

Lebanon – Complex Emergency

NOVEMBER 10, 2022

SITUATION AT A GLANCE



- On November 9, during her trip to Lebanon, USAID Administrator Power announced \$72.5 million in emergency food assistance via WFP to benefit approximately 650,000 vulnerable people in Lebanon.
- Lebanon’s MoPH declared its first outbreak of cholera since 1993, with more than 2,700 confirmed and suspected cases and 18 deaths as of November 7, the UN reports.
- More than 500 Syrian refugees returned to Syria on October 26—the first day of the GoL’s resumed return program—as relief actors continue to reiterate refugees’ right to dignified, safe, and voluntary returns, according to international media.



<p>TOTAL U.S. GOVERNMENT HUMANITARIAN FUNDING For the Lebanon Response in FY 2023³</p>	USAID/BHA ¹	\$72,930,000
	Total	\$72,930,000

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

¹ USAID’s Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (USAID/BHA)
² This fact sheet includes the USAID/BHA total to date for FY 2023.

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

Administrator Power Announces \$72.5 Million in USAID Funding to Lebanon

On November 9, during her trip to Lebanon, USAID Administrator Samantha Power announced \$72.5 million in new USAID/BHA emergency food assistance funding via the UN World Food Program (WFP) to support an estimated 650,000 vulnerable people in Lebanon. Through this funding, USAID/BHA will support approximately 300,000 vulnerable Lebanese people through in-kind food assistance parcels—including chickpeas, lentils, rice, and other staple food items—and nearly 350,000 Syrian refugees with electronic vouchers, enabling refugees to achieve better dietary diversity, shop with dignity, and support local markets. This new humanitarian assistance is intended to respond to worsening food and fuel price inflation caused by Lebanon's ongoing economic crisis and exacerbated by the Government of the Russian Federation's (GoRF) invasion of Ukraine and the consequent effects on global markets. For example, as of October, the price of the minimum food basket in Lebanon had increased by more than 1,700 percent compared with October 2019, WFP reports. Additionally, inflated fuel prices have impacted people's ability to afford both cooking gas and diesel fuel used for heating, further affecting food security needs in the country. To date, USAID/BHA has contributed more than \$1 billion in humanitarian assistance to Lebanon, primarily emergency food assistance, since Fiscal Year 2012.

Lebanon Declares First Cholera Outbreak Since 1993

The Government of Lebanon (GoL) Ministry of Public Health (MoPH) declared a cholera outbreak on October 6 following the confirmation of two cholera cases in northern Lebanon's Akkar and North governorates, the first outbreak of cholera since 1993, the UN World Health Organization (WHO) reports. As of November 7, the MoPH had recorded 18 confirmed cholera-related deaths and more than 2,700 suspected and confirmed cases. Suspected cholera cases have been reported in all of Lebanon's eight governorates, with Akkar and North governorates the most affected. Of confirmed cases, approximately 25 percent are among children ages four years and younger, the MoPH reports.

The rapid and significant spread of cholera is precipitated by the lack of robust water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) infrastructure; limited safe drinking water; and the regular movement of people between Lebanon and Syria where a cholera outbreak is ongoing, the WHO reports. As a result, the WHO has graded the overall risk of the cholera outbreak in Lebanon very high at the national level. In response to the cholera outbreak across the country, the MoPH designated 20 primary health care centers (PHCCs) in areas with limited access to health facilities as cholera treatment units. Additionally, with the support of the WHO, as of November 2 the MoPH had secured 600,000 doses of the oral cholera vaccine from the International Coordinating Group; the doses will be prioritized for the most vulnerable population groups in Lebanon, including host community members and refugees. Overall, an estimated \$63 million is required to address the cholera outbreak in Lebanon, according to WHO.

In early October, the U.S. State Department Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (State/PRM) partner the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) began implementing a joint cholera emergency response plan in collaboration with the WHO, non-governmental organization (NGO) partners, and the MoPH. UNICEF issued an emergency appeal for more than \$29 million on October 14 for the first three months of cholera response efforts to help curb the spread of the disease and treat affected individuals, as well as utilized existing State/PRM funding to procure supplies to help manage 5,000 cholera cases, including 500 severe cases and 4,500 moderate-to-mild cases. As of early November, UNICEF had provided more than 32,000 oral rehydration salts; 1,000 disinfection kits, sufficient to support more than 6,100 individuals; and nearly 1,200 chlorine family hygiene kits, sufficient for more than 7,100 individuals, along with other essential health and WASH services to respond to the cholera outbreak.

In addition, USAID/BHA supports health programs implemented by two NGOs, International Medical Corps (IMC) and Relief International, in Lebanon. Funding to these NGOs provides support to PHCCs that are integrating cholera services in cooperation with the MoPH and UN agencies to increase vulnerable populations' access to primary health care. USAID/BHA support also enables the provision of critical trainings for medical staff, and bolsters systems management and supply chains to ensure PHCCs have access to required medical supplies.

Lebanese Government Resumes Returns of Syrian Refugees

The GoL resumed facilitating the return of Syrian refugees in Lebanon to Syria on October 26, the first since the start of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic in 2020. As of early November, the GoL had conducted two rounds of returns on October 26 and November 5, relief actors report. In accordance with a bilateral agreement between the GoL and the Syrian Arab Republic Government (SARG), Lebanon's Directorate of General Security (DGS) shares the list of names of registered refugees with the SARG for pre-approval. Of the more than 2,400 Syrian refugees registered for the first round of returns, 1,700 refugees were approved by the SARG and more than 500 refugees returned to Syria on the day of the first return movement coordinated by DGS, according to Lebanese authorities.

DGS informed State/PRM partner the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) of both return movements prior to departure, including the names of the DGS-registered refugees. While UNHCR did not facilitate the returns, it conducted pre-departure interviews with returnees and was present at staging points and official border crossing points to observe the returns process, provide onsite assistance to refugees, and guide protection sensitive responses by the authorities. Relief actors continue to call on the GoL and SARG to respect refugees' right to dignified, safe, and voluntary returns, and have emphasized that conditions in Syria are not currently conducive to safe returns.

KEY FIGURES



\$72.5 Million

In dedicated USAID/BHA emergency food assistance in FY 2023



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 supported partner WFP with nearly \$119 million, reaching 1.7 million people with food assistance in September alone. An additional \$72.5 million of USAID/BHA support in FY 2023 will enable WFP to provide emergency food assistance to 650,000 vulnerable individuals 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 mobile

vaccination units, reception centers, and validation sites across the country and registered nearly half of these individuals on the national COVID-19 vaccine registration platform. In addition, as of early November State/PRM partner UNICEF had provided 32,000 oral rehydration salts and reached nearly 44,800 individuals with cholera prevention and treatment messaging to support the cholera outbreak response.

USAID/BHA also supports IMC and Relief International to provide critical health support across Lebanon, enabling PHCCs to effectively detect and treat communicable diseases such as cholera and COVID-19. 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.



250,000

Syrians reached by USG-supported WASH assistance per month

WASH

The USG supports WASH programming throughout Lebanon to bolster water and sanitation conditions and prevent the spread of communicable diseases such as cholera and 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. As of early November, UNICEF had also distributed nearly 18 metric tons of chlorine to water establishments in the Beirut, Mount Lebanon, North, and South governorates to support cholera response efforts.



144,000

Refugee households reached by State/PRM partner UNHCR with MPCA in September

PROTECTION

The USG supports ten 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 October, 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, mitigate exploitation risks, and reduce the use of negative coping strategies. USAID/BHA partners IMC and Relief International also provide protection support, including case management and psychosocial support services to affected individuals.

EDUCATION

State/PRM partner UNHCR collaborated with UNICEF, WFP, and USAID's Qitabi program to support the GoL's Ministry of Education in implementing



98,000

Children enrolled in a learning program supported by State/PRM partner UNICEF

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 at 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 declaration of a cholera outbreak, 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), which was released in February, requested \$3.2 billion to provide multi-sector assistance to address the impact of the Syria crisis in Lebanon and meet the needs of approximately 1.5 million displaced Syrians, 1.5 million Lebanese, and 210,000 Palestinian refugees in the country. Meanwhile, the Emergency Response Plan, which was released in June and complements the LCRP, requested \$383 million to address the needs of approximately 1.9 million vulnerable Lebanese, migrants, and refugees.
- On October 26, 2022, U.S. Ambassador to Lebanon Dorothy C. Shea issued a redeclaration of humanitarian need due to increased humanitarian need in the country as a result of the ongoing socioeconomic and political crisis that has been exacerbated by the GoRF's invasion of Ukraine, the continuing impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and the 2020 explosions at the Port of Beirut, and the recent cholera outbreak.

USAID HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE LEBANON RESPONSE IN FY 2023¹

IMPLEMENTING PARTNER	ACTIVITY	LOCATION	AMOUNT
USAID/BHA			
Mercy Corps	Humanitarian Coordination, Information Management, and Assessments (HCIMA)	Countrywide	\$430,000
WFP	Food Assistance—Local, Regional, and International Procurement (LRIP); Vouchers	Countrywide	\$72,500,000
TOTAL USAID/BHA FUNDING			\$72,930,000
TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE LEBANON RESPONSE IN FY 2023²			\$72,930,000

¹ Year of funding indicates the date of commitment or obligation, not appropriation, of funds. Funding figures reflect publicly announced funding as of November 9, 2022.

² State/PRM and USAID/BHA funding benefitting refugees in Lebanon is also reported in the USG Syria 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)