



OCHA

# LEBANON: Flash Update #55

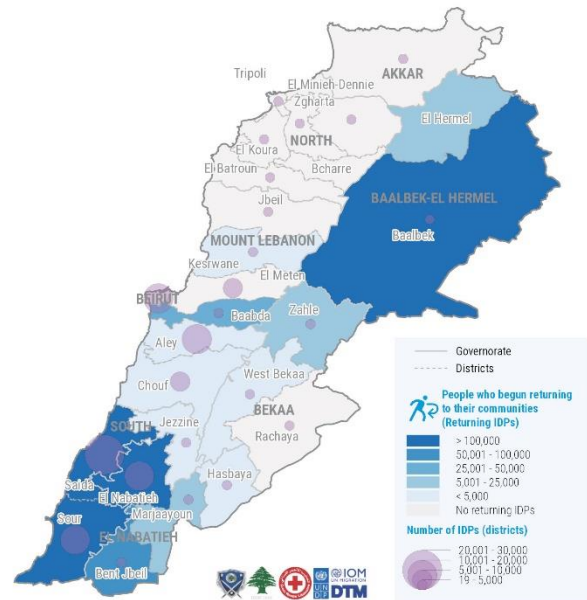
## Escalation of hostilities in Lebanon

As of 16 January 2025

This report is produced by OCHA Lebanon in collaboration with humanitarian partners and the Inter Sector Coordination Group. It covers the period from 09 January 2025 – 16 January 2025.

### HIGHLIGHTS

- 871,859 people displaced within Lebanon reported back in their cadasters of origin as of 15 January (IOM).
- 113,578 people remain displaced outside their cadasters of origin, a 2 per cent decrease since 8 January (IOM).
- National and local authorities estimate some 87,000 people arrived from Syria, both Lebanese and Syrian, since 8 December (UNHCR).



The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

Source: [IOM DTM](#)

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**870K**

Returning



**113K**

remain displaced



**90K**

people arrived from Syria



**4K**

people killed



**17K**

people injured



**58%**

funding of Flash Appeal (LAT)

### SITUATION OVERVIEW

While Lebanon made significant political strides with the election of a new president on 9 January, ending more than two years of presidential vacancy, and the designation of a new prime minister, humanitarian needs and response challenges remain extensive. Humanitarians continue to face significant obstacles in accessing areas where Israeli warnings remain in effect for over 60 villages and towns in southern Lebanon. While a modest number of people are beginning to return to these areas, many villages near the border remain deserted due to ongoing insecurity. Military activity continues despite the cessation of hostilities, with reports of Israeli forces withdrawing from parts of the southern border area. However, the demolition of homes by Israeli forces persists, particularly in Bint Jbeil and Marjaayoun districts in Nabatieh Governorate. The ongoing insecurity, including Israeli strikes, has resulted in many casualties in South, Nabatieh and Baalbeck governorates during the week of 10-16 January. Amidst the cessation of hostilities, Civil Defense teams are recovering bodies in areas like Khiam, Alma Shaab, Naqoura, Bayada, and Tayr Harfa, regions that had been inaccessible at the height of hostilities.

Humanitarian partners report that living conditions continue to be extremely challenging for all affected populations, with urgent humanitarian needs persisting across multiple groups. This includes those who have returned to their cadaster of origin, individuals still displaced both in and outside of collective shelters, as well as host families and those who have remained in their homes. Key needs include basic assistance, shelter, food, water storage solutions, solar lamps, and winterization support. Both authorities and affected populations have expressed a strong preference for cash-based assistance, where feasible, to meet these needs more effectively. In addition to these immediate requirements, there has been an increasing demand for hospitalization and more complex medical services. This includes a rising need for mental health and psychosocial support (MPHSS) services, as well as specialized services for people with disabilities (PwDs), including physiotherapy and the provision of assistive devices.

From 8 October 2023 to 11 January 2025, the Ministry of Public Health (MoPH) and the Public Health Emergency Operations Center (PHEOC) reported 21,268 casualties, including 17,105 injuries and 4,163 deaths. Of these casualties, 91 per cent were Lebanese, 4 per cent were Palestinian and Syrian refugees, and 5 per cent were unspecified. The casualties comprised 81 per cent males and 19 per cent females; 9 per cent were under 18 years old, 88 per cent were between 19-65 years old, and 4 per cent were over 65 years old. The highest death toll was recorded in October 2024 with 1,352 deaths, followed by September 2024 with 1,063 deaths, and November 2024 with 1,002 deaths. The South and Nabatieh Governorates experienced the highest number of casualties. At least 29 civilians have reportedly been killed since the cessation of hostilities by Israeli attacks, according to the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR).

[IOM's Displacement Tracking Matrix](#) data provides valuable insights into the movement patterns of displaced populations during the ongoing phase of a fragile cessation of hostilities. Some 113,578 people have been identified as remaining internally displaced primarily in Saida, Nabatieh, Beirut, Tyre and Aley districts. This represents a 2 per cent drop since 9 January, as a total of 871,859 internally displaced people (IDPs) are estimated to be back in the cadasters from which they were initially displaced. Several collective shelters are being decommissioned due to the mass return movements. Currently 3,833 IDPs remain in 41 collective sites. Of the 871,895 IDPs reported to have returned, the largest proportion continues to be in Nabatieh Governorate, particularly Nabatieh District, which hosts 259,066 individuals, accounting for 30 per cent of the total, with Tyre District in the South Governorate coming in second with 169,323 IDP returns (19 per cent).

Population movements between Syria and Lebanon continue to be fluid with figures from 7 January as the latest reported (UNHCR). According to Lebanese authorities, approximately 87,000 people have arrived from Syria in Baalbek Governorate, including 20,000 Lebanese. Movements continue daily at a low rate, mainly through the Masnaa border crossing. Since 8 December, [UNHCR](#) has been monitoring refugee concerns about return. Most Syrian refugees are interested in temporarily visiting Syria to assess the situation, with some considering a phased return, where some family members return first and prepare for the rest of the family to join.

## HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE

National and local actors, in collaboration with humanitarian partners, are working together in a coordinated effort to ensure the efficient mobilization and delivery of critical resources to Lebanon's most vulnerable populations. Guided by the leadership of the Humanitarian Coordinator, the emphasis is on delivering life-saving assistance to address the urgent needs of conflict-affected communities across key sectors, while also providing essential support to the most vulnerable during the winter season.

In this regard, the [Humanitarian Coordinator](#) (HC) in Lebanon, Imran Riza, emphasized that while the international community is aware of Lebanon's enormous humanitarian needs, donors require transparency and reforms within Lebanon's state institutions to ensure accountability in reconstruction. The HC highlights that urgent funding is needed to address immediate needs, but long-term recovery will require greater reforms. He stresses the importance of supporting both displaced populations and host communities and urges that ongoing critical humanitarian projects, including healthcare, water provision and demining efforts, be prioritized despite competing global emergencies.

Between 1-12 January 2025, [IOM](#) reported assisting 11,397 individuals, providing multi-sectoral support. Additionally, 1,570 people received protection, 1,213 accessed health services, and 8,874 received core relief items. IOM also delivered 4,250 liters of fuel to MoPH, and since 23 September, assisted 757 migrants with return to their countries

[UNICEF](#) announced the receiving of 25 metric tons of acute medication through a UNICEF-chartered plane, which will be handed over to MoPH to support primary health care centers (PHCCs) and primary satellite units (PSUs) in delivering lifesaving care, especially to communities affected by the conflict.

Additionally, the [World Bank](#) has approved a \$257.8 million financing to improve water supply services in the Greater Beirut and Mount Lebanon districts. The project aims to complete critical water infrastructure, improve water quality, reduce reliance on costly private water sources, and advance the implementation of reforms to enhance the water sector efficiency and long-term sustainability.

## Humanitarian Convoys

Since the cessation of hostilities, most humanitarian movements do not go through the notification process, as the need has diminished, and the Humanitarian Notification System (HNS) has been revised to better facilitate operations in hard-to-reach areas, including convoys.

During the reporting period, the following convoys were facilitated through the HNS:

- On 13 January, ACF visited the Ajdadouna Association's Community kitchen in Rmeich, El Nabatieh Governorate, and distributed dry food items along with 180 hot meals.
- On 14 January, PUI delivered essential supplies to Qabrikha municipality, Nabatieh Governorate, including 350 non-food items kits, 221 diapers, 2 boxes of nutrition supplements, 130 gas heaters and gas bottles to the municipality.
- On 15 January, PUI delivered medication to Chebaa Hariri PHCC, in Nabatieh Governorate, in addition to the distribution of 1,060 winter blankets at the Chebaa municipality.

Since 24 September 2024, 28 organizations have conducted 115 humanitarian movements notified via the HNS, while 36 planned movements were postponed, and 14 were cancelled. In total, 19 interagency convoys, managed by the Logistics Cluster, transported emergency relief items to hard-to-reach areas.

## Funding and Resource Mobilization

As Lebanon continues to grapple with the aftermath of hostilities, sustained funding and resources are essential to deliver critical aid to those in need. The Lebanese Government and the humanitarian community urge the international community to increase their support to the extended Flash Appeal, which seeks \$371.4M to meet the immediate needs of people directly impacted by the recent hostilities.

Following the extension of the Flash Appeal, the Lebanon Humanitarian Fund (LHF) is allocating \$30 million to address urgent humanitarian needs stemming from the recent conflict and support displaced populations and communities returning to affected areas. This \$30 million allocation will enable partners, including local NGOs and community-based organizations, to deliver targeted assistance in food security, shelter, nutrition, protection, healthcare, water and sanitation, and education. It will also prioritize localized, community-driven responses to ensure the most vulnerable populations are reached.

Efforts are underway to capture the total funding received for the response in 2024. As of 16 December 2024, the Lebanon Aid Tracking (LAT) system reported \$244.9 million in contributions and repurposed funds, representing 57.5 per cent of the \$426 million called for through 2024 Flash Appeal for Lebanon. Funding carried over into 2025 will be captured through reporting against the 2025 Flash Appeal extension.

The LAT is an in-country tracking system that provides the Government of Lebanon, donors and humanitarian partners with transparent information on aid flows – development, humanitarian, peacebuilding, and other funds – coming into the country. Meanwhile, the global Financial Tracking Service (FTS), which also reflects funding commitments reported by donors but not yet disbursed to humanitarian organizations (the LAT does not report on commitments), shows funding against the Flash Appeal at 78.4 per cent, or \$333.8 million as of 16 January. To ensure better tracking of funding, OCHA and partners continue working on streamlining information on contributions, enhancing reporting, and reinforcing data-sharing with donors.



## Line Ministries

Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Education and Higher Education, Ministry of Energy and Water, Ministry of Environment, Ministry of Interior and Municipalities, Ministry of Public Health, Ministry of Social Affairs.

**For further information, please contact:**

**Ms. Kristen Knutson**, Head of Office, [knutson@un.org](mailto:knutson@un.org)

**Ms. Kawsar Fahs**, Senior Communications Officer, [kawsar.fahs@un.org](mailto:kawsar.fahs@un.org)