



Situation Report #2

UNFPA Response to the Escalation of Hostilities in Lebanon



Photo: © UNFPA/Lebanon

Country:	Lebanon ▾
Emergency type:	Conflict ▾ Displacement ▾
Start Date of Crisis:	Oct 8, 2023
Date Issued:	Oct 23, 2024
Covering Period:	Oct 1, 2024 to Oct 15, 2024
Contact Persons:	Pamela Di Camillo, Representative a.i., dicamillo@unfpa.org , Anastazia Al Hajj, Communications and Media Officer, alhajj@unfpa.org

Key Figures

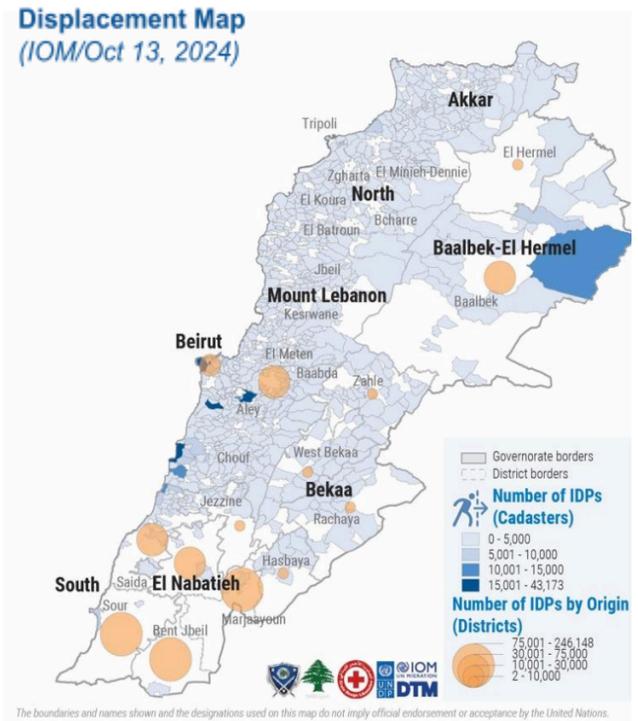
 809,043* Reported internally displaced people (IOM DTM) 1 Million+ Total number of displaced people estimated by local authorities	 280,000** Women of reproductive age 80,000** adolescent girls	 11,600** Estimated pregnant women 1,290** expected to deliver in the next month	 5,492 People reached with Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH) services	 14,454 People reached with Gender-Based Violence (GBV) services
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* [Lebanon - Mobility Snapshot - Round 55 - 21-10-2024](#)

** of the 1 million people in need

Situation Overview

- Since 17 September 2024, there has been an unprecedented surge in casualties and displacement in Lebanon due to intensified hostilities, compounding the already profound toll of over one year of violence since the spillover from the Israeli-Gaza conflict. In the last year there have been 2,464 deaths and 11,530 injuries related to the conflict according to the Ministry of Public Health (MoPH).
- The escalation in hostilities has forced five hospitals and 100 out of 207 primary health centers in Lebanon to close, 94 health workers have been killed in the line of duty. There have been 36 attacks on healthcare facilities – two-thirds have occurred since 17 September according to WHO. Due to the security situation, six out of 16 UNFPA-supported primary healthcare centers, one out of nine mobile units, and five out of 17 women and girls' safe spaces are no longer operational.
- In addition to intensified attacks in the South, Nabatieh, Bekaa and Beirut's southern suburbs, since 11 October, Israeli airstrikes have spread to Zgharta, Batroun, and Kesserwan in North Lebanon, resulting in over 45 casualties. UNIFIL has also reported multiple incidents, including injuries to peacekeepers and damaged facilities.
- Forced displacement orders and the continued airstrikes near Beirut are driving new waves of displacement. As of 21 October, a total of 809,043 individuals have been displaced, with 191,402 registered in 1,002 collective shelters (876 at full capacity) and around 48% of internally displaced persons (IDPs) living in host settings. Approximately 25% of IDPs are in rental housing and 2% are living in unfinished buildings, tents, parks, and on the streets.
- Between 23 September and 16 October, at least 405,000 people (70% Syrian, 30% Lebanese) crossed into Syria (UNHCR/SARC), while nearly 11,700 Lebanese have arrived in Iraq (UNHCR).
- With most public schools now serving as collective shelters, the Ministry of Education and Higher Education (MEHE) has postponed the start of the school year to 4 November. This delay directly affects the education of approximately 400,000 children displaced by the ongoing conflict as well as children who are enrolled in public schools that have been turned into shelters.
- Operational challenges are significant. Humanitarian actors face severe access constraints due to persistent, unpredictable security threats and ongoing airstrikes. Beirut's only airport is operating at limited capacity, complicating the delivery of critical supplies.



UNFPA Response

Despite operational challenges, UNFPA continues to deliver sexual and reproductive health (SRH) and gender-based violence (GBV) mitigation and response services to affected populations through 12 women and girls' safe spaces (including mobile spaces and one women's shelter), eight mobile medical units, and ten primary healthcare centers, in close coordination with the Ministry of Public Health (MoPH), the Ministry of Social Affairs (MoSA) and local partners.

GBV Response

- Since 1 October, UNFPA has distributed 10,972 dignity kits¹ (DKs) to women and girls in 362 out of 984 identified shelters across Akkar, Beirut, Bekaa, Mount Lebanon, North and South Governorates. These supplies are part of 20,300 DKs dispatched to nine partners, including women-led organizations and national and international NGOs.
- On 15 October, as part of a high-risk humanitarian convoy with other UN agencies, UNFPA delivered DKs to 2,000 women and girls in hard-to-reach villages in Marjeyoun, South Lebanon.
- UNFPA uses the distribution of dignity kits as an entry point for life-saving GBV interventions, including psychological first aid (PFA), safe identification and referral of GBV cases, and distribution of information on available mental health and psychological support (MHPSS) and protection from GBV and sexual exploitation and abuse (SEA).
- UNFPA has supported training sessions for 332 humanitarian service providers in Akkar, Beirut, Bekaa, North and South Governorates on PFA and the safe identification and referral of GBV survivors/women and girls at risk.

SRH Response

- UNFPA is supporting 30 hospitals across Lebanon to provide maternal health care to displaced pregnant women, including covering hospital costs for pregnant women and providing medicines and supplies for safe births and emergency obstetric care. Since October 2024, UNFPA has assisted 50 displaced women to access urgent maternal care and to deliver safely.
- UNFPA is deploying medical mobile units, linked to primary healthcare centers (PHCs), to shelters to conduct needs assessments, provide basic healthcare services, and ensure referrals to PHCs for additional care. Medical mobile units are also being deployed at the community level to provide medical care and information on support available to people on the move, as well as those in host settings and shelters not connected to any PHC.
- 74 Inter-Agency Reproductive Health (IARH) Kits have been delivered to the MoPH for distribution to hospitals providing maternity care. The kits include supplies and equipment for emergency obstetric care and supporting safe births for an estimated 5,640 pregnant women.
- UNFPA has supported the MoPH in packing, transporting, and delivering medical supplies, including contraceptives and reproductive health medicines, to 70 primary health care centers in Akkar, Aley, Chouf, Saida, Sour, Tripoli and Zahle.
- In partnership with the Lebanese Society of Obstetrics and Gynecology, UNFPA is conducting refresher training on emergency obstetric care for staff at government hospitals. UNFPA has also provided training for healthcare providers including on the danger signs in pregnancy, reproductive health infections and contraception during crises.
- UNFPA is supporting the dissemination of information and referral for mental health care services and SRH, including the clinical management of rape, sexually transmitted infections (STIs), family planning, nutrition for pregnant and breastfeeding women, and pre- and postnatal care.

¹ A Dignity Kit contains essential items to maintain hygiene, health, and increase safety like: sanitary pads, soap, torch, socks, underwear, toothbrush, toothpaste, bag and a leaflet with key messages on GBV, PSEA, PSS and how to seek help.

Results Snapshots for the two weeks

	10,972	Dignity kits distributed to vulnerable women and girls of reproductive age
	74	Inter-Agency Reproductive Health kits provided to service delivery points to support safe births for 5,640 pregnant women
	12	Safe spaces for women and girls supported, including mobile safe spaces and one women's shelter
	10	Primary Healthcare Centers (PHC) supported across Lebanon.
	8	Medical mobile units supported across Lebanon
	8,997	People reached with GBV and SRH awareness sessions

Dania's story

Dania* was four months pregnant when she was forced to flee her home in Kfarkila, South Lebanon, for Nabatieh in February. She gave birth to Aya in May and was recovering from a C-section when Nabatieh was hit in September.

"When the first airstrike hit, it was so close. My husband had taken my son for a walk outside, and for a few minutes, I thought they were dead. My first instinct was to grab Aya from my sister, as if she was somehow safer in my arms, and run towards the door to find the rest of my family. I didn't realize I had gone temporarily deaf, and couldn't hear my mother shouting: "They're right outside the house, you can see them from the window."

Dania and her family fled again and are now sheltering at the Basta Middle School in Beirut, which was turned into a collective shelter following the escalation of hostilities in Lebanon on 17 September. Aya is now almost six months old. UNFPA and partner Amel are supporting women and girls, like Dania at the shelter, providing psychological first aid to help families deal with trauma and displacement, antenatal and postnatal care, and distributing essential hygiene items.



Dania with her daughter Aya at Basta Middle School in Beirut where her family have sought shelter.

* not her real name

Coordination Mechanisms

Gender-Based Violence:

Within the framework of the National Protection Sector, UNFPA co-chairs the Gender-Based Violence Working Group (GBV-WG) with the Ministry of Social Affairs and UNHCR.

The GBV-WG supports women and girls' safe spaces, including shelters, across Lebanon. Partners have provided awareness sessions and information on GBV to 10,968 displaced people and distributed 24,997 dignity kits at 362 sites. Remote support has reached 3,379 individuals, mostly women and girls. Security concerns, limited access and poor internet, however, are making it difficult to manage cases for displaced survivors, particularly in hard-to-reach areas like Hasbaya and Marjaayoun. In collective shelters, high security risks and a lack of privacy/confidentiality is impacting case management. Many sites lack the infrastructure, such as safe spaces or private rooms, for effective, confidential and comprehensive GBV services.

Through coordinated efforts, UNFPA is ensuring that partners deliver a unified and comprehensive response by:

- Supporting service delivery by mapping and updating referral pathways and effective coordination among actors.
- Advocating with the Humanitarian Country Team to prioritize protection and GBV-related concerns.
- Providing strategic guidance to partners involved in the emergency response, including remote case management and dignity kit distribution.
- Monitoring partner activities to prevent duplication of efforts and effectively addressing gaps.
- Strengthening partner capacity on GBV, advocating for GBV mainstreaming, incorporating best practices, and securing funding for the GBV sector.

Sexual and Reproductive Health:

Under the National Health Sector, UNFPA co-leads the Reproductive Health Sub-Working Group (RH-SWG) in Lebanon in partnership with MoPH. Members include national and international non-governmental organizations, academics, relevant ministries, and UN agencies.

UNFPA coordination activities focus on:

- Launching SRH service mapping updates with a focus on hospital delivery support.
- Coordinating with MoPH and health partners to expand access to clinical management of rape services in the context of the displacement trends.
- Supporting MoPH to prioritize and disseminate information materials for use in the outreach response.
- Providing guidance to health partners planning the distribution of menstrual health management (MHM) kits at shelters. MHM kits contain 30 menstrual pads per month for each female (aged 12-49), soap and 2 cotton towels and are distributed by health partners as part of health education sessions for women and girls.
- Advocating for the mainstreaming of SRH as part of the emergency response.

- Disseminating updated information about the emergency situation and response (number of IDPs, number of shelters, etc.) to key RH actors.

Health partners reported that a total of 3,491 beneficiaries received SRH services across the country, and 858 MHM kits were distributed in 14 shelters. SRH services are being provided by physicians and midwives at shelters, PHC centres, and within the community and also include consultations on family planning.

Some partners have reported challenges related to the mobility of medical mobile units staff in areas directly affected by conflict, while others report difficulties in ensuring access to health centers that are being targeted. Access to life-saving obstetric care has been affected in Nabatieh governorate with the closure of the maternity ward at the main government hospital due to an airstrike.

Funding Status

The Inter-Agency Flash Appeal for Lebanon, launched on 1 October 2024, aims to secure US\$ 425.7 million to address the most urgent needs of 1 million people in Lebanon. Within this framework, UNFPA's financial requirements until the end of 2024 amount to US\$ 8.6 million, with US\$ 5.5 million designated for SRH programmes and US\$ 3.1 million allocated to GBV interventions.

So far, UNFPA has received US\$ 2 million; US\$ 1 million from the internal Emergency Fund and the Humanitarian Thematic Fund, and US\$ 1 million from CERF.

The Flash Appeal complements the UNFPA Appeal of US\$ 19 million for the Lebanon Response Plan. UNFPA extends its sincere gratitude to its recent donors for their support to its humanitarian response in Lebanon prior to the launch of this Flash Appeal, including SIDA, KOICA, the European Union (ECHO), Japan, and France.

