UNHCR
The UN Refugee Agency

In a collective shelter in Furn Chebbak, Sabrina now shares a small space with her three boys. She said, "As a mother, displacement is hard. I fear most for my children, especially that their education might be interrupted. No matter how exhausted we feel, we have to remain strong for them." ©UNHCR

PEOPLE FORCED TO FLEE

1,049,328
Displaced people registered through Lebanon's government relief platform (Source: MoSA 1 April at 17:00)

137,774
Internally displaced people hosted in collective shelters (Source: DRM as of 5 April 2026 at 17:00)

677
Operational emergency collective shelters (Source: DRM as of 5 April 2026 at 17:00)

206,466
Syrians who have crossed back to Syria between 2 March – 5 April (Source: Syria GAPC)

36,794
Lebanese have crossed to Syria between 2 March – 5 April (Source: Syria GAPC)

OVERVIEW

- **Continued escalation and geographic spread of hostilities**
  Conflict continues to intensify across Lebanon, with airstrikes, artillery fire, and ground operations reported in the South, Nabatiyeh, Tyre District, and Beirut's southern suburbs, while evacuation warnings and strikes have expanded to new areas, including in West Bekaa. Israeli officials have publicly stated their intention to establish a security zone up to the Litani River, raising concerns about prolonged displacement and destruction of civilian villages.
- **Humanitarian access increasingly constrained**
  Ongoing airstrikes, destruction of roads and bridges, and the repositioning of Lebanese security forces away from some southern border areas are restricting humanitarian access to several hard-to-reach locations. Israeli strikes have damaged critical infrastructure, including water stations and hospitals, while movement restrictions and insecurity continue to delay aid convoys and assessments in the southern suburbs of Beirut, several areas in the Bekaa, and parts of southern Lebanon.
- **Growing social tensions and strain on host communities**
  Tensions are increasing in several areas hosting displaced populations, driven by overcrowded shelters, perceived imbalances in aid distribution, school closures linked to shelter use, rising living costs and misinformation. There have been reported disputes between displaced families and residents and growing public concern over insecurity and theft, prompting a warning from President Aoun on 30 March against threats to civil peace, stating any attempt to undermine stability would be met with firm action. UNHCR and partners are responding by surging community engagement and communication aimed at reducing tensions and improving trust.
- **Devastating impact on civilians**
  As of 5 April, Lebanese authorities report 1,461 people killed and 4,430 injured, including 129 children and 97 women. Refugees have also been directly affected, with 119 refugee casualties recorded, including 38 fatalities and 81 injuries, underscoring the growing impact of the conflict on displaced and refugee populations.

COORDINATION

Under the leadership of the Minister of Social Affairs and within the Lebanon Response Plan (LRP) framework, UNHCR Lebanon co-leads the Inter-Sector Coordination Group with the Ministry of Social Affairs (MoSA), OCHA, and UNDP. UNHCR also co-leads the Protection Sector with MoSA and Oxfam; 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.

In situations of internal displacement, UNHCR plays a coordination and response role within the sectors it co-leads with the Government and NGOs, while maintaining overall responsibility for the refugee response in line with its mandate.

SPOTLIGHT: REACHING PEOPLE IN CONFLICT AREAS

While more than a million people have been displaced by the ongoing conflict, **an estimated 150,000 people remain in hard-to-reach areas** in southern Lebanon and the Bekaa, unable to leave due to insecurity, isolation, health needs, or lack of alternatives. UNHCR and partners continue to adapt operations to reach people where movement is no longer possible.

In Tyre, one of the most affected areas in southern Lebanon. UNHCR is delivering essential relief items to families in need. ©UNHCR

In southern border villages like Rmeish, Ain Ebel, and Debel, an estimated **10,000 people remain**, despite escalating hostilities and evacuation warnings. Roads are unsafe or cut, connectivity is intermittent, and access to medicines is limited, with damage to nearby hospitals further restricting access to healthcare. Working with partners and local authorities, UNHCR is delivering life-saving assistance to hard-to-reach areas through inter-agency and UNHCR-supported convoys.

In the **Bekaa**, evacuation orders in southern West Bekaa triggered sudden displacement into neighbouring villages. Al Qaraoun, a town of around **7,000 residents**, received **more than 4,000 displaced people** in a short period, placing intense pressure on services and housing. Some families later returned to unsafe areas after finding no viable shelter alternatives. UNHCR and partners delivered essential household items to hard-to-reach sites such as Majdel Balhis, while local authorities requested the pre-positioning of emergency supplies in anticipation of further access constraints.

Across these locations, the response reflects a common reality: reaching people who did not flee requires coordination and persistence. UNHCR and partners are continuing to adjust delivery models to ensure that civilians trapped by conflict are not left without assistance, even as access becomes more difficult.

UNHCR RESPONSE

The escalation of violence is causing profound fear, anxiety, and psychological strain, especially among communities already exhausted by years of instability and repeated displacement. To meet the increasing humanitarian needs of displaced Lebanese and refugees, UNHCR and its partners are providing lifesaving protection services, shelter assistance, core relief items (CRIs), and cash support. Alongside the emergency response to internal displacement, UNHCR continues implementing its essential protection, including community-based protection, shelter, multi-purpose cash assistance and durable solutions programmes for the refugee population, which are now more critical than ever as the refugees are also impacted in multiple ways by the escalation of hostilities.

PROTECTION

Overcrowding, lack of privacy, and insecurity in collective shelters are driving secondary protection risks, including violence against women and girls, child protection concerns, exploitation, and psychological distress. Women, children, older people, and people with disabilities are disproportionately affected. Non-Lebanese displaced populations – including refugees, migrants, and stateless people – face additional barriers accessing shelters, services and documentation, pushing many into unsafe or informal living arrangements in places of displacement. Protection monitoring continues to identify urgent needs for shelter support, food, cash assistance, and civil documentation, with many families facing eviction or returning to unsafe areas due to a lack of viable alternatives. Children make up a large share of the displaced, with widespread distress, disrupted education, heightened family separation risks and rising child labour. Repeated displacement and overcrowded shelter conditions continue to undermine children's sense of safety and well-being.

How UNHCR is responding

Since the escalation, UNHCR and protection sector parters have reached 73,237 displaced people with services ranging from information and awareness sessions, psychosocial support, community-based interventions, case management for people with specific needs, and emergency protection cash assistance. Protection services are delivered both inside and outside collective shelters, prioritising families with pre-existing vulnerabilities or facing displacement-related risks, barriers to services and unsafe living conditions.

Creating safe spaces for children through sport

"We run sports activities here to build life skills, where children learn critical thinking, problem solving, cooperation, and respect. Our main goal is to relieve their stress, as they have been through a lot, and now they are living in a collective shelter. Some of them lost their homes."

Hasan Mohammad Doayfi, Lebanese coach, supporting displaced children through sports activities in a collective shelter. © UNHCR

- **Early identification of families at risk of eviction in Saida:** As displacement from southern Lebanon continues, families arriving in **Saida** are often hosted temporarily by relatives or acquaintances, placing them at **imminent risk of eviction** once hosting arrangements can no longer be sustained.

  UNHCR's partner **Caritas** has carried out **18 detailed household needs assessments** in Saida and surrounding areas, identifying families with no safe shelter, serious medical conditions, older persons living alone, and female-headed households. These assessments directly inform referrals for **cash assistance, shelter support, and protection services**, allowing assistance to reach families before they are forced to move again.

- **Protection support for families affected by airstrikes in Tyre:** Repeated airstrikes in **Tyre District** caused civilian casualties among both Lebanese and refugee families. In one confirmed incident, an airstrike hit a vehicle, killing a **father and two sons**, leaving surviving family members displaced and in shock.

  UNHCR, through its local partner **Amel Foundation**, followed up with hospitals, municipalities and affected families to verify casualties and assess urgent needs. Surviving family members were referred for **material assistance and psychosocial support**, with continued protection follow-up planned.

Children take part in activities in a collective shelter. According to UNICEF, children account for 367,000 of the more than one million people displaced in Lebanon. Activities organised by UNHCR and partners help provide routine, psychosocial support and a sense of normalcy for displaced children. © UNHCR

- **Expanding access to remote learning for displaced children:** Displacement and insecurity has disrupted access to schooling for large numbers of children, leaving families uncertain about how education can continue. To support continuity of learning, UNHCR is working with the Ministry of Education and UNICEF to help families access national remote education solutions. UNHCR directly

reached **157,000 households** with school-aged children through SMS and shared guidance via **WhatsApp messages to 73,000 subscribers**, guiding caregivers to available remote learning options and updated information on the HELP website.

SHELTER AND CORE-RELIEF ITEMS

Shelter needs remain acute. While more than **136,000 displaced people** are accommodated in over **660 government-designated collective shelters** – most operating at or near full capacity – the majority of displaced households are residing outside collective shelters, staying with family and friends, in rental accommodation, or in informal and sub-standard housing.

Collective shelters are largely public schools not designed for prolonged habitation, resulting in overcrowding, insufficient sleeping space, limited privacy, and uneven living conditions. Shortages of basic household items such as mattresses, blankets and partitioning materials continue to affect dignity and safety, particularly for families with specific needs.

For those outside formal shelters, accommodation arrangements are temporary and non-durable, exposing households to eviction, heightened protection risks, and the prospect of secondary displacement, while also placing strain on host communities. In hard-to-reach areas in the South and the Bekaa, damage to infrastructure and access constraints further limit families' ability to secure adequate shelter and essential household items.

How UNHCR is responding

UNHCR and its partners are working in close coordination with the Ministry of Social Affairs and the Government Disaster Management structures to ensure that people forced to flee areas under attack and evacuation orders can access shelter and essential household items as quickly as possible. The Shelter Sector and UNHCR have initiated the assessment and repair of 578 collective sites. To date, 368 sites have been assessed as requiring repairs, with works underway in 126 sites, including 33 completed.

- **Strengthening shelter conditions to address health risks:** Overcrowding and limited sanitation in collective shelters in **Beirut and Mount Lebanon** have led to **confirmed cases of scabies and lice**, raising health and protection concerns, particularly for children and older persons.

  Following partner alerts, health authorities deployed medical teams to affected shelters to provide case-by-case treatment. Partners agreed on a joint WASH–Health–Shelter approach to address sanitation conditions and reduce the risk of further transmission. This joint response will help contain outbreaks while preserving dignity in highly congested shelters.

UNHCR provides partitioning and other shelter rehabilitation for displaced families in collective shelters in the North. ©UNHCR/Houssam Hariri

- **Adapting shelters to improve privacy and security:** Many collective shelters are schools not designed for habitation, leaving families sharing classrooms with little privacy, increasing risks for women, girls, and children. Internal WASH upgrades and the installation of partitions to enhance privacy and increase site capacity are simple adaptations that are helping reduce exposure to protection risks and making living conditions more secure for families sheltering in shared spaces.

- **Supporting people in collective shelters damaged in Beirut airstrike:** In the early hours of **1 April**, an airstrike in the Jnah area of Beirut damaged **three collective shelters** hosting displaced families. Shattered windows caused **multiple injuries**, including to children, and triggered widespread panic. Hundreds of residents briefly fled the shelters before returning, while children and caregivers showed signs of acute psychological distress.

  With local partners, including the **Makhzoumi Foundation**, UNHCR immediately follow-up, verifying injuries, identifying missing persons, and referring affected families for **medical care, psychosocial support, emergency relief items and shelter repairs**. Shelter specialists were mobilised to assess urgent safety and weatherproofing needs to restore basic protection inside the damaged sites.

Living through repeated displacement: Voices from Lebanon

"We left our home in 2023. We moved to a village in Nabatiyeh, then in 2024 to Mount Lebanon. And now we are here in Saida."

Israa, a displaced Lebanese woman, describing repeated displacement due to years of conflict.

"You being here, you hearing us, and coming just to see us – that is a huge support."

Israa shared her story during a visit to a public school turned collective shelter in Saida by UNHCR's Representative in Lebanon, Karolina Lindholm Billing, together with the Chinese Ambassador to Lebanon, H.E. Chen Chuandong, who met with displaced families affected by ongoing hostilities. © UNHCR

CASH ASSISTANCE

For displaced families living outside collective shelters, cash is by far the preferred modality of assistance. Rising rents, hosting fatigue, and limited shelter options are increasing eviction risks, while lack of income is forcing families to make difficult trade-offs between essential needs. Cash shortages to cover basic needs are contributing to negative coping strategies, including child labour and repeated movement or returns to unsafe areas when families can no longer afford accommodation or basic services.

How UNHCR is responding

Access to predictable cash remains critical to help displaced households meet basic needs, reduce protection risks, and avoid further deterioration of living conditions.

- **Emergency cash aligned with national shock-response systems:** In response to the escalation, approximately 37,000 refugee families affected by displacement and conflict have been included in emergency multi-purpose cash assistance (EMPCA), using a targeting and transfer approach aligned with the Government-led Shock Responsive Safety Net, which is providing emergency payments to Lebanese households from evacuated areas. Of these, approximately 27,000 vulnerable displaced families have already received payments in joint action with WFP, while the remaining households are undergoing remote card validation through the MyUNHCR digital platform, allowing households to confirm their details without travelling or queuing at distribution points. These measures are critical to preventing negative coping strategies and premature returns to unsafe areas as displacement becomes increasingly protracted. The emergency transfer value was capped at **USD 145 per household**, composed of USD 20 per person for food needs (up to five household members) and USD 45 for essential non-food needs, ensuring rapid, standardised support to families from conflict-affected areas.
- **Cash remains accessible despite banking disruptions:** Cash redemption rates remained high at 95% in March. Of 178 ATMs assessed, 88% remained operational, although closures mean that Baalbek, Nabatiyeh and Marjeyoun are expected to have no functioning ATMs once remaining machines are depleted. To mitigate this, 86% of 141 assessed money transfer operator locations remained operational, including continued coverage in Baalbek and Nabatiyeh. Families were informed of available withdrawal points through SMS and the HELP website, enabling continued access to cash despite infrastructure damage.
- **Coordinated expansion of emergency cash across populations:** To support a harmonised emergency cash response, a EMPCA Task Team was activated, co-led by UNHCR, to develop common operational guidance, targeting approaches and an emergency assistance basket across populations. In parallel, UNHCR held bilateral coordination with Secours Islamique France to prepare emergency cash assistance targeting Lebanese, Syrian and Palestinian families in Saida and Jezzine, with implementation planned once selection criteria are finalised. These efforts aim to scale emergency cash delivery while avoiding duplication and ensuring complementarity with protection and shelter responses.

Stateless people face heightened risks

Nearly **half of stateless respondents** surveyed in March **reported being displaced**, with only 11% able to access collective shelters and widespread documentation gaps limiting access to services.

Among stateless households, **financial assistance was identified as the top priority need by 60% of displaced respondents**, reflecting acute income loss and limited access to formal support mechanisms.

UNHCR Emergency Appeal for Lebanon

USD 61 million

The Lebanon Flash Appeal calls for **US$ 308.3 million** to provide lifesaving assistance and protection to one million affected people over three months, from March to May 2026. Within the framework of this appeal, **UNHCR requires US$ 61 million** to reach **600,000** displaced people with protection, shelter, core-relief items, and cash assistance. These programs 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 over the three-month period. Confirmed funding and projections against the emergency appeal reach approximately **a third of needs** to date.

As of March 2026, UNHCR in Lebanon was only **around 20% funded** – with overall needs totalling US$ 472.3 million. Flexible and timely contributions are essential to:

- Maintain live-saving protection services;
- Improve and scale-up collective shelters so they are safe, dignified, and accessible;
- Provide financial support to the most vulnerable displaced households, especially those outside shelters;
- Replenish essential supplies so that UNHCR can respond quickly to 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. Special thanks to France, the EU, Ireland, Italy, Norway, Sweden, and Switzerland for their swift support to UNHCR's emergency response.

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

Australia I Austria | Canada I China | Denmark I European Union I Finland | Germany I Iceland | Ireland | Italy I Monaco I Netherlands (Kingdom of the) I Norway | Republic of Korea I Sweden I Switzerland | Private donors

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