

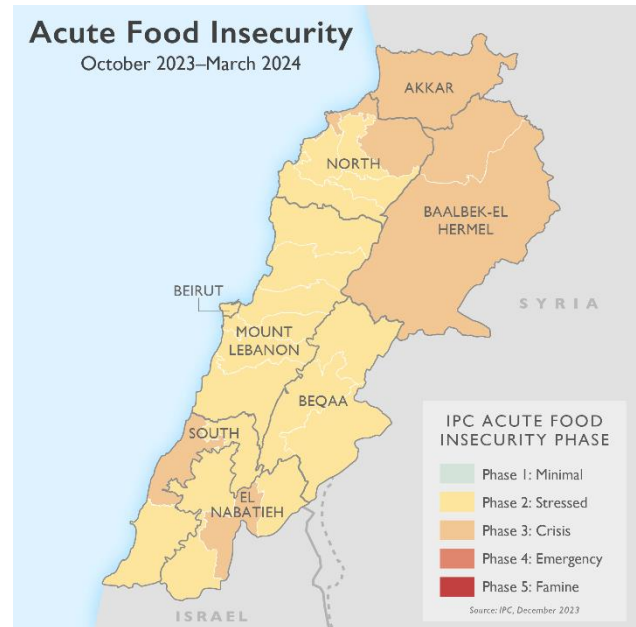
# Lebanon – Complex Emergency

APRIL 3, 2024

## SITUATION AT A GLANCE



- More than 1 million people in Lebanon faced Crisis—IPC 3—or worse levels of acute food insecurity from October 2023 to March 2024, primarily driven by poor economic conditions, and an estimated 1.1 million people are projected to face acute food insecurity from April to September, according to an IPC analysis.
- Cross-border hostilities in southern Lebanon have resulted in at least 316 civilian deaths and displaced more than 91,000 individuals since October 7, with some populations remaining in the area requiring humanitarian assistance, the UN reports.
- On April 3, the USG newly announced more than \$67 million in additional humanitarian assistance—including emergency food, health, nutrition, protection, and WASH support—for vulnerable households in Lebanon during FY 2024.



## TOTAL U.S. GOVERNMENT HUMANITARIAN FUNDING

For the Lebanon Response in FY 2024

USAID/BHA<sup>1</sup>

\$67,050,000

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

**Total**

**\$67,050,000**

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

## KEY DEVELOPMENTS

### More Than 1 Million People Face Acute Food Insecurity Amid Continued Economic Crisis, Humanitarian Funding Constraints

An estimated 1 million people—19 percent of Lebanon’s total population, including 582,000 Lebanese nationals, 411,000 Syrian refugees, and 57,000 Palestinian refugees—were projected to be acutely food insecure from October 2023 to March 2024 as poor economic conditions continued, according to an IPC analysis released in December 2023.<sup>2</sup> Nearly 980,000 people faced Crisis—IPC 3—levels of acute food insecurity and 74,000 people faced Emergency—IPC 4—levels. In addition, approximately 1.1 million people will likely face Crisis or worse levels of acute food insecurity from April to September, according to IPC projections. The Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS NET) similarly projects that more than 20 percent of the country will face Crisis or worse levels of acute food insecurity between February and September.

Inflation remains the key driver of food insecurity in Lebanon. As of February, the country was experiencing the second highest food price inflation rate in the world at more than 180 percent, the World Bank reports. At the same time, declining income-generating opportunities and the depreciation of the Lebanese pound continue to further restrict vulnerable households’ limited ability to afford basic necessities, such as electricity, food, health services, and rent, according to the IPC analysis. A December UN Children’s Fund (UNICEF) assessment of Lebanese, Palestinian, and Syrian households in Lebanon found that they were increasingly adopting negative coping mechanisms such as borrowing money, reducing health expenditures, and relying on children’s work for household income to afford one meal per day and shelter.

Current and expected declines in humanitarian assistance in 2024 due to global funding constraints further threaten food security of households across Lebanon, where an estimated 26 percent of Lebanese nationals and 70 percent of Syrian refugees received humanitarian food assistance as of December, according to the IPC analysis. A funding shortfall prompted the UN World Food Program (WFP) to reduce the number of refugee households receiving food assistance by 30 percent in December. The UN agency also reduced the number of Lebanese households receiving in-kind food assistance by approximately 50 percent in January following a retargeting exercise that showed decreased vulnerability for many households. Moreover, the UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) reported in February that it may need to suspend operations in Lebanon in the coming months due to severe funding constraints; the UN agency had not reported suspending operations as of April 3. UNRWA provides critical services, including cash assistance, education, health care, and waste management, to approximately 250,000 Palestinians in Lebanon, 80 percent of whom live below the poverty line, according to the UN agency.

USAID/BHA partner WFP continues to provide emergency food assistance to address persistent acute food insecurity across Lebanon, even as the scale of needs increases due to the conflict in southern Lebanon and exceeds available resources amid global funding shortfalls. With support from USAID/BHA and other humanitarian donors, WFP reached approximately 1 million vulnerable people—including nearly 200,000 Lebanese nationals and 890,000 Syrian refugees—with cash, vouchers, and in-kind food assistance in January to help them meet basic food and nutrition needs. New USAID/BHA funding announced on April 3 is enabling WFP to provide monthly household food parcels for up to 200,000

<sup>2</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, ranges from Minimal (IPC 1) to Famine (IPC 5) for acute food insecurity.

Lebanese nationals and monthly electronic food vouchers for more than 300,000 Syrian refugees.

### **Cross-Border Strikes Result in 54 Civilian Deaths, Displace More Than 91,000 People in Southern Lebanon**

The escalation of hostilities, characterized by cross-border airstrikes, between the Israel Defense Forces and the Lebanese armed group Hizballah along the Blue Line—a demarcation line dividing Lebanon from Israel and the Golan Heights—since October 8 had resulted in at least 316 confirmed civilian deaths as of March 21 and displaced more than 92,000 individuals within Lebanon as of March 26, the UN reports. The escalation has exacerbated humanitarian needs in conflict-affected areas of southern Lebanon, with some of the nearly 60,000 civilians remaining in the area in need of emergency assistance, including food assistance; health services, particularly medications for chronic diseases; and multipurpose cash assistance (MPCA), according to the UN. In addition, hostilities have disrupted agricultural activity, driven increases in local food prices, and limited households' access to livelihoods and markets in southern Lebanon, escalating the risk of acute food insecurity, FEWS NET reports. Cross-border airstrikes have also caused significant damage to houses, relief centers, and critical public infrastructure, the UN reports. Between October 7 and March 21, hostilities damaged at least nine water facilities, affecting access to water for more than 100,000 residents in southern Lebanon's El Nabatieh and South Lebanon governorates. The UN World Health Organization (WHO) reports that attacks on health facilities resulted in the deaths of seven health care workers and the destruction of at least one facility and several ambulances in South Lebanon, as well as the closure of six primary health care clinics in El Nabatieh during the same period. Most individuals displaced by the conflict—almost all of whom originated from El Nabatieh and South Lebanon—are living with host families or in rented accommodations, with only 2 percent residing in 18 collective shelters across Beqaa, El Nabatieh, and South Lebanon governorates as of March 19, according to the International Organization for Migration (IOM).

In response, relief actors are providing critical humanitarian assistance in southern Lebanon, operating more than 20 facilities offering primary health care services, providing cash assistance to more than 18,600 households, and delivering more than 460,000 hot meals and 243,000 gallons of water through both water trucking and bottled water distributions as of March 21, according to the UN. With support from USAID/BHA, WFP distributed more than 20,000 food parcels to host communities in southern Lebanon during January and February, while USAID/BHA nongovernmental organization (NGO) partners International Medical Corps (IMC) and Relief International continue to address health needs in southern Lebanon through four primary health care centers.

### **USG Provides \$67 Million in FY 2024 Humanitarian Assistance in Lebanon**

On April 3, the U.S. Government (USG) announced that it has provided more than \$67 million in humanitarian assistance through USAID/BHA for vulnerable populations in Lebanon during FY 2024 in response to continuing acute levels of food insecurity and emergency health needs resulting from the country's protracted economic, financial, and humanitarian crises, as well as the regional impacts of the ongoing crisis in Gaza. The \$67 million includes funding that has enabled WFP to continue to provide monthly food assistance for up to 200,000 vulnerable Lebanese individuals and more than 300,000 Syrian refugees for several months. The total also includes funding for IMC and Relief International to provide health, nutrition, protection, and water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) services benefiting more than 141,000 people, and support to NGO partner Mercy Corps for coordination and information management among humanitarian organizations. The newly announced funding brings total USG humanitarian assistance in Lebanon to nearly \$1.6 billion since FY 2020.

## KEY FIGURES



**\$62 Million**

In dedicated USAID/BHA emergency food assistance in FY 2024



**43,000**

People receiving health services at PHCCs administered by USAID/BHA partner Relief International



**162,000**

Syrian refugees reached by USG-supported WASH assistance per month

## U.S. GOVERNMENT RESPONSE

### FOOD SECURITY

USAID/BHA has provided emergency food assistance to respond to the needs of Syrian refugees in Lebanon since FY 2012. In FY 2021, USAID/BHA also began to provide emergency food assistance to Lebanese nationals affected by the country's ongoing economic crisis. In May 2023, the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and WFP resumed the use of dual-currency cash and electronic voucher assistance transfers to refugee participants to stabilize household purchasing power amid the rapid depreciation of the Lebanese pound. As of April, USAID/BHA had provided WFP with nearly \$62 million in funding to support more than 300,000 Syrian refugees and up to 200,000 Lebanese nationals with monthly food assistance during FY 2024.

### 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 Lebanon governorates, reaching more than 43,000 individuals with outpatient consultations, mental health consultations, and other health services from October 2023 to February 2024. Over the same period, USAID/BHA partner IMC reached nearly 35,000 people with primary health care consultations, distributed more than 24,000 essential medications to patients, and supported ten community health workers in conducting awareness campaigns on essential health and hygiene topics.

The U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (State/PRM) supports UNHCR to operate a large referral health care program to facilitate refugees' access to hospital care by subsidizing hospitalization fees. The program covers a significant part of the cost of obstetric care and life-saving interventions for refugees at a network of 30 contracted hospitals. In 2023, UNHCR supported nearly 140,000 mental health care consultations and helped more than 98,000 individuals receive obstetric and emergency care and more than 1,400 people receive tuberculosis medication through the National Tuberculosis Program.

### WASH

The USG supports WASH programming throughout Lebanon to improve water and sanitation conditions and prevent the spread of communicable diseases. USAID/BHA support enables IMC and Relief International to implement critical WASH programming and ensure that vulnerable households have essential supplies, including detergent, hand sanitizer, and soap.



**182,000**

Syrian refugee households reached with MPCA from State/PRM partner UNHCR during 2023

## PROTECTION

The USG supports ten partners, including NGOs and UN agencies, to provide child protection, gender-based violence prevention, and mental health and psychosocial support to vulnerable populations across Lebanon. State/PRM partner UNHCR distributed MPCA to approximately 182,000 Syrian refugee households between January and December to bolster capacity to meet basic needs, mitigate exploitation risks, and reduce the use of negative coping strategies. With State/PRM support, UNHCR provided child protection services reaching more than 11,000 children and psychosocial support for nearly 27,000 children and caregivers. In addition, UNHCR provided safe spaces for more than 52,000 Syrian refugees and vulnerable Lebanese individuals. Moreover, USAID/BHA partner Relief International reached more than 1,400 individuals in Lebanon with psychosocial support services from October 2023 to February 2024.



**158,000**

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

## EDUCATION

With State/PRM support, 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 50,000 refugee children in 2023 with community-based homework support and catch-up classes aiming to facilitate the transition of refugee children from primary to secondary schools.



**\$430,000**

In dedicated USAID/BHA HCIMA assistance in FY 2024

## HCIMA

USAID/BHA supports humanitarian coordination, information management, and assessments (HCIMA) in Lebanon to provide humanitarian actors with analysis and recommendations to improve understanding of the needs of affected populations and prioritize assistance in a dynamic, resource-constrained environment. USAID/BHA partner Mercy Corps conducts regular analyses and research on a range of issues in coordination with donors, humanitarian coordination bodies, international NGOs, think tanks, and UN agencies to strengthen understanding of needs and operational risks for the humanitarian community in Lebanon. In addition, Mercy Corps has collaborated with IOM to map displacement resulting from the increased hostilities in southern Lebanon and facilitate a more informed, targeted humanitarian response.

## CONTEXT IN BRIEF

- Lebanon hosts the largest number of refugees per capita of any country, with the humanitarian needs of more than 1.5 million refugees straining local resources. Lebanon has also experienced several socioeconomic shocks due to overlapping crises since 2019, including economic deterioration, the collapse of the Lebanese pound, hyperinflation, a cholera outbreak, 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—requested \$200 million to reach 1.3 million people in need across Lebanon. The ERP complemented 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 2024 on October 13, 2023, as a result of the continued impacts of the ongoing socioeconomic and political crisis on vulnerable populations.

## USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE LEBANON RESPONSE IN FY 2024<sup>1</sup>

IMPLEMENTING PARTNER	ACTIVITY	LOCATION	AMOUNT
<b>USAID/BHA</b>			
IMC	Health, Nutrition, Protection, WASH	Baalbek-Hermel, Beirut, Beqaa, Mount Lebanon, El Nabatieh, North Lebanon, South Lebanon	\$2,000,000
Mercy Corps	HCIMA	Countrywide	\$430,000
Relief International	Health, Nutrition, Protection, WASH	Beirut, Mount Lebanon, El Nabatieh, North Lebanon, South Lebanon	\$3,000,000
WFP	Food Assistance—Food Vouchers, Local, Regional, and International Procurement	Countrywide	\$61,620,000
<b>TOTAL USAID/BHA FUNDING</b>			<b>\$67,050,000</b>
<b>TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE LEBANON RESPONSE IN FY 2024</b>			<b>\$67,050,000</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 April 3, 2024.

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

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