



© UNICEF/UNIS/ISS/Choufary
 Ali, 9 years old, and Ali, 8 years old, moved to a collective shelter in Mount Lebanon following the escalation of hostilities in Lebanon. "We came here with our families after the bombing".

unicef 
 for every child

Humanitarian Action for Children

Lebanon

HIGHLIGHTS

- Hostilities on the Lebanon-Israel border escalated sharply in September 2024, leading to the deadliest period of the conflict with more than 1,600 deaths, including 104 children, 194 women and two UN staff, and over 8,408 injured.
- The escalation has led to mass displacement. On 29 September 2024, Lebanon's Prime Minister announced that collective shelters were being set up to accommodate one million Internally Displaced People (IDPs). More than 246,000 IDPs, including 121,000 children, were counted by 30 September 2024, according to IOM. More than 100,000 Lebanese and Syrians have fled Lebanon for Syria according to UNHCR.
- The catastrophic escalation in hostilities comes against a backdrop of a multi-layered governance, economic and financial crisis. Lebanon continues to host 1.5 million Syrian refugees, 23,000 Palestinian refugees from Syria, and 180,000 Palestinian refugees.
- UNICEF is appealing for US\$ 105.3 million to deliver a large-scale emergency response that prioritizes WASH, Child Protection and Cash, alongside education and health.

KEY PLANNED TARGETS



400,000
 people supported by mobile medical teams



220,000
 children/caregivers accessing community-based mental health and psychosocial support



1 million
 people accessing a sufficient quantity and quality of water



620,000
 people reached with Multi-Purpose Cash Assistance, including people with disability

IN NEED

1 million
 people

350,000
 children

TO BE REACHED

1 million
 people

350,000
 children

FUNDING REQUIREMENTS

US\$105.3
 million

HUMANITARIAN SITUATION AND NEEDS

The escalation since 16 September 2024 has led to a surge in mass displacement across Lebanon. Lebanon's Prime Minister announced that collective shelters were being set up to accommodate up to one million IDPs. More than 346,000 internally displaced people (IDPs), including 121,000 children, were counted by September 2024, according to IOM (DTM round 48). More than 100,000 Lebanese and Syrians fled Lebanon for Syria according to UNHCR.

Lebanese authorities have opened more than 800 collective shelters, which were hosting over 140,000 IDPs by September 2024, according to the Disaster Risk Management Unit.

The majority of shelters is located in public schools, and educational institutions across the country are closed for learning, following the postponement of the new school year and temporary suspension of classes by the Ministry of Education. Damage to public infrastructure has been reported, including more than 25 water facilities damaged since October 2023, affecting the water supply for over 360,000 people. Nearly 30 Primary Health Care Centres (PHCCs) were closed by September 2024 due to security risks.

On 28 September 2024, the UN Humanitarian Coordinator for Lebanon activated the Humanitarian Country Team's (HCT) planning scenario of an uncontrolled conflict affecting 1 million people.

The escalation has further compounded the economic and financial crisis that pushed 44 per cent of the population in Lebanon into poverty, according to the World Bank. Updates on the humanitarian situation in Lebanon are available on UNICEF's reports accessible [here](#).

The psychological toll on all displaced people, and especially women and children, is profound. Many have been displaced multiple times, compounding trauma from exposure to violence and the stress of living in overcrowded and unsafe conditions. UNICEF has been providing psychosocial support to women and children, focusing on resilience-building and trauma recovery, as well as Dignity Kits, lifesaving GBV services, and violence prevention initiatives since the start of hostilities in October 2024. UNICEF's overall support package seeks to create a safer environment for women and girls in a very challenging and dangerous environment.

SECTOR NEEDS



1 million
people in need of
health services



700,000
women and children in
need of protection
services



340,000
children and youth in
need of access to
school



1 million
people in need of
water, sanitation and
hygiene



1 million
people in need of
basic assistance

STORY FROM THE FIELD



Zeinab and Fatima were displaced from South Lebanon due to the escalating conflict. They were at home preparing to go to school for an exam when the sound of shelling started. Houses around them began to collapse and panic took over. "My mother told us to pack our things quickly, and we left in a rush. My siblings were crying. The journey was terrifying" Fatima said. It took them 12 hours to reach Beirut. While crying, she ends with "We miss home dearly and yearn to return. The shelling was all around us, and the sound of explosions echoed everywhere".

Zeinab and Fatima were displaced from South Lebanon. They were at home preparing for school when the sound of shelling started. "My mother told us to pack our things quickly, and we left in a rush".

HUMANITARIAN STRATEGY

UNICEF has adapted its programmatic response to focus on the urgent needs of IDPs in transit locations, while addressing pre-existing vulnerabilities, in order to mitigate social tensions related to short and long-term secondary displacement. The response prioritizes WASH, Child Protection and Cash, while delivering a multi-sectoral package addressing education, health, nutrition and youth's humanitarian needs.

UNICEF is scaling up its on-the-ground presence, including the rapid mobilization of capacities in displacement hotspots and expanding partnerships with actors able to reach high-risk zones.

UNICEF is expanding its pre-existing programmes delivered through public and private schools, multi-service community centers, specialized child protection service centers, operational support to Water Establishments and Wastewater Treatment Plants, Primary Healthcare Centers and Hospitals across the country, to support IDPs living in host communities. UNICEF is balancing support to IDPs through its regular programmes with outreach to those remaining in stranded areas. UNICEF's Palestinian Programme will continue supporting vulnerable children and families living in Palestinian Camps in Lebanon.

A Rapid Response Mechanism (RRM) will serve as a critical, agile, and timely response framework to address sudden population movements, including displaced or returning IDP children, families, and host communities. It will provide essential lifesaving supplies coupled with measures on Accountability to Affected Populations (AAP) and Risk Communication and Community Engagement.

UNICEF's Response Strategy includes the following components:

- Expand channels for IDPs and host communities to provide programming input and feedback in a timely and dignified manner per AAP standards.
- Strengthen localised and multisectoral operations with the Government at national and subnational levels, including Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) and Disaster Risk Management (DRM) Units. Support governorates' emergency preparedness and response planning.
- Enhance gender-responsive and disability-inclusive programming, targeting affected populations regardless of nationality, balancing humanitarian-development needs, following a 'do no harm' approach.
- Mainstream Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse and mobilise trusted community leaders to disseminate accurate information on available services and conduct by response workers.
- Enhance UNICEF's regular programmes to ensure they are shock-responsiveness by repositioning emergency supplies and diversifying operational modalities to deliver services and goods.
- Integrate solar equipment and solar repair services in response activities to ensure energy supply for the continued provision of essential services.

UNICEF's humanitarian strategy is aligned with Inter-Agency humanitarian sector priorities. UNICEF co-leads the WASH, Education, Nutrition, and Child Protection (sub) Sectors, and participates in the Health, Basic Assistance, Livelihoods, and Protection Sectors, including the GBV Working Group.

Progress against the latest programme targets is available in the humanitarian situation reports: <https://www.unicef.org/appeals/lebanon/situation-reports>

2024 PROGRAMME TARGETS



Health (including public health emergencies)

- **200,000** children and women accessing primary health care in UNICEF-supported facilities
- **400,000** people supported by mobile medical teams



Nutrition

- **127,000** primary caregivers of children 0-23 months receiving infant and young child feeding counselling
- **51,000** children 5-23 months reached with nutrition supplements, including Ready-to-Use therapeutic food



Child protection and GBViE

- **220,000** children, adolescents and caregivers accessing community-based mental health and psychosocial support
- **7,500** women, girls and boys accessing gender-based violence risk mitigation, prevention and/or response interventions
- **1,000,000** people accessing information on services for child protection, Gender-Based Violence, Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) and Explosive Ordnance Risk Education (EORE)



Education

- **200,000** displaced children receive essential learning materials, including for Early Childhood Development (ECD)
- **20,000** teachers trained to enhance the quality of Education in Emergencies



Water, sanitation and hygiene

- **1,000,000** people accessing a sufficient quantity and quality of water for drinking and domestic needs
- **250,000** people reached with critical WASH supplies



Cross-sectoral (HCT, SBC, RCCE and AAP)

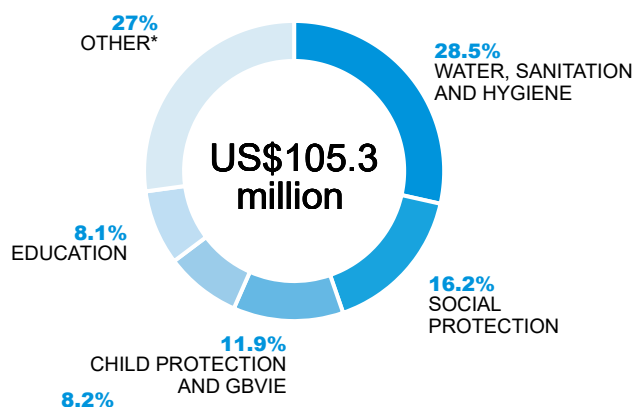
- **620,000** people reached with Multi-Purpose Cash Assistance, including people with disability
- **25,000** people with disabilities reached with focused cash transfers
- **200,000** adolescents and young people are supported with Psychological First Aid and recreational activities
- **20,000** winter items produced by youth are distributed to displaced families
- **1,000,000** people engaged on social and behaviour change to promote lifesaving, protective and healthy practices

FUNDING REQUIREMENTS IN 2024

UNICEF needs USD 105.3 million to respond to needs of IDPs and host-communities (1,000,000 people, including an estimated 350,000 children) for three months, while continuing to prepare for a scenario where the conflict escalates further across the country.

The funding requirements include USD 36.8 million for procuring, prepositioning, and distributing lifesaving and emergency supplies.

This standalone Humanitarian Appeal for Children (HAC) complements the “Syrian refugees and other vulnerable populations HAC” to support UNICEF’s response to the unprecedented internal displacement surge in Lebanon due to the rapid escalation of hostilities in September 2024. It contributes to the Flash Appeal for Lebanon launched by OCHA on 1 October 2024. All UNICEF targets and funding requirements are included in the consolidated Flash Appeal by OCHA.¹



ADOLESCENTS/YOUTH

*This includes costs from other sectors/interventions : Health (including public health emergencies) (7.6%), Field Operations and RRM (6.7%), Nutrition (6.4%), Palestinian Programme in Lebanon (4.7%), Cross-sectoral (HCT, SBC, RCCE and AAP) (1.9%).

Sector	2024 requirements (US\$)
Health (including public health emergencies)	8,000,000
Nutrition	6,700,000
Child protection and GBVIE	12,500,000
Education	8,500,000
Water, sanitation and hygiene	30,000,000
Social protection	17,050,000
Cross-sectoral (HCT, SBC, RCCE and AAP)	2,000,000
Adolescents/youth	8,600,000
Field Operations and RRM	7,000,000
Palestinian Programme in Lebanon	4,900,000
Total	105,250,000

Who to contact for further information:

Edouard Beigbeder
Representative, Lebanon
T +961 1 607 400
ebeigbeder@unicef.org

Lucia Elmi
Director, Office of Emergency Programmes (EMOPS)
T +1 212 326 7448
lelmi@unicef.org

Mandeep O'Brien
Director, Public Partnerships Division (PPD)
T +1 212 326 7118
mobrien@unicef.org

ENDNOTES

1. In 2024, pre-escalation of the hostilities, UNICEF appealed for USD 584.6 million to support the most vulnerable children in Lebanon under the “Syrian refugees and other vulnerable populations” regional Humanitarian Appeal for Children (HAC), which aligns with the inter-agency Regional Refugee and Resilience Plan for the Syria Crisis (3RP) and 2024 Lebanon Response Plan (LRP). After peaking in 2020, funding for UNICEF Lebanon under the Syrian refugee HAC started to decline and reduced significantly in 2024 (it was 42% funded as of 30 September 2024).