

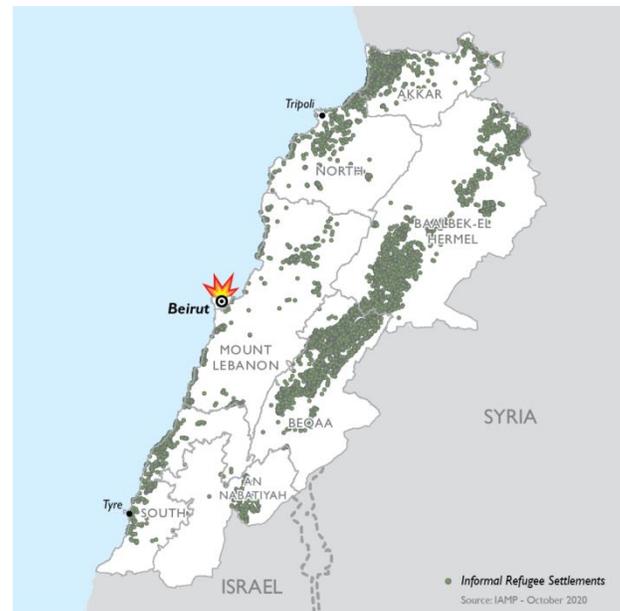
Lebanon – Complex Emergency

DECEMBER 30, 2020

SITUATION AT A GLANCE



- Overlapping crises—including the COVID-19 pandemic, ongoing refugee crisis, and August 4 explosions at the Port of Beirut—have exacerbated vulnerabilities among Lebanese nationals and refugee populations in Lebanon.
- To respond to the refugee crisis, State/PRM provided more than \$276 million to UN agencies, NGOs, and other relief organizations in FY 2020, bringing total State/PRM humanitarian assistance to Lebanon to more than \$2 billion since FY 2012.
- In FY 2020, USAID/BHA continued to distribute emergency food assistance to refugee populations and supported communities affected by COVID-19 and the August 4 explosions, bringing total USAID/BHA assistance since FY 2012 to nearly \$712 million.



| | | |
|--|--------------------------|----------------------------------|
| TOTAL U.S. GOVERNMENT HUMANITARIAN FUNDING For the Lebanon Response in FY 2020 | USAID/BHA ^{1,2} | \$113,591,200 |
| | State/PRM ³ | \$278,253,831 |
| | DoD ⁴ | \$3,794,200 |
| | Total | \$395,639,231⁵ |

For complete funding breakdown with partners, see detailed chart on page 7

¹ USAID's Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (USAID/BHA).

² USAID/BHA assistance includes former Office of Food for Peace emergency food assistance operations and former Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance non-food humanitarian activities.

³ U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (State/PRM)

⁴ U.S. Department of Defense (DoD)

⁵ This total includes \$54,873,163 in supplemental funding through USAID/BHA and State/PRM for coronavirus disease (COVID-19) preparedness and response activities.

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

Multiple Crises in Lebanon Result in Increased Food Insecurity

Compounding crises—including the ongoing refugee crisis, economic deterioration, the COVID-19 pandemic, and the August 4 explosions at the Port of Beirut—continue to negatively affect food security conditions in Lebanon. According to data collected from July to August, approximately 40 percent of households—including Lebanese nationals and refugees—surveyed countrywide reported difficulties accessing markets to meet food and other basic needs due to deteriorated purchasing power, USAID/BHA partner the UN World Food Program (WFP) reports. Nearly 20 percent of households also report inadequate consumption of nutritious foods and 55 percent lack access to quantities of food sufficient to meet daily caloric needs. Inflation and poor economic conditions contributed to a 170 percent increase in the cost of food and non-food components of the survival minimum expenditure basket (SMEB)—which is based on the minimum amount of goods required per households for one month to meet basic needs—from October 2019 to August 2020, negatively affecting households purchasing power, according to WFP. Moreover, nearly 50 percent of respondents reported experiencing unemployment in August, compared to nearly 40 percent in February. As a result of these constraints, nearly 90 percent of households reported consuming less expensive food to meet basic needs, while more than 50 percent noted reducing meal portions.

In response to increasing food needs in Lebanon, WFP—with USAID/BHA and other donor support—reached more than 1 million people in Lebanon through cash-based transfers for food and the distribution of household food parcels in October, including more than 820,000 Syrian refugees, 21,000 refugees of other nationalities, and nearly 170,000 vulnerable Lebanese nationals. Furthermore, WFP had offloaded and distributed approximately 12,500 metric tons of wheat flour to millers across Lebanon as of late October, filling a gap in the wheat supply chain caused by the destruction of the grain silo at the Port of Beirut following the August 4 explosions. The wheat flour served to increase the weight of the subsidized bread package, providing households in Lebanon with two extra loaves of bread for the same price for a period of more than 60 days.

Health Actors Continue to Report Increase in COVID-19 Cases

Health officials had recorded nearly 161,000 confirmed COVID-19 cases—including among Lebanese and refugee households—and 1,311 associated deaths in Lebanon as of December 23, representing a more than 50 percent increase in total cases compared to November 17, according to the UN World Health Organization (WHO). Health care workers also continue to face high risk of infection, with more than 1,900 confirmed COVID-19 cases among health care workers as of December 23, WHO reports. In response to increasing COVID-19 caseloads, USAID/BHA and State/PRM continue to support COVID-19 response efforts, including through the training of health care workers and distribution of essential medical supplies.

Economic Decline Generates Protection, Eviction Concerns

As economic conditions continue to deteriorate in Lebanon, refugee households increasingly lack access to livelihood opportunities, hindering the ability to meet basic needs. Nearly 90 percent of surveyed Syrian refugees in Lebanon are living below the SMEB, indicating they are facing extreme poverty, compared to 55 percent in 2019, according to preliminary results from the 2020 Vulnerability Assessment for Syrian Refugees in Lebanon. With U.S. Government (USG) and other donor support, relief actors reached nearly 93,000 refugee households and 1,100 Lebanese households with multipurpose cash assistance during 2020 in an effort to address the needs of vulnerable populations in

Lebanon.

Financial difficulties have hindered access to education and increased protection risks, with nearly 60 percent of school-aged refugees out of the formal education system in 2020, the UN reports. Approximately 18 percent of Syrian refugee children and 6 percent of Lebanese children are engaged in child labor across Lebanon, according to the UN. Moreover, the UN reports that more than 4,500 Syrian refugee households were evicted from their residences in Lebanon from January to June, with another 27,000 households at risk of eviction, primarily due to the economic crisis and COVID-19 pandemic. Additionally, according to the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the number of evictions among refugees and vulnerable Lebanese is likely under reported.

KEY FIGURES



300,000

People reached with
USG-supported food
assistance in FY 2020



540,000

People reached with
USG-supported health
assistance from January
to September 2020

U.S. GOVERNMENT RESPONSE

FOOD SECURITY

USAID/BHA has provided food assistance to respond to the refugee crisis in Lebanon since FY 2012. In FY 2020, USAID/BHA supported WFP to reach 295,000 Syrian refugees and 9,600 refugees of other nationalities through cash transfers for food and food vouchers, allowing individuals to purchase nutritious foods available in local markets and support local vendors. Moreover, USAID/BHA expanded food programming in Lebanon to reach populations affected by the August 4 explosions and individuals particularly affected by COVID-19. WFP is providing emergency food assistance to 543,000 people in Lebanon through its COVID-19 program and distributing in-kind food assistance and food vouchers to nearly 78,000 people affected by the August 4 explosions. From FY 2012 to FY 2020, USAID/BHA provided more than \$678 million to reach refugees with emergency food assistance, in addition to \$23.5 million in FY 2020 to respond to food needs among refugees and Lebanese nationals resulting from COVID-19 and the August 4 explosions.

HEALTH

State/PRM supports UNHCR to provide health care consultations, medications, and vaccination services to Syrian refugees, refugees of other nationalities, and vulnerable Lebanese individuals, reaching more than 540,000 people—including 340,000 Syrian refugees—countrywide from January to September 2020. As part of its COVID-19 response, UNHCR has contributed to nearly 20 risk communication and awareness raising campaigns, assisting in the distribution of more than 2 million personal protective equipment (PPE) items and COVID-19 testing for more than 1 million refugees and vulnerable Lebanese nationals. Moreover, following the August 4 explosions, State/PRM supported the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) to help transport approximately 1.7 million doses of vaccines for a range of diseases from damaged health care facilities, preserving the stock, and distributed face masks to more than 20,000 vulnerable individuals in Beirut to mitigate coronavirus transmission from August 4 to November 5.

State/PRM also supports six health care centers to subsidize more than 100,000 consultations and provide free medications for both refugees and vulnerable Lebanese through International Medical Corps (IMC). Following the August 4 explosions, IMC treated affected individuals at the clinics and mobilized mental health case management teams from different areas to provide services through three psychological first aid mobile clinics. The organization also sponsors community health awareness committees—which allow participants to contribute to health programming—and trains local community health workers. Additionally, State/PRM partner Mercy Corps—and other non-governmental organization (NGO) partners—provide psychosocial support (PSS) services for refugees and host communities.

Through two implementing partners, USAID/BHA aims to mitigate the spread and impact of COVID-19 and reduce health needs among vulnerable Lebanese. USAID/BHA supports American University of Beirut (AUB) and Relief International to implement early detection and transmission mitigation strategies in health care centers, including through the training of health care staff and distribution of PPE. USAID/BHA also supports AUB to conduct critical training for health care workers on COVID-19 treatment and response. AUB recently completed a series of COVID-19 webinars for more than 40 health care workers at 10 partner hospitals. The training highlighted topics such as epidemiology and disease progression, oxygen support, and treatment of patients with moderate-to-severe symptoms/cases of COVID-19. Additionally, in response to the August 4 explosions, USAID/BHA supported Caritas to expand primary health care services—including PSS—at four Beirut clinics and provide mobile and home health care services to populations unable to visit clinics. Following the explosions, USAID/BHA also coordinated with DoD to airlift six USAID/BHA-procured interagency emergency health kits—containing critical medical commodities sufficient to support up to 60,000 people for three months—to Beirut. The kits were distributed to the AUB and Lebanese American University to support life-saving health interventions.



146,700

People reached with
USG-supported WASH
assistance in FY 2020

WASH

The USG supports water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) programming throughout Lebanon to bolster water and sanitation conditions and prevent the spread of COVID-19. In FY 2020, State/PRM partner UNICEF continued to facilitate access to safe drinking water and sanitation services for nearly 147,000 Syrian refugees residing in informal settlements across Lebanon, helping mitigate public health hazards and social tensions related to limited water resources. State/PRM partner the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) also supported the reestablishment of household connectivity to water supply networks following the August 4 explosions and installed handwashing stations to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 in Lebanese prisons. Additionally, State/PRM partner Solidarités International repairs and constructs water and sanitation infrastructure and installs water distribution networks in informal settlements, providing access to safe drinking water for residents.

USAID/BHA supports World Vision to distribute hygiene commodities and conduct hygiene promotion activities among vulnerable households, aiming to mitigate coronavirus transmission. Additionally, USAID/BHA supports the Lebanese Red Cross (LRC) to distribute emergency hygiene kits to those affected by the explosions.



614,000

People reached with
USG-supported
protection services from
January to September
2020

PROTECTION

State/PRM partner UNHCR provides child protection, legal counseling, PSS, and gender-based violence (GBV) awareness, prevention, and response services to vulnerable populations across Lebanon, reaching more than 614,000 people from January to September 2020. The figure includes more than 11,000 children and 5,800 caregivers reached with remote PSS in an effort to adjust programming amid the COVID-19 pandemic. UNHCR also conducts awareness sessions focused on access to protection services, supporting more than 126,000 people from January to September. Meanwhile, eleven State/PRM NGO partners also provide child protection, emergency cash assistance, GBV, and PSS services to vulnerable populations throughout Lebanon.

Additionally, following the explosions and through existing State/PRM funds, UNICEF reached more than 33,000 affected individuals with PSS and GBV prevention services. To address increased protection concerns among explosion-affected communities, UNICEF also scaled up cash assistance efforts for single, female, or child-headed households and launched an emergency cash grant program for persons with disabilities, older people, and female-headed households in September.



98,500

People reached with
USG-supported shelter
and settlement activities
from October 2019 to
June 2020

SHELTER

In response to the August 4 explosions, USAID/BHA is supporting Lutheran World Relief (LWR) to assist with critical repairs to ensure that damaged homes are safe, secure, and habitable for the most vulnerable explosion-affected households. USAID/BHA is also supporting Caritas to provide explosion-affected communities with basic household items, such as mattresses and stoves, and access to temporary alternative shelter for people whose houses were destroyed by the explosions. Also in response to the explosions, State/PRM supported UNHCR to provide cash grants to 4,500 households to repair residences damaged by the explosions.

With State/PRM support, UNHCR assists displaced persons residing in informal settlements and residential buildings with maintenance, repair, and weatherproofing support; the UN agency reached more than 98,500 people across Lebanon from October 2019 to June 2020. This included more than 75,000 individuals reached with weatherproofing assistance and the distribution of more than 13,000 shelter maintenance tools. UNHCR also distributed shelter kits to 9,000 people and firefighting kits—including fire extinguishers—to 5,000 individuals, and improved access to informal settlements for older people and persons with disabilities through landscape improvement projects during the same period. In FY 2020, State/PRM

partner Première Urgence Internationale (PUI) conducted shelter rehabilitation activities that benefited nearly 800 people in North and South governorates. Additionally, State/PRM partner Solidarités International conducted shelter rehabilitation activities to help more than 3,500 refugees improve shelter conditions in Beqaa and North governorates during the fiscal year.



267,000

People reached with
USG-supported
education activities from
January to October 2020

EDUCATION

In response to child labor concerns, State/PRM partners provided education fee subsidies for nearly 267,000 school children from January to October, and offered cash incentive programs to households to continue enrolling their children in school. UNICEF also provided technological and teaching resources to support online learning due to the COVID-19 pandemic. State/PRM partner the International Rescue Committee (IRC) assisted the Government of Lebanon (GoL) Ministry of Education and Higher Education to create a digitized version of the Lebanese curriculum in Arabic, English, and French, and provides education support to refugees in Beqaa and North. With State/PRM support, Relief International's Cash for Education program reaches a total of 500 children monthly in Beqaa, providing monthly stipends to Syrian refugee households as an incentive to keep children in school.

CONTEXT IN BRIEF

- Lebanon hosts the largest number of refugees per capita of any country, according to the UN. The influx of approximately 1.5 million refugees has strained local resources and generated significant humanitarian needs in the country. Additionally, Lebanon has experienced several large socioeconomic shocks due to overlapping crises in 2019 and 2020, including ongoing political instability, the steep deterioration of the economy, and the emergence of COVID-19. Nationwide protests erupted in October 2019 in response to worsening economic and financial conditions across Lebanon. Meanwhile, COVID-19 and consequent movement restrictions have further affected the already struggling economy.
- On August 4, concurrent explosions occurred at a warehouse near the Port of Beirut, resulting in at least 180 deaths and injuring an estimated 6,500 people, according to the GoL. Relief actors report that the explosions damaged approximately 48,000 buildings, affecting 171,600 people, and displaced many vulnerable Lebanese, Palestinian, and Syrian households, whose coping mechanisms had already been strained by the ongoing socioeconomic crisis in Lebanon.
- On August 5, U.S. Ambassador to Lebanon Dorothy Shea declared a disaster in Lebanon due to the humanitarian impacts of the August 4 explosions. In response, USAID deployed a Disaster Assistance Response Team (DART) to Beirut and activated a Washington, D.C.-based Response Management Team (RMT) to coordinate response efforts on August 7. The DART and RMT were demobilized on August 21 as response efforts shifted to reconstruction.

USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE LEBANON RESPONSE IN FY 2020^{1, 2}

| IMPLEMENTING PARTNER | ACTIVITY | LOCATION | AMOUNT |
|---|---|-------------|----------------------|
| USAID/BHA | | | |
| Non-Food Assistance | | | |
| Caritas | Health, Shelter and Settlements | Beirut | \$2,400,000 |
| LRC | WASH | Beirut | \$100,000 |
| LWR | Shelter and Settlements | Beirut | \$2,200,000 |
| | USAID/BHA Airlifted Relief Commodities | Beirut | \$47,751 |
| | Program Support | | \$60,262 |
| TOTAL NON-FOOD ASSISTANCE FUNDING | | | \$4,808,013 |
| Food Assistance | | | |
| WFP | Cash Transfers for Food; Local, Regional, and International Procurement (LRIP) | Beirut | \$10,500,000 |
| | Cash Transfers for Food, Food Vouchers | Countrywide | \$80,000,000 |
| TOTAL FOOD ASSISTANCE FUNDING | | | \$90,500,000 |
| TOTAL USAID/BHA FUNDING | | | \$95,308,013 |
| State/PRM | | | |
| Implementing Partners (IPs) | Cash-Based Programming, Education, GBV Prevention, Health, Protection, Livelihoods, Relief Commodities, Shelter and Settlements, WASH | Countrywide | \$34,713,855 |
| UNHCR | Cash-Based Programming, Education, Health, Livelihoods, Mental Health, Protection, Relief Commodities, Shelter and Settlements, WASH | Countrywide | \$128,850,000 |
| UNICEF | Cash-Based Programming, Child Protection, Education, GBV Prevention, Health, Nutrition, WASH, Youth Programs | Countrywide | \$78,100,000 |
| TOTAL State/PRM FUNDING | | | \$241,663,855 |
| DoD | | | |
| | Logistics Support and Relief Commodities | Beirut | \$3,794,200 |
| TOTAL DoD FUNDING | | | \$3,794,200 |
| TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE LEBANON RESPONSE IN FY 2020 | | | \$340,766,068 |

FUNDING IN LEBANON FOR COVID-19 OUTBREAK PREPAREDNESS & RESPONSE³

| | | | |
|--|-------------------------------|------------------------------|---------------------|
| USAID/BHA | | | |
| Non-Food Assistance | | | |
| AUB | Health | Countrywide | \$2,500,000 |
| Relief International | Health | Beqaa, North, South | \$2,200,000 |
| World Vision | WASH | Beirut, Beqaa, Mount Lebanon | \$583,187 |
| TOTAL NON-FOOD ASSISTANCE FUNDING | | | \$5,283,187 |
| Food Assistance | | | |
| WFP | Cash Transfers for Food, LRIP | Countrywide | \$13,000,000 |
| TOTAL FOOD ASSISTANCE FUNDING | | | \$13,000,000 |
| TOTAL USAID/BHA FUNDING | | | \$18,283,187 |
| STATE/PRM | | | |

| | | | |
|--|---|-------------|----------------------|
| IPs | Cash-Based Programming, Livelihoods, Mental Health, Protection, Psychosocial Assistance, Relief Commodities | Countrywide | \$559,976 |
| UNHCR | Cash-Based Programming, Health, Protection, Relief Commodities, WASH | Country | \$21,300,000 |
| UNICEF | Education, Health, Protection, Relief Commodities, WASH | Countrywide | \$14,730,000 |
| TOTAL STATE/PRM FUNDING | | | \$36,589,976 |
| TOTAL USG FUNDING FOR COVID-19 OUTBREAK PREPAREDNESS & RESPONSE IN LEBANON IN FY 2020 | | | \$54,873,163 |
| TOTAL USAID/BHA FUNDING FOR THE LEBANON RESPONSE IN FY 2020 | | | \$113,591,200 |
| TOTAL State/PRM FUNDING FOR THE LEBANON RESPONSE IN FY 2020 | | | \$278,253,831 |
| TOTAL DoD FUNDING FOR THE LEBANON RESPONSE IN FY 2020 | | | \$3,794,200 |
| TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE LEBANON RESPONSE IN FY 2020 | | | \$395,639,231 |

¹ Year of funding indicates the date of commitment or obligation, not appropriation, of funds. Funding figures reflect publicly announced funding as of September 30, 2020.

² Funding includes USG assistance to respond to the August 4 explosions and the refugee crisis in Lebanon. State/PRM and USAID/BHA funding benefiting refugees in Lebanon is also reported in the USG Syria Complex Emergency Fact Sheet and the USG Iraq Complex Emergency Fact Sheet.

³ Figures represent supplemental International Disaster Assistance (IDA) and Migration and Refugee Assistance (MRA) funding committed for COVID-19 preparedness and response activities as of September 30, 2020.

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)