



Children attend Don Bosco Public School, where UNICEF is creating inclusive learning environments and systems that respond to the special needs of children with disabilities.

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for every child

## Humanitarian Action for Children

# Lebanon

## HIGHLIGHTS

- Lebanon continues to grapple with a multifaceted crisis in which ongoing hostilities, a large refugee population, climate change and the impact of economic collapse are all deepening child vulnerability. Conflict continues to impact children. Since November 2024, at least 9 children have been killed and 110 children injured.<sup>1</sup> An estimated 1.12 million Syrian refugees are expected to remain in Lebanon in 2026, with up to 200,000 new arrivals expected due to instability inside the Syrian Arab Republic.<sup>2</sup>
- UNICEF humanitarian and stabilization programming in Lebanon is aligned with the Lebanon Response Plan and targets vulnerable children and households through individual, community and systems interventions. In 2026, UNICEF will deliver humanitarian response and anticipatory action activities covering child protection, education, health, nutrition, social protection, WASH and youth and adolescent programming.
- For 2026, UNICEF appeals for \$376.8 million to deliver life-saving and resilience-building assistance in Lebanon, including access to formal and non-formal education, emergency water and sanitation services and health and nutrition services for children and women.

## KEY PLANNED TARGETS



**500,000**

children and women  
accessing primary health  
care



**321,000**

students (from kindergarten  
to grade 12) enrolled in  
public schools and  
supported by UNICEF



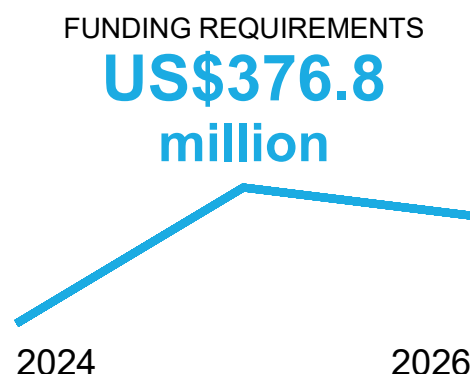
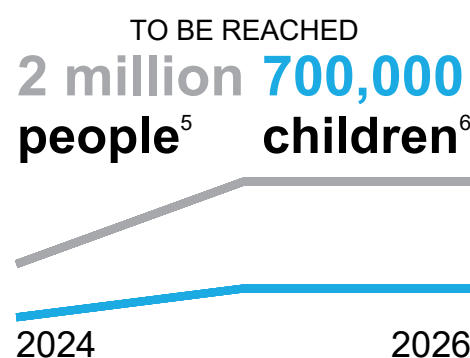
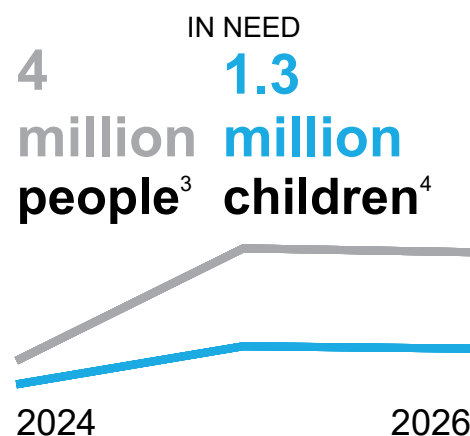
**2 million**

people accessing a  
sufficient quantity and  
quality of water



**100,000**

people with disabilities  
receiving cash assistance



The numbers of people in need and children in need, along with sector needs, are subject to change and based on the Lebanon Response Plan 2025 and the guidance for the 2026 Lebanon Response Plan. Overall targets are based on UNICEF's highest programme target, which is reaching 2 million people with safe water.

## HUMANITARIAN SITUATION AND NEEDS

Lebanon continues to grapple with a multifaceted crisis. Ongoing hostilities, the refugee population, climate change and the lasting impact of economic collapse are deepening child vulnerability.

Following the 2024 conflict, between November 2024 and September 2025 continued attacks across Lebanon killed 258 people (including 9 children) and injured 812 people (including 110 children).<sup>7</sup> Attacks across Lebanon have hindered post-conflict rehabilitation of water, sanitation, education and health infrastructure. Approximately 82,000 people remain internally displaced following the conflict, mostly in the south.<sup>8</sup> The conflict continues to severely impact children's mental health and psychological well-being, and unexploded ordnance is a threat to children's lives and safety.

Following voluntary and spontaneous returns from Lebanon to the Syrian Arab Republic in 2025, 1.12 million Syrian refugees are estimated to remain in Lebanon. This figure includes an estimated 120,000 Syrians who crossed into Lebanon in 2025 fleeing insecurity inside the Syrian Arab Republic.<sup>9</sup> Syrian refugees, particularly new arrivals and children with disabilities, remain vulnerable within Lebanon and face obstacles to accessing education, WASH, healthcare and other services. Many Syrian refugees are not registered and are therefore unable to work. A further 200,000 Syrian refugees are expected to return to the Syrian Arab Republic in 2026.

Lebanon also hosts approximately 203,000 Palestinian refugees, many of whom live in 12 camps and 42 gatherings. Palestinian refugees face multiple vulnerabilities including food insecurity with nearly 30 per cent facing acute food insecurity.<sup>10</sup>

Communities face water scarcity related to climate change and conflict damage, including extensive damage to water and wastewater infrastructure, exposing the population to heightened risk of waterborne diseases. Infant vaccination rates remain concerning, with measles vaccination coverage at 67 per cent, raising risks of vaccine-preventable disease outbreaks.

The crisis has deepened education inequities. Approximately 58 per cent of Syrian children are out of school. Lack of valid residency permits hinders the ability of 28,000 children (including Palestinian refugees from the Syrian Arab Republic) to access formal education and/or obtain examination certificates.<sup>11</sup> Furthermore, the impacts of both the conflict and the economic crisis continue to cause youth unemployment and 'brain drain'.

The erosion of household income and livelihood opportunities, following the economic collapse and the 2024 conflict, is making families more vulnerable, heightening the risk of child labour, child marriage, exploitation and other negative coping mechanisms. Concerns around gender-based violence remain significant due to safety and security concerns and vulnerable groups' prioritization of basic needs over protection. In 2024, children represented 26 per cent of gender-based violence survivors reported through the Gender Based Violence Information Management System, with reports of child labour to meet households' basic needs and child marriage making up 24 per cent of cases reported through the System.<sup>12</sup>

Ongoing conflict and poverty dynamics make 2026 another critical year for children in Lebanon.

## SECTOR NEEDS



**3.5 million**  
people in need of  
health services<sup>13</sup>



**1.3 million**  
people in need of  
nutrition assistance<sup>14</sup>



**976,251**  
children in need of  
child protection  
services<sup>15</sup>



**1.3 million**  
children in need of  
education support<sup>16</sup>



**3.3 million**  
people in need of  
WASH humanitarian  
assistance<sup>17</sup>

## STORY FROM THE FIELD



In June 2025, an engineer from the North Lebanon Water Establishment and a UNICEF WASH officer inspect equipment to support access to clean and safe water amid growing public health risks.

UNICEF is helping Lebanon's children and families stay safe with clean water. The laboratories of Lebanon's water establishments are being rehabilitated and equipped to ensure clean, safe water continues to reach more than 1 million people amid growing public health risks. Following the country's cholera outbreak in 2022, the need for safe water became urgent, especially for children. As public water systems were already struggling, that outbreak was a harsh reminder of how critical clean water is to public health. UNICEF has focused on rehabilitating and equipping water testing laboratories, particularly in areas under pressure from displacement such as Tripoli and Zgharta, in North Lebanon.

# HUMANITARIAN STRATEGY

Aligned with the Lebanon Response Plan, UNICEF delivers humanitarian programming, combining life-saving response with preparedness for shocks. UNICEF reaches most at-risk children and communities, including Palestinian refugees<sup>18</sup> and refugees returning to the Syrian Arab Republic,<sup>19</sup> with services and supplies at scale (including through the Rapid Response Mechanism). UNICEF will continue to support the safe, voluntary and dignified return of Syrians to the Syrian Arab Republic in 2026 as part of the Durable Solutions Working Group and in alignment with UNICEF programmes in that country.

UNICEF leads the WASH, education,<sup>20</sup> nutrition and child protection sectors in Lebanon and also leads the national Risk Communication and Community Engagement Working Group. UNICEF works with sector partners to ensure national coverage of services reaching vulnerable communities. UNICEF is active in working groups covering gender-based violence, gender and disability, ensuring the centrality of protection and inclusion in the humanitarian response. With the national Disaster Risk Management unit and the Lebanese Red Cross, UNICEF supports emergency preparedness in all governorates, while strengthening national and local disaster risk reduction capacities for child-centred contingency planning.

As part of the transition to national leadership of humanitarian and stabilization programming, service delivery is implemented in partnership with national systems and institutions: formal, non-formal, technical and vocational education<sup>21</sup> with the Ministry of Education and Higher Education; water services with the Water Establishments;<sup>22</sup> child protection, youth engagement and the National Disability Allowance<sup>23</sup> with the Ministry of Social Affairs; and health and nutrition with the Ministry of Public Health. Through capacity building, equipment provision and policy development, UNICEF works with national institutions to support them through the continuing impacts of the economic collapse.

Integrated programme delivery remains a cornerstone of the UNICEF strategy, including through Makani centres that provides non-formal education, protection, nutrition and youth programming. In Palestinian camps UNICEF delivers integrated programming for child protection, early childhood education, youth and adolescents, health and nutrition. To mainstream gender-based violence risk mitigation, UNICEF undertakes risk analyses and safety audits, reduces barriers for women and girls to access services and updates referral pathways across WASH, education, health and youth interventions. Joint programming with partners also strengthens access to maternal and newborn health and primary healthcare for the most vulnerable communities.

UNICEF prioritizes the protection of children affected by armed conflict, including by supporting care and delivering explosive ordnance risk education at scale.

Community engagement and accountability to affected populations are central to UNICEF's approach, with consultation and feedback mechanisms in place. Gender and disability inclusion are mainstreamed across programmes with strengthened, targeted programming for and with girls (POWER4Girls) and with children with disabilities. Protection from sexual exploitation and abuse is integrated into safeguarding. UNICEF also works to strengthen safeguarding minimum standards with partners, vendors and suppliers.

# 2026 PROGRAMME TARGETS<sup>24</sup>



## Health (including public health emergencies)

- 500,000 children and women accessing primary health care in UNICEF-supported facilities
- 118,000 children vaccinated against measles, supplemental dose



## Nutrition

- 440,000 children 0-59 months screened for wasting
- 107,000 children 6-59 months receiving micronutrient powder
- 50,000 caregivers of children 0-23 months receive infant and young child feeding counselling



## Child protection and GBViE

- 57,000 women, girls and boys accessing gender-based violence risk mitigation, prevention and/or response interventions<sup>25</sup>
- 137,000 children, adolescents and caregivers, including Palestinian refugees reached with multi-layered interventions including MHPSS, parenting support and case management services
- 57,000 individuals reached with Explosive Ordnance Risks Education



## Education

- 321,000 students (from kindergarten to grade 12) enrolled in public schools and supported by UNICEF
- 60,000 students in formal education benefitting from retention support or complementary services
- 50,000 out of school children and youth access non-formal education or catch-up programmes
- 7,000 Palestinian girls and boys enrolled in early childhood education interventions



## Water, sanitation and hygiene

- 2,000,000 people accessing a sufficient quantity and quality of water for drinking and domestic needs
- 94,000 people accessing appropriate sanitation services
- 1,300,000 people served by functioning wastewater treatment plants



## Social protection

- 157,500 people receiving humanitarian multipurpose cash assistance<sup>26</sup>
- 100,000 people with disabilities receiving cash assistance<sup>27</sup>



## Rapid Response Mechanism

- 300,000 people reached with multi-sector essential supplies including for winterization<sup>28</sup>



## Adolescents/youth

- 30,000 adolescents and youth participating in skills building and empowerment programmes
- 10,000 adolescents and youth accessing employment support services



## Cross-sectoral (AAP, SBC, and PSEA)

- 50,000 people participating in engagement actions for social and behavioural change



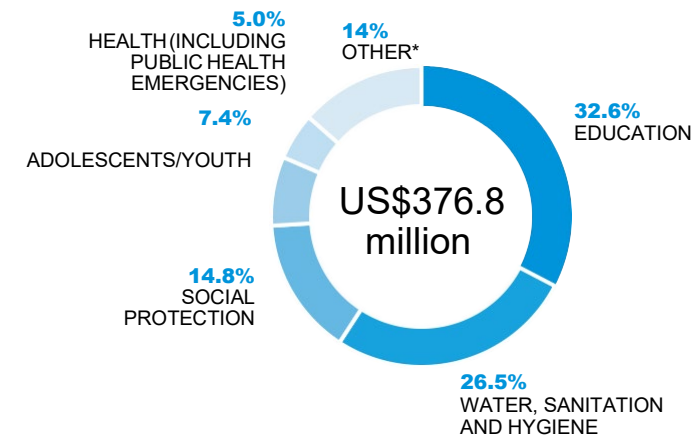
# FUNDING REQUIREMENTS IN 2026

UNICEF requires \$376.8 million in 2026 to provide life-saving and anticipatory action support for 2 million people, including 700,000 children (among them 357,000 girls). The reduction in the funding requirement is aligned with the projected reduction in the Syrian refugee population in Lebanon in 2026 and the removal of recovery interventions from the Lebanon Response Plan 2026. Post-conflict recovery needs in 2026 are addressed under the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework. Several humanitarian and stabilization targets remain unchanged in this appeal because they are unaffected by the removal of recovery interventions from the Lebanon Response Plan 2026.

Lebanon remains at a critical juncture in 2026, as the country stabilizes national systems while continuing to host Syrian refugees who depend on humanitarian assistance. Without adequate funding, UNICEF will be unable to sustain such programmes areas as formal and non-formal education, WASH in informal tented settlements and early childhood education for Palestinian children. Protection for the most vulnerable children remains central to UNICEF's response, while health and nutrition services for conflict-affected and refugee children continue to address life-saving needs. Cash-based and localized delivery mechanisms remain key pillars of programming that advance Grand Bargain commitments on localization and humanitarian cash assistance and reinforce national systems for sustainable delivery.

Given the rapidly shifting humanitarian and stabilization context in Lebanon, flexible, multi-year funding is particularly valuable to ensure a timely and effective humanitarian response. This appeal includes UNICEF funding for humanitarian preparedness and anticipatory action to prepare for future shocks.

Global reductions in humanitarian funding are expected to have a devastating impact on children in Lebanon, including Palestinian refugees. Fragile systems risk further collapse, with severe consequences for access to safe water, health and nutrition, education, child protection and gender-based violence mitigation and response, leaving children increasingly exposed to preventable disease, exploitation and violence.



\*This includes costs from other sectors/interventions : Child protection and GBViE (4.8%), Palestinian Programme in Lebanon (4.4%), Rapid Response Mechanism (2.1%), Nutrition (1.6%), Cross-sectoral (AAP, SBC, and PSEA) (<1%).

Sector	2026 requirements (US\$)
Health (including public health emergencies)	19,000,000
Nutrition	6,000,000 <sup>29</sup>
Child protection and GBViE	18,000,000
Education	123,000,000
Water, sanitation and hygiene	100,000,000 <sup>30</sup>
Social protection	55,900,000
Rapid Response Mechanism	8,000,000
Adolescents/youth	28,000,000
Cross-sectoral (AAP, SBC, and PSEA)	2,300,000
Palestinian Programme in Lebanon	16,600,000
Total	376,800,000

Figures are provisional and subject to change upon LRP finalization. The UNICEF Lebanon HAC 2026 appeal falls fully into the budget of the LRP.

## ENDNOTES

1. Lebanon Ministry of Public Health, 2025. Registered data with some data to be verified.
2. Lebanon Response Plan 2026 planning figures.
3. The estimated number of people in need in the Lebanon Response Plan 2026, pending issuance of the figure from the Lebanon Response Plan Steering Committee. The revised inter-agency estimate of the number for people in need is based on the number of vulnerable Lebanese, Syrian refugees, Palestinian refugees and migrants. This figure is subject to change based upon the finalization of the Lebanon Response Plan 2026.
4. The children in need figure is based on an estimated 35 per cent child population among the total population of Lebanon, according to inter-agency population projections for the Lebanon Response Plan 2026.
5. These overall targets are based on UNICEF's highest programme target of reaching 2 million people with safe water. Of the 2 million people to be reached, approximately 51 per cent are women and girls and 8 per cent are people with disabilities. The reduction in the funding requirement is based on various factors, including the removal of post-conflict recovery activities from the Lebanon Response Plan in 2026. Recovery interventions are now integrated into the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework for 2026.
6. The children to be reached figure is calculated based on an estimated 35 per cent child population within the total 2 million population to be reached with water for drinking and domestic needs. Of the 700,000 children to be reached, 51 per cent are girls and 8 per cent are children with disabilities.
7. Lebanon Ministry of Public Health (MoPH), 2025. Registered data with some data to be verified.
8. Lebanon Durable Solutions Working Group, September 2025.
9. Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), Durable Solutions Working Group, October 2025.
10. Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC), May 2025. Acute food insecurity is IPC Phase 3 or above.  
[https://www.ipcinfo.org/fileadmin/user\\_upload/ipcinfo/docs/IPC\\_Lebanon\\_Acute\\_Food\\_Insecurity\\_Apr\\_Oct2025\\_Report.pdf](https://www.ipcinfo.org/fileadmin/user_upload/ipcinfo/docs/IPC_Lebanon_Acute_Food_Insecurity_Apr_Oct2025_Report.pdf)
11. United Nations Common Country Analysis for Lebanon, September 2025 update.
12. Gender-Based Violence Information Management System (GBV IMS): Annual report 2024, April 2025, available at <https://data.unhcr.org/en/documents/download/115414>.
13. Lebanon Response Plan 2025 (pending revised number of people in need for the Lebanon Response Plan 2026): 2,196,440 Lebanese; 1,092,000 Syrians; 159,077 Palestinians; 96,878 migrants.
14. Lebanon Response Plan 2025 (pending revised number of people in need for the Lebanon Response Plan 2026): 941,243 Lebanese; 270,893 Syrians; 36,605 Palestinians; 29,036 migrants.
15. Lebanon Response Plan 2025 (pending revised number of people in need for the Lebanon Response Plan 2026): 522,597 Lebanese; 407,963 Syrians; 41,494 Palestinians; 4,197 migrants.
16. Lebanon Response Plan 2025 (pending revised number of people in need for the Lebanon Response Plan 2026): 560,201 Lebanese; 674,976 Syrians; 56,877 Palestinians; 10,551 migrants.
17. Lebanon Response Plan 2025 (pending revised number of people in need for the Lebanon Response Plan 2026): 2,146,366 Lebanese; 1,021,786 Syrians; 84,549 Palestinians; 88,773 migrants.
18. The unmet needs for Palestinian refugees in Lebanon are reflected in this Lebanon Humanitarian Action for Children appeal, with complementary funding captured under the Middle East and North Africa regional Humanitarian Action for Children appeal. The UNICEF Palestinian programme in Lebanon (PPL) covers child protection, education, health, nutrition, WASH and youth and adolescents programming.
19. The UNICEF strategy to prepare for a safe, dignified and voluntary return of Syrians to the Syrian Arab Republic includes support for the following: vaccination; WASH (including latrines) in staging areas; nutritional screening for children under age 5 years and pregnant and lactating women; advocacy for certification and placement exams to ensure reintegration into learning; livelihoods support; and support for unaccompanied and separated children.
20. UNICEF leads the education sector with the Ministry of Education and Higher Education.
21. UNICEF support to the education sector includes support to technical and vocational education and training as part of the youth and adolescents programme.
22. UNICEF's work with the Water Establishments is part of the national humanitarian and stabilization programming to ensure the provision of safe water to communities across Lebanon.
23. The National Disability Allowance (NDA) is Lebanon's first nationally led social grant, providing \$40/month to persons with disabilities. Introduced in 2023, the NDA responds to acute vulnerabilities exacerbated by Lebanon's economic collapse, which has left more than 88 per cent of the population into poverty. As a humanitarian intervention under the Lebanon Response Plan, the NDA addresses urgent needs by offering predictable, inclusive support to a highly vulnerable group. The NDA mitigates harmful coping strategies including child labour and avoiding healthcare. The use of the NDA to deliver emergency cash assistance during the 2023–2024 conflict in the south further demonstrates its relevance to crisis response. The NDA also contributes to stabilization by strengthening national systems, promoting social cohesion and reinforcing public trust.
24. UNICEF targets for 2026 reflect the revised population in need based on the draft Lebanon Response Plan 2026 planning figures.
25. This is a reduced target to ensure realistic target-setting and adequate reporting, especially across other UNICEF programme areas. This reduced target has no impact on the budget because the reduction only affects gender-based violence risk mitigation targets reached by mass sensitization interventions, which are carried out at negligible cost.
26. Crisis modifier in case of emergency, with people to be reached with a minimum of two rounds of cash assistance.
27. Indicator changed from people in households with a person with disability reached with emergency cash transfer to number of people with disabilities receiving cash assistance. This is because the NDA is an individual entitlement and not a household entitlement.
28. In 2026, the Rapid Response Mechanism package of supplies will cover winterization and emergency preparedness activities for 200,000 new arrivals and 50,000 internally displaced persons, along with a contingency stock.
29. The reduction in the budget compared with 2025 is due to a more focused supply package and adjusted targets that reflect a greater role of the Ministry of Public Health and sector partners in service delivery.
30. The reduced budget for 2026 is based on the removal of post-conflict recovery (including rehabilitation of water and wastewater facilities) from the Lebanon Response Plan and the Humanitarian Action for Children appeal.