

# Lebanon

August 2021

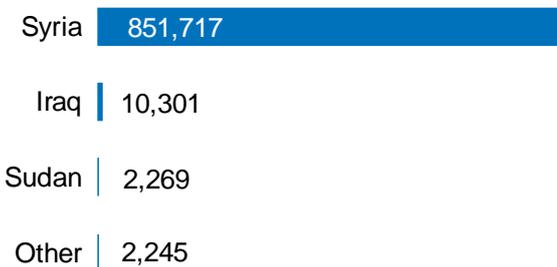
Lebanon remains the country hosting the **largest number of refugees per capita**, with the Government estimation of **1.5 M Syrian refugees** + some 14,815 refugees of other nationalities.

The socio-economic downturn coupled with the COVID-19 pandemic and Beirut blast have all contributed to **88% of the Syrian refugees living in extreme poverty**.<sup>1</sup>

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

## POPULATION OF CONCERN

(registered refugees)

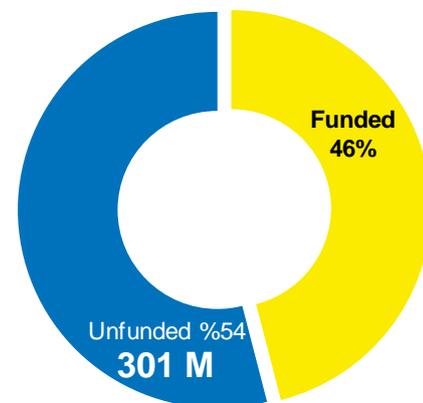


\* Registration figures as of 30 May 2021

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

## USD 553.7 M

requested for the Lebanon operation in 2021



FUNDING (AS OF 13 SEPTEMBER 2021)

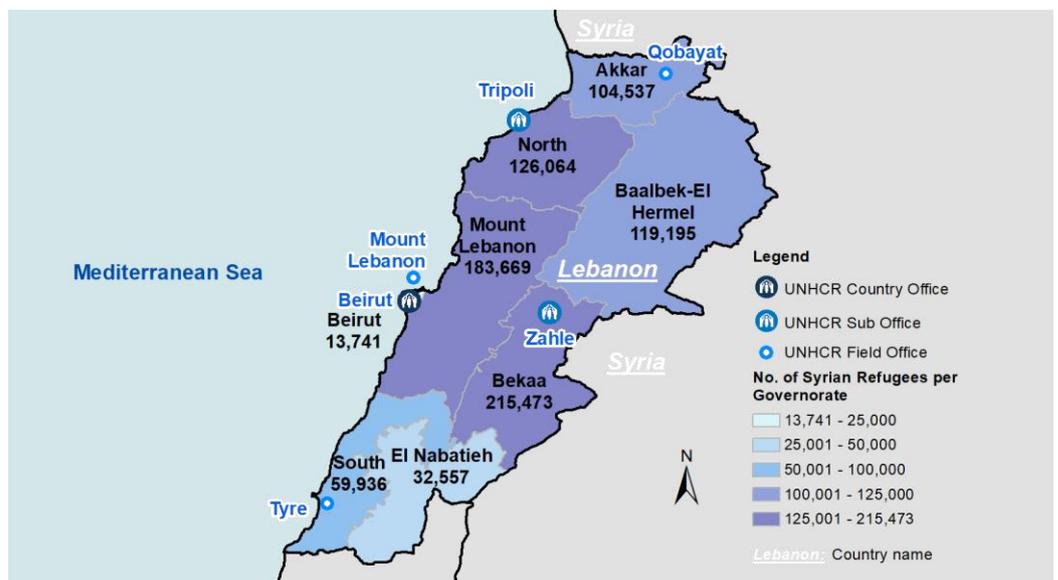
## UNHCR PRESENCE

### Staff:

516 National Staff  
100 International Staff

### Offices:

1 Country Office in Beirut  
  
2 Sub-offices:  
Tripoli & Zahle  
  
2 Field Offices:  
Tyre & Mount Lebanon



<sup>1</sup> Based on the VASyR Preliminary Findings in 2021

## Working with Partners

- Through the Lebanon Crisis Response Plan (LCRP) – developed by the Lebanese Government and humanitarian and development partners – UNHCR coordinates with the Ministry of Social Affairs (MoSA) and UNDP, maintaining leadership on the refugee component in line with the Refugee Coordination Model. UNHCR co-leads the Protection, Basic Needs, Health, Shelter, and Social Stability sectors and provides support to other sectors, including Education and WASH, ensuring that refugees are central to planning, strategy design and prioritization.
- UNHCR is engaged in the National COVID-19 Response to support the prevention, containment, and treatment of cases. In the extension of UNHCR’s sector co-leadership and programmes in the protection and shelter response to the Beirut port explosions, UNHCR also co-leads the Housing and the Social Cohesion, Inclusion and Gender sectors in the Reform, Recovery and Reconstruction Framework (3RF).
- In line with the Global Compact on Refugees and its “whole of society” approach, UNHCR is engaging with a network of 24 local civil society actors on displacement-related issues. The network has been active in countering misinformation around refugees in Lebanon by presenting facts, conducting research, hosting roundtables, and drafting policy briefs. The network members include NGOs, academia, think tanks, and faith-based organizations – some of which made pledges during the Global Refugee Forum in December 2019.
- In 2021, UNHCR has partnership agreements with 27 partners, of which 11 are international, 13 are national and three are UN agencies.

## Main Activities

### Protection

- UNHCR coordinates the response for all refugees in Lebanon with the Government, UN agencies, and local and international partners, including activities related to registration; protection/border monitoring and advocacy; legal aid; civil documentation; psychosocial support; child protection; prevention, risk mitigation, and response to gender-based violence (GBV); and resettlement to third countries.
- UNHCR conducts Protection Monitoring with partners on an ongoing basis to analyse trends in the protection environment and risks facing refugees. According to the latest findings, large gaps in basic needs continue to be reported by refugees at high rates in August. Gaps in access to food have risen for the seventh month in a row with 96 per cent of refugee households reporting that they face difficulties buying food. Over 74 per cent of refugees report inability or increased difficulty to pay rent. The challenging socio-economic situation is leading to negative coping mechanisms such as buying food on credit and going further into debt to pay for necessities.
- In line with UNHCR’s Global Campaign to end statelessness by 2024, UNHCR supports the Directorate General of Personal Status to facilitate the birth registration and other vital events of refugees and Lebanese; provides legal aid and services to stateless acquire or confirm the Lebanese nationality; provides technical support to the Working Group on Statelessness; and works closely with UNICEF, in the context of the joint Global Coalition on Every Child’s Right

to a Nationality, to promote joint advocacy initiatives to prevent and reduce childhood statelessness.

### **Community Empowerment and Self-Reliance**

- UNHCR, through 24 community centres and outreach volunteers (OVs), supports refugees and Lebanese in receiving updated information about UNHCR services, acquiring new skills, building social networks, increasing their knowledge through awareness-raising sessions, and receiving case management and psychosocial support (PSS) services. Self-help kiosks are being set up at the community centres to enable refugees to update key basic data.
- In 2021, OVs have referred 11,011 persons with specific needs at heightened risk for specialized services. UNHCR has also mobilized 550 general and specialized OVs from the refugee and host communities, who reached 293,852 persons in need through 12,818 awareness and information sessions and 2,184 household visits. Also, 376 community groups were supported by UNHCR.

### **Education**

- UNHCR continues to support education for refugees through partners, addressing adaptations to e-learning modalities, consolidating retention through community-based engagements, identifying and referring adolescents who lack basic learning to a certified basic literacy and numeracy programme, and supporting skills-building through the Youth Education Programme (YEP). Currently, 182 vulnerable youth from refugee and host communities have enrolled in competency-based vocational training. For higher education, UNHCR supports students through the DAFI scholarships programme. Currently, UNHCR Lebanon supports 87 DAFI scholars to access their university courses online.

### **Health**

- According to the UNHCR Protection Monitoring findings, nearly every third refugee flags reduced access to healthcare and the inability to access essential medicines. UNHCR implements a substantial health care programme to ensure refugees in Lebanon have access to primary and secondary health care and operates a large referral care programme to subsidize the hospitalization charges. The assistance includes covering a large part of the cost for refugees in need of obstetric care, urgent and lifesaving intervention at hospitals. In addition, UNHCR supports primary health care centers in providing general health care services, vaccinations, ante- and postnatal care, and chronic disorders care services. UNHCR also supports the health centers in delivering mental health services that are scarce and of limited supply in Lebanon.
- In 2021, UNHCR has subsidized the hospital costs for 37,925 refugees ranging from hospital bills for giving birth to health care consultations, including mental health consultations. (as of 31 August).

### **Institutional and Community Support**

- UNHCR provides institutional support to strengthen central and local authorities' capacity to respond to the needs of refugees and Lebanese communities hosting large numbers of refugees. The support to public institutions continues to focus on supporting service delivery and enhancing the capacities of public officials to respond to the current crisis.

- UNHCR continues to implement activities geared towards peacebuilding and social stability. Since the onset of the Syria crisis in 2011, more than 542 community support projects have been implemented by UNHCR in Lebanon. Given the rapid decline in services, UNHCR is providing targeted additional support to key municipal services, including implementing solid waste management and public infrastructure projects in 2021.

### Shelter, Water, and Sanitation

- UNHCR supports vulnerable refugees in improving their living conditions and prioritizes marginalized families living in hazardous shelters as the most exposed to health and protection risks. Focus is given on lifesaving interventions addressing the shelter needs of refugees living in makeshift shelters in informal settlements (IS) and suffering from common emergencies. The assistance strived to balance inside and outside IS in response to protection cases and targeting disadvantaged urban/peri-urban areas.
- In urban/peri-urban areas, UNHCR applies an integrated area-based approach to respond to refugees' acute shelter needs in collective shelters and substandard shelter units. Poor neighborhoods in need of support are identified and receive targeted assistance through an integrated shelter/WASH response, including shelter rehabilitation, site improvement, and cash for rent assistance. This allows vulnerable refugees to live in upgraded shelters and benefit from secure tenure through free occupancy for one year.
- In informal settlements, refugees receive shelter kits to reinforce or rebuild their shelters following flooding, evictions, or fire incidents and to help them withstand extreme weather conditions. Also, the most critical settlements are prioritised for site improvement works, allowing enhanced preparedness against floods and fire prevention.
- In 2021, Cash for rent assistance is adopted to target general and specific protection referral cases offsetting the risk of eviction, and allowing the targeted families to adjust to the deteriorating socio-economic situation.

### Basic Needs

- UNHCR assists vulnerable displaced and refugee families to cover their most basic needs through the distribution of cash assistance as well as in-kind assistance. Since 2013 UNHCR has provided a Multi-Purpose Cash Assistance Programme (MCAP) through ATM cards. Apart from strengthening the capacity of the benefitting families to cover basic needs such as rent, food, and medicines, and reduce their vulnerability to exploitation and harmful coping strategies, UNHCR's MCAP has enabled refugees to contribute to the local economy by purchasing directly from local markets and shops. In 2021, UNHCR has assisted 171,000 severely vulnerable Syrian refugee families and 2,000 refugee families of other nationalities.
- UNHCR provides additional cash assistance during the winter season to support the vulnerable families during the harsh winter months and given the unprecedented economic and financial crisis. During the 2021-2022 winter season, UNHCR plans to provide winter cash assistance to 273,000 vulnerable Syrian refugee families, 3,700 refugee families of other nationalities, and 33,400 Lebanese families.

### COVID-19 in Lebanon (as of 31 August 2021)

- Since the start of the pandemic, Lebanon has conducted over five million tests and confirmed over 600,000 cases of COVID-19 with 8,048 fatalities.
- The total number of individuals registered for vaccination on the Impact platform is 2,435,669 and the total number of administered vaccines is 2,434,921.
- In August, more than 7,700 COVID-19 cases have been confirmed among refugees, including 340 deaths.
- In total, 128,075 Syrian refugees have been registered on the IMPACT platform (open data e-Government platform) and over 47,573 vaccinations have been administered.

### UNHCR Response to the COVID-19 Outbreak in Lebanon (as of 31 August)

As part of the national response, UNHCR is implementing the following series of measures across the country to respond to the covid outbreak in Lebanon:

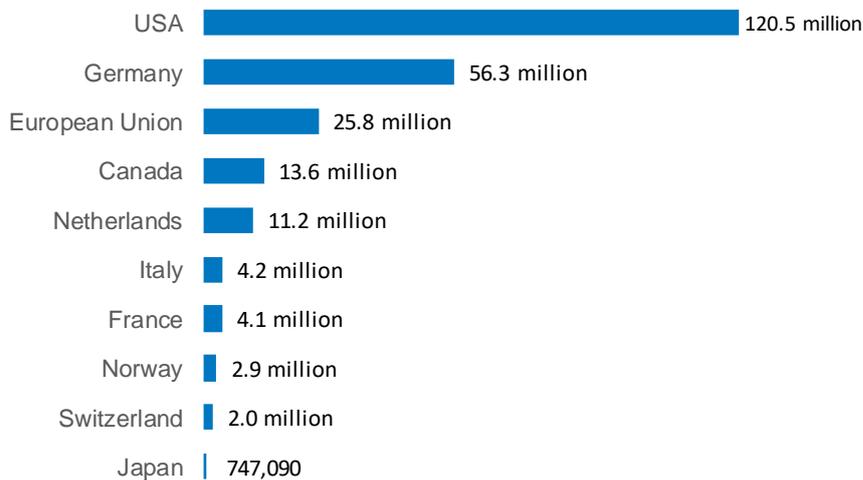
- **Access to basic hygiene items:** a total of 21,372 sanitary kits have been distributed in refugee settings (informal settlements, non-residential and collective shelters).
- **Vaccination enrolment:** outreach volunteers have supported the vaccination enrolment of 30,461 refugees on the IMPACT platform.
- **Health awareness:** UNHCR conducts regular health awareness-raising sessions on transmission and prevention of COVID-19 as well as on vaccination. Key messages are also shared through SMS, WhatsApp, Communication Tree, social media platforms, and websites. Moreover, 82,000 calls related to COVID-19 assistance were responded to by the joint UNHCR - WFP Call Center. Also, through individual phone calls and/or home visits, OVs and community health volunteers (CHVs) reached 21,963 refugees on vaccination awareness.
- **Provision of Intensive Care Unit (ICU) sets and medical Protective Personnel Equipment (PPE):** UNHCR Lebanon supported 13 hospitals and procured and delivered 99 sets of ICU equipment, 319 hospital beds, 100 stationary, and 20 portable ventilators. Two vaccination sites were supported with medical supplies and a loan of medical equipment. Also, UNHCR has supported the rehabilitation of two Public Health Centres (PHCs) and the provision of medical supplies.
- **Treatment support:** UNHCR covers 100% of the cost for tests and treatment of refugee patients. Since the pandemic, UNHCR has covered more than 3,620 COVID-19 tests and the admission of 1,455 refugees under UNHCR's referral care program.
- **Mobile team:** UNHCR has deployed mobile vaccination teams in the North, Bekaa and South refugee settings, leading to 3,370 vaccinations administered.

# Financial Information

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

## EARMARKED CONTRIBUTIONS | USD (as of 13 September 2021)

Earmarked contributions for the operation amount to some **US\$ 252 million**.



## OTHER SOFTLY EARMARKED CONTRIBUTIONS | USD

Germany 29.7 million | United States of America 22.1 million | Private donors Australia 8.8 million | Denmark 8 million | Finland 6 million | Private donors Germany 5.7 million | Sweden 5.4 million | Private donors Republic of Korea 3.5 million | Japan 2.9 million | Brazil | Estonia | Holy See | Iceland | Liechtenstein | Lithuania | Luxembourg Malta | Norway | Russian Federation | Slovenia | Spain | Private donors

## UNEARMARKED CONTRIBUTIONS | USD

Special thanks to the major donors of unearmarked contributions.

Norway 80 million | Sweden 66.9 million | Private donors Spain 55.7 million | Netherlands 36.1 million | Denmark 34.6 million | Private donors Republic of Korea 28.5 million | United Kingdom 28.4 million | Germany 26 million | Japan 23.4 million | Private donors Japan 20.7 million | France 20.2 million | Switzerland 16.4 million | Private donors Italy 14 million | Ireland 12.5 million | Belgium 11.9 million | Private donors Sweden 11.9 million | Italy 10.7 million

## External/ Donors Relations

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