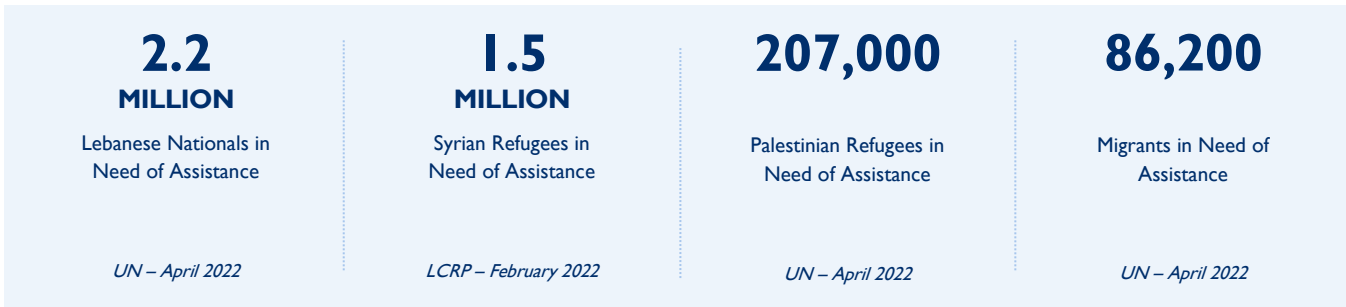


# Lebanon – Complex Emergency

AUGUST 19, 2022

## SITUATION AT A GLANCE



- USAID provides \$15 million in additional humanitarian assistance to respond to the needs of vulnerable populations across Lebanon.
- Ongoing socioeconomic crisis and rising commodity prices exacerbated by the Russian invasion of Ukraine continue to adversely affect food security in Lebanon.
- GoL rhetoric calling for the return of Syrian refugees from Lebanon to Syria generates concern among relief actors, prompting statements urging the GoL to continue to respect refugees' rights to safe, dignified, and voluntary returns.



<b>TOTAL U.S. GOVERNMENT HUMANITARIAN FUNDING</b> For the Lebanon Response in FY 2022	USAID/BHA <sup>1</sup>	\$124,397,360
	State/PRM <sup>2</sup>	\$116,100,000
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$240,496,360</b>

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

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

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

## KEY DEVELOPMENTS

### **USAID Provides \$15 Million in New Funding to Respond to Humanitarian Needs**

On August 16, as part of a broader announcement of new USAID humanitarian and economic support funding to help protect vulnerable populations from rising food insecurity in Lebanon, U.S. Ambassador to Lebanon Dorothy C. Shea announced an additional \$15 million in humanitarian assistance provided by USAID/BHA to the UN World Food Program (WFP). The new funding will benefit approximately 300,000 vulnerable Lebanese with monthly household food parcels over the coming months. This funding is part of the approximately \$2.8 billion President Joseph R. Biden announced at the Group of Seven Leaders' Summit in Germany in late June to protect the world's most vulnerable populations amid the escalating food insecurity crisis resulting from the Government of the Russian Federation's invasion of Ukraine. To date in FY 2022, USAID has provided nearly \$125 million in humanitarian funding to WFP and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in Lebanon, including nearly \$119 million to address the effects of food insecurity.

### **Lebanon's Socioeconomic Crisis Exacerbated by Effects of War in Ukraine**

Lebanon's ongoing socioeconomic crisis and the global market effects of the war in Ukraine continue to drive price increases adversely affecting vulnerable populations, USAID/BHA partner Mercy Corps reports. While the value of the Lebanese pound (LBP) remained relatively stable in June—following its depreciation to a record low of 35,000 LBP per \$1 in late May—energy prices continued to rise during the month as a result of Ukraine-crisis-related global supply interruptions, generating widespread price increases, including record-high fuel prices. High fuel prices result in higher food and other commodity prices, inhibit provision of essential services, and limit vulnerable populations' access to transport, markets, and livelihoods. As a result of the combined effects of Lebanon's ongoing economic crisis and the conflict in Ukraine, the overall consumer price index (CPI) increased 211 percent from May 2021 to May 2022, while the food-specific CPI increased by 364 percent over the same period. Furthermore, from May to June alone, the price of the minimum food basket increased nearly 7 percent, exacerbating food security challenges in the country, WFP reports. Concurrently, the rising price of agricultural inputs—including fertilizer, fuel, and seeds—has adversely affected Lebanon's agricultural sector, undermining efforts to boost local food production and decrease Lebanon's reliance on imports, according to Mercy Corps.

Lebanon is particularly vulnerable to the impacts of the global supply chain interruptions, as it lacks a strategic grain reserve following the 2020 Port of Beirut explosions, which destroyed the country's grain silos. Additionally, Lebanon is reliant on wheat imported from the Russian Federation and Ukraine, with grain from the two countries accounting for approximately 95 percent of Lebanon's wheat imports in 2020, Mercy Corps reports. In response to food security needs generated in part by Lebanon's vulnerability to global market disruptions, USAID/BHA supports WFP to provide critical food assistance across Lebanon. In June, WFP provided cash-based transfers to more than 1.7 million vulnerable individuals, including more than 1 million Syrian refugees, nearly 630,000 vulnerable Lebanese nationals, and nearly 6,000 refugees of other nationalities. In addition, State/PRM partner the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) provided more than 146,000 of the most vulnerable refugee households with monthly cash assistance in June to cover basic needs.

### **Relief Actors Concerned About GoL Calls for Syrian Refugee Returns**

Government of Lebanon (GoL) officials have recently called for the return of Syrian refugees in Lebanon

to Syria, referencing plans to return up to 15,000 Syrian refugees per month beginning in the coming months, international media report. GoL officials assert that the refugee caseload in Lebanon has strained basic services amid Lebanon's own socioeconomic crisis. In response, State/PRM partner UNHCR issued a statement in late April stressing the need to ensure the protection of refugees in Lebanon, including refugees' rights to safe, dignified, and voluntary repatriation to Syria. In July, UN Deputy Special Coordinator and Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator for Lebanon Najat Rochdi similarly issued a statement underscoring the principle of non-refoulement under international law and the need to ensure the safe, voluntary, and dignified return of refugees. The U.S. Government (USG) continues to provide robust humanitarian assistance to vulnerable populations in Lebanon, including Syrian refugees and host communities.

### **Socioeconomic Crisis Adversely Affects Palestinian Refugees in Early 2022**

Lebanon's socioeconomic crisis significantly worsened humanitarian conditions for Palestinian refugees in Lebanon during the first quarter of 2022, State/PRM partner the UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) reports. As a result of rising food, fuel, medicine, and rent prices, 86 percent of Palestinian refugees in Lebanon were living below the poverty line in March 2022, compared with 73 percent in July 2021. Additionally, due to elevated prices in March 2022, electricity and fuel accounted for 15 percent of household expenditure compared with just 6 percent in July 2022. Some Palestinian households reported cutting their generator subscriptions during the first quarter of 2022 due to elevated costs, leaving them reliant on irregular electricity supplied on the national grid, without access to reliable heating or light. Furthermore, nearly 90 percent of Palestinian refugees surveyed in March reported purchasing leftover food in the market and nearly two-thirds reported reducing the number of meals consumed due to rising food prices, UNRWA reports. Against this backdrop, beginning in March, UNRWA increased its quarterly cash distribution amount for more than 90,000 Palestinian refugees. UNRWA is also conducting a large-scale survey of socio-economic conditions among the Palestinian refugee community in Lebanon to ensure its assistance aligns with rising needs

### **Economic Crisis Results in Water Supply Disruptions**

Lebanon's economic crisis has rendered the GoL unable to purchase sufficient fuel for power stations or afford infrastructure repairs, resulting in electricity outages that hinder water companies' ability to pump, treat, and distribute water, affecting the 3 million individuals reliant on public water supply networks in Lebanon, according to a report released by State/PRM partner the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) in late July. As a result, the amount of water available for individuals reliant on public systems has significantly decreased since the onset of Lebanon's economic crisis, with many individuals receiving less than the approximately nine gallons required per person per day as the minimum acceptable quantity, UNICEF reports. Lebanon's water supply crisis has also affected hospitals and health centers reliant on public services, as well as populations vulnerable to water and sanitation-related diseases, including infants and young children. Due to inadequate water supply, affected individuals in Lebanon are increasingly reliant upon more expensive trucked water to fulfill needs, UNICEF reports. However, the economic crisis has also affected trucked water services, with the price of 1,000 liters—264 gallons—of trucked water increasing 50 percent in April 2022 compared with the price in April 2021 and six-fold compared with prices in 2019. Additionally, the price of bottled water in April 2022 was three to five times greater than the price in April 2021, adversely affecting households reliant on bottled water, UNICEF reports.

Through State/PRM funding, UNICEF provided water trucking and wastewater desludging services to more than 253,000 individuals, predominantly Syrian refugees living in informal tented settlements, from

April 2021 through June 2022. Over the same period, UNICEF also completed the procurement of water infrastructure equipment to repair and maintain water supply stations in Beirut, Mount Lebanon, and North Lebanon, reaching nearly 88,700 Syrian refugees and host community members.

## Children Among Those Affected by Socioeconomic Impacts of Crisis

Lebanon's ongoing economic crisis has also impacted the GoL's ability to provide basic services, including safe drinking water, education, and health services, adversely affecting children in Lebanon, according to a report from the Assessment Capacities Project (ACAPS) released in late May. In October 2021, 53 percent of Lebanese households reported challenges providing food for children, 45 percent of Lebanese families reported not having enough safe drinking water in the previous 30 days, and 34 percent of children in need of primary health care were unable to access it. As a result, Lebanese households have increasingly resorted to negative coping mechanisms—including diminishing spending on education, food, and health care, and withdrawing children from school to instead earn an income—to meet basic needs, adversely affecting Lebanese children's wellbeing and development. As of May, more than 50 percent of school-age children had dropped out of the 2021/2022 academic year, an estimated 9 percent of households had sent children to work, and households were increasingly using early marriage as a coping mechanism for financial burdens, according to ACAPS.

### KEY FIGURES



**\$118.8  
Million**

In dedicated  
USAID/BHA emergency  
food assistance in  
FY 2022



**11,300**

Children reached with  
micronutrient  
supplements by  
State/PRM partner  
UNICEF

## U.S. GOVERNMENT RESPONSE

### FOOD SECURITY

Since FY 2012, USAID/BHA has provided emergency food assistance to respond to the needs of Syrian refugees in Lebanon. In FY 2021, USAID/BHA also began to provide emergency food assistance to Lebanese nationals affected by the country's ongoing economic crisis. In FY 2022, USAID/BHA is supporting partner WFP with nearly \$119 million to provide emergency food assistance to vulnerable populations in Lebanon, including Syrian refugees and Lebanese nationals.

### HEALTH AND NUTRITION

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 nationals. UNHCR covers the full cost of coronavirus disease (COVID-19) tests and treatment for refugee patients. As of March 2022, UNHCR administered nearly 46,000 vaccinations through its mobile vaccination campaign and vaccinated more than 2,600 children through the school mobile vaccination team launched in January 2022. In addition, from April to June, State/PRM partner UNICEF provided more than 11,300 children ages five years and younger with micronutrient supplements to prevent malnutrition.

USAID/BHA also supports International Medical Corps (IMC) and Relief International to provide critical health support across Lebanon. With USAID/BHA funding, IMC continues to support PHCCs in Lebanon to

deliver community-based health assistance, reaching nearly 7,000 beneficiaries with services at one PHCC, for instance, in June. IMC also distributed nearly 23,000 items of critical personal protective equipment and infection prevention and control items in June.



**250,000**

People reached by USG-supported WASH assistance per month

## WASH

The 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 support enables NGO partners IMC and Relief International to implement critical WASH programming and ensure that vulnerable households have essential WASH supplies, including detergent, face masks, hand sanitizer, and soap. 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. Between April and June, UNICEF also provided cash assistance to access water and waste water desludging services to approximately 1,650 Syrian refugee households.



**8**

USG-supported partners providing dedicated protection services in Lebanon

## PROTECTION

The USG supports eight partners, including NGOs and UN agencies, to provide child protection, gender-based violence (GBV) prevention, and mental health and psychosocial support services to vulnerable populations across Lebanon. State/PRM supports UNICEF to provide integrated social assistance to vulnerable individuals including children and GBV survivors; UNICEF reached 130,000 individuals with protection services as of late June. Additionally, in June, State/PRM partner UNHCR distributed multipurpose cash assistance (MPCA) to approximately 144,000 Syrian refugee households and 2,500 refugee households of other nationalities to bolster capacity to meet basic needs, reduce the use of negative coping strategies, and mitigate exploitation risks.



**7,000**

Children referred to learning opportunities by State/PRM partner UNICEF

## EDUCATION

State/PRM partner UNICEF supports education activities for vulnerable students across Lebanon. From April to June, UNICEF had referred 7,000 children to learning opportunities, reached 1,200 children ages 10–14 years with adapted basic literacy and numeracy lessons, and provided more than 600 children with disabilities with therapy services to support their inclusion in education.

## 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 to meet refugees' 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, the explosions at the Port of Beirut in 2020, and the emergence of COVID-19.
- 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.

### USAID HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE LEBANON RESPONSE IN FY 2022<sup>1</sup>

IMPLEMENTING PARTNER	ACTIVITY	LOCATION	AMOUNT
<b>USAID/BHA</b>			
IMC	Health, Protection, WASH	Beirut, Mount Lebanon, North Lebanon, South Lebanon	\$2,100,000
Relief International	Health, Nutrition, Protection, WASH	Beirut, Mount Lebanon, North Lebanon, South Lebanon	\$3,375,000
WFP	Food Assistance—Local, Regional, and International Procurement; Vouchers	Countrywide	\$118,800,000
	Program Support	Countrywide	\$122,360
<b>TOTAL USAID/BHA FUNDING</b>			<b>\$124,397,360</b>
<b>STATE/PRM</b>			
Implementing Partner	Cash-Based Programming, Health, Livelihoods, Protection, Relief Commodities, Shelter and Settlements, WASH	Countrywide	\$7,400,000
UNICEF	Cash-Based Programming, Education, Health, Livelihoods, Mental Health, Protection, Relief Commodities, Shelter and Settlements, WASH, Youth Programs	Countrywide	\$36,200,000
UNHCR	Cash-Based Programming, Health, Nutrition, Child Protection, Education, GBV Prevention, WASH, Youth Programs	Countrywide	\$67,500,000
UNRWA <sup>3</sup>	Cash-Based Programming, Child Protection, Education, GBV Prevention, Health, Nutrition, WASH, Youth Programs	Countrywide	\$5,000,000
<b>TOTAL STATE/PRM FUNDING</b>			<b>\$116,100,000</b>
<b>TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE LEBANON RESPONSE IN FY 2022<sup>2</sup></b>			<b>\$240,497,360</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 August 19, 2022.

<sup>2</sup> State/PRM and USAID/BHA funding benefitting refugees in Lebanon is also reported in the USG Syria Complex Emergency Fact Sheet.

<sup>3</sup> In addition to the \$5,000,000 provided to UNRWA for activities in Lebanon, State/PRM has provided an additional \$220,300,000 in FY 2022 to UNRWA across the region for its 2022 program budget and emergency appeals, a portion of which may be used in Lebanon.

## 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)