
UNICEF has delivered tons of emergency medical supplies to support health systems in Lebanon.
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Lebanon
Humanitarian Situation Report No. 2

unicef
for every child

Reporting Period: 23 September 2024 – 8 October 2024

Highlights

- The hostilities on the Lebanon-Israel border significantly escalated in the week of 23 September 2024, leading to the **deadliest period and largest displacement surge** Lebanon has seen in decades. Nearly 70 per cent of all casualties occurred in the last three weeks, including reports of **890 children injured and 127 children killed**.
- The Lebanese government issued new estimates of up to 1.2 million people affected by the conflict. National authorities have opened approximately 1,000 collective shelters for over 185,000 people – half of them women and children. More than 80 per cent of shelters are full.
- The start of the new school year in public schools has been postponed to 4 November 2024, as nearly **60 per cent of all public schools are being used as shelters**. UNICEF is working with the Ministry of Education to ensure learning continues despite the multiple crises.
- In the first two weeks of mass displacement, UNICEF supported **354 collective shelters hosting nearly 71,000 internally displaced persons** (IDPs) by providing relief items and supported **displaced people in 419 shelters** with critical services, including health care.

Situation in Numbers

350,000
children in need of humanitarian assistance

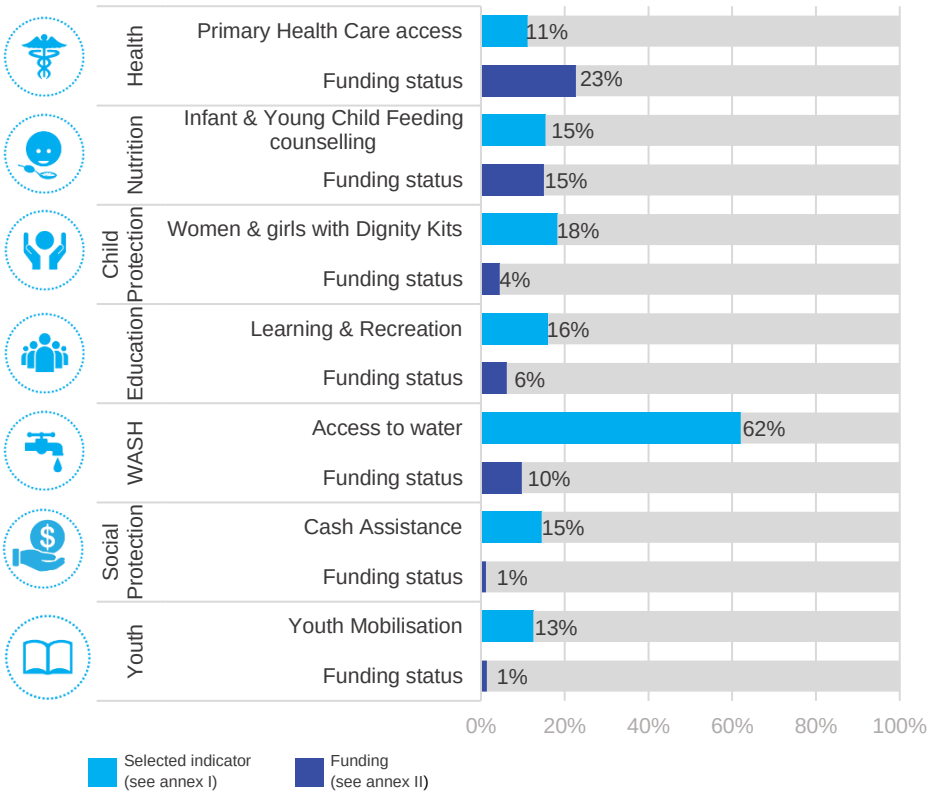
1,000,000
people in need of humanitarian assistance

185,000+
IDPs in collective shelters

10,000+
people injured, including reports of 890 children

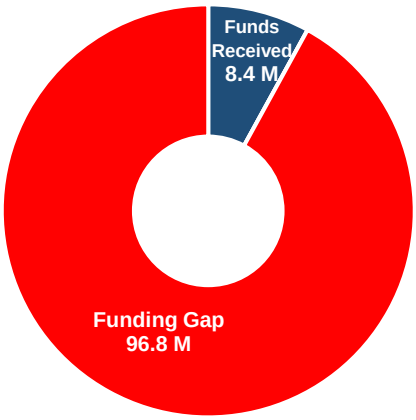
2,110+
deaths, including reports of 127 children

UNICEF's Response and Funding Status



UNICEF
Lebanon Appeal 2024
US$ 105.3 million

Funding Status (in USD)



Funding Overview and Partnerships

UNICEF's Humanitarian Action for Children (HAC) Lebanon was launched on 01 October 2024, in line with the UN Inter-Agency Flash Appeal[i] for Lebanon. The HAC outlines UNICEF's humanitarian response strategy until December 2024 to meet the needs of 1 million people, including 350,000 children, affected by the escalation of hostilities. It requires US$ 105 million and is currently 8 per cent funded. The HAC Lebanon complements the "Syrian Refugees and Other Vulnerable Populations HAC," which has been responding to the Syrian crisis in Lebanon.

On 02 October 2024, UNICEF activated its Level 3 Corporate Emergency Procedures for organization-wide support to scale up its humanitarian response in Lebanon. These measures include providing the Lebanon Country Office with Emergency Programme Funds (EPF) totalling USD 5.7 million, as an advance to quickly expand operations and mainstream Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) procedures. UNICEF Lebanon also received US$ 2 million in Global Humanitarian Thematic Funding at the onset of the escalation. Flexible funding enables UNICEF to respond promptly and more effectively, prioritizing resources where they are most needed and allowing programmes to adapt to the evolving situation in Lebanon. UNICEF would like to thank donors to the Global Thematic Fund and the Government of the United Kingdom, whose support enabled UNICEF Lebanon to prepare for the escalation in advance and scale up its interventions immediately. Additional funding is urgently needed to meet the increasing needs of the population affected by the hostilities.

UNICEF has been responding to the impact of hostilities in Lebanon since October 2023. Reports on interventions and funding received prior to 23 September 2024 are available here.

Situation Overview & Humanitarian Needs

More than 9,400 strikes have been conducted across Lebanese Governorates, including Beirut, since the hostilities on the Lebanon-Israel border started in October 2023. [ii] The escalation in violence in the week of 23 September 2024 has broadened the scope of attacks, causing the deadliest period and largest displacement surge Lebanon has seen in decades. Residents of at least 130 Lebanese towns and villages in South Lebanon have received evacuation orders and warnings against their return home. Ground battles have been reported along the southern border areas.

As of 08 October 2024, over 2,110 deaths were registered, including a reported number of 127 children, 261 women, 100 health workers and two UN staff, as well as injuries to over 10,000 people, including 890 children, since October 2023. [iii] Nearly 70% of casualties took place in the past three weeks.

The Lebanese Government has announced that over 1.2 million people are now affected by the conflict. National authorities opened nearly 1,000 collective shelters with more than 182,000 IDPs - half of them women and children. Out of these centres, 810 (80 per cent) already reached their maximum capacity.[iv]

Three Palestine refugee camps are reported to have been affected by airstrikes. Approximately 24,500 people living in Palestinian Camps fled due to the recent attacks. At least 12 UNRWA sites are hosting nearly 4,500 displaced individuals with other 20,000 IDPs being accommodated in host communities and Palestinian families.

More than 414,000 people fled Lebanon to Syria from 23 September to 08 October 2024, including 107,333 Lebanese and 304,897 Syrians[v]. The Masnaa road crossing on the Lebanon-Syria border remains closed due to damaged caused by airstrikes in the area, with reports of people fleeing by foot.[vi]

Disruptions to public infrastructure are intensifying, with reports of 12 hospitals damaged, 96 of 317 Primary Health Centres (PHCCs) closed, and 26 water facilities damaged, affecting water supply for over 340,000 people as of 08 October 2024. [vii] The start of the new school year (2024-2025) in Public Schools has been postponed to 04 November by the Ministry of Education and Higher Education (MEHE), as nearly 60 per cent of all shelters are located in public schools. Approximately 40 per cent of all enrolled students are currently displaced.

Programme Strategy and Response: Summary

Due to the surge in displacement figures, UNICEF has adapted its programmatic response to focus on the urgent needs of IDPs in collective shelters, while addressing pre-existing vulnerabilities in Lebanon in order to mitigate social tensions related to short and long-term secondary displacement.

UNICEF is scaling up its on-the-ground presence, including the rapid mobilization of capacities in displacement hotspots and partnerships with actors able to reach high-risk zones. UNICEF is expanding its existing programmes to support IDPs in host communities, balancing inclusion into regular programming with outreach to those in shelters and stranded areas. UNICEF's Palestinian Programme continues to support children and families living in Palestinian Camps in Lebanon.

UNICEF's Emergency 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 **Accountability to Affected Populations** (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.
- Enhance **gender-responsive and disability-inclusive** programming, targeting affected populations regardless of nationality, balancing humanitarian-development needs, as per a 'do no harm' approach.
- Mainstream **Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse** (PSEA) and mobilise trusted community leaders to disseminate accurate information on available services and conduct by response workers.
- Enhance UNICEF's regular programmes to ensure **shock-responsiveness** by prepositioning 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.

Health

The Health Sector estimates that one million people are in need of support to access health services. In close coordination with the Ministry of Public Health (MoPH), UNICEF has supported the activation of mobile PHCC Satellite Units (PSUs) and Mobile Medical Units (MMUs) to provide health services to IDPs in shelters and displacement hotspots, including check-ups, immediate medical assistance, and immunization services. As of 08 October 2024, 50 PSUs had served 5,000 people, and 5 MMUs had served 733 people. In addition, 88 PHCCs supported by UNICEF (AaSalameh Programme) provided health services to 22,324 people. Immunization of displaced children is a key priority integrated into all emergency health activities, with 4,636 children vaccinated in shelters and host communities since 23 September 2024. These health interventions have supported a total of 28,057 displaced persons in 419 shelters and host communities in the reporting period.

UNICEF has supported 34 displaced pregnant women in need of delivery services by covering their patient share of delivery costs in government hospitals and provided financial support for intensive and paediatric care for 28 displaced sick newborns and children. Since 23 September 2024, UNICEF has provided MoPH with 50 tons of emergency medical supplies, in addition to 100 tons previously distributed, including Emergency Health kits, obstetric and midwifery kits, and medications needed to respond to the acute health needs of injured patients.

Nutrition and Child Development

The Nutrition Sector, led by UNICEF, estimates that 300,000 people need support to achieve adequate nutrition. UNICEF has expanded its nutrition services in the past two weeks, reaching displaced families in host communities and 125 collective shelters. Since 23 September 2024, UNICEF has distributed high-energy nutrition rations and micronutrient supplements to 2,177 children, adolescent girls, and pregnant and lactating women (PLW) to prevent malnutrition. UNICEF has also screened 6,504 children and PLW in shelters for acute malnutrition, enrolling the necessary cases in treatment programmes in the past two weeks.

Counselling and messaging on breastfeeding, complementary feeding, early childhood development (ECD), and stimulating responsive care were provided to 16,664 caregivers of young children. In the reporting period, UNICEF trained more than 200 frontline workers on Nutrition/ECD in emergencies to support the Nutrition Sector.

Aiming to leverage public systems for nutrition, UNICEF integrated nutrition activities into health services provided by mobile medical teams (MMUs and PSUs) to deliver preventive and curative nutrition services. UNICEF also mobilized education partners who have delivered nutrition services in 25 collective shelters.

Child Protection and Gender-Based Violence (GBV)

The Protection Sector estimates that 400,000 children and 300,000 women and girls are at risk of child protection violations and gender-based violence (GBV). UNICEF leads the Child Protection sub-Sector, which has observed a worrying increase in cases of child separation due to the conflict. As of 08 October 2023, 54 unaccompanied and separated children (UASC) were identified, and 53 of them have already been reunited with their families through UNICEF and its partners. Key messages regarding the prevention of separation, family tracing, and reunification are being widely disseminated through visual displays in hospitals, leaflets, and information sessions in shelters and host communities. UNICEF continues identifying injured children to provide them with critical protection services.

Since 23 September 2024, UNICEF has provided psychological first aid to 3,527 children and caregivers, in addition to community-based psychological support for 3,300 children and caregivers. UNICEF distributed 10,921 dignity/Laha kits, which include menstrual hygiene products, to women and girls in collective shelters, and provided them with information on GBV and Protection against Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA).

Education

The Education Sector, led by UNICEF, estimates that 300,000 children are in need of support to access education. The Ministry of Education and Higher Education (MEHE) has postponed the start of the new academic year in public schools to 4 November 2024. UNICEF is working with MEHE to implement the Ministry's Learning Continuity Response Plan[viii] to ensure that education for all children continues despite the multiple crises in the country. The plan includes opening hub schools in public or private facilities to accommodate displaced students, operating in multiple shifts, and adopting a hybrid learning model to offer education in a flexible manner. It also provides a range of educational support services, such as the distribution of learning materials and textbooks, the deployment of the "Madristi" (My School in Arabic) digital platform powered by Learning Passport technology, and the setup of gender-responsive digital/learning hubs.

Since 23 September 2024, under the new HAC Lebanon, UNICEF has distributed learning and recreational materials to collective shelters, including 712 educational kits, 2,446 school bags, 71 early childhood development (ECD) kits, 151 LEGO kits, and 79 recreational kits. Following the distribution of kits, UNICEF deployed approximately 350 facilitators from its Multiple Flexible Pathway Programmes (Makani and Dirasa) to provide on-the-ground support across 158 shelters, engaging tens of thousands of children in learning activities, games, and sports, promoting their well-being and essential life skills, such as connecting, communicating, and healing through play.

UNICEF and its partners have established support desks in 125 shelters to facilitate IDPs' access to critical services since 23 September 2024. The support desks act as key points of contact between IDPs and the governmental Disaster Risk Reduction Unit (DRR), facilitating the referral of children, adolescents, and youth to services provided by multiple organizations, ensuring holistic support and coverage of essential needs, including PSEA and GBV safe identification and referrals.

Water, Sanitation & Hygiene (WASH)

The WASH Sector, led by UNICEF, estimates that one million people are in need of support to access water and sanitation. Since 23 September 2024, UNICEF has enabled access to potable drinking water for 9,000 people, including 5,000 children, for 10 days through the provision of 172,500 litres of bottled water. UNICEF has also provided access to domestic water for 11,000 IDPs, including 6,000 children, for 10 days, for various uses including bathing and cleaning, through the trucking of 2.2 million litres of water. In order to prevent water-borne disease outbreaks and support good hygiene practices, UNICEF has provided critical life-saving hygiene supplies to nearly 46,000 IDPs, including 27,000 children, through the provision of 9,159 hygiene kits.

Communities hosting IDPs and areas directly affected by hostilities have faced increased pressure on the already overstretched WASH public systems, causing a reduction in the availability of water supply. UNICEF has ensured the continuity of water supply services to 620,000 people, including 320,000 children, through the provision of 140,000 litres of fuel to the Water Establishments and quick repairs to 44 water facilities.

Social Protection & Humanitarian Cash Assistance

In partnership with the Lebanese Ministry of Social Affairs (MoSA) and the International Labour Organization (ILO), UNICEF supported an advance payment for 27,000 people with disabilities (PwDs) registered for the gender-responsive National Disability Allowance (NDA) as part of its regular programming.[ix]

For the emergency response, UNICEF, in collaboration with MoSA has reached 22,500 people in families with a registered NDA beneficiary, with US$ 100 cash assistance top-ups. Additionally, UNICEF is jointly designing with MoSA and partners a new Emergency Disability Benefit to support families with PwDs beyond those already registered in the NDA.

Youth & Adolescents

Since 23 September 2024, UNICEF has identified 430 young volunteers to support response activities, of whom 210 have been mobilised to assist in distributing emergency items, recycling materials in shelters, and sorting and distributing clothing to displaced individuals. Young people trained by UNICEF and its partners were mobilised to cook and distribute approximately 10,000 hot meals to displaced people and frontline workers.

UNICEF is training young people and providing them with income-generating opportunities to produce emergency winter items such as sleeping bags, clothing items, and blankets. Since 23 September 2024, 500 sleeping bags have been produced by young people and will be distributed through UNICEF's Rapid Response Mechanism.

Rapid Response Mechanism

UNICEF's Rapid Response Mechanism (RRM) has been activated to address new waves of mass displacement. The RRM serves as a critical, agile, and timely response framework within UNICEF's broader response strategy to respond to sudden population movements, including displaced or returning IDP children, families, and host communities. The RRM is linked to programmatic responses in WASH, health, protection, and other sectors to ensure a coordinated and comprehensive approach.

Since 23 September 2024, UNICEF's RRM reached 30,685 IDPs in collective shelters, including UNRWA sites, with Non-Food Items (NFIs), such as bottled water and hygiene items reported under the WASH section (see page 4) , in addition to 19,622 blankets, 4,108 mattresses, 3,350 sleeping bags, 1,100 winter clothing kits, and 2,418 baby kits.

Accountability to the Affected Populations (AAP), Gender, and Protection against Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA)

Community feedback mechanisms have been established to share critical information in hard-to-reach areas and allow affected populations to voice complaints and share their experiences regarding services provided. UNICEF is actively distributing posters and leaflets to inform IDPs about UNICEF Call Center.

Experience from previous large-scale emergencies has shown that the risk of sexual exploitation and abuse (SEA) is exacerbated in times of crises. To mitigate these risks, UNICEF is integrating PSEA key messages on the expected behaviour of humanitarian workers and the available reporting channels in its relief goods distribution. In the week of 07 October 2024, UNICEF conducted a PSEA training module for 55 frontline workers providing support to displaced persons in UNRWA's schools.

UNICEF initiated a Rapid Gender Analysis with women-led organizations to collect information on the situation of displaced women and girls. Additionally, 89 shelter focal points and community volunteers have been capacitated on gender, GBV safe identification and referrals, and PSEA since 23 September 2024.

Humanitarian Leadership, Coordination and Strategy

UNICEF is actively coordinating the safe delivery of its activities with national authorities through the humanitarian notification of its movements. Despite access constraints caused by the hostilities, including the targeting of the main road entry point from Syria into Lebanon, UNICEF has successfully and safely dispatched a series of convoys to hard-to-reach areas in South Lebanon – including a convoy coordinated with MoSA on 04 October and a convoy on 05 October in partnership with WFP. The humanitarian notification and coordination of additional convoys is being planned to continue delivering essential items to populations remaining in high-risk areas.

UNICEF 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 and gender working group.

In collaboration with the Disaster Risk Management Unit and the Lebanese Red Cross, UNICEF is supporting emergency preparedness and response planning across all Governorates. The Escalation Emergency Response is coordinated through the Inter-Sector Coordination Group (ISCG), and the Emergency Telecommunications and Logistics Clusters can be activated when required.

Human Stories



“I love my village, but when the bombing started, we had to leave the south in a hurry. No one in the village stayed. We all left and came to Beirut to look for a place to stay.”

Mariam, 3 years old, was at her grandfather's house when the bombing started. Her family is now in a collective shelter in Beirut.

UNICEF Lebanon Humanitarian Action for Children Appeal: https://www.unicef.org/appeals/lebanon

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Annex A

Summary of Programme Results

The table below includes provisional indicators. Detailed Humanitarian Programme Monitoring (HPM) indicators are under development.

	UNICEF and IPs Response		
Sector / Indicator	**Target** (by Dec 2024)	**Total results to date** (23 Sep – 08 Oct)	**Achievement %**
Health			
# people accessing primary health care in UNICEF-supported facilities[1]	200,000	22,324	11%
# people supported by mobile medical teams[2]	400,000	5,773	1%
Nutrition			
# of caregivers counselled or reached with awareness on appropriate infant and young child feeding (IYCF) and ECD	108,000	16,664	15%
# children, adolescents and PLWs receiving Protein Energy Supplements (Ready to use complementary food, SQLNS, High Energy Biscuits) and/or micronutrient supplement (MNP)	49,000	2,177	4%
Child Protection			
# women and girls receiving dignity/LAHA kits	60,000	10,921	18%
# children, adolescents and caregivers accessing community-based mental health and psychosocial support	220,000	3,300	2%
Education			
# displaced children receiving learning and recreational materials	200,000	32,030	16%
WASH			
# people accessing a sufficient quantity and quality of water for drinking and domestic needs	1,000,000	620,000	62%
# people receiving critical hygiene supplies (hygiene kits)	250,000	45,795	18%
Social Protection[3]			
# of individuals in households with a person with disability reached with an emergency cash transfer	155,000	22,500	15%
# people reached with Multi-Purpose Cash Assistance	465,000	0	0%[4]
Youth & Adolescents			
# young people mobilized to act as first responders, provide support in shelters, and assist in data generation activities.	1,600	210	13%
Rapid Response Mechanism			
# people reached with rapid response items (NFIs)	400,000	30,685	8%

1 Includes UNICEF-supported PHCCs.
2 Mobile teams include mobile medical units (MMUS) and Primary Satellite Units (PSUs).
3 The HAC indicator for Multi-Purpose cash transfers targets a total of 620,000 people, with two sub-indicator components presented in the SitRep with their respective targets, as the populations denominators are differentiated per nature of cash intervention.
4 Contingent on funding and inter-agency and governmental discussions.

Annex B

Funding Status

Sector	Requirements	Funds available	Funding gap	
		Humanitarian resources received in 2024	$	%
WASH	30,000,000	2,921,918	27,078,082	90%
Health	8,000,000	1,814,809	6,185,191	77%
Nutrition	6,700,000	1,007,277	5,692,723	85%
Social Protection	17,050,000	200,000	16,850,000	99%
Education	8,500,000	521,246	7,978,754	94%
Child Protection and GBVIE	12,500,000	556,459	11,943,541	96%
Adolescents/youth	8,600,000	121,415	8,478,585	99%
RCCE, PSEA, AAP, Comms	2,000,000	398,069	1,601,931	80%
Field Operations and RRM	7,000,000	767,968	6,232,032	89%
Palestinian Programme	4,900,000	101,094	4,798,906	98%
Total	**105,250,000**	**8,410,256**	**96,839,744**	**92%**

[i] Flash Appeal: Lebanon, October - December 2024
[ii] Lebanese Presidency of the Council of Ministers – Situation Report #13
[iii] Lebanese Ministry of Public Health
[iv] Lebanese Disaster Risk Management Unit – Shelter Management Dashboard
[v] Lebanese Presidency of the Council of Ministers – Situation Report #13
[vi] Lebanese Presidency of the Council of Ministers – Situation Report #13
[vii] Lebanese Ministry of Public Health Press Release, OCHA
[viii] UNICEF's support to MEHE's Learning Continuity Plan is part of the HAC Syrian Refugees
[ix] UNICEF's support to MEHE's Learning Continuity Plan is part of the HAC Syrian Refugees