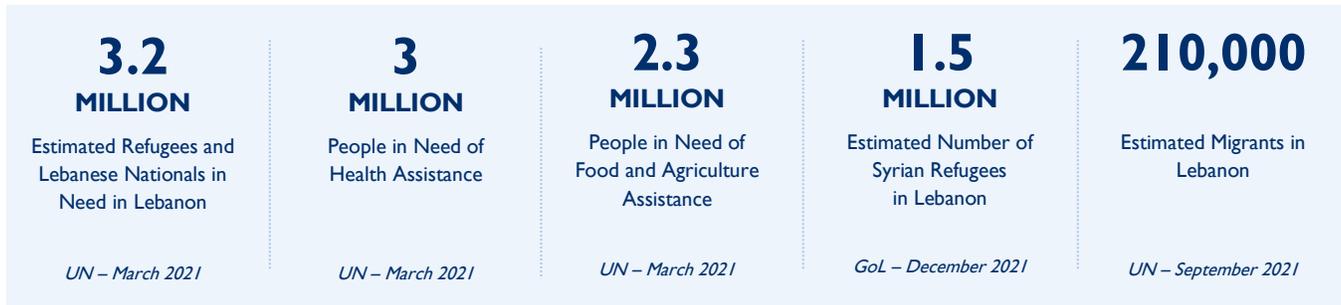


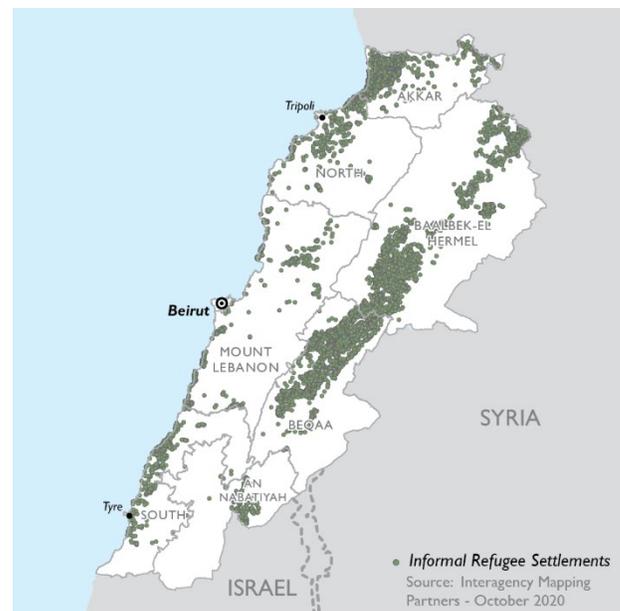
Lebanon – Complex Emergency

JANUARY 31, 2022

SITUATION AT A GLANCE



- USAID/BHA announces \$40 million in FY 2022 funding to WFP for food assistance for nearly 740,000 people, including Syrian refugees and Lebanese nationals.
- COVID-19 cases surge in recent weeks; UN agencies continue community engagement for vaccinations.
- Medicine prices rise significantly following removal of GoL medicine subsidies in mid-November; to address increasing need for medicine and other health supplies, State/PRM partner UNICEF delivers 100 MT of medical supplies.



TOTAL U.S. GOVERNMENT HUMANITARIAN FUNDING For the Lebanon Response in FYs 2021–2022	USAID/BHA ¹	\$151,228,000
	State/PRM ²	\$294,633,386
	Total	\$445,861,386

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

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

² U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (State/PRM)

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

USAID/BHA Provides \$40 Million for Food Assistance as Inflation Drives Food Insecurity

As of January 11, the market value of the Lebanese pound (LBP) reached 33,000 per 1 U.S. dollar (USD) despite still being officially fixed at 1,500 LBP per 1 USD, representing a 15 percent depreciation since the start of January and sparking demonstrations in some parts of Lebanon, international media report. In November 2021, the general inflation rate in Lebanon exceeded 200 percent compared with November 2020, the highest year-on-year inflation rate ever recorded in the country, the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) reports. Similarly, food prices rose by more than 350 percent during the same period. The UN World Food Program (WFP) estimated that more than 1.3 million Lebanese nationals and approximately 735,000 Syrian refugees in Lebanon were moderately-to-severely food insecure as of late September 2021 due to the ongoing economic crisis.

In response to rising food insecurity in Lebanon, USAID/BHA announced \$40 million in funding for WFP on January 18. The assistance will enable WFP to provide food assistance to nearly 740,000 people in the country for four months, including locally and regionally procured in-kind food assistance for vulnerable Lebanese nationals and food vouchers for refugees.

UN Continues Vaccination Outreach Amid Surge in COVID-19 Cases

The number of coronavirus disease (COVID-19) cases in Lebanon surged by more than 280 percent from late December to mid-January, reaching a peak of more than 45,230 positive cases during the week of January 10 and remaining at approximately 45,200 cases the subsequent week, according to the UN World Health Organization (WHO). However, the number of COVID-19 related deaths remained at an average of approximately 100 per week as of January 30, significantly lower than the peak of 751 weekly deaths in January 2021. To mitigate the spread of COVID-19, State/PRM partners the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) continue to conduct community engagement and mobile vaccination campaigns among vulnerable populations. In November and December 2021, UNHCR reported mobilizing more than 600 volunteers to increase COVID-19 vaccine registration rates among refugees in Lebanon. As of December 26, UNHCR had reached nearly 235,000 refugees with community engagement and outreach activities through the UN agency's mobile vaccination units, reception centers, and validation sites. UNHCR also continues to cover the full cost of COVID-19 testing and treatment for refugee patients and has covered the hospitalization needs of nearly 1,700 Syrian refugees since March 2020 with State/PRM funding. In addition, UNICEF reports that it has supported vaccination events across Lebanon by mobilizing more than 500 volunteers to assist with crowd management, dosage criteria review, and registration. In December 2021 and January 2022, UNICEF supported two COVID-19 vaccination marathon events with an estimated 113,500 participants, including higher participation of Syrian refugees than in prior marathons.

Medicine Prices Rise as Subsidies Lifted; UNICEF Delivers Medical Supplies

The Government of Lebanon (GoL) partly lifted medicine subsidies in mid-November, triggering further price increases and supply shortages across a range of pharmaceuticals, including those used to treat chronic illnesses, with insulin prices quadrupling, international media report. Rising medicine prices since the start of Lebanon's economic crisis in 2019 have also affected pharmacies' ability to stock certain medicines, driving increasing numbers of individuals to procure medicines at primary health care centers (PHCCs) already overburdened by rising COVID-19 cases, a USAID/BHA partner reports.

In response to severe shortages of critical medical supplies, UNICEF delivered nearly 100 metric tons (MT) of medical supplies to Lebanon on November 16 with funding from State/PRM. The delivery, which will support five public hospitals and nearly 170 PHCCs, includes a more-than-one-year supply of antibiotics, medical supplies, and surgical supplies. In addition, the shipment contains nutritional commodities sufficient to support an estimated 1 million women and children, UNICEF reports.

Economic Crisis Adversely Affects Agriculture and Related Livelihoods

Countrywide economic deterioration has adversely affected agricultural production as of January 2022, despite favorable environmental conditions, a trend expected to continue throughout 2022 as the LBP continues to depreciate on the parallel market, FAO reports. While Lebanon's domestic cereal production accounts for less than 20 percent of the market, more farmers have relied on agriculture as a primary livelihood since the onset of the economic crisis, according to FAO. Global price increases and Lebanese farmers' declining purchasing power due to currency depreciation have raised the cost of procuring imported agricultural inputs such as seeds and fertilizer. In addition, agriculture workers did not fully benefit from the GoL agreement to subsidize the exchange rate for agricultural imports at 3,900 LBP per 1 USD in 2020 and 2021 due to lengthy bureaucratic requirements causing delays in imports; rapid currency depreciation also rendered the subsidy less effective over time. Fuel shortages following the removal of fuel subsidies in 2021 also adversely affected agriculture operations and market access, FAO reports.

KEY FIGURES



\$40 million

In dedicated
USAID/BHA emergency
food assistance in
FY 2022



14,000

People reached with
USG-supported hospital
care referrals since
January 2021

U.S. GOVERNMENT RESPONSE

FOOD SECURITY

Since FY 2012, USAID/BHA has provided food assistance to respond to the needs of Syrian refugees and other vulnerable refugee populations in Lebanon. USAID/BHA is also providing food assistance to Lebanese nationals affected by the country's ongoing economic crisis. Overall, USAID/BHA provided more than \$145.5 million in emergency food assistance in Lebanon in FYs 2021 and 2022.

HEALTH

State/PRM supports UNHCR to subsidize primary and secondary health care services—including child, maternal, mental health, and sexual and reproductive health care, as well as medications and vaccinations—for Syrian refugees, refugees of other nationalities, and vulnerable Lebanese individuals. UNHCR also facilitates refugee access to emergency services, supporting at least 14,000 hospital care referrals since January 2021. Moreover, the UN agency is helping refugees enroll in Lebanon's national COVID-19 vaccination registration platform by supporting more than 600 health workers and outreach volunteers and providing approximately 19,230 vaccinations to refugees through its mobile vaccination campaign between July and November 2021. In addition, UNHCR covers the full cost of COVID-19 tests and treatment for refugee patients. Since March 2020, UNHCR has covered the cost of more than 3,630 COVID-19 tests and admissions for more than 1,710 refugees under its referral care program. 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 reduce transmission in health care centers, including through the training of health care staff and distribution of personal protective equipment (PPE). From July to September, AUB reported that COVID-19 training programs had a significant impact on the improvement of the partner hospitals' preparedness and vaccination campaigns. The delivery of PPE and medical equipment to the partner hospitals remains ongoing. With USAID/BHA funding, International Medical Corps (IMC) continues to support PHCCs in Lebanon to deliver community-based, at-home health assistance, supporting 36 PHCCs between September and November. Meanwhile, IMC provided health education support to more than 1,550 households and referred more than 40 households for mental health and psychosocial support services as of late December.



250,000

People reached by USG-supported WASH assistance per month

WASH

The U.S. Government (USG) supports water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) programming throughout Lebanon to bolster water and sanitation conditions and prevent the spread of COVID-19. USAID/BHA partner World Vision is providing WASH kits—including detergent, face masks, hand sanitizer, and soap—to households acutely vulnerable to COVID-19, in Beirut, Beqaa, and Mount Lebanon governorates. With State/PRM support, UNICEF continues to facilitate access to safe drinking water and sanitation services for more than 250,000 Syrian refugees residing in informal settlements across Lebanon, helping mitigate public health hazards and social tensions related to limited water resources. In response to critical fuel and water shortages across Lebanon, UNICEF has also secured access to safe drinking water for more than 2.3 million people through emergency fuel procurement and the deployment of rapid response teams with Central Emergency Response Fund support.



136,000

Individuals reached with USG-supported cash assistance in 2021

MPCA AND PROTECTION

State/PRM supports five NGOs to provide child protection, gender-based violence (GBV) prevention, and mental health and psychosocial support services to vulnerable populations across Lebanon. State/PRM also supports UNICEF to provide child protection services, reaching 70,000 children through an emergency cash grant program between April and September. UNICEF also distributes protection-related cash assistance to vulnerable Syrian refugee households, benefitting approximately 5,500 children from August to September. Additionally, in November, State/PRM partner UNHCR distributed card-based multipurpose cash assistance (MPCA) to approximately 134,000 Syrian refugee households and 2,000 refugee households of other nationalities to bolster the households' capacities to

meet basic needs and reduce their vulnerability to exploitation and negative coping strategies.



12,000

Explosion-affected households supported by USG-funded shelter and settlement activities

SHELTER

In response to the August 2020 explosions, USAID/BHA supported non-governmental organization (NGO) Caritas to provide basic household items, such as mattresses and stoves, for people whose residences were destroyed during the incident; the NGO provided emergency relief supplies to nearly 12,000 households between April and September 2021 alone. With State/PRM support, UNHCR continues to respond to refugees' acute shelter needs in collective shelters, informal settlements, and substandard shelter units. UNHCR operates within poor urban neighborhoods and rural areas and provides targeted assistance through an integrated shelter and WASH response, including cash for rent assistance, shelter rehabilitation, site improvement, and winterization assistance.



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, for 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 10–14 years who are out of school, supporting their entry to the formal public education system. UNHCR has also enrolled nearly 200 vulnerable youth from refugee and host communities in vocational training. Moreover, State/PRM NGO 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, NGO 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 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, which have worsened economic and financial conditions and resulted in ongoing instability across the country.
- 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, affected 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 October 1, 2021, U.S. Ambassador to Lebanon Dorothy C. Shea declared a disaster due to the humanitarian effects of the complex emergency in Lebanon for FY 2022.

USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE LEBANON RESPONSE IN FY 2022¹

IMPLEMENTING PARTNER	ACTIVITY	LOCATION	AMOUNT
USAID/BHA			
WFP	Food Assistance—Local, Regional, and International Procurement; Vouchers	Countrywide	\$40,000,000
	Program Support		\$35,000
TOTAL USAID/BHA FUNDING			\$40,035,000
STATE/PRM			
UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA)	Cash-Based Programming, Child Protection, Education, GBV Prevention, Health, Nutrition, WASH, Youth Programs	Countrywide	\$5,000,000
TOTAL USAID/BHA FUNDING			\$5,000,000
TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE LEBANON RESPONSE IN FY 2022			\$45,035,000

USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE LEBANON RESPONSE IN FY 2021

IMPLEMENTING PARTNER	ACTIVITY	LOCATION	AMOUNT
USAID/BHA			
Acción contra el Hambre/Spain	Health, WASH	Baalbek-El Hermel, Beqaa, South	\$800,000
AUB	Health	Beirut, Beqaa, Mount Lebanon, North	\$1,250,000
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—Cash Transfers; Local, Regional, and International Procurement; Vouchers	Countrywide	\$105,500,000
World Vision	WASH	Beqaa, Mount Lebanon	\$1,000,000
	Program Support		\$92,000
TOTAL USAID/BHA FUNDING			\$111,193,000
STATE/PRM			
Implementing Partners	Cash-Based Programming, Education, GBV Prevention, Health, Livelihoods, Mental Health, Protection, Relief Commodities, Shelter and Settlements, WASH	Countrywide	\$39,613,228
International Organization for Migration	Health	Countrywide	\$1,090,000
Julia V. Taft Fund Awardee	Health, Child Protection	Countrywide	\$29,404
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
TOTAL STATE/PRM FUNDING			\$289,633,386
TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE LEBANON RESPONSE IN FY 2021²			\$400,826,386

TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE LEBANON RESPONSE IN FYs 2021–2022			\$445,861,386
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¹ Year of funding indicates the date of commitment or obligation, not appropriation, of funds. Funding figures reflect publicly announced funding as of January 18, 2021.

² Funding includes USG assistance to respond to the August 2020 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.

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)