


Photo by Jesuit Refugee Service Middle East & North Africa.

**COUNTRY BRIEF I November 2026**

# LEBANON: Rising Needs Amid Protracted Displacement

**At the beginning of 2026, nearly 3 million people in Lebanon were in need of humanitarian assistance—including more than 1.5 million vulnerable Lebanese and more than 1 million displaced Syrians and Palestinian refugees. Since March 2, 2026, renewed hostilities between Hezbollah and Israel have destroyed homes and infrastructure and displaced an additional 1 million people.**

Despite ceasefire announcements and ongoing diplomatic negotiations, people in Lebanon continue to experience airstrikes and demolitions, live in poor shelter conditions, and lack access to healthcare, clean water, sanitation, and hygiene materials as well as other basic services. Many remain displaced and are unable to return to their homes due to damaged or destroyed infrastructure and ongoing safety concerns. More than 6 months after the escalation of the conflict, the situation in Lebanon is rapidly becoming a protracted crisis with acute needs layered on long-standing economic instability and social divisions.

## Humanitarian Response

International and local organizations are on the ground responding to the crisis in support of the response led by the Government of Lebanon.

In March, the UN launched a flash appeal to reach 1.4 million people impacted by the escalation with emergency shelter, food, health care, clean water, and protection services, as well as other types of support.

**Since March 2026, U.S.-based international nonprofits have responded to the needs of the most vulnerable across Lebanon:**

- Conducted 22,524 **medical consultations** and screened children under five and pregnant or breastfeeding women for malnutrition.
- Supported convoys **delivering fresh produce and water** to hard-to-reach villages in southern Lebanon.
- Provided assistance to more than 150,000 people, including **hot meals, hygiene kits, psychological first aid, child protection services,** and alternative learning activities.



Photo by Hasan Ghaddar for Catholic Relief Services

## Recommendations for the U.S. Government

- **Call on all parties to the conflict to respect International Humanitarian Law and facilitate humanitarian access.** Humanitarian organizations must be able to safely and consistently reach all people in need across Lebanon, regardless of location, and deliver assistance without delays, restrictions, or interference.
- **Increase and sustain funding for the humanitarian response.** The 2026 flash appeal remains significantly underfunded, with only 52% of requirements met (as of Oct. 2026). Limited funding has forced some organizations to scale back operations or focus on the most accessible areas and easiest-to-deliver interventions, despite urgent, multi-sector needs across the country.
- **Improve data and support for displaced people outside formal shelters, including Syrian and Palestinian refugees**. Most displaced people live outside formal shelters, yet gaps in data, funding, and coordination have limited humanitarian organizations' ability to reach them. Syrian and Palestinian refugees, as well as migrants, often face additional barriers to assistance, registration, and essential services, leaving many excluded from government support systems.
- **Invest in early recovery to support the Government of Lebanon-led response**. Beyond the ongoing insecurity and military activity, damage to homes, roads, and water systems across southern Lebanon continues to hinder safe returns and recovery. Significant investment is needed to clear debris and explosive remnants of war, restore essential infrastructure, and rebuild homes and schools.


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