



Lebanon IDP Crisis

October 10, 2024

Key figures

- **1,000,000** Lebanese and Non-Lebanese Internally displaced including 350,000 living in shelters ([WHO](#))
- More than **410,000** have crossed the borders to Syria including 305,000 Syrians and 107,000 Lebanese ([Lebanese Government](#))
- 2,119 dead and 10,019 wounded ([MoPH](#))
- More than **3,100 buildings** partially or totally affected to date ([Financial Times](#))

Highlights

- **Recent Displacement Trends:** Since late September 2024, 120,000 additional people have been displaced from the south alone ([NRC](#)). The northern regions, including Akkar, are now hosting significant numbers of displaced families, straining local capacities ([IRC](#))
- **Geographic Focus:** Displacement is heavily concentrated in the South (Saida), Beirut, Mount Lebanon, and North regions ([Council of Ministers](#))
- **Vulnerable Groups Affected:**
 - Children: Approximately 47% of the displaced are children ([IRC](#)).
 - Women: 700,000 women and children are in urgent need of protection and health services ([UNICEF](#)).
 - Persons with Disabilities (PWDs): Many individuals with disabilities face severe access challenges to health care and other critical services ([UNICEF](#)).

Situation Overview

Since October 2023, Lebanon has been facing a severe humanitarian crisis exacerbated by escalating military hostilities between Hezbollah and Israel, particularly affecting southern Lebanon, Beirut, and its suburbs. A significant turning point occurred in mid-September 2024, when a series of coordinated explosions caused by remotely detonated devices resulted in nearly 40 deaths and over 2,900 injuries. The situation further deteriorated with heavy bombardments, leading to over 2,000 deaths and displacing more than 1 million people, many of whom are now sheltering in overcrowded facilities or fleeing to Syria. Essential services, including health care, are severely strained, with growing shortages of medical supplies and challenges in humanitarian access due to security concerns.

Humanitarian Situation

Impact on Affected Populations

The ongoing conflict in Lebanon, primarily in the southern border regions, suburban Beirut, and Beirut itself, has led to widespread displacement and significant humanitarian needs. Over **1 million** people have been displaced since October 2023, with **350,000** sheltering in overcrowded schools and public buildings. Many families have sought refuge in **892 collective shelters** or with host families, but **51%** are living in informal or inadequate accommodations ([UNICEF](#)). The conflict has disproportionately affected vulnerable groups, including **47% children**, women, and people with disabilities. These groups face heightened risks of exploitation, limited access to health care, and severe psychological stress. IDPs in

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overcrowded shelters are struggling with privacy, sanitation, and basic needs, such as food, water, and hygiene materials([NRC](#)).

Health Crisis

Health services are overwhelmed by the sheer number of trauma cases and the needs of displaced populations. **28 health care workers** have been killed in bombings, and many others are unable to reach hospitals due to safety concerns. Key health infrastructure in affected regions, including **19 health centers**, are closed or functioning at reduced capacity ([UNRWA](#)).

Infrastructure Damage

The conflict has caused widespread destruction of civilian infrastructure, including homes, schools, and health care facilities. In southern Lebanon, entire villages have been deserted, and large areas have sustained significant damage. **600 fatalities** and **1,700 injuries** were reported between September 23-25, 2024, following intense shelling in civilian areas. Hospitals, water treatment facilities, and other critical infrastructure have been damaged or are inaccessible, compounding the humanitarian crisis and resulting in water shortages. The **limited operations of Beirut Airport** have made it difficult to deliver essential supplies, including food, medicine, and relief materials.

Displacement and Shelter

In regions like Saida, Jezzine, and Nabatiyeh, **collective shelters** have been established to house up to **60,000 displaced families**. However, these shelters lack basic facilities such as showers, bathing areas, and adequate space. Families are packed into classrooms, making privacy and mental health recovery difficult. Many displaced individuals have been forced to sleep in cars, bus shelters, or makeshift tents outside hospitals ([IRC](#)).

Funding and Coordination

There is a significant **funding shortfall** of **\$425.7 million** to meet immediate humanitarian needs from October to December 2024 ([UNICEF](#)). Coordination efforts between the Lebanese government, international agencies, and local NGOs are ongoing through central and area-based clusters, but the scale of displacement and the destruction of infrastructure require increased funding and international support. Lutheran World Relief and our local partners are actively engaged in responding to these urgent needs, focusing on health, WASH, and psychosocial support.

Needs and Gaps

Priority Needs and Gaps by Sector

1. Health:

- **Medical Supplies and Staffing:** Health care facilities, especially in Beirut and Mount Lebanon, are critically low on **essential medications and supplies**. The **Michel Daher Social Foundation (MDSF)** and **SHIELD Association** reported severe shortages of basic medications, with children and elderly populations suffering from untreated illnesses like the flu, due to the lack of basic medicine. The ability to reach these vulnerable populations with health services remains a top priority.
- **Mobile Medical Units:** Displaced populations in remote areas require urgent **mobile health services** to deliver essential health care. According to the **Makhzoumi**

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Foundation, mobile health units are needed to reach remote displaced populations who cannot access medical care.

2. Shelter:

- **Overcrowded Shelters and Inadequate Infrastructure:** Over **892 locations**, including schools and vocational centers, have been transformed into emergency shelters for displaced individuals. **60,000 displaced families** are housed in collective shelters, many of which are overcrowded and lack sufficient supplies and privacy, particularly in Saida, Jezzine, and Nabatiyeh.
- **Host Family Strain:** Approximately **51%** of displaced individuals are staying with host families, placing increasing strain on household resources amidst Lebanon's economic crisis. **32%** are in collective shelters, and **16%** are renting, but all shelter types are under severe strain as per **Development for People and Nature Association (DPNA)**.
- **Inadequate Shelter Management:** Existing shelters are overburdened, and there is a lack of coordination in managing the space and services provided. The **MDSF** noted the overcrowding and poor conditions in shelters such as Mar Afram School, which do not meet basic standards for safety. More shelters with proper infrastructure are urgently needed.

3. WASH (Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene):

- **Inadequate Sanitation and Hygiene Facilities:** Many IDP shelters have insufficient sanitation facilities, lack clean water, showers, and basic hygiene products like soap, toothbrushes, and menstrual hygiene supplies. The **MDSF** observed very poor conditions at the **Mar Afram School** in Beqaa, with an accumulation of garbage, blocked toilets, and no access to showers. **Makhzoumi Foundation** identified a critical need for basic hygiene materials, including face masks, menstrual hygiene products, and disinfectants. Mobile shower units and proper waste disposal systems are urgently needed to prevent disease outbreaks.
- **Lack of Hygiene Supplies:** There are widespread shortages of basic hygiene products, including soap, toothpaste, diapers, and menstrual hygiene products, as reported by both the **Makhzoumi Foundation** and **SHIELD Association**. This further exacerbates the risk of disease, particularly among children and the elderly in overcrowded shelters.

4. Food Security:

- **Food Insecurity and Rising Costs:** **90%** of displaced families surveyed reported struggling to meet their basic food needs. Food prices have surged, making it increasingly difficult for displaced populations, particularly those in rural areas, to access enough food. Emergency food distribution and **cash assistance** are critically needed, especially in areas like Akkar and southern Lebanon ([IRC](#)).

5. Protection:

- **Trauma and Mental Health Challenges:** Displaced families, particularly children, are facing severe psychological stress. **MDSF** psychologists reported high levels of **anxiety**,

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- depression, and fear** among displaced individuals, with children in particular needing trauma support. **SHIELD Association** highlighted the importance of psychosocial support services, including child-friendly activities and counseling for trauma survivors. The lack of **trained child psychologists** and child-friendly spaces remains a gap in the humanitarian response.
- **Protection Services:** Significant gaps exist in **protection services**, particularly for **women and children**. Many displaced women and girls are at risk of **gender-based violence (GBV)**, and there is a lack of safe spaces and psychosocial support. **Child protection** services are also limited, with urgent needs for more child-friendly activities and mental health support ([UNOCHA](#)).
6. **Access to Remote Areas:** Humanitarian assistance has struggled to reach remote and rural areas like Akkar, where displaced populations face severe gaps in accessing health care, shelter, and food. The availability of mobile health and relief units is critical to reaching these vulnerable groups.

Lutheran World Relief Response Efforts

Lutheran World Relief (LWR), a Corus International organization, has launched an emergency response to address the immediate needs of vulnerable populations affected by the ongoing conflict in Lebanon. This effort includes the mobilization of **\$195,000** in private resources to support essential humanitarian interventions in partnership with **Caritas Lebanon**, the **Makhzoumi Foundation**, and the **Development for People and Nature Association (DPNA)**. LWR's initial response is focused on key regions, including **Beirut, Bekaa, and the South**, where significant displacement has occurred.

Non-Food Items (NFI) Shipment

LWR has organized the shipment of **four containers** filled with non-food items (NFIs), including **domestic supplies, hygiene kits, and school supplies**. This shipment, which is expected to arrive at the Beirut port on **October 14**, is projected to reach up to **42,000 people**. The NFIs are critical in addressing immediate needs for basic living supplies among displaced families.

Planned Expansion of Response

LWR is actively exploring opportunities to scale up its response efforts with additional resources. Key areas of expansion under consideration include:

- **Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH):** Providing hygiene materials, access to clean water, and sanitation services to address urgent health risks in overcrowded shelters.
- **Medical Supplies and Health Facility Support:** Responding to the acute shortage of medicines and medical equipment in local health facilities, particularly in Beirut and remote regions where health systems are overwhelmed.
- **Mobile Medical Units:** Deploying mobile medical teams to deliver essential health services to displaced populations in **Saida, Bekaa, and Mount Lebanon**, where access to health care is limited.
- **Psychosocial Support and Protection:** Offering **mental health services**, including trauma counseling and child-friendly activities, in coordination with local partners such as **MDSF** and **Caritas**.
- **Food Security and S/NFIs to IDPs:** Hot meals and urgently needed S/NFIs are provided to displaced people in shelters.

In the News

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- Rima Korjeh, LWR Project Officer in Southern Lebanon on BBC 5 – Rima's interview starts at 17:47 [Gordon Smart - 08/10/2024 - BBC Sounds](#)
- Ali Hijazi, LWR Country Director on Al Jazeera, [IDPs Take Shelter in Beirut's Parks and Streets as Lebanon's Humanitarian Crisis Deepens | Corus International](#)
- Ali Hijazi on France 24: [Security Crisis in Southern Lebanon Sparks Mass Exodus and Humanitarian Emergency | Corus International](#)

Lutheran World Relief has worked at the nexus of humanitarian assistance and development in the Middle East since 1948. In late 2017, LWR began working in Lebanon to address the diminishing economic opportunities and to improve social cohesion between Lebanese locals and Syrian refugees. LWR also supported an integrated emergency response to the Beirut explosion in 2020, and has been supporting women entrepreneurs for livelihood recovery through the present crisis. LWR's reach and capabilities are amplified by the other global leaders in the Corus International family, including IMA World Health, CGA Technologies and Ground Up Investing. Together, we bring the multi-dimensional, holistic solutions needed to truly achieve lasting change.

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Photos

Staff provided hot meals and clean water to hundreds of families taking refuge at Saint Vincent Private School, a school turned into a makeshift shelter, in Beirut. Staff also mobilized distributions of food, water and temporary shelter to families still living in the southern region, where fighting is most intense.



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