

Lebanon – Complex Emergency

SEPTEMBER 30, 2022

SITUATION AT A GLANCE



- The USG is providing more than \$110 million in new humanitarian assistance for 1.5 million Syrian refugees and host community members in Lebanon, as included in a broader Syria funding announcement on September 14.
- Food prices in Lebanon increased by more than 30 percent from January to July 2022, continuing a trend of rising prices since October 2019, exacerbated by the global effects of the GoRF's invasion of Ukraine.
- A boat carrying Lebanese, Palestinian, and Syrian migrants sank near the coast of Syria on September 22, resulting in at least 100 deaths.
- An assessment by UNICEF released in August identified significant childhood deprivation in Lebanon, as more than 80 percent of households with children report insufficient money to cover basic needs.



TOTAL U.S. GOVERNMENT HUMANITARIAN FUNDING For the Lebanon Response in FY 2022 ³	USAID/BHA ¹	\$124,445,327
	State/PRM ²	\$277,967,692
Total		\$402,413,019

For complete funding breakdown with partners, see detailed chart on page 5

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

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

³ State/PRM and USAID/BHA funding benefitting refugees in Lebanon is also reported in the USG Syria Complex Emergency Fact Sheets.

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

U.S. Announces New Humanitarian Assistance to Respond to the Syria Regional Crisis in Lebanon

On September 14, as part of a broader announcement of new U.S. Government (USG) funding to support the Syrian people, U.S. Ambassador to the UN Linda Thomas-Greenfield announced more than \$110 million in additional State/PRM funding for Syrian refugees and host communities in Lebanon. This new assistance will support humanitarian partners providing cash assistance; safe drinking water; shelter and protection support; and life-saving health services, including access to critical medications. In FY 2022, State/PRM provided nearly \$278 million and USAID/BHA provided more than \$124 million in humanitarian funding to international and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to support refugees, host communities, and other vulnerable populations in Lebanon.

Amid Increasing Food Prices, USAID/BHA Partner WFP Reaches 1.6 Million People in August

In July, the price of the survival minimum expenditure basket (MEB)—the minimum level of food; water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) supplies; and other essential commodities that a household requires for survival for one month—in Lebanon increased to 860,000 Lebanese pounds (LBP), or approximately \$567, compared to 844,000 LBP, or approximately \$554, the previous month, according to monitoring by USAID/BHA partner the UN World Food Program (WFP). The latest increase represents a 1,560 percent increase compared with the pre-crisis survival MEB of approximately 53,200 LBP, or approximately \$35, in October 2019. As of July 31, food prices had increased by 30 percent since January 2022 and by more than 2,000 percent since the start of Lebanon's economic crisis in October 2019. The continuing increase in food prices due in part to the effects of the Government of the Russian Federation (GoRF)'s invasion of Ukraine, combined with challenges to access basic services and decreasing household purchasing power, is exacerbating needs for the more than 50 percent of Lebanese nationals and nearly 90 percent of Syrian refugees in Lebanon in need of assistance, WFP reports.

During August 2022, WFP reached approximately 1.6 million people, including 1.1 million refugees and 510,000 vulnerable Lebanese, with emergency food assistance, including approximately \$29 million in voucher and cash assistance and 2,100 metric tons of in-kind food assistance with support from USAID/BHA and other donors. Overall, USAID/BHA provided nearly \$119 million to WFP for monthly emergency food assistance benefiting some 700,000 vulnerable people in Lebanon in FY 2022.

Palestinian Refugees in Lebanon Adversely Affected by Continued Economic Crisis

Price increases restricted Palestinian refugees' access to basic goods and services in Lebanon during the April-to-June 2022 period, prompting increased reliance on cash transfers from relief actors, according to an August UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) report. Increased food prices have eroded household purchasing power, driving some Palestinian refugees in Lebanon to adopt negative coping mechanisms—such as skipping meals, reducing portion sizes, and incurring debt to purchase food—and exacerbating food insecurity in the country. As a result of limited access to financial resources and livelihood opportunities, Palestinian refugees reported increased levels of mental health and psychosocial distress during the period, with financial constraints also contributing to the increasing prevalence of child labor, according to UNRWA. Palestinian refugees in Lebanon reported an increased need for financial and material support to facilitate access to basic goods and

services, including electricity, internet, food, transportation, and water.

Children Adversely Affected by Lebanon's Compounding Crises

The compounding effects of Lebanon's ongoing economic crisis, the macroeconomic impacts of the country's coronavirus disease (COVID-19) outbreak, and the explosions at the Port of Beirut in 2020 continue to adversely affect children in Lebanon, according to an August report by the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF). A UNICEF rapid assessment conducted in June found that approximately 84 percent of assessed households—including Syrian refugee households—did not have sufficient money to cover basic needs, 70 percent of households borrowed money to purchase food, 60 percent reduced spending on health treatment, 38 percent of households reduced expenses on education, and 23 percent of children had experienced unaddressed hunger needs despite large-scale international emergency food assistance. Two-thirds of the assessed household caregivers also noted that their children's psychological health deteriorated from 2021 to 2022. In response to the findings of the assessment, UNICEF called for increasing financial access to social services and scaling up social assistance to households in extreme poverty to address child deprivation in the country.

Telecommunications Price Increases Impact Vulnerable Families, Humanitarian Communications

On July 1, a major telecommunication price hike was implemented across Lebanon, affecting the most vulnerable individuals' access to phone and internet services and potentially hindering humanitarian actors' ability to communicate with beneficiaries, according to USAID/BHA partner Mercy Corps. Beginning on June 1, the prices for telecommunications fees were linked to the official exchange rate of the LBP to the U.S. dollar, effectively increasing the price of services provided by Lebanon's dominant telecommunications companies fivefold, Mercy Corps reports. The price hike is expected to exacerbate the stress of household budgets amid rising prices and rampant inflation. Vulnerable populations' expected inability to afford basic telecommunications services will likely pose a challenge to humanitarian outreach activities, hindering relief actor efforts to communicate with beneficiaries and monitor the effects of humanitarian programming.

Separately, internet and landline outages resulting from a strike at a major Lebanese telecommunications company that began in late August had affected approximately 30 percent of WFP's retail network reliant on landlines. The UN agency was working with the affected shops to switch their point-of-sales from landlines to wireless networks.

Migrant Boat Sinking Results in Over 100 Deaths Near Coast of Syria

On September 22, a boat originating from Lebanon carrying migrants sank in the Mediterranean Sea near the coast of Syria, resulting in at least 100 deaths, injury to 14 people, and additional 42 missing persons, international media reported. The boat had departed Lebanon's North Governorate for Europe on September 20 carrying up to 150 Lebanese, Palestinian, and Syrian nationals, according to the UN. The deteriorating economic conditions in Lebanon have driven people to increasingly resort to attempting dangerous Mediterranean crossings on overcrowded boats in recent years, according to the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). On September 19 and 20, the Government of Cyprus responded to distress calls from two other boats from Lebanon carrying migrants, rescuing all 300 and 177 people on board, respectively. Previously on April 22, a boat carrying migrants sank near Lebanon's Tripoli city, resulting in at least seven deaths and 30 people missing.

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



250,000

People reached by USG-supported WASH assistance per month



8

USG-supported partners providing dedicated protection services in Lebanon

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

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 COVID-19 tests and treatment for refugee patients. As of September, UNHCR and its partners had reached more than 500,000 people through collective outreach efforts at reception centers, mobile vaccination units across the country, and validation sites, and registered nearly half of these individuals on the national COVID-19 vaccine registration platform.

USAID/BHA also supports International Medical Corps (IMC), Relief International, and with FY 2021 funding, Acción contra el Hambre (ACH) to provide critical health support across Lebanon. For example, with USAID/BHA funding, ACH had reached more than 15,000 individuals with COVID-19 awareness sessions in public schools and risk communication and community engagement activities by the end of August.

WASH

The USG supports 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.

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 had reached 130,000 individuals with protection services as of late June. Additionally, in September, 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 UNHCR collaborated—in cooperation with UNICEF, WFP, and USAID's Qitabi program—to support the Government of Lebanon's Ministry of Education in implementing a six-week inclusive summer school between July and August. More than 98,000 students, nearly 30 percent of whom were Syrian, enrolled in the program in more than 450 schools. The summer school program aimed to mitigate learning losses and provide support for vulnerable children. UNHCR also supported the provision of recreational activities, including sports and art, aiming to reach more than 45,000 children in more than 180 schools.

CONTEXT IN BRIEF

- Lebanon hosts the largest number of refugees per capita of any country, with the significant humanitarian needs of approximately 1.5 million refugees adding strain on local resources. Additionally, Lebanon has experienced several large socioeconomic shocks due to overlapping crises since 2019, including the steep deterioration of the economy, the emergence of COVID-19, the explosions at the Port of Beirut in 2020, and ongoing political instability.
- The 2022 Lebanon Crisis Response Plan (LCRP), released in February, requested \$3.2 billion to provide multi-sector assistance to approximately 1.5 million displaced Syrians, 1.5 million Lebanese, and 210,000 Palestinian refugees in the country.
- 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 2022¹

IMPLEMENTING PARTNER	ACTIVITY	LOCATION	AMOUNT
USAID/BHA			
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	\$170,327

TOTAL USAID/BHA FUNDING			\$124,445,327
STATE/PRM			
Implementing Partners	Health, Livelihoods, Logistics Support, MPCA, Protection, Shelter and Settlements, WASH	Countrywide	\$36,967,692
UN Development Program (UNDP)	Livelihoods, MPCA, Protection	Countrywide	\$5,000,000
UNHCR	Education, Health, MPCA, Nutrition, Protection, WASH	Countrywide	\$127,300,000
UNICEF	Education, Health, Livelihoods, Logistics Support, MPCA, Protection, Shelter and Settlements, WASH	Countrywide	\$101,600,000
UNRWA ³	Education, Health, MPCA, Nutrition, Protection, WASH	Countrywide	\$7,100,000
TOTAL STATE/PRM FUNDING			\$277,967,692
TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE LEBANON RESPONSE IN FY 2022²			\$402,413,019

¹ Year of funding indicates the date of commitment or obligation, not appropriation, of funds. Funding figures reflect publicly announced funding as of September 30, 2022.

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

³ State/PRM also provided nearly \$250 million in FY 2022 to UNRWA for its calendar year 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)