

# Lebanon – Complex Emergency

JUNE 15, 2023

## SITUATION AT A GLANCE



- The USG announces approximately \$146.4 million in additional FY 2023 funding to support vulnerable populations in Lebanon, including nearly \$129 million from State/PRM and more than \$17.4 million from USAID/BHA.
- The 2023 Lebanon ERP requests approximately \$200 million to reach 1.3 million vulnerable individuals with humanitarian assistance during the year, OCHA reports.
- An estimated 3.1 million Lebanese nationals, refugees, and migrants residing in Lebanon will likely require food assistance in 2023, according to the UN. In response, USAID/BHA partner WFP continues to provide assistance, reaching approximately 1.6 million people during March with multi-donor funding via several modalities.
- High inflation and rising food prices are hindering the ability of households in Lebanon to meet their basic needs, according to the UN.



<b>TOTAL U.S. GOVERNMENT HUMANITARIAN FUNDING</b>	USAID/BHA <sup>1</sup>	\$90,409,060
	State/PRM <sup>2</sup>	\$129,900,000
For the Lebanon Response in FY 2023	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$220,309,060</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

### **The USG Announces Approximately \$146.4 Million in Additional Humanitarian Assistance for Lebanon**

In June, the U.S. Government (USG) announced approximately \$146.4 million in humanitarian assistance for Lebanon, including nearly \$129 million in State/PRM funding for Syrian refugees and host communities across the country and more than \$17.4 million in additional USAID/BHA funding, primarily for Lebanese nationals. The USG remains the largest donor of humanitarian assistance for Lebanon, providing more than \$220.3 million in humanitarian assistance for Lebanon to date in Fiscal Year (FY) 2023.

USAID/BHA funding includes more than \$11.1 million for the UN World Food Program (WFP) and nearly \$6.3 million for International Medical Corps (IMC) and Relief International. With the additional funding, WFP plans to provide food parcels—containing locally sourced canned fish, grains, oil, pasta, pulses, and other food staples—to 75,000 households for two months to provide approximately 65 percent of daily caloric needs and bolster food security among vulnerable Lebanese. WFP's food parcel program will complement the two major Government of Lebanon (GoL) social assistance programs, the National Poverty Targeting Program (NPTP) and the Emergency Social Safety Net (ESSN), by targeting Lebanese nationals who are not reached by the safety net programs. IMC and Relief International plan to support approximately 11 primary health care clinics (PHCCs) across Lebanon to provide critical health assistance to vulnerable populations over the coming year. With USG funding, Relief International- and IMC-supported PHCCs have reached approximately 70,600 individuals in FY 2023, as of March. In FY 2022, more than 72 percent of the 96,000 patients reached by the clinics were Lebanese nationals.

The newly announced State/PRM funding will support humanitarian partners providing cash, education, health, protection, and shelter assistance, as well as access to safe drinking water. 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 host communities, refugees, and other vulnerable populations in Lebanon.

### **2023 Lebanon ERP Requests \$200 Million to Reach 1.3 Million People**

The 2023 Lebanon Emergency Response Plan (ERP) requests approximately \$200 million to reach 1.3 million vulnerable individuals with humanitarian assistance during the year, according to the UN. There are approximately 3.9 million people in need of humanitarian assistance across Lebanon in 2023, including 2.1 million Lebanese nationals, 1.5 million Syrian refugees, and 291,000 migrants and refugees, according to the ERP and the 2022 Lebanon Crisis Response Plan (LCRP), which the ERP complements. Concurrent socioeconomic shocks and crises since 2019—such as the collapse of the Lebanese pound (LBP), the explosions at the Port of Beirut in 2020, and a cholera outbreak since October 2022—continue to limit access to basic services, including education, health care, safe drinking water, and sanitation. Furthermore, increasing costs for the import of medications and medical supplies, as well as the unavailability of critical medicines, contributed to rising patients' costs for hospitalization and treatment.

In response, the 2023 Lebanon ERP prioritizes strengthening health and water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) systems capacity to improve the country's ability to cope with disease outbreaks. The ongoing socioeconomic crisis, poverty, and unemployment have exposed individuals—particularly children, girls, and women—to significant protection risks, including negative coping mechanisms such as child labor, child

marriage, and gender-based violence (GBV). As a result, the ERP plans to enhance equitable, unhindered, and timely access to protection assistance for refugees and migrants residing in Lebanon.

### **3.1 Million People in Lebanon Expected to Require Food Aid in 2023; USAID/BHA Partner WFP Responds to Critical Needs**

High levels of food insecurity and poverty persist among Lebanese and refugee populations due to the economic, political, and social crises in Lebanon and increasing global food and fuel prices. The UN has identified rising inflation, currency depreciation, the deterioration of basic services, limited livelihood opportunities, and wage disparity as the key drivers of food insecurity in the country. In 2023, 3.1 million Lebanese nationals, Syrian and Palestinian refugees, and migrants residing in Lebanon are expected to require emergency food assistance, while more than one-half of the Lebanese population is projected to be living below the national poverty line, the UN reports. The food security situation is anticipated to further deteriorate due to continued inflation and currency depreciation, likely disrupting livelihoods and agricultural production, according to relief actors.

In response to the high levels of food insecurity in Lebanon, USAID/BHA partner WFP provided cash and food assistance to approximately 1.6 million people during March, delivering \$21 million in voucher- and cash-based transfers for food and 3,200 metric tons (MTs) of in-kind food assistance. The UN agency provided cash-based assistance—including electronic food vouchers, cash-for-food initiatives, and multipurpose cash assistance (MPCA)—to 918,000 refugees; WFP also reached 8,200 refugees of other nationalities with cash-for-food assistance during the month. Meanwhile, WFP supported approximately 280,000 vulnerable Lebanese nationals with food commodities and 365,000 Lebanese nationals with cash assistance through the NPTP in March.

### **Rising Inflation, Depreciation of LBP Exacerbates Needs**

The LBP lost more than 98 percent of its value between 2019 and early 2023—depreciating to a record-low average of 140,000 LBP to 1 U.S. dollar (USD) on unofficial markets in March—further eroding the ability of many households in Lebanon to meet basic needs, according to a May report by the World Bank. Further, food inflation increased by 11,300 percent during the same period, including by 240 percent throughout 2022—the highest recorded food inflation rate in the world—and by 40 percent between January and February 2023. The cost of the food Survival Minimum Expenditure Basket (SMEB)—a benchmark to estimate the cost of basic food and emergency relief supplies for a refugee household in Lebanon—for a household of five increased by 36 percent from January to February while the cost of the individual SMEB increased 48 percent during the same period, reducing beneficiaries’ purchasing power to meet food and other essential needs. Additionally, the UN reports that the depreciation of the LBP has resulted in a gap in the GoL’s provision of assistance under its two major cash programs—ESSN and NPTP—in covering the basic needs of beneficiaries, further decreasing food security among vulnerable populations. To stabilize prices and regulate price manipulation, the GoL authorized supermarkets to begin pricing goods in USD during February. Despite dollarization, rapid inflation led to currency shortages. In response, WFP and the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) began to issue humanitarian cash and voucher programs for refugees in USD in May; however, the UN paused USD cash disbursements on May 27 due to a request from the GoL’s Minister of Social Affairs.

## KEY FIGURES



**\$83.6 Million**

In dedicated USAID/BHA emergency food assistance in FY 2023



**1 Million**

Administered single doses of the oral cholera vaccine by State/PRM partner UNICEF



**250,000**

Syrians reached by USG-supported WASH assistance per month

## 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. 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 in FY 2022. In March 2023 alone, WFP reached approximately 1.6 million people with assistance, including 3,200 MT of in-kind food assistance and \$21 million in cash-based transfers, with multi-donor funding.

### HEALTH

USG partner Relief International continued to provide health services at six PHCCs in February in support of the GoL's Ministry of Public Health's Long-Term Primary Healthcare Subsidization Protocol. The partner had reached nearly 26,500 beneficiaries—including nearly 7,500 refugees and more than 19,000 host community members—with comprehensive primary health care services across all supported PHCCs. USG partner IMC provided health care activities—including capacity building and support, diagnostic tests, home-based care, medications, medical supplies, and subsidized consultations—at 11 PHCCs, reaching more than 44,100 patients between January and March.

State/PRM supports UNHCR to operate a large referral health care program to subsidize hospitalization fees to facilitate refugees' access to hospital care by paying a significant portion of the hospital bills. The assistance includes covering a significant part of the cost for refugees in need of obstetric care and urgent lifesaving interventions at hospitals through a network of 30 contracted hospitals. Between January and March, UNHCR supported nearly 18,000 admissions to contracted hospitals. In addition, UNHCR and partners supported more than 200 primary health care centers across the country to provide general health care services such as vaccinations, maternal care, and care for chronic non-communicable diseases. UNHCR also supported nearly 15,000 primary health care and more than 12,500 mental health consultations.

In October 2022, UNHCR supported the national response as a member of the National Cholera Taskforce. Subsequently, UNHCR supported the Ministry of Public Health with the implementation of the Nationwide National Oral Cholera Vaccination campaign from November 2022 to February 2023. During the campaign, UNHCR facilitated the administration of more than 1 million single doses of the oral cholera vaccine.

### WASH

The USG supports 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, the UN Children’s Fund (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 MT of chlorine to water establishments in the Beirut, Mount Lebanon, North, and South governorates as part of cholera response efforts between early October and early November.



**1.4 Million**

Syrian refugees reached through UNHCR’s Winter Cash Assistance Program

## PROTECTION

The USG supports ten partners, including NGOs and UN agencies, to provide child protection, 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 MPCA to approximately 144,000 Syrian refugee households and 2,400 refugee households of other nationalities between January and December 2022 to bolster capacity to meet basic needs, mitigate exploitation risks, and reduce the use of negative coping strategies. With State/PRM support, UNHCR delivered relief commodities, including fuel and winter clothing, to help meet households’ basic needs amid harsh winter weather conditions. UNHCR reached more than 1.4 million Syrian refugees and 11,460 Iraqi refugees and refugees of other nationalities through its Winter Cash Assistance Program between November and March.



**32,000**

Children reached with education awareness sessions by State/PRM partner UNICEF

## EDUCATION

UNHCR partners reached more than 32,000 refugee children with education awareness sessions and nearly 4,200 children with homework support activities to support their retention in school, as of March 31. UNHCR partners are also referring out-of-school refugee children to enroll in the School Bridging Program planned for the coming scholastic year. UNHCR partners aim to identify and refer 8,800 out-of-school refugee children to available education pathways in 2023 and had identified more than 2,400 children and referred more than 800 children to sector partners as of the end of March.

## 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 total 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, a cholera outbreak, the deterioration of the economy, the emergence of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, the explosions at the Port of Beirut in 2020, and ongoing political instability.

- The 2023 ERP for Lebanon—released in April 2023—requests \$200 million to reach 1.3 million people in need across Lebanon. The ERP complements the 2022 LCRP, which requested \$3.2 billion to address the impact of the Syria crisis in Lebanon and outlines the multi-sector assistance required in 2023 to meet the needs of approximately 2.1 million Lebanese nationals, 1.5 million Syrian refugees, and more than 291,000 other migrants and refugees.
- U.S. Ambassador Dorothy C. Shea issued a redeclaration of humanitarian need for FY 2023 on October 26, 2022, 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.

### USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE LEBANON RESPONSE IN FY 2023<sup>1</sup>

IMPLEMENTING PARTNER	ACTIVITY	LOCATION	AMOUNT
<b>USAID/BHA</b>			
IMC	Health, Protection, WASH	Akkar, Baalbek-El Hermel, Beirut, Beqaa, El Nabatieh, Mount Lebanon, North Lebanon, South Lebanon	\$2,500,000
Mercy Corps	Humanitarian Coordination, Information Management, and Assessments (HCIMA)	Countrywide	\$430,000
Relief International	Health, Nutrition, Protection, WASH	Akkar, Beirut, Mount Lebanon, North Lebanon, South Lebanon	\$3,761,965
WFP	Food Assistance—Food Vouchers; Local, Regional, and International Procurement	Countrywide	\$83,620,000
	Program Support	Countrywide	\$97,095
<b>TOTAL USAID/BHA FUNDING</b>			<b>\$90,409,060</b>
<b>STATE/PRM</b>			
IOM	Protection, Logistics Support, MPCA	Countrywide	\$900,000
UNICEF	Education, Health, Nutrition, Protection, WASH	Countrywide	\$60,000,000
UNDP	Economic Recovery and Market Systems (ERMS), Shelter and Settlements	Countrywide	\$4,200,000
UNHCR	Education, ERMS, Health, Logistics Support, MPCA, Protection, Shelter and Settlements, WASH	Countrywide	\$58,300,000
Implementing Partners	Education, ERMS, Health, Logistics Support, MPCA, Protection, Shelter and Settlements, WASH	Countrywide	\$6,500,000
<b>TOTAL STATE/PRM FUNDING</b>			<b>\$129,900,000</b>
<b>TOTAL USG FUNDING FOR THE LEBANON RESPONSE IN FY 2023</b>			<b>\$220,309,060</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 June 15, 2023.

<sup>2</sup> State/PRM and USAID/BHA funding benefitting refugees in Lebanon is also reported in USG Syria Complex Emergency Fact Sheet #6, dated June 15, 2023.

### 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://cidi.org)
  - Information on relief activities of the humanitarian community can be found at [reliefweb.int](https://reliefweb.int).

USAID/BHA bulletins appear on the USAID website at [usaaid.gov/humanitarian-assistance/where-we-work](https://www.usaid.gov/humanitarian-assistance/where-we-work)