

Local and international organizations in Lebanon call for sustained support to Lebanon amid continued deterioration of humanitarian situation

Ahead of the *Brussels 8: Supporting the Future of Syria and the Region's* Ministerial Conference on May 27, the Lebanon Humanitarian & Development NGOs Forum (LHDF), the Lebanon Humanitarian INGO Forum (LHIF), and the Working Group for People Affected by the Syrian Crisis (PASC WG) call for sustained support from the European Union, Member States, and other donors, as the Syrian crisis enters its 14th year. Lebanon's humanitarian landscape is deeply intertwined with the Syrian crisis, and Lebanon continues to be the country hosting the largest number of refugees per capita and per square kilometer in the world.¹ Moreover, needs have increased in 2023 and 2024 due to a cross-border conflict, further deterioration of the humanitarian situation, and heightened tensions between refugee and host communities.

Amidst Lebanon's complex crises, Syrian refugees are also grappling with increased needs, as 9 out of 10 refugees in Lebanon require humanitarian assistance to meet their basic needs.² The recent reduction of funds is likely to lead to increased levels of vulnerability among Syrian refugee populations.³ Protection risks are also on the rise amid restrictive measures and rising anti-refugee rhetoric over the past year.⁴ Further, raids, arrests, detentions, and deportations targeting Syrian refugees are still ongoing.⁵ In reaffirming the right of refugees to return voluntarily, safely, and with dignity to their country of origin, humanitarian organizations stress the imperative for Lebanon to adhere to principles of international law, ensuring refugees are shielded from refoulement, and afforded fundamental rights and protections.

These issues are particularly concerning given their ongoing nature amid Lebanon's cross-border conflict and the subsequent humanitarian impact across Lebanon. Over 90,000 civilians have been displaced from south Lebanon, needs have soared, critical civilian infrastructure has been destroyed,

¹ [UNHCR Lebanon at a Glance.](#)

² [UNHCR Lebanon at a Glance.](#)

³ For example, UNHCR and the World Food Programme (WFP) are facing significant funding reductions. In 2024, the two agencies are assisting 88,000 refugee families less than in 2023 with cash and food assistance, indicating a 32% net reduction in the number of beneficiaries. More information [here.](#)

⁴ [Lebanon: UNHCR - Protection Monitoring Findings - Q4 2023](#)

⁵ [Lebanon: Armed Forces Summarily Deporting Syrians.](#)

and essential services have been disrupted.⁶ As the conflict deepens and enters its 8th month, the urgency for greater funding specific for the Lebanon crisis is paramount. Without the support from the international community calling for a political resolution to the cross-border conflict, the humanitarian crisis will continue to escalate, leaving vulnerable populations in Lebanon in even more dire conditions. Local, national, and international NGOs remain committed to delivering assistance to vulnerable groups of all nationalities affected by the conflict, however we call on donors' sustained support on this.

LHDF, LHIF, and PASC reiterate our commitment to addressing the needs of all vulnerable populations in Lebanon, irrespective of nationality or status. The humanitarian response in Lebanon has experienced chronic funding gaps for years as vulnerable populations of all nationalities are struggling to meet their basic needs. We continue to call for long-term and sustainable funding for host countries dealing with the impact of the Syrian crisis, and, more recently, for Lebanon specifically to deal with the impact of the ongoing cross-border conflict. We reiterate our call for renewed efforts for a political resolution to the Syrian crisis.

The Lebanon Humanitarian and Development NGOs Forum (LHDF), created in 2014, is an independent entity, composed of over 90 local and national humanitarian and development NGOs operating in Lebanon across a wide range of sectors, facilitating coordination between them and with other relevant stakeholders to have an efficient response to both humanitarian and development needs in the country.

The Lebanon Humanitarian INGO Forum (LHIF) is an informal and independent coordinating body comprised of 68 international NGOs (INGOs) who are working to address the needs of vulnerable individuals, families, and communities throughout Lebanon.

The Working Group for People Affected by the Syrian Crisis (PASC) is a voluntary, inter-organizational, non-binding and informal network. PASC works to enhance the capacity and space for civil society organizations in Lebanon to influence their government and international actors to adopt policies that more effectively meet the needs of vulnerable refugees and Lebanese communities and implement them effectively.

⁶ [Lebanon: Flash Update #17 - Escalation of hostilities in south Lebanon, as of 2 May 2024](#)