

Lebanon

September 2021

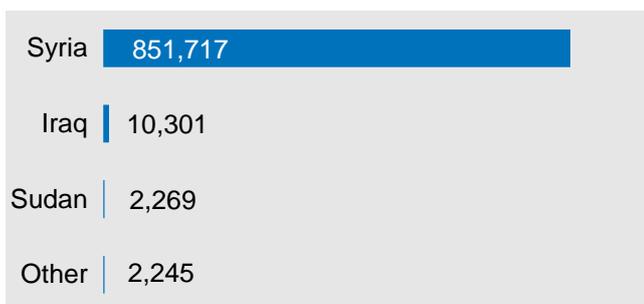
Lebanon remains the country hosting the **largest number of refugees per capita**, with the Government estimation of **1.5 M Syrian refugees** + some 14,815 refugees of other nationalities.

The socio-economic downturn coupled with the COVID-19 pandemic and Beirut blast have all contributed to **one out of ten Syrian refugees living in extreme poverty**.

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)

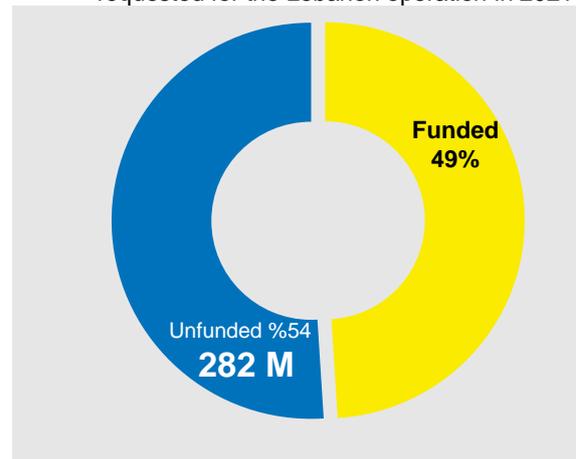


* Registration figures as of 30 May 2021

** 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 26 OCTOBER 2021)

UNHCR PRESENCE

Staff:

526 National Staff

98 International Staff

Offices:

1 Country Office in Beirut

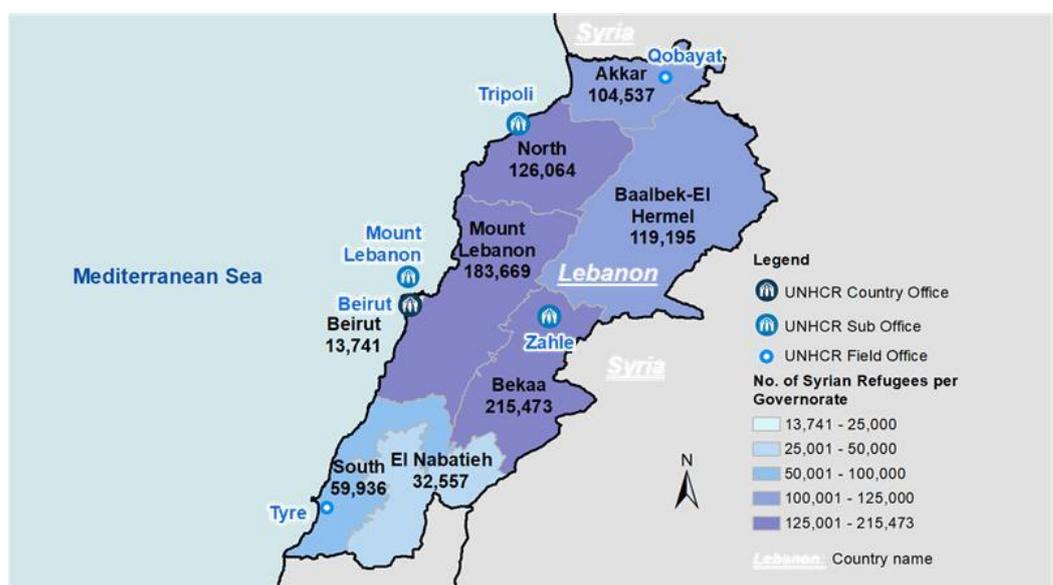
3 Sub-offices:

Tripoli & Zahle &

Mount Lebanon

2 Field Offices:

Tyre & Qabayat



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 is also a member of 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 protection 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 (PM) with partners on an ongoing basis to analyse trends in the protection environment and risks facing refugees. According to PM findings in September, large gaps in basic needs continue to be reported by refugees. Food insecurity continues to be the most widely reported issue amongst refugees, with 96 per cent of refugee households reporting that they face difficulties buying food. PM shows that this rate has risen from 78% in January highlighting that an already significant protection issue has become pervasive among refugees.
- September findings continue to demonstrate widespread debt reliance among refugees, with more than 71% of interviewed refugees reporting buying food on credit compared with 41% in Q1 2021. This is a very precarious situation against the backdrop of the continuing loss of livelihoods, now reported by 52% of interviewed refugees.
- 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 persons to acquire or confirm their 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

- As part of its accountability to affected people, UNHCR engages thousands of refugees in decisions that affect their lives. UNHCR, together with partners, empowers and builds refugees' capacities through community engagement programmes and interventions in Community Development Centers (CDCs) that offer a space to learn, communicate, and share experiences.
- Through 24 CDCs across the country, UNHCR supports refugees and Lebanese in receiving updated information, learning new skills, building social networks, and enhancing their psychosocial well-being. CDCs also provide case management and psychosocial support services. By September, 75,913 refugee and host community attendances were enrolled in activities at CDCs.
- As of September, UNHCR mobilized 535 general and specialized Outreach Volunteers (OVs) from the refugee and host communities, who reached 662,638 refugees through 23,823 awareness and information sessions and 7,788 household visits. OVs also provide real-time insights into community protection risks and priorities and play an important role in supporting refugees to register online for the COVID-19 vaccine.

Education

- Primary school attendance during the 2020 – 2021 school year for children aged from 6-14 dropped from 67% in 2020 to 53% in 2021 (VASyR 2021). An estimated 220,000 children of primary school age (6-14) were out of school.
- UNHCR continues to support education for refugees through partners, 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.
- Following challenges in the operationalization of Back to School, the Ministry of Education and Higher Education (MEHE) postponed the start of school for public schools from September to October.
- For higher education, UNHCR supports students through the DAFI scholarships programme. As of September, UNHCR finalised the selection of 50 new students to enrol in the Lebanese Universities and supported six others to resume their studies in Japan under education complementary pathways.

Health

- The degradation of the economic situation in Lebanon has had effects on access to healthcare and medicine.
- 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 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.

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 to improve their living conditions and prioritizes marginalized families living in hazardous shelters as the most exposed to health and protection risks. Focus is given to lifesaving interventions addressing the shelter needs of refugees living in makeshift accommodations in informal settlements (IS). 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 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 2021, cash for rent assistance was 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. UNHCR has assisted 171,000 severely vulnerable Syrian refugee families and 2,000 refugee families of other nationalities as of September.

- During the 2021 - 2022 winter season, UNHCR is planning to provide additional cash assistance to support the vulnerable refugee and Lebanese families during the harsh winter months given the unprecedented economic and financial crisis.

COVID-19 in Lebanon (as of 30 September 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.
- In September, more than 8,379 COVID-19 cases have been confirmed among refugees, including 374 deaths.
- 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 total, 167,748 Syrian refugees have been registered on the IMPACT platform (open data e-Government platform) and over 76,512 vaccinations have been administered.

UNHCR Response to the COVID-19 Outbreak in Lebanon (as of 30 September 2021)

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:

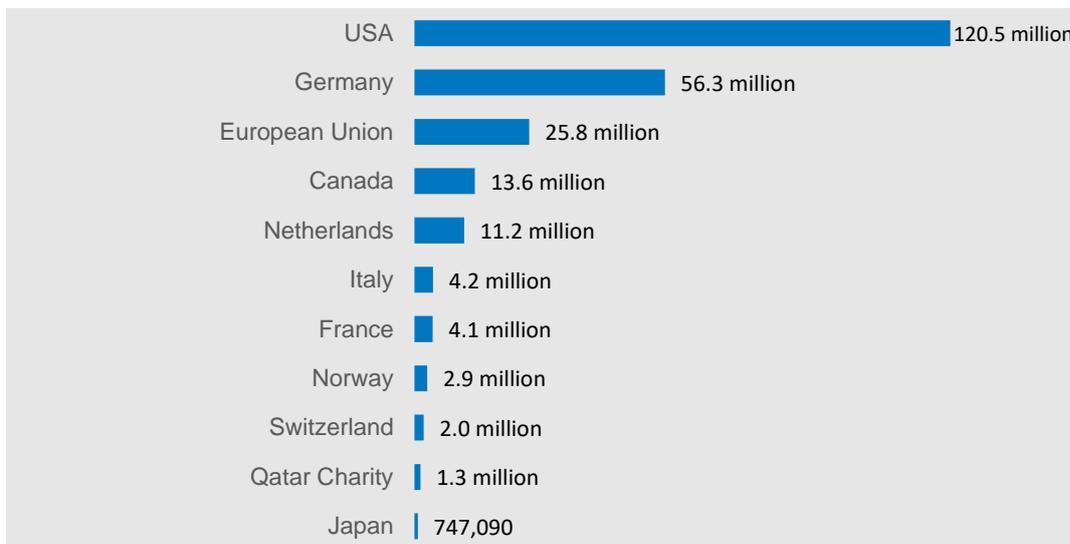
- **Access to basic hygiene items:** A total of 21,372 sanitary kits have been distributed in refugee settings such as informal settlements, non-residential and collective shelters.
- **Vaccination enrolment through community engagement:** Over 500 community volunteers and UNHCR/partner staff were mobilized to increase refugee registration for the COVID-19 vaccine. By September, they reached 139,142 persons and managed to support 55% of them to register online for the vaccine.
- **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. By the end of September, 545,305 refugees were reached on vaccination awareness through individual phone calls and/or home visits, OVs and community health volunteers (CHVs), as well as UNHCR and partner staff.
- **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, resulting in 3,370 vaccinations administered thus far.

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 26 October 2021)

Earmarked contributions for the operation amount to some **US\$ 273 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

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