

Humanitarian Crisis in Lebanon

Will you help Habitat respond with practical support for those who have had to flee their homes?

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The Unfolding Crisis:

Since October 2023, conflict in the Middle East has spread to Southern Lebanon, causing a severe humanitarian crisis. Thousands of families have fled their homes in search of safety, with Nabatieh and South Governorates heavily affected.

As of April 2024, the Lebanese Ministry of Public Health reports 1,324 casualties, including 340 deaths and over 820 injuries. Among the 92,621 displaced individuals, 51% are women, and 98% have taken refuge in urban areas. Displaced individuals face immense challenges, including limited access to basic services, increased socio-economic vulnerability, and a growing dependence on humanitarian aid.

Coordination and Preparedness:

Habitat has worked in Lebanon since 2001, providing safe shelter, WASH and innovative solar solutions for local people and refugee communities.

In the face of this crisis, the Habitat team in Lebanon is on the ground; conducting assessments of affected areas, engaging with local authorities, and visiting potential collective shelter sites. The Lebanon team is working with the shelter working group, disaster management and disaster risk reduction units in South of Lebanon. Habitat's plans are aligned with "The National Preparedness and Response Plan" which caters to the diverse needs of various population groups, including those in collective shelters, rental units, and those hosted by the Lebanese community, as well as Palestinian refugees, Syrian refugees, and migrant workers.

Needs and Gaps in Shelter & WASH:

Additional collective shelter sites for Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) as well as alternative accommodation options for Syrian households are urgently needed.

Cross-border hostilities have damaged at least nine water infrastructures, impacting the water supply for over 100,000 residents in the South and Nabatieh. The sector also lacks funds to replenish hygiene consumables for displaced individuals outside of collective shelters with a regular distribution modality.



Habitat for Humanity's Intervention:

Habitat's team in Lebanon team has developed a flexible intervention strategy; focused on improving the conditions of collective sites through close collaboration with emergency response and the shelter sector. It allows for rapid adjustments based on the evolving needs of displaced individuals and input from on-the-ground stakeholders.

The response focuses on two key activities: comprehensive maintenance of collective shelters and targeted repairs for individual households. These will address both immediate and ongoing needs, ensuring that vulnerable populations have access to safe, secure, and sustainable living conditions.

Comprehensive maintenance of collective shelters in South of Lebanon:

We will target three public schools in Tyre that continue to operate as schools while also serving as collective shelters. Work will include waterproofing, fixing windows, doors, and electrical work, and improving conditions and safety measures in bathrooms, particularly for girls and women,

in addition to minor WASH repairs. The project will also install solar systems, where applicable, to mitigate water shortage caused by electricity outages.

This sustainable energy solution will provide a reliable water supply and reduce dependency on the unstable power grid. Other maintenance needs will be addressed on an ad hoc basis as determined by ongoing DRR assessments. This flexible approach ensures that emerging issues can be promptly and effectively managed, enhancing the overall resilience and habitability of the shelters.

Targeted individual shelter repairs:

Habitat will address urgent repairs to ensure the safety of individuals and improve shelter conditions by fixing critical issues such as leaks, electrical faults, and inadequate sanitation facilities.

Summer Appeal:

The immediate response budget is £160,000. Habitat for Humanity Ireland has committed **£25,000** and our Summer Appeal has a goal to raise a further **£100,000**.

From the relative comfort of this small place, it's hard to take in that 110 million people in our world have been displaced by war, violence and persecution. It's hard to imagine what it would be like to have to flee our homes for safety. Internally displaced isn't something people choose.

Hope can be hard to find, we are asking companies, churches and individual volunteers to donate or fundraise and help us to be hope for families whose lives have been turned upside down.

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