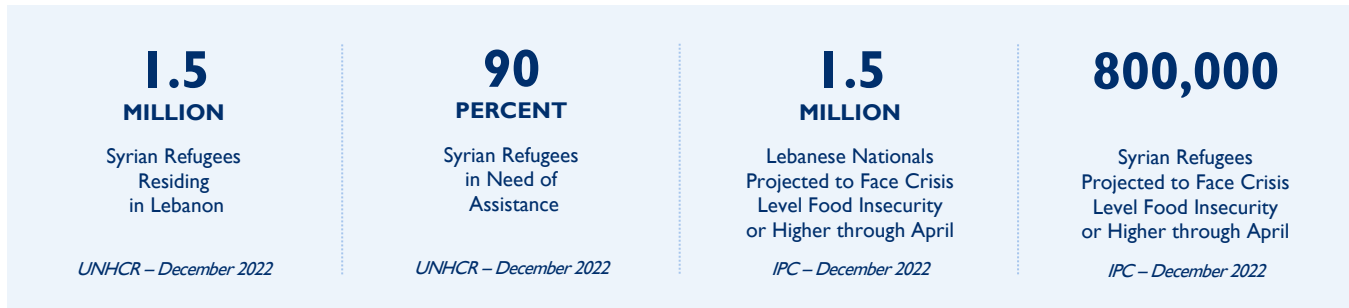


Lebanon – Complex Emergency

JANUARY 20, 2023

SITUATION AT A GLANCE



- Nearly 2 million Lebanese residents and Syrian refugees, or approximately 37 percent of the resident population, faced Crisis—IPC 3—or worse levels of acute food insecurity between September and December 2022.
- Lebanon’s currency had depreciated to a record low as of December 20, driving an increase in humanitarian needs among vulnerable populations, according to local media.
- Lebanon’s MoPH and the WHO initiated a nationwide cholera vaccine campaign in November. In addition, State/PRM provided emergency funding for the cholera response in late December.



TOTAL U.S. GOVERNMENT HUMANITARIAN FUNDING

For the Lebanon Response in FY 2023

USAID/BHA¹ \$72,956,500

STATE/PRM² \$1,300,000

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

Total \$74,256,500

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

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

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

IPC Analysis Projects Elevated Food Insecurity in Lebanon

Lebanon's currency depreciation, economic crisis, increasing prices of food and basic commodities, and loss of livelihoods have contributed to deteriorating food security across the country in recent months, according to the first Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) analysis conducted in Lebanon, issued in December by the IPC and the Government of Lebanon (GoL).⁵ Nearly 2 million Lebanese residents and Syrian refugees, or approximately 37 percent of the resident population, likely experienced Crisis—IPC 3—or worse levels of acute food insecurity between September and December 2022, including nearly 1.3 million Lebanese residents and an estimated 700,000 Syrian refugees residing in the country. Of these, 306,000 individuals likely faced Emergency—IPC 4—conditions during the same period. Individuals facing Crisis or higher levels of food insecurity require urgent humanitarian action to prevent acute malnutrition, protect livelihoods, and reduce food consumption gaps, according to the IPC analysis.

From January to April 2023, the IPC analysis projects the figures to increase to an estimated 2.3 million Lebanese residents and Syrian refugees, or approximately 42 percent of the resident population, likely to face Crisis or worse levels of acute food insecurity due to the continued economic crisis in Lebanon, including an estimated 354,000 individuals projected to experience Emergency levels of acute food insecurity. Nearly 1.5 million Lebanese—approximately 38 percent of the Lebanese population—and an estimated 800,000 Syrian refugees—approximately 53 percent of the Syrian refugee population in Lebanon—are projected to face Crisis or worse conditions during the period.

In response to worsening food insecurity in Lebanon, USAID/BHA partner the UN World Food Program (WFP) continued to provide emergency food assistance each month with USAID/BHA and other donor support, including electronic food vouchers benefiting more than 1 million Syrian refugees, cash transfers benefiting an estimated 5,300 other refugees, and household food parcels benefiting nearly 290,000 vulnerable Lebanese people in December.

Lebanese Pound Value Reaches Record Low as Fuel Prices Rise

The economic crisis continued to worsen across Lebanon through the end of 2022 as the Lebanese pound (LBP) had depreciated to a record low value of 45,000 LBP to 1 U.S. dollar (USD) as of December 20, according to local media. In response, Lebanon's central bank announced plans to maintain 15,000 LBP as its official LBP to USD exchange rate starting in February 2023. The deepening economic crisis in Lebanon continues to generate growing humanitarian needs and limit access to food, education, health care, and shelter among vulnerable populations, including refugees and host communities. For example, approximately 90 percent of Syrian refugee households required humanitarian assistance as of December 16, according to the preliminary findings of the 2022 Vulnerability Assessment of Syrian Refugees conducted jointly by the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF), and WFP. Syrian refugees reported using adverse coping strategies, such as reducing the number of meals eaten per day and cutting down on health and education spending, to prioritize buying food.

The LBP–USD exchange rate partially drives the high price of fuel in Lebanon, according to Mercy Corps' Lebanese Crisis Analytics Team, supported by USAID/BHA. While fuel prices began to decrease in December, the overall trend showed sustained price increases that are projected to remain elevated

⁵ The IPC is a multi-partner initiative that developed a standardized scale to classify the severity and magnitude of food insecurity. The IPC scale, which is comparable across countries and time, ranges from Minimal—IPC 1—to Famine—IPC 5—for acute food insecurity.

into 2023, international media report. Inflated fuel prices in Lebanon have negatively affected people's ability to afford cooking gas and access transportation to shop for food, heightening the need for food assistance, according to the UN.

Cholera Outbreak Appears to Stabilize Amid Vaccine Campaign in Lebanon

The cholera outbreak in Lebanon—which began in October 2022—appeared to stabilize in recent weeks with a decreased rate of infection and no new related deaths recorded since December 14, according to the Lebanon's Ministry of Public Health (MoPH). The MoPH had recorded 23 cholera-related deaths and more than 6,100 suspected and confirmed cholera cases, resulting in a case fatality rate of 0.4 percent, between the onset of the outbreak on October 6 and January 17. Lebanon's Akkar and North governorates continued to report the majority of cases, with approximately 48 percent of cases detected in individuals ages 15 years and younger, according to the MoPH.

In response to the cholera outbreak, U.S. Ambassador to Lebanon Dorothy C. Shea announced \$1.3 million in emergency funding from State/PRM to support UNICEF's Cholera Outbreak Flash Appeal for Lebanon during a UNICEF-led mission to Akkar on December 28. Ambassador Shea also visited the Halba Governmental Hospital—including a UNICEF-equipped cholera treatment center—and the State/PRM-funded and UNICEF-operated Bebnine Well and Water Station in Bebnine village, which began pumping water on December 21. The North Lebanon Water Establishment reported that the well was directly benefiting an estimated 3,700 households to help prevent the spread of cholera as of early January.

In addition, the MoPH—in coordination with the UN World Health Organization (WHO)—initiated a nationwide oral cholera vaccine (OCV) campaign in mid-November. During the first phase of the door-to-door campaign, which ended in early December, the MoPH and WHO reached more than 525,600 people with the vaccine, achieving more than 90 percent of the campaign's target. Lebanon also received a shipment of nearly 902,000 OCV doses on December 14, representing the first half of a 1.8 million additional OCV doses provided by the International Coordinating Group, a group comprising the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, Médecins Sans Frontières, UNICEF, and WHO charged with managing and coordinating the provision of emergency vaccine supplies and antibiotics to countries during major disease outbreaks. The MoPH and WHO began the second OCV campaign phase on December 17. While the overall trend of cholera cases has continued to decline in Lebanon in recent weeks, WHO cautioned against declaring successful control of the outbreak prematurely and advocated for the critical continuation of response interventions.

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 provided partner WFP with nearly \$119 million in funding to support more than 740,000 Syrian refugees and Lebanese nationals with monthly food assistance. USAID Administrator Power announced an additional \$72.5 million of USAID/BHA support for WFP during a visit to Lebanon in November, benefiting more than 650,000 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 coronavirus disease (COVID-19) tests and treatment for refugee patients, as well as treatment for acute symptoms associated with cholera. Between January and October 2022, health facilities supported by UNHCR and its partners had provided consultations to more than 80,400 refugees and other vulnerable populations in Lebanon. In addition, State/PRM partner UNICEF provided 32,000 oral rehydration salts and reached nearly 44,800 individuals with cholera prevention and treatment messaging to support the cholera outbreak response in October and November.

USAID/BHA supports non-governmental organization (NGO) partners IMC and Relief International to provide critical health support across Lebanon, enabling primary health care centers (PHCCs) to effectively detect and treat communicable diseases, such as cholera and COVID-19. For example, IMC continued to support five PHCCs with subsidized consultations, diagnostic tests, medications, and supplies, enabling more than 7,300 individuals to receive medical services during November. In the same month, Relief International and its implementing partner, Première Urgence Internationale, continued to support six PHCCs—including training nearly 140 staff on infant and young child feeding within the context of cholera—to ensure the provision of primary health care services for vulnerable populations in Lebanon. State/PRM also supports IMC and American Near East Refugee Aid (Anera) to provide health support to refugees and host communities in Lebanon, including free access to critical chronic medications and health consultations at PHCCs.



250,000

Syrians reached by USG-supported WASH assistance per month

WASH

The USG supports water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) programming throughout Lebanon to improve water and sanitation conditions and prevent the spread of communicable diseases. USAID/BHA support enables IMC and Relief International to implement critical WASH programming and ensure that vulnerable households have essential 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. UNICEF 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 between early October and early November.



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, State/PRM partner UNHCR distributed multipurpose cash assistance (MPCA) to approximately 144,000 Syrian refugee households and 2,400 refugee households of other nationalities between January and December to bolster capacity to meet basic needs, mitigate exploitation risks, and reduce the use of negative coping strategies. With State/PRM support, UNHCR began providing winterization cash assistance to vulnerable families in November 2022 that will continue during the winter months through April 2023. USAID/BHA partners IMC and Relief International also continue to provide protection support, including case management and psychosocial support services to affected individuals.



98,000

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

EDUCATION

State/PRM partner UNHCR collaborated with UNICEF, WFP, and USAID's Qitabi program to support the GoL'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 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 collapse of the currency, 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 2022, 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 Shea issued a redeclaration of humanitarian need for FY 2023 as a result of the continued impacts of the ongoing socioeconomic and political crisis on vulnerable populations that has been exacerbated by the impacts of Russia’s invasion of Ukraine on food prices in Lebanon; the COVID-19 pandemic; 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
	Program Support	Countrywide	\$26,500
TOTAL USAID/BHA FUNDING			\$72,956,500
STATE/PRM			
UNICEF	Education, Health, WASH	Countrywide	\$1,300,000
TOTAL STATE/PRM FUNDING			\$1,300,000
TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE LEBANON RESPONSE IN FY 2023²			\$74,230,000

¹ Year of funding indicates the date of commitment or obligation, not appropriation, of funds. Funding figures reflect publicly announced funding as of January 13, 2023.

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)