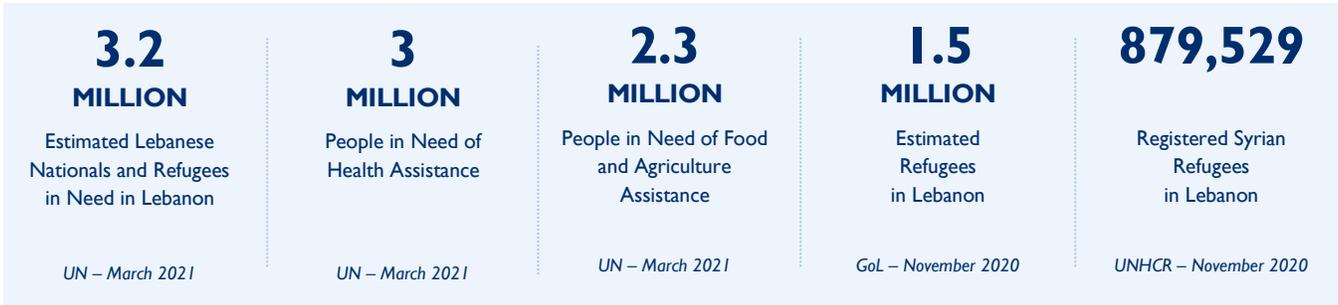


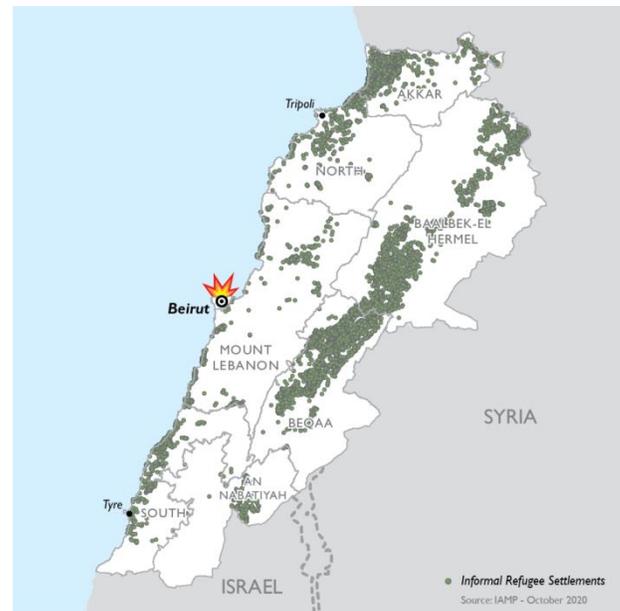
Lebanon – Complex Emergency

MARCH 30, 2021

SITUATION AT A GLANCE



- On March 30, the USG announced approximately \$153 million in new humanitarian assistance to aid Syrian refugees in Lebanon. The funds will support the provision of emergency cash and food assistance, health care, and protection services, among other activities.
- Nearly 90 percent of Syrians in Lebanon were living in extreme poverty in 2020, a significant increase compared to 2019.
- Vulnerable Lebanese and refugees are experiencing deteriorating food security conditions across Lebanon due to the ongoing economic crisis and COVID-19 pandemic.



TOTAL U.S. GOVERNMENT HUMANITARIAN FUNDING For the Lebanon Response in FYs 2020–2021	USAID/BHA ^{1,2}	\$183,611,200
		State/PRM ³
	DoD ⁴	\$3,794,200
	Total	\$558,323,774⁵

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

¹ USAID's Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (USAID/BHA).

² USAID/BHA assistance includes former Office of Food for Peace emergency food assistance operations and former Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance non-food humanitarian activities.

³ U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (State/PRM)

⁴ U.S. Department of Defense (DoD)

⁵ This total includes \$54,873,163 in supplemental funding through USAID/BHA and State/PRM for coronavirus disease (COVID-19) preparedness and response activities.

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

USG Announces \$153 Million for Refugee Response in Lebanon at Brussels

During the Brussels V Conference on Syria on March 30, Ambassador Linda Thomas-Greenfield announced nearly \$153 million in new U.S. Government (USG) humanitarian funding to address the needs of Syrian refugees and host communities in Lebanon. The funding consists of more than \$70 million from USAID/BHA to continue distributing food assistance—including cash transfers and vouchers—to refugees and nearly \$83 million from State/PRM for multi-sector response efforts, such as cash-based programming, health care services, and protection support. The funding brings total USG support to address the refugee crisis in Lebanon, including refugees of other nationalities, and the effects of the August 4 explosions in Lebanon’s capital city of Beirut to approximately \$163 million in FY 2021.

Updated LCRP Appeals for Nearly \$2.8 Billion for Vulnerable Communities

On March 12, the UN and Government of Lebanon (GoL) launched a 2021 update to the Lebanon Crisis Response Plan (LCRP) for 2017–2021, appealing for approximately \$2.8 billion to provide humanitarian assistance to those affected by the Syria crisis in Lebanon. The plan identifies 3.2 million people in need of assistance, including 1.5 million displaced Syrians, nearly 1.3 million vulnerable Lebanese, and approximately 208,000 refugees of other nationalities in the country. Under the updated plan, relief actors aim to reach approximately 3 million people, including nearly 2.5 million individuals with health services; an estimated 1.9 million people with protection support; approximately 1.8 million individuals with food and agriculture aid; and more than 1.8 million people with water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) assistance.

Percentage of Refugees in Poverty Significantly Increases in 2020

Nearly 90 percent of Syrian refugee households in Lebanon are living in extreme poverty, or below the survival minimum expenditure basket, a metric based on the minimum amount of goods required per household for one month to meet basic needs, according to the UN Vulnerability Assessment of Syrian Refugees (VASyR), which was conducted from August to September 2020. This represents an increase from approximately 55 percent in 2019. The survey highlights that socioeconomic deterioration, the COVID-19 pandemic, and August 4 Beirut port explosions have compounded the vulnerability of Syrian refugees in Lebanon. Inflation has increased the cost of food and other basic commodities, contributing to a rise in the average level of debt per household—primarily to pay for food, health care, and rent—in 2020. Meanwhile, the percentage of refugees experiencing unemployment also increased from approximately 30 percent in 2019 to nearly 40 percent in 2020, further reducing the ability of refugees to meet basic needs. As such, an estimated 96 percent of refugee households reported adopting livelihood-based coping strategies—such as accruing debt, child labor, selling assets, and reducing expenditures on health care—to afford critical goods, including food.

The average number of meals per day and dietary diversity also decreased in 2020, contributing to poor or borderline food consumption scores among one-half of surveyed Syrian refugees. In total, nearly 50 percent of Syrian refugee households were considered food-insecure in 2020, representing a significant increase from the approximately 30 percent of households experiencing food insecurity in 2019, according to the VASyR. Moreover, the percentage of refugees with valid legal residency has decreased—from 22 percent in 2019 to 20 percent in 2020—due to the cost of renewal and inability to meet the criteria for a fee waiver, risking arrest and hindering access to basic services, the UN reports.

Food Security Conditions Decline Among all Populations in Lebanon

Food security conditions among both Lebanese and Syrian refugees worsened in Lebanon during November–December compared with September–October, according to the UN World Food Program (WFP). The UN agency noted a slight increase in the percentage of households reporting challenges accessing food and basic needs, from 36 percent in September–October to 41 percent in November–December. WFP cited Beirut, Mount Lebanon, and An Nabatiyah as the most affected governorates, although the increase occurred countrywide. Food shortages also worsened during the period, with up to 55 percent of surveyed households reporting food shortages in November–December, compared with 49 percent in September–October. Households identified lack of financial resources as the primary barrier to accessing food and other basic needs, with nearly 50 percent of surveyed households reporting a decrease in their wages during the reporting period—in line with a marked decline in household purchasing power due to the depreciation of the Lebanese Pound. Furthermore, nationwide COVID-19 lockdown measures have limited income-generating activities in recent months. Similar to the previous reporting period, approximately 85 percent of surveyed households reported consuming less expensive, frequent, or nutritious meals to cope with limited resources. In response to food needs, WFP reached nearly 1.2 million people across Lebanon with emergency food assistance in February with USAID/BHA and other donor funding. The figure includes more than 338,000 vulnerable Lebanese, approximately 820,000 Syrian refugees, and 22,400 refugees of other nationalities.

Economic Crisis Damages MSMEs and Farmers, Increasing Unemployment

The current economic crisis—including the depreciation of the Lebanese Pound, shortages of foreign currency, and increased prices—has negatively affected micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs), which constitute 95 percent of total formal enterprises in Lebanon and employ more than 50 percent of the country’s workforce, according to the UN. Lack of access to financial capital and reduced demand for goods and services has prompted many MSMEs to close, reducing employment opportunities, particularly for Syrian refugees. Economic conditions have also negatively affected small-scale farmers and the agriculture sector, where increased input prices and lack of liquidity to purchase supplies will likely result in a decline in yields, the UN reports. As of September 2020, approximately 20 percent of surveyed Lebanese and Syrian refugee households report having lost their source of income in the past year, compared to 10 percent of households that reported similar conditions in May, according to the UN. To respond to lack of livelihood opportunities in Lebanon, State/PRM partner AVSI trained nearly 120 individuals from September 2020 to March 2021 to produce cloth masks, providing income-generating opportunities for refugees and other vulnerable individuals, while also supporting efforts to combat the spread of COVID-19.

KEY FIGURES



300,000

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. 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, allowing individuals to purchase nutritious foods available in local markets and support local vendors. Moreover, USAID/BHA expanded food programming in Lebanon to reach populations affected by the August 4 explosions and individuals particularly affected by COVID-19. WFP is providing emergency food assistance to

543,000 people in Lebanon through its COVID-19 program and distributing in-kind food assistance and food vouchers to nearly 78,000 people affected by the August 4 explosions. 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 refugees and Lebanese nationals resulting from COVID-19 and the August 4 explosions.



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 provide primary and secondary health care services—including child, maternal, mental health, and sexual and reproductive care services, as well as medications and vaccinations—to Syrian refugees, refugees of other nationalities, and vulnerable Lebanese individuals. UNHCR also subsidizes refugee access to primary care and 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 vaccination plan through nearly 400 health workers and outreach volunteers, while also disseminating COVID-19 awareness and prevention messaging through community health volunteers, reaching nearly 72,000 individuals per month; virtual awareness sessions, which reached more than 4,000 youth in December; and social media. UNHCR had also trained 650 partner staff and more than 7,400 refugees on COVID-19 issues as of December 2020, and supports 10 isolation facilities, with a combined capacity of approximately 570 patients. Additionally, State/PRM partner Restart—and other non-governmental organization (NGO) partners—provides psychosocial support (PSS) services for refugees and host communities.

Through two implementing partners, USAID/BHA aims to mitigate the spread and impact of COVID-19 and reduce health needs among vulnerable Lebanese. USAID/BHA supports American University of Beirut (AUB) and Relief International 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). In February, AUB provided 39,000 boxes of PPE items to 10 partner hospitals in Beqaa and North governorates to support medical staff.



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. With State/PRM support, the UN Children’s Fund (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 on a monthly basis, helping mitigate public health hazards and social tensions related to limited water resources. Meanwhile, USAID/BHA supports World Vision to distribute hygiene commodities and conduct hygiene promotion activities among vulnerable households, aiming to mitigate

coronavirus transmission; the NGO distributed 5,700 WASH kits—containing items such as cloth face coverings, hand sanitizer, soap, and informational materials about COVID-19—in Beirut, Beqaa, and Mount Lebanon in December.



48,750

Households reached with USG-supported protection services in 2021

PROTECTION

State/PRM supports nine 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 1,190 children and 570 caregivers—and PSS through local initiatives—assisting nearly 900 at-risk children—from October to December 2020. UNICEF also distributes protection-related cash assistance to vulnerable households, benefitting nearly 50,000 refugee children and 32,000 Lebanese children in December. Additionally, State/PRM partner UNHCR has distributed cash assistance to nearly 48,000 vulnerable Syrian refugee households and 750 refugee households of other nationalities to date in 2021.



1,250

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

SHELTER

In response to the August 4 explosions, USAID/BHA supported Lutheran World Relief (LWR) to assist with critical repairs to ensure that damaged homes are safe, secure, and habitable for the most vulnerable explosion-affected households. As of February, the partner had repaired nearly 1,250 houses damaged by the explosions. USAID/BHA is also supporting Caritas to provide basic household items, such as mattresses and stoves, for people whose houses were destroyed by the explosions. Moreover, with State/PRM support, UNHCR assists displaced persons residing in informal settlements and residential buildings with maintenance, repair, and weatherproofing support. The UN agency reached approximately 138,000 refugees across Lebanon with shelter materials and weatherproofing kits in December and continues to pre-position stocks to ensure availability following an emergency.



150,000

Children targeted to receive USG-supported education materials in Lebanon

EDUCATION

State/PRM partner UNICEF provides technological and teaching resources to support online learning due to the COVID-19 pandemic, aiming to reach at least 150,000 students, while UNHCR continues to maintain a certified basic literacy and numeracy test for children ages 10 to 14 years of age who are out of school, which supports their entry to the formal public education system. Moreover, State/PRM partner the International Rescue Committee 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. With State/PRM support, Relief International's Cash for Education program reaches more than 760 households monthly in Beqaa, providing monthly stipends to Syrian refugee households as an incentive to keep children in school.

CONTEXT IN BRIEF

- Lebanon hosts the largest number of refugees per capita of any country, according to the UN. The influx of approximately 1.5 million refugees has strained local resources and generated significant humanitarian needs in the country. 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. Nationwide protests erupted in October 2019 in response to worsening economic and financial conditions across Lebanon. Meanwhile, COVID-19 and consequent movement restrictions have further affected the already struggling economy.
- On August 4, 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. The DART and RMT were demobilized on August 21 as response efforts shifted to reconstruction.
- On February 17, 2021, U.S. Ambassador to Lebanon Dorothy 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.

USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE LEBANON RESPONSE IN FY 2021¹

IMPLEMENTING PARTNER	ACTIVITY	LOCATION	AMOUNT
USAID/BHA			
WFP	Food Assistance	Countrywide	\$70,000,000
	Program Support		\$20,000
TOTAL USAID/BHA FUNDING			\$70,020,000
STATE/PRM			
Implementing Partners (IPs)	Cash-Based Programming, Education, GBV Prevention, Health, Livelihoods, Protection, Relief Commodities, Shelter and Settlements, WASH	Countrywide	\$17,198,143
UNHCR	Cash-Based Programming, Education, Health, Mental Health, Livelihoods, Protection, Relief Commodities, Shelter and Settlements, WASH	Countrywide	\$27,866,400
UNICEF	Cash-Based Programming, Child Protection, Education, GBV Prevention, Health, Nutrition, WASH, Youth Programs	Countrywide	\$47,600,000
TOTAL STATE/PRM FUNDING			\$92,664,543
TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE LEBANON RESPONSE IN FY 2021			\$162,684,543

USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE LEBANON RESPONSE IN FY 2020

IMPLEMENTING PARTNER	ACTIVITY	LOCATION	AMOUNT
USAID/BHA			
Caritas	Health, Shelter and Settlements	Beirut	\$2,400,000
Lebanese Red Cross (LRC)	WASH	Beirut	\$100,000
LWR	Shelter and Settlements	Beirut	\$2,200,000
WFP	Cash Transfers, Local, Regional, and International Procurement (LRIP)	Beirut	\$10,500,000
	Cash Transfers, Vouchers	Countrywide	\$80,000,000
	USAID/BHA Airlifted Relief Commodities	Beirut	\$47,751
	Program Support		\$60,262
TOTAL USAID/BHA FUNDING			\$95,308,013
STATE/PRM			
IPs	Cash-Based Programming, Education, GBV Prevention, Health, Protection, Livelihoods, Relief Commodities, Shelter and Settlements, WASH	Countrywide	\$34,713,855
UNHCR	Cash-Based Programming, Education, Health, Livelihoods, Mental Health, Protection, Relief Commodities, Shelter and Settlements, WASH	Countrywide	\$128,850,000
UNICEF	Cash-Based Programming, Child Protection, Education, GBV Prevention, Health, Nutrition, WASH, Youth Programs	Countrywide	\$78,100,000
TOTAL STATE/PRM FUNDING			\$241,663,855
DoD			
	Logistics Support	Beirut	\$3,794,200
TOTAL DoD FUNDING			\$3,794,200
TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE LEBANON RESPONSE IN FY 2020			\$340,766,068

FUNDING IN LEBANON FOR COVID-19 OUTBREAK PREPAREDNESS & RESPONSE²

USAID/BHA			
AUB	Health	Countrywide	\$2,500,000
Relief International	Health	Beqaa, North, South	\$2,200,000
World Vision	WASH	Beirut, Beqaa, Mount Lebanon	\$583,187
WFP	Cash Transfers, LRIP	Countrywide	\$13,000,000
TOTAL USAID/BHA FUNDING			\$18,283,187
STATE/PRM			
IPs	Cash-Based Programming, Livelihoods, Mental Health, Protection, Psychosocial Assistance, Relief Commodities	Countrywide	\$559,976
UNHCR	Cash-Based Programming, Health, Protection, Relief Commodities, WASH	Country	\$21,300,000
UNICEF	Education, Health, Protection, Relief Commodities, WASH	Countrywide	\$14,730,000
TOTAL STATE/PRM FUNDING			\$36,589,976
TOTAL USG FUNDING FOR COVID-19 OUTBREAK PREPAREDNESS & RESPONSE IN LEBANON IN FY 2020			\$54,873,163

TOTAL USAID/BHA FUNDING FOR THE LEBANON RESPONSE IN FYs 2020–2021	\$183,611,200
TOTAL STATE/PRM FUNDING FOR THE LEBANON RESPONSE IN FYs 2020–2021	\$370,918,374
TOTAL DoD FUNDING FOR THE LEBANON RESPONSE IN FYs 2020–2021	\$3,794,200
TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE LEBANON RESPONSE IN FYs 2020–2021	\$558,323,774

¹ Year of funding indicates the date of commitment or obligation, not appropriation, of funds. Funding figures reflect publicly announced funding as of March 30, 2021.

² Funding includes USG assistance to respond to the August 4 explosions and the refugee crisis in Lebanon. State/PRM and USAID/BHA funding benefitting refugees in Lebanon is also reported in the USG Syria Complex Emergency Fact Sheet and the USG Iraq Complex Emergency Fact Sheet.

³ Figures represent supplemental International Disaster Assistance (IDA) and Migration and Refugee Assistance (MRA) funding committed for COVID-19 preparedness and response activities as of March 30, 2021.

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.
- 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
 - Information on relief activities of the humanitarian community can be found at 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)