



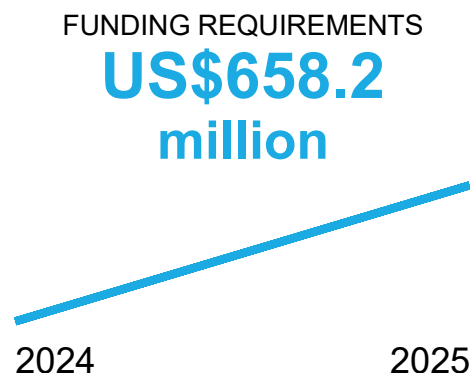
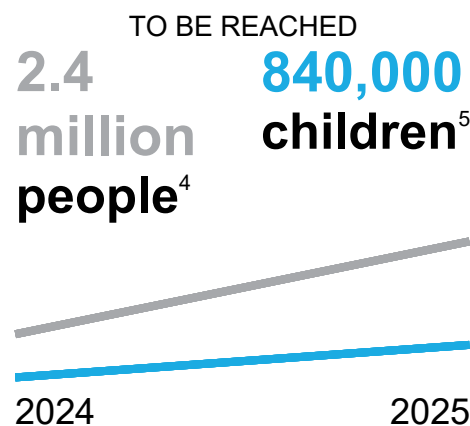
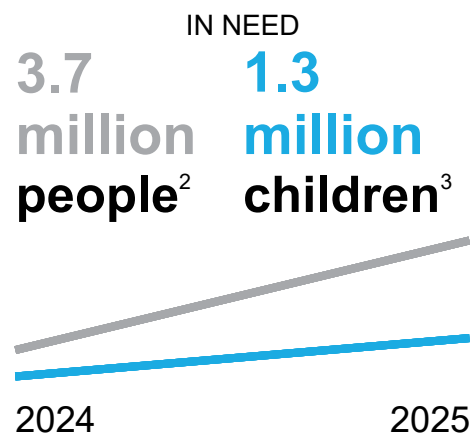
## Humanitarian Action for Children

At a school-turned-shelter, members of the Lebanese Red Cross, a UNICEF partner, unload essentials, hygiene kits and water to distribute to families displaced by conflict.

# Lebanon

## HIGHLIGHTS

- Although a ceasefire agreement between Lebanon and Israel was announced on 26 November 2024, the situation remains fragile. The conflict has been the deadliest period Lebanon has experienced since 2006, with 3,961 persons reported killed, including 248 children and 736 women, as well as 16,520 injured, including 1,436 children and 2,827 women.
- Conflict-affected populations throughout Lebanon face reduced access to services and heightened protection concerns. The International Organization for Migration has reported around 875,000 internally displaced people, while the Ministry of Education and Higher Education estimates around 500,000 school-aged children are displaced.
- UNICEF is scaling up the response for people affected by crises, including Syrian and Palestinian refugees, internally displaced persons and host communities. The focus is on vulnerable children. UNICEF is enhancing its preparedness for further escalation, increased restrictions in access, mounting child protection concerns, risk of epidemics, winter needs, increased socioeconomic pressures and possible civil unrest. Programmatic priorities include provision of safe drinking water, improved sanitation, learning continuity, child protection, health and nutrition, social protection and youth engagement. UNICEF leads the education, nutrition and WASH sectors and the child protection subsector.
- UNICEF requires \$658.2 million for humanitarian interventions to reach 2.4 million people in 2025.<sup>1</sup>



## KEY PLANNED TARGETS

**356,000**  
children receiving vitamin A supplementation

**276,000**  
children/caregivers accessing community-based mental health and psychosocial support

**457,500**  
children and youth accessing formal or non-formal education, including early learning

**2.4 million**  
people accessing a sufficient quantity and quality of water

All figures are provisional and subject to change upon finalization of the inter-agency planning in January 2025

## HUMANITARIAN SITUATION AND NEEDS

Compounding crises are impacting vulnerable children in Lebanon.<sup>7</sup>

Although a ceasefire agreement between Lebanon and Israel was announced on 26 November 2024, the situation remains fragile. Following the ceasefire announcement, thousands of displaced persons began returning to their homes in southern and eastern Lebanon, where villages were severely damaged during the conflict and are potentially contaminated with unexploded ordnance of war. Since September 2024, more than 875,000 internally displaced persons have been recorded. Furthermore, 11 UNRWA<sup>8</sup> sites are hosting Lebanese, Palestinian and Syrian internally displaced persons, with Palestinian camps in Beqaa and Tyre nearly empty.

The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees estimated there were 1.5 million Syrian refugees in Lebanon in 2024, 52 per cent of them children. The Government reports more than 522,000 people have left Lebanon for the Syrian Arab Republic,<sup>9</sup> including a significant number of Syrians.<sup>10</sup> The 2023 Vulnerability Assessment of Syrian Refugees in Lebanon found that more than 37 per cent of households had at least one member with a disability. Access to clean water, sanitation facilities and hygiene is a challenge for refugees in non-permanent shelters.<sup>11</sup>

The conflict, which began on 8 October 2023, has been the deadliest period Lebanon had experienced since 2006, with 3,961 persons reported killed, including 248 children and 736 women, as well as 16,520 injured, including 1,436 children and 2,827 women.

More than 12,000 airstrikes and shelling incidents have been reported across Lebanon,<sup>12</sup> with extensive damage to civilian infrastructure and disruption of public services, including 63 attacks on health facilities, with 178 health personnel killed and 8 hospitals evacuated.<sup>6</sup> There are 36 water and sanitation facilities damaged or destroyed, impacting access to WASH services for 390,000 people.<sup>13</sup> In areas of return, there will be increased pressure and demand on water infrastructure; and although some shelters may close, there will still be displaced persons in shelters in need of hygiene and sanitation support

Education remains disrupted because schools are being used as shelters; 40 per cent of the 1,014 shelters opened as of 31 October are in public schools. Following the postponement of start of the 2024–2025 school year to early November,<sup>14</sup> nearly 350 public schools have reopened. However at least 500,000 students<sup>15</sup> are estimated to remain displaced.

Children's nutrition status and cognitive development may suffer, leading to long-term impacts on their learning, behaviour and emotional well-being.

Children are also facing heightened protection risks, including psychological distress, family separation, trafficking and increased exposure to violence due to the conflict and displacement. The spread of unexploded ordnance raises risks of children being injured or killed. Women and adolescent girls face risks of sexual assault and harassment. In addition, women and girls face menstrual hygiene management challenges.

The risks of resumption of conflict, disease outbreaks, epidemics, harsh winter conditions, socioeconomic pressures and possible civil unrest will compound an already complex humanitarian situation and response.

## SECTOR NEEDS



**1.2 million** people in need of nutrition assistance<sup>16</sup>



**1.3 million** people in need of child protection services<sup>17</sup>



**1.3 million** people in need of education in support<sup>18</sup>



**3 million** people in need of WASH humanitarian assistance<sup>19</sup>

## STORY FROM THE FIELD



Abbas, 11, was hit by shrapnel after a missile struck near his house in southern Lebanon.

"I was at home when a rocket fell near our home," he says. "I looked at my hand and saw it was covered in blood." Abbas left the house, leaving everything behind. He wishes for everyone to return home, and for the war to stop.

For children throughout Lebanon, in addition to bringing death, injury and displacement, the escalation in hostilities has instilled fear in their daily lives. To support children and families, UNICEF is delivering urgently needed water, health, nutrition and education services and providing psychosocial support.

Abbas, 11, fled with his family to a shelter when a missile struck near their home in southern Lebanon.

# HUMANITARIAN STRATEGY

UNICEF is scaling up its humanitarian response (in alignment with the inter-agency Lebanon Response Plan) for conflict-affected children and their families, including Syrian and Palestinian refugees and vulnerable Lebanese. With a ceasefire in place, UNICEF has adapted its emergency response strategy to focus on the needs of all conflict-affected people throughout their displacement journey, including in collective shelters, host communities and on their return home. In addition, UNICEF is continuing its support to people in hard-to-reach areas, for Syrians in informal tented settlements and in sites managed by UNRWA.

For internally displaced persons in shelters, UNICEF will continue delivering an integrated gender-responsive and disability-inclusive package of child-centred services to promote well-being for the most vulnerable displaced people.<sup>20</sup>

Through emergency interventions and support to water networks, UNICEF provides safe water for conflict-affected people, including people in informal tented settlements, internally displaced persons in shelters and host community members. UNICEF also supports improved sanitation conditions, including desludging in informal tented settlements and installation of latrines and showers in collective shelters for displaced people.<sup>21</sup>

UNICEF is supporting reopening formal and non-formal education for children in public or private schools and in shelters, along with community-based education. UNICEF is also expanding capacity for alternative learning by establishing digital learning hubs and an emergency tutoring hotline.<sup>22</sup>

Primary health care services<sup>23</sup> for children and women are a priority for support and encompass immunization and prevention and control of epidemics and disease outbreaks. Nutrition services, including counselling and micronutrient supplementation, are integrated into primary health care and education and child protection services.

Humanitarian cash transfers are expanding to support the basic needs of vulnerable households of all nationalities through emergency top-ups, temporary National Disability Allowances for children, multipurpose cash and winterization support for those outside shelters.

Mental health and psychosocial support services will reach children and caregivers experiencing conflict-related distress, and children at heightened protection risk will receive specialized services. Case management will cover unaccompanied, injured, detained and abused children. Women, girls and boys benefit from gender-based violence risk prevention and mitigation programmes, including dignity kits.

The Rapid Response Mechanism supports basic needs for newly displaced people and those in crowded shelters and hard-to-reach areas, along with winterization in shelters. Children's needs are a priority. UNICEF is also reinforcing its emergency preparedness and contingency measures and those of partners, to manage additional shocks and bolster national and subnational coordination.

For crisis response coordination, UNICEF continues to lead the WASH, education and nutrition sectors and the child protection subsector in collaboration with United Nations agencies and humanitarian organizations.<sup>24</sup> In addition, given the risk of infectious diseases, UNICEF also leads the risk communication and community engagement working group and participates in the health sector. UNICEF has mainstreamed accountability to affected populations and protection from sexual exploitation and abuse across programmes.

# 2025 PROGRAMME TARGETS



## Health (including public health emergencies)

- **244,000** children vaccinated against measles<sup>25</sup>
- **600,000** children, adolescents and women accessing primary health care



## Nutrition

- **261,900** children 6-59 months screened for wasting
- **180,000** primary caregivers of children 0-23 months receiving infant and young child feeding counselling
- **356,000** children 6-59 months receiving vitamin A supplementation
- **230,000** pregnant women receiving nutrition supplementation



## Child protection, GBViE and PSEA

- **276,000** children, adolescents and caregivers accessing community-based mental health and psychosocial support
- **300,000** women, girls and boys accessing gender-based violence risk mitigation, prevention and/or response interventions
- **500,000** people with safe and accessible channels to report sexual exploitation and abuse by personnel who provide assistance to affected populations



## Education

- **457,500** children and youth accessing formal or non-formal education, including early learning
- **200,000** displaced children receive essential learning materials, including for early childhood development



## Water, sanitation and hygiene

- **2,400,000** people accessing a sufficient quantity and quality of water for drinking and domestic needs
- **700,000** people reached with at least basic sanitation services



## Cross-sectoral (HCT, SBC, RCCE and AAP)

- **465,000** people reached in households receiving humanitarian multipurpose cash assistance<sup>26</sup>
- **155,000** people in households with a person with disability reached with emergency cash transfer
- **50,000** people participating in engagement actions



## Rapid Response Mechanism

- **600,000** people reached with multi-sector essential supplies including for winterization



## Adolescents/youth

- **60,000** adolescents and youth participate in skills building programmes
- **6,000** adolescents and youth accessing employment support services

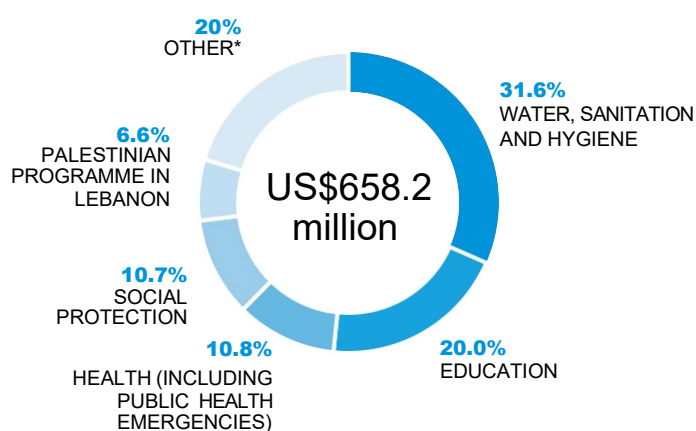
## FUNDING REQUIREMENTS IN 2025

With the escalation of conflict and deepening of humanitarian needs, UNICEF's humanitarian strategy in 2025 includes providing life-saving interventions for all conflict-affected people throughout Lebanon, focusing on children. This is inclusive of Syrian and Palestinian refugees, internally displaced people in collective shelters, host communities, people in hard-to-reach areas and those in conflict hotspots. Additional preparedness measures such as supply pre-positioning, as well as contingency partnerships and implementation modalities, will be a critical part of these efforts.

This appeal is provisional and subject to change pending the development of the Lebanon Response Plan for 2025.<sup>27</sup> UNICEF and partners will reach conflict-affected people throughout Lebanon with emergency water provision, support to primary health care and provision of basic items to keep children warm through the winter. As the sector lead agency for the WASH, nutrition and education sectors and the child protection subsector, UNICEF will ensure that the most vulnerable children receive essential supplies and services. This can only be achieved through financial contributions to this appeal.

With hundreds of thousands of children displaced and directly impacted by the conflict, humanitarian funding for 2025 is essential to ensure that UNICEF can continue to deliver life-saving programming. Without adequate support, UNICEF will struggle to alleviate the suffering of children, safeguard their rights and ensure their protection.

UNICEF requires flexible funding to ensure that the humanitarian response can meet the needs of all children regardless of their status, responding to their vulnerabilities.



\*This includes costs from other sectors/interventions : Child protection, GBViE and PSEA (6.3%), Nutrition (5.7%), Adolescents/youth (5.1%), Field Operations and RRM (3.2%).

Sector	2025 requirements (US\$) <sup>28</sup>
Health (including public health emergencies)	71,000,000 <sup>29</sup>
Nutrition	37,500,000 <sup>30</sup>
Child protection, GBViE and PSEA	41,500,000 <sup>31</sup>
Education	131,800,000 <sup>32</sup>
Water, sanitation and hygiene	207,800,000 <sup>33</sup>
Social protection	70,300,000 <sup>34</sup>
Adolescents/youth	33,800,000 <sup>35</sup>
Field Operations and RRM	21,300,000 <sup>36</sup>
Palestinian Programme in Lebanon	43,200,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>658,200,000</b>

## ENDNOTES

1. This Humanitarian Action for Children appeal is provisional, subject to change based upon the development of the inter-agency Lebanon Response Plan for 2025. This appeal is referenced in the Syria Refugee and Other Vulnerable Populations appeal for 2025.
2. The figures for people in need and children in need are provisional, based on Lebanon Response Plan 2024. The large increase in the number of people and children in need is also attributed to the inclusion of Syrian refugees, with 1.5 million Syrians in need of assistance, according to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), 2024.
3. The children in need figure is calculated based on an estimated 35 per cent child population among the total population of Lebanon. The large increase in the number of people and children in need is also attributed to the inclusion of Syrian refugees, with 1.5 million Syrians in need of assistance, of whom 52 per cent are children (UNHCR, 2024).
4. These overall targets are set based on UNICEF's highest programme target: reaching 2.4 million people with safe water (1.8 million through rapid repairs of affected WASH infrastructure and 600,000 displaced individuals in collective shelters or cut off from the public supply).
5. The children to be reached figure is calculated based on an estimated 35 per cent child population within the total 2.4 million population to be reached with WASH services.
6. World Health Organization, Situation Update #8. 8-14 November 2024, available at <[www.emro.who.int/images/stories/lebanon/situation-report-8.pdf?ua=1](http://www.emro.who.int/images/stories/lebanon/situation-report-8.pdf?ua=1)>.
7. Including Lebanese children and Syrian and Palestinian refugee children throughout the country.
8. United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East.
9. Government of Lebanon, Situation Report, 29 October 2024. According to UNHCR and other sources, around 80 per cent of Syrian refugees lack valid residency, exposing them to risks including detention and deportation.
10. The number of Syrian refugees reported by the Government of Lebanon to have crossed back into the Syrian Arab Republic is 364,540. Source: Government of Lebanon, Situation Report no. 36, 4 November 2024.
11. Households in non-permanent shelters often rely on water trucking provided by humanitarian organizations. In addition, about 25 per cent of toilets are shared among multiple households, disproportionately impacting female-headed households. Source: UNHCR, UNICEF and World Food Programme, VASyR 2023: Vulnerability Assessment of Syrian Refugees in Lebanon, June 2024.
12. Government of Lebanon, Situation Report no. 36, 4 November 2024.
13. WASH sector, October 2024.
14. OCHA, Lebanon: Flash Update #33, Escalation of hostilities in Lebanon as of 7 October 2024 – 10:00 p.m., 8 October 2024.
15. Includes students in public and private schools. Government of Lebanon, National Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) through the Inter-Agency platform.
16. From the Lebanon Response Plan 2024.
17. From the Lebanon Response Plan 2024, includes children, caregivers and protection of front-line workers.
18. From the Lebanon Response Plan 2024, includes children, youth, teachers and caregivers.
19. The pre-crisis number of people in need of WASH services in the Lebanon Response Plan 2024 was estimated at 2.6 million. The process for updating the number of people in need for 2025 has not yet started, but it is estimated to be no less than 3 million people.
20. The integrated package of child-centred services includes WASH, health, nutrition, education and child protection services as well as youth and adolescent engagement.
21. Under the 2025 Humanitarian Action for Children appeal for Syrian Refugees and Other Vulnerable Populations, the provision of WASH services for Syrian refugees will continue to be supported, including WASH support in the informal tented settlements.
22. Under the 2025 Humanitarian Action for Children appeal for Syrian Refugees and Other Vulnerable Populations, UNICEF leads the delivery of the Transition Resilience Education Fund with Ministry of Education and Higher Education, supporting access to formal education and multiple flexible pathways to education, under which 500,000 children will be supported to attend school.
23. This includes static and mobile services for primary health care.
24. UNICEF works with United Nations agencies and other humanitarian actors under the Lebanon Response Plan and the complementary Flash Appeal. In addition to the sectors UNICEF leads, UNICEF participates in the basic assistance, protection and gender-based violence subsector; the health sector; and the shelter and site coordination group. UNICEF also participates in the cash task force under the basic assistance group, and in the task force on protection from sexual exploitation and abuse.
25. Includes supplemental dose.
26. UNICEF will use several avenues and strategies to reach those in need of emergency support. UNICEF will prioritize families with children with disabilities that will be supported through emergency top-ups or through the temporary expansion of existing social grants to children (i.e., National Disability Allowance). If additional resources become available, UNICEF will reach vulnerable families with children who are affected by the conflict.
27. The total funding requirement for Lebanon has increased fivefold compared with 2024. This is mainly because this appeal now includes the needs of Syrian refugees in Lebanon, who in 2024 were covered in the Syrian Refugees and Other Vulnerable Populations appeal; and because of new needs resulting from the latest conflict. The numbers of people and children to be reached have therefore doubled compared with 2024. The Lebanon Response Plan is an integrated humanitarian and stabilization response plan co-led by the Government of Lebanon and the United Nations. For 2025, the Lebanon Response Plan will integrate the response to the ongoing conflict. This Lebanon appeal is referenced in the 2025 Humanitarian Action for Children appeal for Syrian Refugees and Other Vulnerable Populations.
28. For 2025, requirements are provisional pending finalization of the inter-agency appeal process in January 2025. The substantive increase in budget is due to an increase in numbers of internally displaced persons, and also due to covering needs of 1.5 million Syrian refugees, along with Palestinian refugees, and increased pressure on their communities and services. In addition, the increased requirements are attributed to 1) continued need to scale up for increased coverage; 2) sustaining interventions for a longer period of time; and 3) improving quality, including shifts in the strategic nature and scope of interventions to sustain the levels of services. This is moving beyond immediate needs, which was the focus of the 2024 appeal. Moreover, the costing related to operational contingency measures such as anticipated costs related to business continuity plans, supply pre-positioning (e.g., buffer stocks and warehousing) and implementation modalities have been integrated across the response and related budget lines.
29. For 2025, requirements are provisional pending finalization of the inter-agency appeal process in January 2025. The substantive increase in budget is due to an increase in numbers of internally displaced persons, and also due to covering needs of 1.5 million Syrian refugees and increased pressure on their communities and services. For health and nutrition, mobile medical units and primary satellite units are among the services to be scaled up and sustained for the response, and these are human resource-heavy, because the support of UNICEF covers outreach operational costs and staffing support for these mobile teams, as per the remuneration tiers defined by the Ministry of Public Health. There is a division of labour with the World Health Organization and other health sector partners. This line item also covers provision of health/medical supplies (renewable and specialized kits).

30. Ibid.

31. This includes \$16.6 million for prevention and response to gender-based violence in emergencies and \$800,000 for protection from sexual exploitation and abuse.

32. For 2025, requirements are provisional pending finalization of the inter-agency appeal process in January 2025. The substantive increase in budget is due to an increase in numbers of internally displaced persons, and also due to covering needs of 1.5 million Syrian refugees and increased pressure on their communities and services. For education – beyond learning and teaching materials, there is support to teachers (training in mental health and psychosocial support, flexible pathways, etc.) and education personnel. There is also support to the informal education services in shelters, including the Makani package and play learning for young children; this includes payment of Makani workers in the shelters.

33. For 2025, requirements are provisional pending finalization of the inter-agency appeal process in January 2025. The substantive increase in budget is due to an increase in numbers of internally displaced persons, and also due to covering needs of 1.5 million Syrian refugees and increased pressure on their communities and services. The emphasis is on the water provision and on sanitation, which are more strategic yet high-cost interventions for the response as we move forward, and which need to be sustained over time. This includes emergency water provision, which encompasses the following elements: system support to water establishments for emergency response; support for communal and shelter water storage; and water tankering/trucking and bottled water provision for internally displaced persons in shelters/outside shelters. All of this is in the frame of UNICEF as provider of last resort. Sanitation focus includes the procurement of latrines and showers and their installation (via either partnerships or contractual services) and desludging – all in the frame of UNICEF as provider of last resort.

34. For 2025, requirements are provisional pending finalization of the inter-agency appeal process in January 2025. The substantive increase in budget is due to an increase in numbers of internally displaced persons, and also due to covering needs of 1.5 million Syrian refugees and increased pressure on their communities and services. For cash/social protection, the increased budget requirement includes repeat/multiple payments using quarterly bulk payment transfers to individuals.

35. For 2025, requirements are provisional pending finalization of the inter-agency appeal process in January 2025. The substantive increase in budget is due to an increase in numbers of internally displaced persons, and also due to covering needs of 1.5 million Syrian refugees and increased pressure on their communities and services. Interventions are human resource-heavy to train and engage youth on skills building and employment services (using technical and vocational education and training).

36. The field operations line item includes the Rapid Response Mechanism expansion, inclusive of in-country logistics for distribution and pre-positioning of supplies.