

# Lebanon – Complex Emergency

SEPTEMBER 30, 2023

## SITUATION AT A GLANCE



- Armed clashes in southern Lebanon's Ein El Hilweh camp on September 13 displaced 4,000 residents, following weeks of escalating conflict between rival Palestinian armed groups residing in the camp. Despite a new ceasefire on September 14, sporadic gunfire and continued displacement continue to drive humanitarian needs.
- Between May and October, approximately 1.4 million Lebanese nationals and Syrian and Palestinian refugees are expected to face Crisis—IPC 3—or worse levels of acute food insecurity in Lebanon due to the ongoing depreciation of the Lebanese pound and rising inflation.
- A rising number of arrests, detentions, and government-led raids have led to reports of worsening psychological distress among Syrian refugees in Lebanon. In response, USG partners continue to provide protection services, including psychosocial support.



<b>TOTAL U.S. GOVERNMENT HUMANITARIAN FUNDING</b>	USAID/BHA <sup>1</sup>	\$90,909,060
	State/PRM <sup>2</sup>	\$206,598,308
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$297,507,368</b>

*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

### Persistent Clashes in Ein El Hilweh Camp Prompt Increased Needs

Renewed violent clashes erupted among rival Palestinian armed groups within Ein El Hilweh—Lebanon's largest Palestinian refugee camp, hosting approximately 63,000 people—on September 13, prompting secondary displacement of camp residents and marking the breakdown of the ceasefire agreement between Fatah and Islamist Palestinian factions brokered on September 12, the UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) reports. Intermittent violent clashes between Fatah and Islamist Palestinian factions in Ein El Hilweh camp have persisted since late July—causing the secondary displacement of more than 4,000 camp residents—and had previously surged on September 7, resulting in the death of at least 18 individuals and injury to more than 140 others. Armed groups in Ein El Hilweh occupied over eight UNRWA-supported schools inside the camp as of September 20, hindering access to education for nearly 6,000 children in advance of the beginning of the school year on October 2. Although the parties negotiated a new ceasefire accord on September 14, relief actors had reported sporadic incidents of gunfire and continued displacement as of September 18, as efforts to de-escalate the situation continue.

UNRWA and its partners have been providing food, health, psychosocial support, shelter, and water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) assistance to households displaced from Ein El Hilweh since late July. The UN agency maintains four emergency shelters that collectively accommodate approximately 1,000 internally displaced persons (IDPs) but reported that the sites were reaching capacity as of September 19. IDPs from Ein El Hilweh had reportedly also sheltered with relatives or at other gathering points, including mosques and warehouses, in the neighboring town of Saida as of September 19.

IPC Status May 2023–October 2023	
Phase 5	0 people in Catastrophe
Phase 4	111,785 people in Emergency
Phase 3	1,299,764 people in Crisis
Phase 2	2,534,415 people in Stress
Phase 1	1,629,716 people Minimally Food Insecure

### An Estimated 1.4 Million People Projected to Face Acute Food Insecurity Through October

An estimated 1.4 million Lebanese nationals and Syrian and Palestinian refugees, representing approximately 25 percent of Lebanon's official population, are expected to experience Crisis—IPC 3—or worse levels of acute food insecurity between May and October, according to the May IPC analysis.<sup>3</sup> The analysis marks a 380,000 person decrease in the total number of individuals facing acute food insecurity in Lebanon compared to the IPC's January-to-April reporting period, likely due to greater data availability on key indicators, such as the Livelihood Coping Strategy Index and Household Hunger Scale, and increased market stability. The ongoing depreciation of the Lebanese pound and rising inflation continue to exacerbate food insecurity, with Lebanon experiencing the second-highest food price inflation rate in the world in July, according to the World Bank. Nevertheless, increased access to U.S. dollars (USD) throughout the local economy and USAID/BHA-supported cash assistance in both USD and local currency has facilitated greater price stability and led to improved household access to food and other

<sup>3</sup> The Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) is a multi-partner initiative that developed a standardized scale to classify the severity and magnitude of food insecurity. The IPC scale, which is comparable across countries and time, ranges from Minimal—IPC 1—to Famine—IPC 5—for acute food insecurity. IPC Phase 5 is referred to as “Catastrophe” when classifying a household and “Famine” when classifying an area. Famine conditions occur when at least 20 percent of the population in a given area face an extreme lack of food; the Global Acute Malnutrition prevalence, measured by weight-for-height z-score, exceeds 30 percent; and the mortality rate exceeds two people per 10,000 individuals per day.

basic necessities. The Government of Lebanon (GoL), USAID/BHA partners, and other humanitarian actors reached approximately 2 million individuals in need with food assistance through cash transfers, meeting more than 50 percent of their monthly caloric requirements during the May reporting period.

### **Syrian Refugees Report Worsening Psychological Distress Amid Increasing Detention and Deportation**

Syrian refugees in Lebanon reported an increase in psychological distress from April to June due to rising arrests, deportations, and GoL-led raids, according to a survey conducted by State/PRM partner the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). The report detailed various protection violations worsened by government-issued directives requiring Syrian households to legally register within their respective governorate, which has subsequently increased reports of mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) concerns among households lacking legal residency, as compared to the January-to-March reporting period.

Syrian refugees are often unable to gain legal residency in Lebanon due to a lack of financial resources, increasing their vulnerability to detention and deportation and prompting refugees to limit their movements and social interactions, according to UNHCR. In 2023, the average income of refugee households remained below the survival minimum expenditure basket, a benchmark to estimate the cost of basic food and emergency relief supplies for a refugee household in Lebanon. In addition to impeding their ability to gain legal residency, financial difficulties have reportedly prompted refugee households to adopt negative coping strategies such as cutting health care spending or reducing the quality and quantity of meals to meet basic needs, exacerbating psychological hardship.

In response, State/PRM partner UNHCR continued to provide protection services for refugees in Lebanon, including MHPSS. In August, UNHCR supported the training of nearly 900 outreach volunteers, as well as UNHCR and nongovernmental organization (NGO) partner frontline staff, on MHPSS techniques, and provide community-based psychosocial support to more than 1,200 refugees. U.S. Government (USG) partner International Medical Corps (IMC) also provided more than 370 MHPSS consultations for at-risk refugees and host communities in July, including mental health case management, psychiatry, and psychotherapy sessions. IMC also conducted gender-based violence (GBV) awareness sessions, reaching nearly 900 individuals in North Lebanon.

### **State/PRM Partner UNHCR Reaches Data-Sharing Agreement with GoL**

On August 8, the GoL and UNHCR announced an agreement on data sharing for refugee populations in accordance with global data protection standards. Under the agreement, the GoL reaffirmed its commitment to the principle of non-refoulement and its obligations under international and domestic law. The agreement emerged from successful negotiations between the two entities, after which UNHCR sent the agreed-upon note verbale to the Lebanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Emigrants (MoFA), with the agreement entering into force after the receipt of a positive reply from MoFA in September. UNHCR and the Lebanese General Directorate of General Security continue to convene a series of technical committee meetings to further discuss the procedural aspects required to operationalize the agreement.

## KEY FIGURES



**\$83.6 Million**

In dedicated USAID/BHA emergency food assistance in FY 2023



**125,000**

Mental health consultations administered by State/PRM partner UNHCR

## U.S. GOVERNMENT RESPONSE

### FOOD SECURITY

Since FY 2012, USAID/BHA has provided emergency food assistance to respond to the needs of Syrian refugees in Lebanon. In FY 2021, USAID/BHA also began to provide emergency food assistance to Lebanese nationals affected by the country's ongoing economic crisis. USAID/BHA provided partner the UN World Food Program (WFP) with nearly \$84 million in funding to support nearly 350,000 Syrian refugees and 300,000 Lebanese nationals with monthly food assistance in FY 2023. Of Lebanese individuals receiving in-kind food assistance, the proportion of households with acceptable food consumption rose from approximately 50 percent in September 2022 to more than 80 percent in June 2023. In May, UNHCR and WFP also began distribution of dual currency cash and e-voucher assistance transfers to refugee participants to address the rapid depreciation of the Lebanese pound and stabilize purchasing power, transferring approximately \$64.3 million in assistance from USAID/BHA and other donors.

### HEALTH

With support from USAID/BHA, Relief International continued to provide health services at eight primary health care clinics (PHCCs) in Akkar, Beirut, North Lebanon, and South governorates, training more than 30 health care staff and providing more than 90,700 subsidized comprehensive primary care consultations. With USAID/BHA support, IMC provided more than 43,000 primary health care consultations at PHCCs and distributed more than 21,000 essential medications to patients in FY 2023. Additionally, IMC supported nine community health workers in conducting awareness campaigns on essential health and hygiene topics.

State/PRM supports UNHCR to operate a large referral health care program to subsidize hospitalization fees to facilitate refugees' access to hospital care by paying a significant portion of the hospital bills. The assistance includes covering a significant part of the cost for refugees in need of obstetric care and urgent lifesaving interventions at hospitals through a network of 30 contracted hospitals. Between January and August, UNHCR supported nearly 41,300 admissions to contracted hospitals. In addition, UNHCR and partners supported more than 200 primary health care centers across the country to provide general health care services such as vaccinations, maternal care, and care for chronic non-communicable diseases. During the same period, UNHCR also supported more than 33,600 primary health care and more than 26,000 mental health consultations.



**250,000**

Syrians reached by  
USG-supported WASH  
assistance per month

## WASH

The USG supports WASH programming throughout Lebanon to improve water and sanitation conditions and prevent the spread of communicable diseases. With State/PRM support, the UN Children’s Fund (UNICEF) continues to facilitate access to safe drinking water and sanitation services for more than 162,000 Syrian refugees residing in informal settlements across Lebanon, helping mitigate public health hazards and social tensions related to limited water resources. USAID/BHA support enables IMC and Relief International to implement critical WASH programming and ensure that vulnerable households have essential supplies, including detergent, face masks, hand sanitizer, and soap.



**1.4 Million**

Syrian refugees reached  
through UNHCR’s  
Winter Cash Assistance  
Program

## PROTECTION

The USG supports ten partners, including NGOs and UN agencies, to provide child protection, GBV prevention, and MHPSS to vulnerable populations across Lebanon. State/PRM partner UNHCR distributed multipurpose cash assistance (MPCA) to approximately 128,000 Syrian refugee households and 2,700 refugee households of other nationalities between January and August to bolster capacity to meet basic needs, mitigate exploitation risks, and reduce the use of negative coping strategies. With State/PRM support, UNHCR delivered relief commodities, including fuel and winter clothing, to help meet households’ basic needs amid harsh winter weather conditions. UNHCR reached more than 1.4 million Syrian refugees and nearly 11,500 Iraqi refugees and refugees of other nationalities through its Winter Cash Assistance Program between November 2022 and March 2023. Additionally, USAID/BHA partner Relief International reached more than 1,400 individuals in Lebanon with psychosocial support services.



**158,000**

Children reached with  
summer school sessions  
by State/PRM partner  
UNHCR

## EDUCATION

UNHCR partners reached nearly 158,000 students—of whom approximately one-third are non-Lebanese—with summer school sessions across nearly 600 schools. Additionally, UNHCR reached more than 7,900 refugee children between January and August with community-based homework support and catch-up classes in community venues targeting students at risk of dropping out of school, aiming to facilitate the transition of refugee children from primary to secondary schools. During the same reporting period, UNHCR also provided more than 4,000 unenrolled refugee children with foundational literacy and numeracy support to help transition them into the formal national education system.

## CONTEXT IN BRIEF

- Lebanon hosts the largest number of refugees per capita of any country, with the significant humanitarian needs of more than 1.5 million refugees adding strain on local resources. Additionally, Lebanon has experienced several large socioeconomic shocks due to overlapping crises since 2019, including the collapse of the currency, a cholera outbreak, the deterioration of the economy, the emergence of the

coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, the explosions at the Port of Beirut in 2020, and ongoing political instability.

- The 2023 Emergency Response Plan (ERP) for Lebanon—released in April 2023—requests \$200 million to reach 1.3 million people in need across Lebanon. The ERP complements the 2022–2023 Lebanon Crisis Response Plan, which requested \$3.2 billion to address the impact of the Syria crisis in Lebanon and outlines the multi-sector assistance required in 2023 to meet the needs of approximately 2.1 million Lebanese nationals, 1.5 million Syrian refugees, and more than 291,000 other migrants and refugees.
- U.S. Ambassador Dorothy C. Shea issued a redeclaration of humanitarian need for FY 2023 on October 26, 2022, as a result of the continued impacts of the ongoing socioeconomic and political crisis on vulnerable populations that has been exacerbated by the impacts of Russia’s invasion of Ukraine on food prices in Lebanon; the COVID-19 pandemic; the 2020 explosions at the Port of Beirut; and the recent cholera outbreak.

#### USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE LEBANON RESPONSE IN FY 2023<sup>4</sup>

IMPLEMENTING PARTNER	ACTIVITY	LOCATION	AMOUNT
<b>USAID/BHA</b>			
IMC	Health, Protection, WASH	Akkar, Baalbek-El Hermel, Beirut, Beqaa, Mount Lebanon, El Nabatieh, North Lebanon, South Lebanon	\$2,500,000
Mercy Corps	Humanitarian Coordination, Information Management, and Assessments (HCIMA)	Countrywide	\$430,000
Relief International	Health, Nutrition, Protection, WASH	Akkar, Beirut, Mount Lebanon, North Lebanon, South Lebanon	\$3,761,965
UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)	HCIMA	Countrywide	\$500,000
WFP	Food Assistance—Cash Transfers for Food; Food Vouchers; Local, Regional, and International Procurement	Countrywide	\$83,620,000
	Program Support		\$97,095
<b>TOTAL USAID/BHA FUNDING</b>			<b>\$90,909,060</b>
<b>STATE/PRM</b>			
International Organization for Migration (IOM)	Logistics Support, MPCA, Protection	Countrywide	\$900,000
UNICEF	Education, Health, Nutrition, Protection, WASH	Countrywide	\$65,300,000
UN Development Program (UNDP)	Economic Recovery and Market Systems (ERMS), Shelter and Settlements	Countrywide	\$4,200,000
UNHCR	Education, ERMS, Health, Logistics Support, MPCA, Protection, Shelter and Settlements, WASH	Countrywide	\$88,900,000
UNRWA	Multi-Sector, Protection, WASH	Countrywide	\$14,623,854
Implementing Partners	Education, ERMS, Health, Logistics Support, MPCA, Protection, Shelter and Settlements, WASH	Countrywide	\$32,674,454
<b>TOTAL STATE/PRM FUNDING</b>			<b>\$206,598,308</b>
<b>TOTAL USG FUNDING FOR THE LEBANON RESPONSE IN FY 2023<sup>5</sup></b>			<b>\$297,507,368</b>

<sup>4</sup>Year of funding indicates the date of commitment or obligation, not appropriation, of funds. Funding figures reflect publicly announced funding as of September 30, 2023.

<sup>5</sup>State/PRM and USAID/BHA funding benefiting refugees in Lebanon is also reported in USG Syria Complex Emergency Fact Sheet #9, dated September 30, 2023.

## 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://www.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://www.cidi.org)
  - Information on relief activities of the humanitarian community can be found at [reliefweb.int](https://www.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)