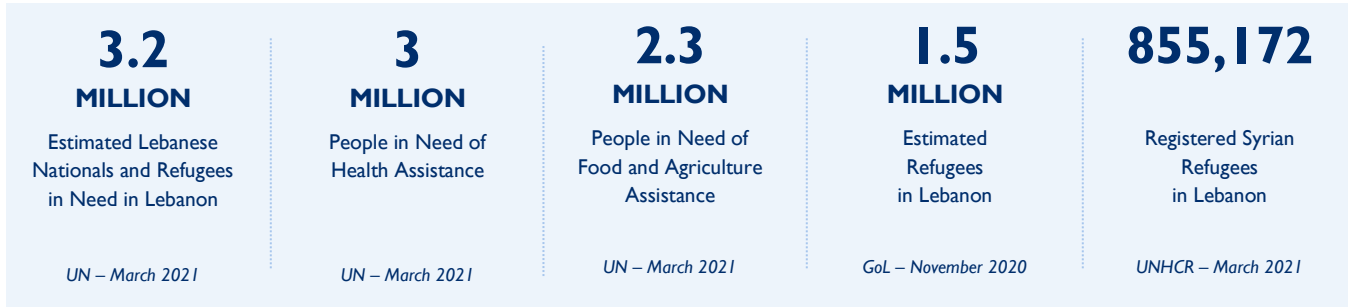


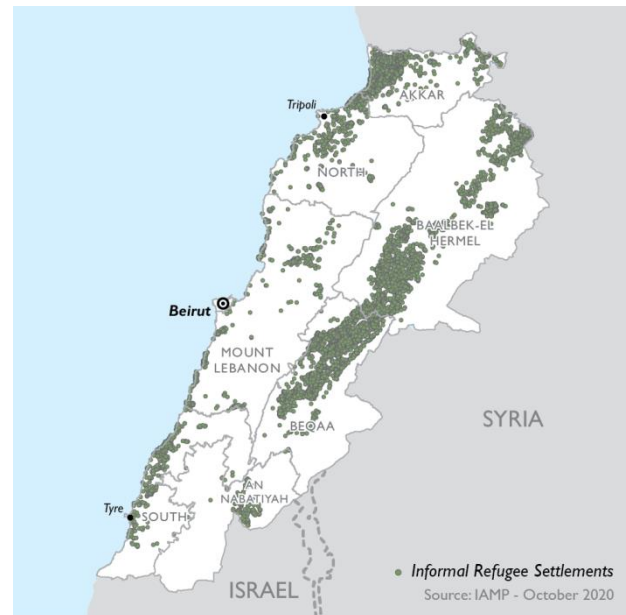
# Lebanon – Complex Emergency

AUGUST 4, 2021

## SITUATION AT A GLANCE



- President Joseph R. Biden announces nearly \$98 million in USG humanitarian assistance for Lebanon and observes the anniversary of the Port of Beirut explosions on August 4.
- Lebanon’s deteriorating economic crisis leads to worsening food insecurity and electricity and fuel shortages, adversely affecting health and WASH services.
- USAID/BHA partner WFP provides food assistance to 1.4 million people across Lebanon amid deteriorating economic and food security conditions.
- State/PRM partner UNICEF facilitates access to safe drinking water and sanitation services for more than 175,000 Syrian refugees and the Lebanese municipalities that host them.



### TOTAL U.S. GOVERNMENT HUMANITARIAN FUNDING

For the Lebanon Response in FY 2021

USAID/BHA<sup>1</sup> \$111,151,000

State/PRM<sup>2</sup> \$261,273,897

**Total \$372,424,897**

For complete funding breakdown with partners, see detailed chart on page 6

<sup>1</sup> USAID’s Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (USAID/BHA)

<sup>2</sup> U.S. Department of State’s Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (State/PRM)

## **KEY DEVELOPMENTS**

### **President Biden Announces Funding for Lebanon on Explosions' Anniversary**

On August 4, President Biden announced nearly \$98 million in newly obligated U.S. Government (USG) humanitarian assistance for Lebanon at the Conference to Support the People of Lebanon. The assistance includes State/PRM and USAID/BHA funding for education, food assistance, health care services, legal assistance, livelihoods, multipurpose cash assistance, protection services, shelter support, and water and sanitation infrastructure for vulnerable Lebanese and refugees in Lebanon. President Biden also noted the USG's continued support to the Lebanese people amid the country's worsening economic crisis and deterioration in humanitarian conditions, noting that the USG remains the largest donor of humanitarian assistance to Lebanon.

The August 4 conference, hosted by the Government of France and the UN, marked the one-year anniversary of the Port of Beirut explosions, which resulted in at least 180 deaths and 6,500 injuries, as well as damaged the houses of an estimated 171,600 people and at least six hospitals in Lebanon's capital city of Beirut. In response to the explosions, the USG provided more than \$38 million in humanitarian assistance, supporting 138,000 displaced people with emergency shelter materials; 78,000 people with emergency food assistance; and critical repairs to nearly 2,000 houses damaged by the explosions.

### **Economic Crisis and Food Insecurity Continue to Worsen Across Lebanon**

Economic conditions continue to deteriorate across Lebanon, resulting in volatile commodity price fluctuations and declining food security conditions, the UN reports. According to the World Bank and the UN World Food Program (WFP)'s most recent Vulnerability and Food Security Assessment, approximately 47 percent of surveyed households in Lebanon reported challenges accessing food and other basic goods in March and April, compared with 43 percent in November and December 2020. Households identified a lack of financial resources, as well as COVID-19-related travel restrictions and high prices, as the primary barriers to accessing food and basic goods, WFP reports. As a result, an increasing number of households are facing food shortages. Nearly 60 percent of surveyed households reported not having sufficient quantities of food in the 14 days prior to being surveyed. Overall, approximately 22 percent of Lebanese households were moderately or severely food-insecure in March and April, according to WFP.

Commodity prices continued to rise following the World Bank and WFP assessment, further stressing the ability of Lebanese households to meet their basic needs. The price of the food portion of the survival minimum expenditure basket—the minimum level of food that a household requires for survival for one month—continues to increase each month, reaching an estimated 300,000 Lebanese pounds (LBP) in July, compared with approximately 130,000 LBP in November 2019. With USAID/BHA and other donor funding, WFP continued to provide emergency food assistance, including electronic vouchers and in-kind food distributions, to vulnerable Lebanese and refugee households across Lebanon in June. The UN agency reached more than 1.4 million people during the month, including nearly 397,000 vulnerable Lebanese nationals, more than 987,200 Syrian refugees, and nearly 20,900 refugees of other nationalities.

### **UNICEF Warns of Degraded Access to Water**

Shortages of fuel, funding, and technical supplies are negatively affecting centralized water sources in Lebanon that support more than 4 million people, including 1 million refugees, according to the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF). Electricity blackouts and intermittent power supply—caused by the

deterioration of the electricity sector due to fuel shortages and the decrease of Government of Lebanon (GoL) subsidies to the sector—are interrupting the treatment, pumping, and distribution of water. Public system water establishments also lack funding to obtain spare parts for system maintenance and treatment supplies, such as chlorine. Degradation of the public water system could raise the price of water from alternative water suppliers, further affecting households already struggling to afford basic commodities. Less access to public water would also affect households' ability to meet essential water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) needs, which could lead to an increase in disease transmission.

### **Fuel Shortages Threaten Food Supply, Health Care**

Fuel shortages across Lebanon are limiting electricity supplies and resulting in power outages in hospitals and supermarkets, disrupting health care services and food supply chains. Lebanon's state electricity company provided four hours of power or less per day as of late July, leaving private generator operators as the main providers of electricity, according to international media. However, in late July, generator operators warned that worsening diesel shortages and heightened prices on the parallel market may force them to shut down operations in the coming months. Power shortages have led hospitals to ration their electricity consumption, hindering health care services and hospitals' ability to accept new patients, while supermarket owners are concerned that the shortages will cause their food commodities to spoil and undermine food safety, international media report.

On July 24, the governments of Iraq and Lebanon signed an agreement allowing the GoL to sell 1 million tons of Iraqi heavy fuel—which is unfit for use in Lebanon's power plants—to companies that, in exchange, will provide fuel for use in Lebanese power plants. While the fuel swap may offer brief support to Lebanon's power supply once the usable fuel is obtained, structural issues impacting the power sector remain, and a long-term solution to the energy crisis is needed, according to international media.

### **Wildfires in Northern Lebanon Adversely Affect Civilians and Farmland**

Since July 28, wildfires in northern Lebanon's Akkar Governorate resulted in one death, injury to 30 people, the evacuation of 17 people, and damage to houses and farmland before being contained by August 2, international media report. The fires burned at least 500 square acres of farmland and forest in northern Lebanon, according to local estimates. The Lebanese Civil Defense deployed 25 fire trucks and the GoL military mobilized four helicopters to support firefighters and local volunteers to contain the fires. Lebanon has experienced an increase in the number and severity of wildfires during the past 15 years associated with changing climatic conditions, particularly during the September-to-November period, according to Lebanese academic institutions. In October 2019, wildfires burned approximately 3,000 acres of land in Lebanon, including near Beirut.

#### **KEY FIGURES**



People reached with  
USG-supported food  
assistance in FY 2020

#### **U.S. GOVERNMENT RESPONSE**

##### **FOOD SECURITY**

USAID/BHA has provided food assistance to respond to the refugee crisis in Lebanon since FY 2012 and more recently has provided food assistance to Lebanese nationals affected by the country's economic crisis. In FY 2020, USAID/BHA supported WFP to reach 295,000 Syrian refugees and 9,600 refugees of other nationalities through vouchers and cash transfers for food, enabling individuals to purchase nutritious foods available in local

markets and support local vendors. In June 2021, the UN agency reached 33,000 Lebanese households—approximately 158,400 people—with in-kind food assistance. From FY 2012 to FY 2021, USAID/BHA provided more than \$748 million to reach refugees in Lebanon with emergency food assistance, in addition to \$23.5 million in FY 2020 to respond to food needs among both refugees and Lebanese nationals resulting from COVID-19 and the August 2020 explosions.

On July 16, U.S. Ambassador to Lebanon Dorothy C. Shea and USAID/BHA staff met WFP Deputy Country Director Nicolas Oberlin and other WFP representatives to discuss food assistance programming amid Lebanon’s deteriorating economic conditions. The USG delegation also visited the WFP-contracted Obeid Supermarket in Mount Lebanon Governorate’s Aley city to observe WFP’s store-based food voucher assistance, as well as Aley’s Baissour in-kind food distribution site, where approximately 600 people picked up an in-kind food box.



**72,000**

People reached per month with USG-supported COVID-19 messaging

## HEALTH

State/PRM supports the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) to subsidize primary and secondary health care services—including child, maternal, mental health, and sexual and reproductive health care services, as well as medications and vaccinations—to Syrian refugees, refugees of other nationalities, and vulnerable Lebanese. UNHCR also facilitates refugee access to emergency services, including COVID-19 testing and treatment, supporting at least 14,000 hospital care referrals since January. Moreover, the UN agency is helping refugees enroll in Lebanon’s national COVID-19 vaccination plan through nearly 400 health workers and outreach volunteers, supporting 500 refugees to register to receive the vaccine from January to March. UNHCR also disseminates COVID-19 awareness and prevention messaging through community health volunteers who reach nearly 72,000 individuals per month; virtual awareness sessions; and social media. The UN agency supports 10 COVID-19 isolation units, with a combined capacity of approximately 570 patients. Additionally, State/PRM partner Restart and other non-governmental organization (NGO) partners provide psychosocial support (PSS) services for refugees and host communities. State/PRM partner UNICEF also distributes micronutrients to children younger than five years of age, as well as emergency food rations, micronutrient sachets, therapeutic milk, and Vitamin A, to primary health clinics and other partners in Lebanon.

To mitigate the spread and impact of COVID-19 and reduce health needs among vulnerable Lebanese nationals, USAID/BHA supports the American University of Beirut (AUB) to implement early detection and transmission mitigation strategies in health care centers, including through the training of health care staff and distribution of personal protective equipment (PPE). From February to April, AUB provided 10 partner hospitals in Beqaa and North governorates with nearly 16,000 PPE items each to support medical staff. Between June 2020 and March 2021, AUB’s partner hospitals treated

more than 5,400 people with COVID-19.



**175,000**

People reached by USG-supported WASH assistance per month

## WASH

The USG supports WASH programming throughout Lebanon to bolster water and sanitation conditions and prevent the spread of COVID-19. USAID/BHA partner World Vision is rehabilitating handwashing stations and sanitation facilities in public spaces, as well as providing WASH kits—including detergent, face masks, hand sanitizer, and soap—to households who are most vulnerable to COVID-19, in Beirut, Beqaa, and Mount Lebanon. With State/PRM support, UNICEF continues to facilitate access to safe drinking water and sanitation services for more than 175,000 Syrian refugees residing in informal settlements across Lebanon, helping mitigate public health hazards and social tensions related to limited water resources.



**52,000**

Households reached with USG-supported protection services in 2021

## PROTECTION

State/PRM supports five NGOs to provide child protection, gender-based violence (GBV) prevention, and mental health and PSS services to vulnerable populations across Lebanon. State/PRM also supports UNICEF to provide child protection services, reaching 2,300 high-risk cases from January to March. UNICEF distributes protection-related cash assistance to vulnerable households, benefitting approximately 8,000 children from January to March. Additionally, State/PRM partner UNHCR has distributed cash assistance to more than 52,000 vulnerable Syrian refugee households to date in 2021.



**2,000**

Explosion-affected houses repaired by USG-supported shelter and settlement activities

## SHELTER

In response to the August 2020 explosions, USAID/BHA supported Caritas to provide basic household items, such as mattresses and stoves, for people whose residences were destroyed by the explosions. In addition, with USAID/BHA funding, Lutheran World Relief repaired nearly 2,000 houses damaged by the explosions in Beirut, helping approximately 8,000 people return to their homes. With State/PRM support, UNHCR continues to assist displaced persons residing in informal settlements and residential buildings with maintenance, repair, and weatherproofing support.



**150,000**

Children targeted to receive USG-supported education materials in Lebanon

## EDUCATION

State/PRM partner UNICEF provides teaching resources to support education activities conducted online due to the COVID-19 pandemic, aiming to reach at least 150,000 students. In addition, with State/PRM support, UNHCR continues to administer a certified basic literacy and numeracy test for children ages 10 to 14 years who are out of school, which supports their entry to the formal public education system. Moreover, State/PRM partner the International Rescue Committee recently assisted the GoL Ministry of Education and Higher Education to create a digitized version of the Lebanese curriculum in Arabic, English, and French, and provides education support to refugees in Beqaa and North governorates. Additionally, with State/PRM support, Relief International's Cash for Education program reaches more than 760 households in Beqaa per month,

providing monthly stipends to Syrian refugee households as an incentive to keep children in school.

## CONTEXT IN BRIEF

- Lebanon hosts the second largest number of refugees per capita of any country, with the influx of approximately 1.5 million refugees straining local resources and generating significant humanitarian needs. Additionally, Lebanon has experienced several large socioeconomic shocks due to overlapping crises since 2019, including ongoing political instability, the steep deterioration of the economy, and the emergence of COVID-19. Worsening economic and financial conditions have resulted in ongoing civil unrest across Lebanon since 2019. Meanwhile, the COVID-19 pandemic and consequent movement restrictions have further affected the already struggling economy.
- On August 4, 2020, concurrent explosions occurred at a warehouse near the Port of Beirut, resulting in at least 180 deaths and injuring an estimated 6,500 people, according to the GoL. Relief actors report that the explosions damaged approximately 48,000 buildings, affecting 171,600 people, and displaced many vulnerable Lebanese, Palestinian, and Syrian households, whose coping mechanisms had already been strained by the ongoing socioeconomic crisis in Lebanon. In response, USAID deployed a Disaster Assistance Response Team (DART) to Beirut and activated a Washington, D.C.-based Response Management Team (RMT) to coordinate response efforts on August 7, 2020. The DART and RMT were demobilized on August 21, 2020, as response efforts shifted to reconstruction.
- On February 17, 2021, U.S. Ambassador to Lebanon Dorothy C. Shea renewed the disaster declaration for COVID-19 in Lebanon for FY 2021 due to the ongoing humanitarian effects of the pandemic on vulnerable Lebanese nationals.

## USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE LEBANON RESPONSE IN FY 2021<sup>1</sup>

IMPLEMENTING PARTNER	ACTIVITY	LOCATION	AMOUNT
<b>USAID/BHA</b>			
Acción contra el Hambre/Spain	Health, WASH	Baalbek-El Hermel, Beqaa, South	\$800,000
AUB	Health	Countrywide	\$1,250,000
International Medical Corps (IMC)	Health	Baalbek-El Hermel, Beqaa, Mount Lebanon, An Nabatiyah, North, South	\$2,100,000
Mercy Corps	Humanitarian Coordination, Information Management, and Assessments	Countrywide	\$451,000
WFP	Food Assistance	Countrywide	\$105,500,000
World Vision	WASH	Beqaa, Mount Lebanon	\$1,000,000
	Program Support		\$50,000
<b>TOTAL USAID/BHA FUNDING</b>			<b>\$111,151,000</b>
<b>STATE/PRM</b>			
Implementing Partners	Cash-Based Programming, Education, GBV Prevention, Health, Livelihoods, Protection, Relief Commodities, Shelter and Settlements, WASH	Countrywide	\$12,373,143

UNHCR	Cash-Based Programming, Education, Health, Livelihoods, Mental Health, Protection, Relief Commodities, Shelter and Settlements, WASH	Countrywide	\$123,766,400
UNICEF	Cash-Based Programming, Child Protection, Education, GBV Prevention, Health, Nutrition, WASH, Youth Programs	Countrywide	\$105,400,000
UNRWA	Cash-Based Programming, Child Protection, Education, GBV Prevention, Health, Nutrition, WASH, Youth Programs	Countrywide	\$19,734,354
<b>TOTAL STATE/PRM FUNDING</b>			<b>\$261,273,897</b>
<b>TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE LEBANON RESPONSE IN FY 2021</b>			<b>\$372,424,897</b>

<sup>1</sup> Year of funding indicates the date of commitment or obligation, not appropriation, of funds. Funding figures reflect publicly announced funding as of August 4, 2021.

<sup>2</sup> Funding includes USG assistance to respond to the August 2020 explosions and the refugee crisis in Lebanon. State/PRM and USAID/BHA funding benefiting refugees in Lebanon is also reported in the USG Syria Complex Emergency Fact Sheet and the USG Iraq Complex Emergency Fact Sheet.

## PUBLIC DONATION INFORMATION

- The most effective way people can assist relief efforts is by making cash contributions to humanitarian organizations that are conducting relief operations. A list of humanitarian organizations that are accepting cash donations for disaster responses around the world can be found at [interaction.org](https://interaction.org).
- USAID encourages cash donations because they allow aid professionals to procure the exact items needed (often in the affected region); reduce the burden on scarce resources (such as transportation routes, staff time, and warehouse space); can be transferred very quickly and without transportation costs; support the economy of the disaster-stricken region; and ensure culturally, dietarily, and environmentally appropriate assistance.
- More information can be found at:
  - USAID Center for International Disaster Information: [cidi.org](https://cidi.org)
  - Information on relief activities of the humanitarian community can be found at [reliefweb.int](https://reliefweb.int).

USAID/BHA bulletins appear on the USAID website at [usaid.gov/humanitarian-assistance/where-we-work](https://www.usaid.gov/humanitarian-assistance/where-we-work)