose ways to take the commitments forward through intergovernmental processes, inter-agency forums and other mechanisms.

Humanitarian suffering at its worst since World War II

The World Humanitarian Summit took place at a critical juncture in history, as the world witnesses the highest level of humanitarian needs since the Second World War. The Summit built on the Agenda for Humanity report, which called on global leaders to commit to action and reduce humanitarian suffering.

In 2016, 130 million people need humanitarian assistance. Around 60 million people have been forced to flee their homes due to conflict and violence – half of them children. The cost of humanitarian assistance has increased by 600 per cent over the last decade.

The Summit was the largest-scale humanitarian event in the United Nations' 70-year history. Its impact will now be measured in the implementation of the commitments made by aid organizations and the donor community around the globe.

The cost of humanitarian assistance has increased by 600 per cent over the last decade.

Lebanon at the World Humanitarian Summit

Prime Minister Tamam Salam represented Lebanon at the Summit alongside the Ministers of Social Affairs, Rashid Derbas, and Education, Elias Bou Saab. [Addressing a roundtable](#) entitled 'Leave no one behind', PM Salam stressed that humanitarian assistance alone is not a solution, emphasizing that development assistance is crucial in ensuring sustainable growth to create job opportunities and fight poverty in host communities as well as among the displaced and refugees. "Today more than ever, this model is the best, knowing that the priority while seeking durable solutions should be the return of the displaced and the refugees [to their homeland]," he said.

PM Salam noted that the Government of Lebanon presented a five-year plan to the [London Conference](#) in February covering education, economic growth, and job opportunities. Salam added that the success of this plan depended on international partners adequately responding and supporting Lebanon.

Supporting vulnerable families through cash

Cash programming takes on a major role in the Lebanon response

Cash assistance is increasingly common in the emergency response around the world, as a more dignified and versatile way to let vulnerable families prioritize their own needs. Lebanon is at the forefront in this area, with many actors turning to cash assistance to support Syrian and Palestinian refugees as well as vulnerable Lebanese. Overall, an estimated \$29.8 million has been delivered through cash in Lebanon since January 2016 in sectors ranging from food security to shelter, WASH, protection and basic assistance. Recognizing Lebanon's pioneering role in cash responses, the Lebanon Cash Consortium co-organized a [side event](#) at the World Humanitarian Summit on 'Four Ways to Join the Cash Revolution'. OCHA Lebanon also hosted a global OCHA workshop on cash in April to analyze the role of cash within the humanitarian programme cycle.

Cash assistance in Lebanon:



The [Lebanon Humanitarian Fund](#) contributed \$6.1 million to multipurpose cash assistance in early 2016 to support 18,150 people across the country. Just over half of the funding will

go to supporting 9,150 highly vulnerable Syrian refugees, with the rest of the envelope helping 9,000 vulnerable Lebanese people who live under the extreme poverty line.

A safety net for the poorest families

By April 2016, more than 42,000 households in Lebanon received multipurpose cash transfers of \$175 per household per month to help them cover their rent, debt and health expenses. The Energy & Water, Protection and Shelter sectors also use cash in areas including shelter and water trucking. Cash assistance is an especially effective way to support communities during the Lebanese winter: this year, extremely vulnerable families received four types of cash assistance during the cold months, from food vouchers to winter cash for heating fuel and winter clothing.

The injection of cash into affected communities can also stimulate local markets. Since 2013, WFP has injected \$615 million directly into the Lebanese economy through its e-card system.

Scaling-up cash assistance

Despite the recent advances in multipurpose cash assistance in Lebanon (see graph), nearly 80,000 extremely vulnerable families who meet the target criteria are not yet receiving cash assistance, and risk falling deeper into acute poverty. Humanitarians are gradually scaling up cash assistance in the country, and ultimately aim to reach 128,000 extremely vulnerable households per month.

Since 2013, WFP has injected \$615 million directly into the Lebanese economy through its e-card system.

Funding updates

Lebanon Country Response Plan

As reported in the [April Humanitarian Bulletin](#), resources received and committed for Lebanon in the first quarter of 2016 totalled \$1.15 billion. Of that total, \$468 million have been allocated in support of the [Lebanon Crisis Response Plan](#), covering 19 per cent of the Plan's overall requirements. In addition to this, UN agencies, NGO partners and the World Bank have reported a carry-over from 2015 of approximately \$333 million. The next round of updated figures on resources coming to Lebanon, including in support of the LCRP, will be available at the end of June 2016 and will be featured in the next issue of the Humanitarian Bulletin.

Post-London Conference funding

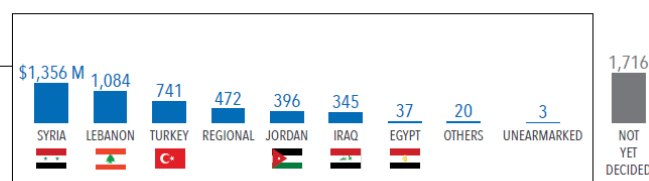
At the [London Conference](#) in February, donors pledged \$12 billion dollars for Syria and the region to meet the immediate and longer-term needs of people whose lives are being torn apart by the Syrian war. The funding – which will go towards the humanitarian response as well as development support – includes \$6 billion for 2016 and \$6.1 billion for 2017-2020.

Around 72 per cent of the pledged funds have been allocated to specific countries: Syria has been allocated \$1.3 billion followed by \$1.08 billion for Lebanon, \$741 million for Turkey and smaller amounts for Jordan, Iraq and Egypt.

BY RECIPIENT COUNTRY

72%

of pledged funds have been allocated for a recipient country affected by the crisis.



Education for at-risk youth in Bab el Tebbaneh

Programme gives a chance to vulnerable children

In the heart of Bab el Tebbaneh, one of Tripoli's poorest neighborhoods, the 'Preventive Centre for Children' is helping vulnerable youth who have become their families' breadwinners or are at risk of dropping out of school.

Established in 2005 by the Rene Moawad Foundation (RMF), the centre is a common space for vulnerable Lebanese, Syrians and Palestinians to engage in educational, recreational, and psychosocial activities.

Bab el Tebbaneh is one of the most vulnerable cadasters in Lebanon. Many children have dropped out of school and work in small shops, garages, and unsafe environments for long hours for just \$7 per week, according to RMF.

Many children in Bab el Tebbaneh have dropped out of school and are working for just \$7 per week, according to the Foundation.

Under the educational programme, the centre offers a series of support classes targeting schoolchildren at risk of dropping out; catch-up classes for out-of-school children as well as working youth and street children; and literacy classes aimed at illiterate children who are under the legal working age. The centre also offers vocational training for children between 14 and 18 who have dropped out of school and are working, in line with Lebanese Labor Law. Many of the activities also support the children's parents.



Young men and women taking part in educational activities at the centre. Source: OCHA

"We feel productive here and this place gives us hope for a better future," says one of the young girls taking part in the centre's educational activities. "The teachers here treat us as their friends", adds another youngster, "and this makes us comfortable and attached to the centre."



The entrance to the Preventive Centre for Children in Bab el Tebbaneh, Tripoli. Source: OCHA

RMF has created art, music, dance, cultural and sports clubs led by trained and specialized animators. The centre's rooftop has been transformed into a football field, and the youth organize matches after classes and during breaks.

Support from the [Lebanon Humanitarian Fund](#) goes to educational activities as well as psychosocial services at the centre, including life-skill activities and case management.

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