



Abbas, 10, holds a UNICEF hygiene kit following a distribution at a shelter in Beirut. © UNICEF 2026/Fouad Choufany

Lebanon

Humanitarian Flash Update #3

Escalation of Hostilities

12 March 2026

for every child



285,600

Children Displaced
(Est. DRM)



91

Children Killed



816,700

Displaced People
(Self-Registered)



1,586

People Injured
(275 children)

SITUATION UPDATE AND HUMANITARIAN NEEDS

- **Impact of Hostilities:** As of 12 March, at least 91 children have reportedly been killed and 275 wounded (Ministry of Public Health – MoPH).
 - **Evacuation Orders:** Evacuation orders have been issued for large parts of Beirut’s southern suburbs, north Bekaa, and the entire area south of the Litani River (SLR), covering around 850 km² and home to at least 500,000 people.
 - **Rising Displacement Figures:** Displacement continues to expand across multiple governorates. Preliminary figures indicate about 816,700, roughly 285,600 children, registered displaced people, with 125,800 individuals sheltering across 590 collective sites (DRM).
 - **Risk of Further Displacement:** Airstrikes continue across southern Lebanon, Beirut, and the Bekaa, and have expanded to new areas, including Saida District, raising the risk of secondary displacement and collateral damage. Areas that had recently received displaced families, such as Haret Saida and Tyre, were placed under sudden displacement orders, forcing at least 570 IDPs and many residents to evacuate immediately, triggering secondary displacement and leaving some families sleeping in open areas due to lack of shelter options.
 - **Hard to Reach Communities:** Thousands of families remain cut off despite the evacuation orders, with many unable or unwilling to leave due to safety concerns, lack of transport, or fear of losing homes and livelihoods. Debris and unexploded ordnance continue to block access roads, and key transport routes, including connections to the Bekaa, have faced repeated disruptions.
-
- **Impact on Children:** Children and their families are living under constant threat and extreme distress as hostilities continue and safe options for relocation diminish, increasing risks to their physical safety, emotional wellbeing, and access to essential services.
 - **Escalating Needs Amid Limited Capacity:** Lebanon’s prolonged economic crisis and weakened infrastructure constrain the country’s ability to absorb rapidly increasing humanitarian needs, raising the risk of swift deterioration. Sectors report persistent challenges in identifying needs and analysing gaps due to repeated and expanding displacement orders, which have forced families to relocate multiple times within days.

- **Living Conditions:** Many displaced households are sheltering with host communities or in informal settings, including unfinished buildings, public spaces, and vehicles, often in overcrowded or unsafe conditions.
- **Education Disruption:** As of 11 March, 344 public schools across the country have been converted into shelters, with 92 per cent at full capacity and hosting more than 58,000 IDPs, including 23,000 children (est). This has directly disrupted schooling for over 72,000 AM shift students and nearly 39,000 PM shift students enrolled in these facilities.
- **Strain on Basic Services:** The growing IDP caseload and intensifying conflict are placing significant pressure on collective shelters, host communities, and already fragile public services, including health care, water supply, sanitation, and electricity.
- **Health System Under Pressure:** Repeated attacks on paramedics and health workers are further degrading emergency response capacity, limiting casualty evacuation and straining an already overstretched health system.
- **Damage to Infrastructure:** Direct and indirect bombardments, primarily in the Bekaa and Baalbek areas, have damaged water distribution lines, a 1,000 m³ reservoir, and other critical infrastructure, affecting more than 23,000 people and reducing access to essential services. Additional impacts include damage to the Ain Eltine Pumping Station in Bekaa (civil structures, generator diesel tank, and EDL line), leaving the station non-operational and affecting 3,000 people, and a 15m break in a 6-inch ductile iron water line between Nabi Chit and Sariin in Baalbek, disrupting supply to around 10,000 individuals across Sariin and half of Nabi Chit.

UNICEF PROGRAMMATIC RESPONSE STRATEGY

UNICEF's response strategy focuses on supporting children and families on the move while addressing pre-existing vulnerabilities across Lebanon. The approach leverages existing programmes, partnerships, and national systems to deliver timely humanitarian assistance, mitigate social tensions, and sustain essential services for vulnerable populations. The strategy includes the following:

- Prioritize targeting across three operational settings: collective shelters, host community areas where displaced populations and vulnerable Lebanese and non-Lebanese populations reside, and hard-to-reach or conflict-affected locations.
- Deliver a scalable multi-sector package of essential services that can be expanded or adapted based on local needs, displacement dynamics, and operational constraints.
- Leverage and expand existing UNICEF programmes and field presence to reach displaced families in affected communities, maintain outreach to stranded or conflict-affected areas including for Lebanese and refugee populations, and provide integrated services in collective shelters.
- Strengthen partnerships and localized operations with government and operational partners, including national and sub-national authorities, to reach affected populations in hotspot and hard-to-reach areas. Strengthen cross-border collaboration (refugee/returnee movements).
- Ensure shock-responsive programming through pre-positioned supplies, flexible delivery modalities and strengthened operational capacities to rapidly scale assistance.
- Promote accountable, inclusive and protection-sensitive programming, including Accountability to the Affected Populations (AAP), Protection against Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA), gender-responsive and disability-inclusive approaches, ensuring affected communities can access information and provide feedback.

UNICEF'S IMMEDIATE RESPONSE



WASH

- UNICEF partners are delivering **emergency WASH support in 188 shelters** across Lebanon, **reaching an estimated 11,200 families** (approximately 46,000 people).
- UNICEF is supporting WASH services in the Sports City shelter, including **repairs to existing facilities and installation of new showers and latrines, including disability-friendly units**.
- Approximately **66 centre cleaning kits were distributed** to support safe shelter operations, and 560 m³ of water was supplied through trucking.
- A total of **68 m³ of sludge was safely removed from IDP shelters** through desludging operations, and more than 11,650 IDPs participated in WASH behaviour change sessions.

- Rapid **WASH technical assessments are ongoing** as displacement increases. In coordination with the Ministry of Energy and Water (MoEW), UNICEF is evaluating urgent diesel needs to keep critical water and wastewater facilities operational.
- **Displacement locations are being mapped** to assess their connection to existing water networks and identify needs for water trucking or alternative supply options. Wastewater pumping stations continue to be monitored to prevent overflows and associated public health risks.
- As part of the emergency response, rehabilitation of the old Abra well in Saida was restored to about 500 m³/day of production capacity. Repairs at the Addous pumping station in Jezzine was restored to 1,200 m³/day, enabling the supply of safe water to more than 33,000 people in areas hosting large numbers of IDPs. **Additional WASH repairs are ongoing across multiple locations to sustain access to safe water.**
- **More than 16,000 litres of fuel were supplied** to seven water stations in Beirut and Mount Lebanon, ensuring continuity of public water supply for over 20,900 people.



Rapid Response Mechanism¹ and Winterization

- As of 12 March, UNICEF's **RRM had reached 62,954, IDPs in more than 150 shelters** with Non-Food Items (NFIs), through the distribution of 108,710 bottles of water (1.5L each), 11,555 family hygiene kits, 6,899 baby kits, 5,696 LAHA/dignity kits, 870 packs of adult diapers and sanitary pads and 638 boxes of High Energy Biscuits (100 HEB per box) for children six months and above and pregnant women.
- Winterization support included the **distribution of 19,190 blankets and 510 children's** clothing kits to the sports City shelter, with distributions to additional shelters currently underway.
- Around **3,500 families on the move in Beirut, Saida, and Tyre were supported** with light RRM kits and bottles of water.



Child Protection

- **UNICEF partners have started implementing child protection interventions in 86 shelters nationwide:** 5 in the North and Akkar, 7 in Beirut and Mount Lebanon, 47 in the Bekaa and Baalbek-Hermel, and 27 in the South and Nabatieh. Current activities focus on identifying high-risk cases within shelters for referral to specialized support outside shelters, alongside the provision of recreational activities. Discussions with the Ministry of Social Affairs (MoSA) are ongoing regarding the provision of psychosocial support (PSS) to children and caregivers.
- Outside shelters, UNICEF partners are expanding outreach efforts to displaced communities. **A comprehensive package of child protection services is being provided** using multiple delivery modalities including face-to-face, hybrid, remote, and mobile approaches to ensure the most vulnerable children are reached, including those in hard-to-reach areas.
- Cases involving unaccompanied or separated children are being monitored and supported immediately upon identification through family tracing, reunification, or alternative care. Actors are coordinating through established case management and referral pathways. To date, **11 cases of unaccompanied and separated children have been identified;** of which 10 have been reunited or placed in community care arrangements.
- **9,000 individuals have been reached through the dissemination of key PSS and child protection messages,** providing practical guidance to caregivers during the emergency, raising awareness of critical risks, and strengthening families' ability to support children and stay safe and connected during the crisis.
- **UNICEF and partners have finalized the Explosive Ordnance Risk Education (EORE) response strategy,** which includes digital campaigns, dissemination of Information, Education, and Communication (IEC) materials, online sessions for frontline workers, and direct sessions in IDP shelters and host communities. Implementation will be phased: digital campaigns and IEC distribution will begin in the next two weeks, with online and in-person sessions to follow once immediate priorities related to IDP resettlement and basic needs are addressed.



Education

- UNICEF is supporting the Ministry of Education and Higher Education (MEHE) to ensure access to online learning for public school students. Coordination is underway to activate teacher and student accounts for MS Teams and Madristi, the national digital learning platform. As of 12 March, **27,796 teachers received their Teams login credentials** as part of preparedness measures for remote learning.

¹ UNICEF's Rapid Response Mechanism has been activated or reactivated? since 2 March 2026 to address displacement waves and reach families on the move, serving as an agile, multi sectoral response platform linked to WASH, nutrition, protection, and other emergency interventions.

- UNICEF partners **distributed educational and learning kits across 168 collective shelters**, reaching around 13,000 children estimated to be located in these shelters.
- UNICEF is coordinating with service providers to **install internet connectivity in shelters** and is in discussions with mobile operators on providing internet bundles for teachers.
- Through UNICEF's Multiple Flexible Pathways (MFP) programme, **18,702 children are currently accessing integrated services and education across 30 Makani centres and 23 Dirasa schools** operating in safe and accessible locations. MFP partners have begun community level outreach to identify displaced children and establish temporary learning spaces where needed. Displaced staff are also being mobilized to support activities in areas where they are currently located.
- MFP partners will also **provide services to children with disabilities based on needs** (assistive devices, therapy and referrals).



Health

- A total of **310 m³ of essential medications and medical supplies were delivered** over the past week to the MoPH, active Primary Healthcare Satellite Units (PSUs), and governmental hospitals to respond to the needs of displaced populations.
- **38 Primary Healthcare Centre (PHC) satellite units (mobile clinics) have been actively providing essential PHC services** to IDPs residing in shelters as well as host communities. To date, more than 2,200 beneficiaries received essential services with more than 2,000 receiving medications and 30 receiving wound management care.
- 93 PHC centres, supported under UNICEF's AaSalmeh PHC community outreach programme, were activated to **provide essential screening and vaccination services for IDPs** residing in communities and shelters.
- **Continued support is being provided to the MoPH's Public Health Emergency Operations Centre (PHEOC)** including the provision of technical and logistical assistance, ensuring reliable internet connectivity, and facilitating coordination with the PHEOC, Crisis Coordination Cell (CCC), transport units, and health facilities. This support also includes the recruitment of technical staff for the MoPH warehouse, as well as daily labourers to assist with the handling, storage, and the distribution of medicines and medical supplies.
- Since the beginning of the escalation, **122 newborns and children have been admitted to intensive care units** across 11 governmental hospitals, supported by UNICEF.
- Under the UNICEF-MoPH Assistance and Care for War Wounded and Affected Children (ACWA) programme, **14 children with conflict related injuries were transferred to hospitals** for life-saving surgical interventions with financial support from UNICEF.



Nutrition & Child Development

- **UNICEF, as sector lead, strengthened coordination and quality assurance of the nutrition response** by finalizing and disseminating standardized nutrition guidance and job aids to promote appropriate and consistent use of nutrition supplies across shelters.
- An advocacy note on managing unsolicited breastmilk substitute (BMS) donations was shared with all stakeholders to **reinforce adherence to infant feeding standards in emergencies**.
- To date, **167,800 high-energy biscuit (HEB) packages, 130,032 ready-to-use complementary food jars, and additional energy-protein nutrition supplements** to prevent wasting have been prepositioned with partners, including the MoPH.
- Nutrition services have been integrated into the revised Emergency Health and Nutrition Response Model, alongside updates to the Mini Local Primary Health Care Service Package (Mini-LPSP) led by the MoPH, **strengthening alignment and standardization of emergency service delivery**.
- **Integrated nutrition services are being delivered through PSUs**, with nutritionists recruited and deployed in 28 PSUs, 8 PSUs already staffed, and 2 pending deployment, enabling screening, Infant and Young Child Feeding (IYCF) counselling, referrals, and provision of essential nutrition supplies
- **Key breastfeeding messages were developed in English and Arabic for dissemination** through Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE) partners, supporting consistent and context appropriate messaging to caregivers.
- The IYCF hotline is providing **tailored counselling and referrals to caregivers seeking IYCF support for 21+ cases** with wider dissemination of hotline information ongoing to increase uptake of this national level service.



Social Protection and Humanitarian Cash Assistance

- As an immediate response to support beneficiaries of the National Disability Allowance (NDA), UNICEF and MoSA have agreed to **advance the payment date of the regular cash assistance for 38,000 Lebanese and non-Lebanese NDA beneficiaries** across the country. Cash assistance started on 10 March.
- Building on previous emergency cash responses in 2024 and subject to resource availability, UNICEF, MoSA, and ILO have activated **emergency financial support for families with persons with disabilities affected by the conflict**. This is a shock-responsive expansion of the NDA to provide urgent financial assistance to families with a person with a disability. Using established NDA delivery systems and registries, as of 11 March, the intervention has **reached 8,000 families (6,000 Lebanese and 2,000 non-Lebanese) with a US\$100 cash grant** for households with a child or young person aged 0–19 years living with a disability. This programme complements the national Shock Responsive Social Protection programme led by the government by helping offset the additional costs associated with disability during displacement, including access to healthcare, assistive services, and basic needs.
- The overall target for this emergency support is **45,000 Lebanese and non-Lebanese families** with a person with a disability from affected areas, to be reached in a phased approach over three months through a one-off transfer.



Youth Engagement

- **1,200 winter clothing kits and 400 sleeping bags produced by youth were distributed to IDPs** sheltering in 11 public Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) schools.
- UNICEF will provide operational cost support to 15 TVET schools hosting around 8,000 IDPs, **enabling them to procure sleeping bags, cooking materials, hygiene kits, fuel, and other essential supplies** needed to support displaced families and operate the TVET shelters.



RCCE, AAP, Gender, and PSEA

- **RCCE coordination mechanisms have been activated** to support the emergency response, including the RCCE communication tree and an updated UNICEF RCCE landing page serving as a central repository for key public messages, frontline worker guidance, and IEC materials.
- **RCCE support to the programme response is ongoing**, with UNICEF providing technical assistance to programmes and implementing partners to integrate RCCE into emergency interventions.
- **Capacity-building for responders and volunteers** is being prepared, focusing on RCCE, AAP, and PSEA principles to support safe, ethical, and effective community engagement throughout the response.
- Coordination is underway to **support rapid RCCE needs assessments and rumour-tracking** in affected areas to ensure that messaging and community engagement activities address emerging concerns and misinformation.
- Gender-transformative leadership activities for girls in shelters and MFP centres, including POWER4Girls emergency sessions and the establishment of girls' groups and community initiatives in emergencies, will begin on 16 March, targeting 3,000 displaced girls. A total of **80 MFP facilitators have been capacitated to deliver the emergency sessions**, equipping girls with life-saving information and skills to navigate day-to-day challenges and risks during emergencies. In parallel, **90 MFP facilitators have been capacitated to conduct GBV safety audits** in shelters to help mitigate risks faced by displaced women and girls.
- Feedback from UNICEF's call centre and community mobilization structures continues to **highlight requests for shelter, cash assistance, and in-kind support**, with notable gaps for families hosted by relatives or currently sleeping in the streets. Persons with disabilities and other vulnerable groups continue to face significant challenges in accessing support. UNICEF is conducting advocacy, facilitating referrals, and preparing more tailored assistance for families residing outside formal shelter settings.
- Feedback from UNICEF's call centre and community mobilizers highlights **ongoing needs for shelter, cash support, and in-kind assistance**, with significant gaps for families staying with relatives or sleeping in public spaces. UNICEF is advocating, facilitating referrals, and preparing more tailored support for families outside formal shelters.



Palestinian Programme

- Provision of PSS activities, case management services, PSEA awareness, and emergency child protection interventions **supported 8,645 IDPs in coping with distress and displacement**.
- Hygiene and basic protection awareness sessions were conducted by partners, **reaching 1,088 individuals to promote safe practices and strengthen community-level protection mechanisms**.

- Non-structured PSS and recreational activities, including LEGO-based play and sports, were provided to 3,338 children, **offering safe spaces for expression, play, and emotional relief.**
- Group sessions for youth and adolescents focusing on social cohesion, peer engagement, stress management, and sports activities reached 185 youth, **supporting positive coping mechanisms and maintaining community connection** during the emergency.
- Multidisciplinary services and Makani activities were delivered through operational centres across Palestinian camps and gatherings, ensuring **timely identification, referral, and support for over 3,000 children.** Partners are prepared to conduct GBV safety audits in shelters and roll out POWER4Girls emergency sessions with displaced girls.

HUMANITARIAN COORDINATION

On 28 February 2026, MoSA, designated by the Government as the sole authority to coordinate with the Humanitarian Country Team (HCT) in the event of displacement, convened a meeting with Heads of UN Agencies to align on preparedness measures in anticipation of a potential escalation. During the meeting, MoSA confirmed that the agreed coordination architecture falls under the Lebanese Response Plan (LRP), through the Inter-Sector Coordination Group (ISCG) framework, led jointly by MoSA and the Ministry of Interior and Municipalities (MoIM). At the sub-national level, coordination is led by Governors in coordination with the National Disaster Risk Management Unit.

Within this framework, UNICEF leads the WASH, Education, and Nutrition sectors, as well as the Child Protection Working Group, at both national and sub-national levels. UNICEF also contributes to the Health, Gender-Based Violence (GBV), Gender, Livelihoods, and Basic Assistance sectors. At the sub-national level, the Operational Coordination Group (OCG) is coordinating the response in close collaboration with MoSA and Governors. UNICEF-led sectors are continuously monitoring partners' emergency response capacities and contingency stock levels, while ensuring that sector-specific preparedness actions are undertaken in coordination with partners.

FUNDING NEEDS

UNICEF's three-month Preparedness and Response Plan requires US\$ 48.29 million to reach 1 million people in need, including US\$ 10 million for the immediate response and essential supplies. UNICEF is currently distributing contingency stocks valued at US\$ 8 million, which must be urgently replenished to avoid a stockout. There is US\$ 4.43 million in available funds for this response, in addition to an internal Emergency Programme Fund (EPF) loan of US\$ 4 million. Despite this support, a 91 per cent funding gap remains. Without additional resources, UNICEF will be unable to maintain critical services or respond to the escalating needs of affected children and their families.

The table below shows the funding received in the period covered under the plan:

Funding Needs	Funds Available	Funding Gap
\$48.29m	\$4.43m	\$43.86m (91%)

For more information please contact:

Marcoluigi Corsi
Representative
UNICEF Lebanon
mcorsi@unicef.org

Andrea Berther
Deputy Representative
UNICEF Lebanon
aberther@unicef.org

Sonia Vila Hopkins
Partnerships Manager
UNICEF Lebanon
svilahopkins@unicef.org

Anne Kindrachuk
Chief Field Operations
UNICEF Lebanon
akindrachuk@unicef.org

