



# Lebanon Situation Report

July 3, 2024

## Background

Information about the current period of cross-border fighting is summarized in Anera's last [Situation Report \(May 2024\)](#).

## Overview

Since the onset of hostilities along Lebanon's southern borders on October 8, a severe humanitarian crisis has developed, characterized by significant displacement and casualties. A total of 95,228 individuals have been displaced. Israeli military operations in Lebanon have injured 1,272 people and killed 414, including 95 civilians, 30 women, 12 children, 21 health workers, and three journalists. The impact on civilian infrastructure is profound, with 1,700 buildings destroyed, 1,680 hectares (4,151 acres) of agricultural land damaged, and 340,000 farm animals lost. Additionally, ten water facilities have been damaged, affecting over 100,000 residents. Farmers have reported a 72% loss of income and six primary health centers in Bent Jbeil and Marjayoun have closed. The education sector has also been hit hard, with 72 public and private schools partially or fully closed, impacting 20,000 children.<sup>1</sup>

## Violence at the Lebanon-Israel Border

The Israeli army launched a series of military operations since October 7 a; as of May 17, these operations resulted in 5,345 strikes inside Lebanon, including 176 involving white phosphorus.<sup>2</sup> Israel's extensive use of white phosphorus in southern Lebanon poses a grave risk to civilians and contributes to their displacement. Human Rights Watch has verified the use of white phosphorus munitions by Israeli forces in 17 municipalities since October 2023, including five instances of unlawful deployment over residential areas. White phosphorus's incendiary effects cause severe injuries and can result in lifelong suffering or death, igniting homes, agricultural areas, and other civilian structures. Lebanon's Ministry of Public Health reported that as of May 28, at least 173 people have been injured due to exposure to white phosphorus since October.<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> [Lebanon: Flash Update #20 - Escalation of hostilities in South Lebanon, June 2024 | UNOCHA](#)

<sup>2</sup> [Mapping Escalation Along Lebanon's Southern Border Since October 7, May 2024 | Beirut Urban Lab](#)

<sup>3</sup> [Lebanon: Israel's White Phosphorous Use Risks Civilian Harm, June 2024 | HRW](#)

A significant escalation in the conflict is a real possibility. The Israeli military announced on June 18 that they have "approved and validated" operational plans for an offensive in Lebanon.<sup>4</sup>

### Shelter and Displacement

As of June 11, Lebanon has documented 95,228 internally displaced persons (IDPs), reflecting a 1% increase since May 28. These individuals have sought refuge in 412 locations, spanning 339 distinct areas across Lebanon. Displacement has been observed in 23 of the country's 26 districts, spanning all eight governorates. Most IDPs (77%) are currently situated in five of the 23 districts hosting displaced populations.

Approximately 82% of IDPs presently live with hosts, 14% have rented housing, and another 2% have relocated to their secondary residences. Another 2% are taking refuge in 18 collective shelters. Of those in host settings, 24,789 IDPs live with non-displaced families, while 53,822 reside separately. Notably, 17% of the 78,611 individuals in host settings are living in overcrowded conditions, as reported by the International Organization for Migration's Displacement Tracking Matrix.<sup>5</sup>

**Most of the displaced families are farming households who have lost their income sources and land.** This loss has left them unable to afford rent or even basic food necessities. According to Terre des Hommes, girls and women residing in collective shelters have expressed feeling unsafe. There has been a disturbing increase in gender-based violence, with more frequent reports of emotional abuse, sexual assault, and physical violence.<sup>6</sup>

Due to difficulties accessing collective shelters in southern Lebanon, OCHA highlighted that Syrian households urgently need alternative accommodation solutions. Identifying additional sites for potential use as collective shelters across the country is crucial as a proactive measure in case of further escalation. However, funding constraints hinder efforts to effectively manage existing sites and strengthen governmental capacities in site coordination. Moreover, there is insufficient financial support for the cash-for-shelter program, which is vital for assisting displaced families currently residing with host families or relatives.<sup>7</sup>

In recent months, Syrian refugees in Lebanon have faced escalating violence, harassment, and insecurity. Leading up to the annual Brussels Donor Conference for Syria on May 27, Syrian refugees endured a surge in hate speech, discriminatory policies, and the imminent threat of deportation. Syrian-owned businesses were forcibly

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<sup>4</sup> [Israel approves 'operational plan' for Lebanon offensive, June 2024 | France 24](#)

<sup>5</sup> [Lebanon - Mobility Snapshot - Round 37, June 2024 | IOM](#)

<sup>6</sup> [Children in South Lebanon: "I miss the safety of our neighbourhood", June 2024 | TDH](#)

<sup>7</sup> [Lebanon: Flash Update #20 - Escalation of hostilities in South Lebanon, June 2024 | UNOCHA](#)

closed, and workers were arrested for their lack of legal documentation. Municipalities across Lebanon intensified their crackdown on Syrian residents, resulting in thousands facing eviction. Tensions between the Lebanese host community and Syrian refugees have escalated significantly, reaching a critical juncture.<sup>8</sup>

Basic assistance needs identified by local authorities in Tyre, Zahrani, Nabatieh, and the South related to disaster risk management and reduction include shelter and non-food items. There is a growing demand for cash assistance, particularly among vulnerable groups such as female-headed households, children, and persons with disabilities, reflecting increased vulnerabilities.<sup>9</sup>

### Food Security and Livelihoods

A recent World Bank report highlighted Lebanon's enduring economic and financial crises, which forced households to adopt severe coping mechanisms in its fifth year. These measures include reducing food and non-food expenses and reducing spending on health expenditures, which may have significant long-term consequences. The report established a new unofficial poverty line for 2022, revealing **a substantial increase in monetary poverty** from 12% in 2012 to 44% in the surveyed areas. Poverty is notably concentrated in northern regions such as Akkar, where rates reach as high as 70%, mainly due to reliance on the agriculture and construction sectors. **Lebanese nationals have seen their poverty rate triple** to 33%, alongside a widening poverty gap from 3% in 2012 to 9.4% in 2022. Income inequality has also worsened. The report noted the severe impact of the crisis on Syrian households, revealing that **nearly nine out of every ten Syrians were living below the poverty line** in 2022. Among poor Syrian families, 45% experience inadequate food consumption. Many working-age Syrians are employed in low-paying and informal jobs, exacerbating poverty and food insecurity.<sup>10</sup>

UNOCHA stresses the need for life-saving nutrition services and supplies to address vulnerable populations' immediate nutritional and developmental needs, particularly children and women. Cash assistance is crucial for caregivers who face challenges accessing breast milk substitutes and are identified by infant and young child feeding specialists as eligible. Enhanced referrals to the child feeding national hotline are necessary to manage requests for formula milk and promote breastfeeding, which is vital for infant nutrition. However, due to funding shortages, two significant partners

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<sup>8</sup> [Fragile Sanctuary: Syrian Refugees in Lebanon Face Abuse and Deportation, May 2024 | TIMEP](#)

<sup>9</sup> [Lebanon: Flash Update #20 - Escalation of hostilities in South Lebanon, June 2024 | UNOCHA](#)

<sup>10</sup> [Lebanon: Poverty more than triples over the last decade reaching 44% under a protracted crisis, May 2024 | WB](#)

are ending their response efforts in South and Nabatieh, hindering the continuation and expansion of nutrition activities despite increased needs.<sup>11</sup>

### Health & Education

On May 27, the Lebanese Ministry of Health condemned the Israeli airstrike on Martyr Salah Ghandour Hospital in Bint Jbeil. The airstrike resulted in the death of one civilian and injuries to seven civilians and eight health workers at the hospital (two of whom were critically injured). Additionally, the hospital entrance and facade were destroyed.<sup>12</sup>

Since October 8, approximately 30,000 children have fled southern Lebanon to seek safety in other parts of the country. The escalating hostilities have rendered villages and numerous areas in the South unsafe for civilians. Seventy-five children have been injured, and 12 children have lost their lives as a result of the intensified hostilities. Due to the closure of their schools, 20,000 children cannot attend classes. This situation heightens the risk that families may turn to child labor or child marriage as desperate measures for survival. Additionally, Terre des Hommes reported that a substantial number of children reported experiencing significant psychological distress during this challenging time.<sup>13</sup>

UNOCHA estimates that approximately **10,000 children require support for educational continuity** through emergency cash assistance and student aid, including internet bundles, school snacks, retention aid, and menstrual hygiene kits for girls aged 15-17. The Ministry of Education and Higher Education needs assistance implementing remote learning methods effectively, enhancing digital teaching skills for about 2,000 teachers and educators, and providing online student support. Challenges include a potential 90% dropout risk among children in online classes, limited internet access in border areas, ensuring sufficient devices for all household members, managing displacement-related disruptions, and addressing protection and mental health issues affecting displaced populations.<sup>14</sup>

### Water and Sanitation

Syrian refugee camps in Aarsal are seeing numerous cases of water-related diseases, including skin conditions, hepatitis A, acute diarrhea and cholera. UNICEF, facing reduced funding from donors, has had to reduce the amount of clean water provided per

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<sup>11</sup> [Lebanon: Flash Update #20 - Escalation of hostilities in South Lebanon, June 2024 | UNOCHA](#)

<sup>12</sup> [The Ministry of Health condemned the bombing of Salah Ghandour Hospital in Bint Jbeil, May 2024 | MoPH](#)

<sup>13</sup> [Children in South Lebanon: "I miss the safety of our neighbourhood", June 2024 | TDH](#)

<sup>14</sup> [Lebanon: Flash Update #20 - Escalation of hostilities in South Lebanon, June 2024 | UNOCHA](#)

person per day from twenty liters to twelve liters, as well as decrease the frequency of water trucking.<sup>15</sup>

On May 17, representatives from the Ministry of Public Health, UNICEF, and the World Health Organization conducted a field assessment at the Aarsal refugee camp to evaluate the health situation. A high-level health ministry official warned of the potential worsening of conditions, posing a health disaster for camp residents, Aarsal, and surrounding areas. Water samples from Aarsal's wells were found to be below safety standards and deemed unfit for human use. The area reported 123 cases of Hepatitis A, with 74% of cases affecting Syrian refugees. The official called for the establishment of a sewage network and a water purification station, citing inadequate and substandard sanitary conditions.<sup>16</sup>

UNOCHA underlined that urgent assistance is required to maintain the functionality of water supply systems managed by the South Lebanon Water Establishment, necessitating a minimum of \$500,000 per month to sustain essential water provision through public systems. Recent hostilities have damaged at least ten water infrastructures, affecting the water supply for over 100,000 residents in the South and Nabatieh. The sector needs more funds to replenish hygiene consumables for displaced individuals outside of collective shelters, requiring a broader distribution approach. Additionally, water fee collection has plummeted to nearly zero in the South and Nabatieh, posing severe challenges for the South Lebanon Water Establishment, which lacks substantial external support.<sup>17</sup>

### Anera's Response

The project has distributed **5,634 winter kits** to displaced people and collective shelters in South Lebanon. It conducted 20 civic engagement sessions for 60 displaced youths in shelters around the Tyre area.

Anera carried out four initiatives by trained youths, who assessed and responded to the needs of six collective shelters in the Tyre area. These initiatives supported more than 1,000 IDPs from 250 families by distributing washing machines, gas and electric heaters, carpets, hygiene and detergent materials, clothes drying racks, and holders. The project supported 120 girls from the South area who are at risk of gender-based violence, through competency-based training courses and employment opportunities.

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<sup>15</sup> [An expanded meeting in the Ministry of Health to ensure that the health crisis in the Bekaa does not worsen, May 2024 | MoPH](#)

<sup>16</sup> [Field visit to Aarsal camp for displaced Syrians, May 2024 | MoPH](#)

<sup>17</sup> [Lebanon: Flash Update #20 - Escalation of hostilities in South Lebanon, June 2024 | UNOCHA](#)

The project is currently producing 4,370 blankets, 3,350 sleeping bags, and a new round of 2,325 clothing kits to be distributed to the displaced families.

### Food Parcels (Ramadan)

Between March 1, 2024, and May 15, 2024, Anera implemented the Ramadan in Lebanon initiative funded by Islamic Relief USA. This initiative enhanced food security for vulnerable Palestinian families and internally displaced people in South Lebanon. Anera extended assistance to 1,445 families and provided essential **food parcels** and **cash assistance** throughout Ramadan, alleviating the burden of food procurement during Lebanon's challenging times. The initiative reached **3,830 individuals** and received overwhelmingly positive feedback from beneficiaries. An evaluation survey representing 10% of the beneficiaries revealed high satisfaction levels: 100% rated food quality as excellent or good, 99% confirmed special care for specific needs, 97% were satisfied with product variety, 97% felt safe with the assistance received, 96% were satisfied with the distribution process, 94% were satisfied with cash assistance, and 93% found the food portions sufficient for their needs. These results underscore the project's success in supporting vulnerable populations during Ramadan in Lebanon.

### Hygiene Kits

Between June 1, 2024, and July 31, 2024, Anera is implementing the Lebanon Emergency Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene Response in partnership with Islamic Relief USA. This project aims to enhance the hygiene, health, and overall well-being of IDPs in the Tyre, Zahrani, and Nabatieh regions of South Lebanon. The initiative includes distributing **5,150 family hygiene kits** containing essential items such as soap, bleach, antibacterial detergent, dishwashing liquid, laundry washing powder, shampoo, toothpaste, toothbrushes, sanitary bags, and garbage bags. Additionally, we will provide **500 baby care kits** to improve the health, development, and well-being of families with infants, containing essential items such as diapers and baby bathing soap. This comprehensive approach addresses critical hygiene needs and supports vulnerable populations displaced in South Lebanon.

### Health and Medications

Between September 1st, 2023, and August 31st, 2024, Anera is implementing the third iteration of its Critical Access for Refugees to Medicine and Health Services (CARMAH) program, funded by the US State Department's Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration. This initiative aims to **enhance health outcomes for 91,965 Syrians, Iraqis, other refugee groups, and vulnerable host community members** across Lebanon. CARMAH focuses on two main objectives: improving access to medicines for chronic illnesses and promoting community awareness of preventing chronic diseases through health education and service facilitation activities.