

Lebanon

January 2022

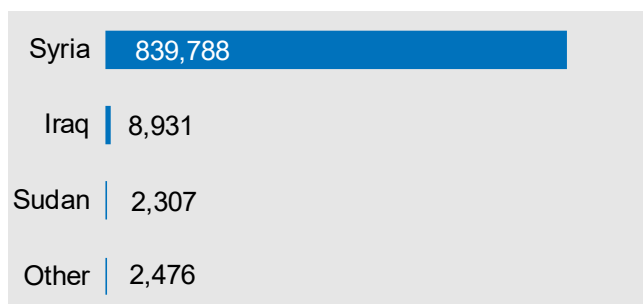
Lebanon remains the country hosting the **largest number of refugees per capita**, with the Government estimation of **1.5 M Syrian refugees** + some 13,715 refugees of other nationalities.

The socio-economic downturn coupled with the COVID-19 pandemic and Beirut blast have all contributed to **nine 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)

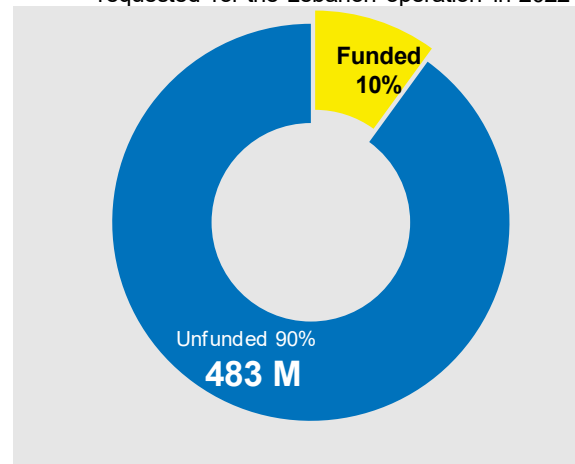


* Registration figures as of 31 January 2022

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

USD 534.3 M

requested for the Lebanon operation in 2022



FUNDING (AS OF 25 JANUARY 2022)

UNHCR PRESENCE

Staff:

584 National Staff

96 International Staff

Offices:

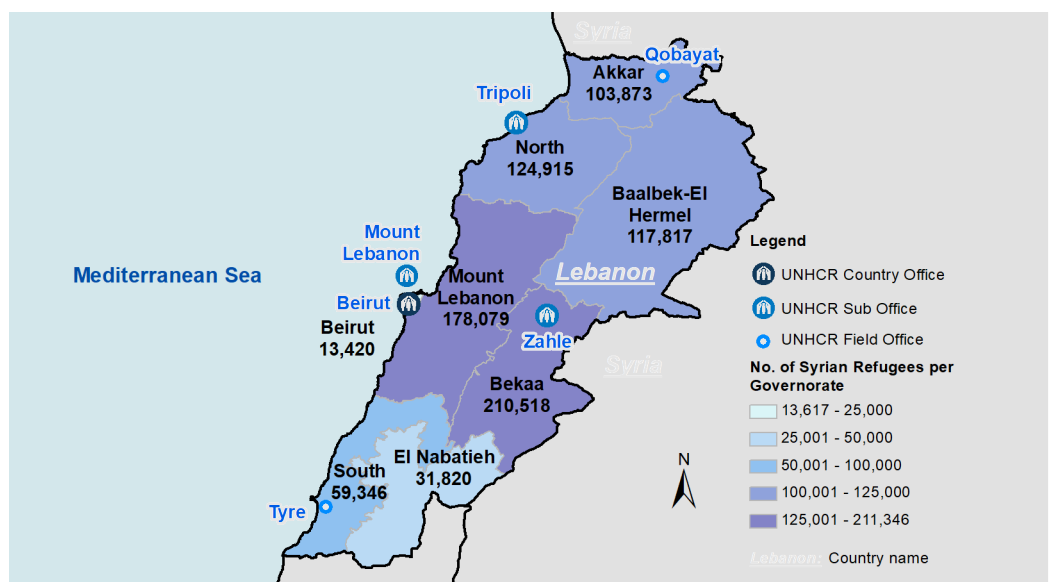
1 Country Office in Beirut

3 Sub-offices:

Tripoli, Zahle & Mount Lebanon

2 Field Offices:

Tyre & Qabayat



Working with Partners

- Under the 2022- 2023 Lebanon Crisis Response Plan (LCRP), UNHCR co-leads a multi-stakeholder, multi-faceted response in conjunction with the Government of Lebanon (GoL) and UNDP, with contributions from a wide range of entities including local and international NGOs, civil society organizations, donors and academic institutions. Through the LCRP, UNHCR and partners seek to respond to the ongoing impact of the Syria crisis on Lebanon, including ensuring protection and providing immediate assistance to vulnerable people, supporting service provision through national systems, and reinforcing Lebanon's economic, social and environmental stability.
- Under the LCRP, UNHCR co-leads the Protection, Basic Assistance, Health, Shelter, and Social Stability sectors with the government and UN/INGO/NGO counterparts, ensuring refugees are central to planning, strategy design, and prioritization.
- Since 2015, Lebanon has received over USD 8.2 billion in support for displaced Syrians, vulnerable Lebanese, and Palestinian refugees under the LCRP. In 2022, the Government of Lebanon and its national and international partners are appealing for USD 3.2 billion.
- 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 2022, UNHCR has partnership agreements with 26 partners, of which 9 are international, 14 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 across Lebanon. According to the 2021 fourth quarter PM findings, refugees struggle to meet their basic needs in the face of Lebanon's deepening crises. Food insecurity has become highly acute, with 95 per cent of refugee households reporting difficulties buying food due to lack of money.

- The PM findings demonstrate significant gaps in livelihoods (54 per cent reported a loss of employment and/or income), health (34 per cent of refugees requiring medical treatment did not access healthcare for financial reasons), and housing (76 per cent of refugees were unable or had increased difficulty to pay rent). In addition, the average household debt among refugees has grown 40 per cent from just the third quarter of 2021 alone.
- 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 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 safe space to learn, communicate, and share experiences.
- Through 24 Community Centers including 18 CDCs and 6 Social Development Centers (SDCs) across the country, UNHCR supports refugees and Lebanese people 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. In January, 3,492 participations of activities by refugee and host community members took place within supported CDCs.
- In January, UNHCR mobilized 534 general and specialized Outreach Volunteers (OVs) from the refugee and host communities, who reached 89,126 refugees through 2,393 awareness and information sessions and 1,122 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 vaccination.

Education

- Following public schools' closures due to the teachers' strikes during the academic year 2021/2022, second shift schools have resumed teaching as of 31 January. UNHCR continues monitoring the situation and the refugee education enrolment through 327 Education Community Liaison Volunteers deployed in 308 second shift schools.
- As of 31 January, 382 children and 40 youth were reached through basic literacy and numeracy programmes. A further, 1,426 children received homework support and parents were active in 328 Parent Community Groups.
- UNHCR continues to run its Youth Education Project (YEP). Last year, 274 vulnerable youth from refugee and host communities completed competency-based vocational training, and 59 per cent of graduates found work in their field of training by the end of 2021.
- For higher education, UNHCR continues to support students through the DAFI scholarships programme. In 2021, DAFI scholarships and connected learning support were provided to 87 students (58 female and 29 male) to access and enroll in the Lebanese Public University. In addition, the UNHCR education unit facilitated the implementation of different complementary

pathway opportunities in Lebanon, such as the Student Refugee Program (SRP) to study in Canada, the Elysee programme to study in France and the Progetto Mediterraneo scholarship to study at LUISS university in Italy. Also, UNHCR has promoted and disseminated information on USAID and MasterCard Foundation's scholarship opportunities in Lebanon.

Health

- The degradation of the economic situation in Lebanon has had effects on access to healthcare and medicine. UNHCR's health care interventions aim to ensure access for refugees in Lebanon to primary and secondary health care.
- UNHCR operates a large referral care programme to subsidize hospitalization charges. The assistance includes covering a major part of the cost for refugees in need of obstetric care and urgent and lifesaving interventions at hospitals.
- In addition, UNHCR supports primary health care centers to provide general health care services, vaccinations, ante- and postnatal care, and care for chronic disorders. In particular, UNHCR supports the delivery of 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 577 community support projects have been implemented by UNHCR in Lebanon as of the end of December 2021. Given the rapid decline in services, UNHCR provided targeted additional support to key municipal services, including implementing solid waste management and public infrastructure projects in 2021. UNHCR is currently conducting a needs assessment to identify community support projects for 2022.

Shelter, Water, and Sanitation

- UNHCR supports vulnerable refugees to improve their living conditions and prioritizes marginalized families living in hazardous shelters. As refugees living in informal settlements (IS) are exposed to health and protection risks, the 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 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.

- Cash for Rent assistance remains a UNHCR core activity in 2022 targeting 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 medication and reduce their vulnerability to exploitation and negative coping strategies, UNHCR's MCAP has enabled refugees to contribute to the local economy by purchasing directly from local markets and shops.
- In January, UNHCR targeted 144,000 severely vulnerable Syrian refugee families and 2,000 refugee families of other nationalities for MCAP assistance. In addition to the regular MCAP activities, UNHCR has been providing additional cash assistance since October 2021 to support vulnerable refugee and Lebanese families during the harsh winter months given the unprecedented economic and financial crisis.

COVID-19 in Lebanon and UNHCR Response to the Outbreak (as of 31 January 2022)

- Since the start of the pandemic, Lebanon has conducted over seven million tests with 921,208 confirmed cases of COVID-19 and 9,606 fatalities.
- By the end of January, more than 10,000 COVID-19 cases have been confirmed among refugees, including 440 deaths.
- The total number of individuals registered for vaccination on the Impact platform was 3,701,880, and the total number of administered vaccines was 5,009,650 as of 31 January.
- In total, 524,640 Syrian refugees were registered on the IMPACT platform (open data e-Government platform) and over 469,000 vaccinations were administered.

As part of the national response, UNHCR is implementing the following series of measures across the country to respond to the COVID-19 outbreak in Lebanon:

- **Access to basic hygiene items:** More than 24,000 sanitary kits have been distributed in refugee settings such as informal settlements, non-residential and collective shelters.
- **Vaccination enrolment through community engagement:** Over 700 volunteers, partners, and UNHCR staff were mobilized to increase refugee registration for the COVID-19 vaccine. As of January, they reached 256,986 refugees through outreach and community engagement activities. Field offices managed to support 48 per cent of those reached to register for the vaccine on the IMPACT platform. To date, 24 per cent of all refugees registered on the IMPACT platform are a result of community engagement efforts.
- **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, and social media platforms, as well as websites.
- **Provision of medical equipment, medication, and Protective Personnel Equipment (PPE):** Since the covid-19 outbreak, UNHCR Lebanon has supported 13 hospitals with a donation of medical equipment, supplies, medications, and Protective Personnel

Equipment (PPEs). A total of 100 sets of Intensive Care Unit (ICU) equipment, 586 hospital beds, 100 stationary, and 20 portable ventilators were donated.

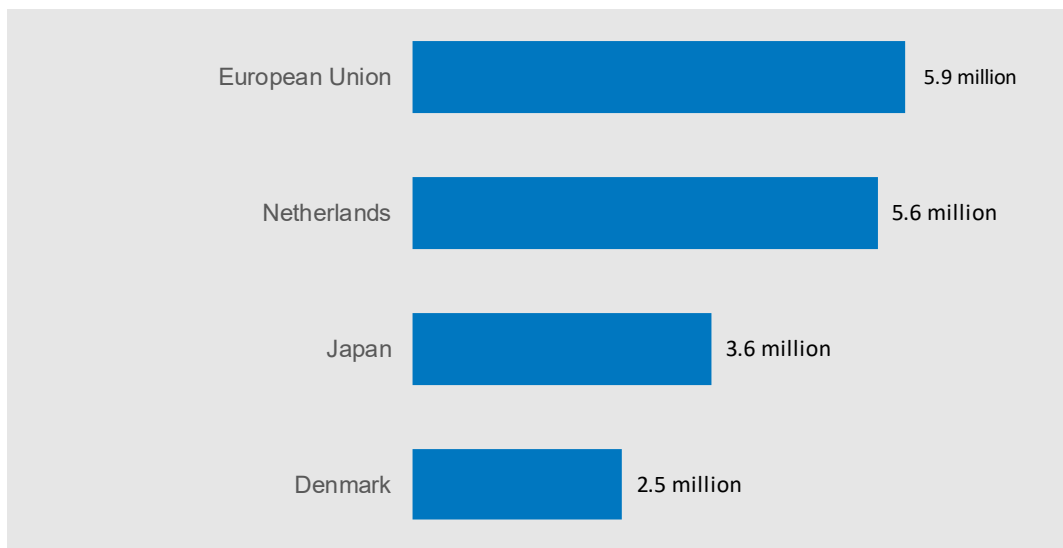
- **Support to Primary Health Care Centers (PHCs) and Mega Vaccination Sites:** UNHCR has supported the rehabilitation of two PHCs in the Bekaa and northern Lebanon for COVID-19 vaccination, the provision of medical supplies, and a loan of medical equipment for three mega vaccination sites. As of 31 January, PHC centers in Aarsal (Bekaa) have reached 8,697 doses of the COVID-19 vaccine. The North PHC center administered 3,469 doses by the end of December 2021.
- **Treatment support:** Since 1 January 2022, UNHCR has included hospital care for COVID into its regular referral health care programme and coverage for COVID care is now the same as for other conditions. Since the pandemic, UNHCR has covered more than 3,860 COVID-19 tests and the admission of 1,900 refugees under UNHCR's referral care programme.
- **Mobile team:** UNHCR has deployed mobile vaccination teams in the North, Bekaa, and South refugee settings, resulting in more than 31,000 vaccinations administered thus far. In addition, UNHCR started Mobile Vaccination for schools in the North and Beirut Mount Lebanon.

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 25 January 2022)

Earmarked contributions for the operation amount to some **US\$ 51 million**.



OTHER SOFTLY EARMARKED CONTRIBUTIONS | USD

Norway | Private donors

UNEARMARKED CONTRIBUTIONS | USD

Special thanks to the major donors of unearmarked contributions.

Sweden 77.6 million | Netherlands 37.2 million | Denmark 35.6 million | Germany 27.6 million | Switzerland 18.4 million | Belgium 11.9 million | Ireland 11.8 million

Algeria | Armenia | Bulgaria | Canada | Estonia | Finland | Iceland | Liechtenstein | Lithuania | Luxembourg | Monaco | Montenegro | Qatar | Republic of Korea | Singapore | Thailand | Turkey | Uruguay | Private donors

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