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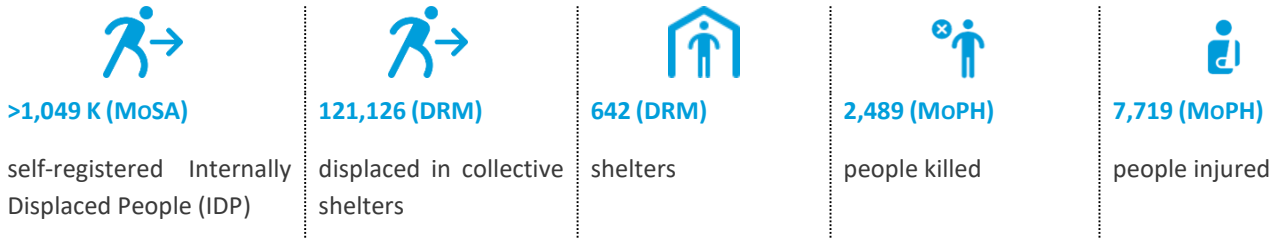
LEBANON: Flash Update #20

Escalation of Hostilities in Lebanon

As of 23 April 2026

This report is produced by OCHA Lebanon Office in collaboration with Inter-Sector Coordination Group under 2026 Lebanon Response Plan (LRP) Framework.

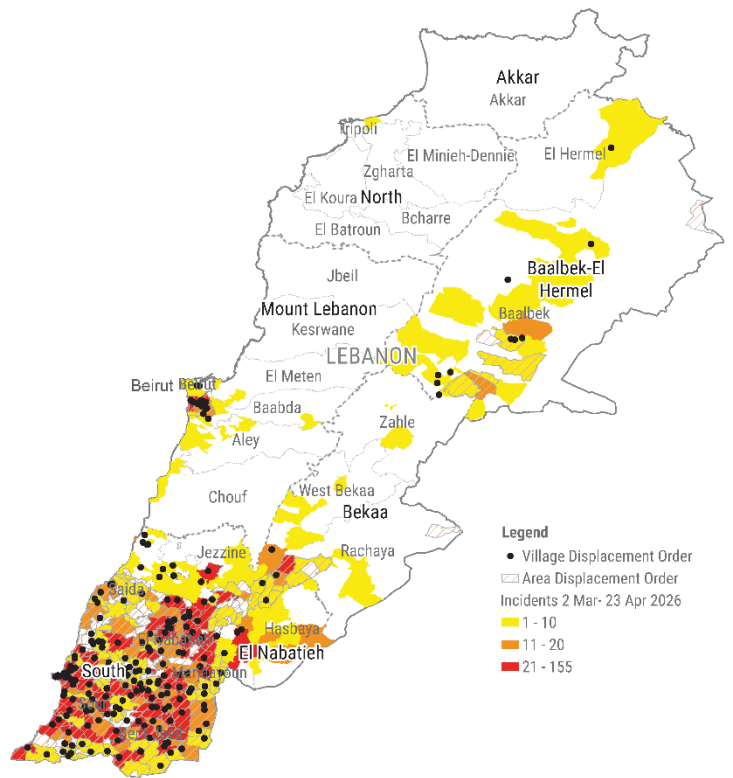
KEY FIGURES



HIGHLIGHTS

- **Ceasefire extended for further three weeks** even as population movements remain tentative and uneven.
- A slight **3 per cent increase** in the number of displaced people in collective shelters recorded: 121,225 people as of 23 April.
- The **protection environment remains highly fragile**, with elevated risks driven by insecurity, overcrowded shelter conditions, and limited access to services.
- Funding of the **Flash Appeal** rises to 33 per cent, or US\$ 102.9 million.
- Nearly **500,000** vulnerable, conflict-affected people have received **multipurpose cash assistance**.

CONFLICT INTENSITY MAP of 23 April



The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.
 Creation date: 24 April 2026 Source: incidents: public media
 Feedback: ocha@lebanon@un.org www.unocha.org www.reliefweb.int

SITUATION OVERVIEW

The humanitarian situation in Lebanon remains critical. Despite the extension of the initial 10-day ceasefire by three additional weeks, humanitarian needs remain immense and the situation on the ground highly fragile. Some one million people remain displaced across the country as conditions for safe and durable returns, unimpeded humanitarian access and the protection of civilians are not yet in place. Daily reports of shelling, demolitions and air strikes, as well as continued restrictions on civilian return beyond the so-called Yellow Line, have accompanied the fragile ceasefire.

Since the start of the ceasefire, at least 195 people have been killed and 175 injured as a result of hostilities. One 22 April, a journalist was killed and two injured in an airstrike in Bint Jbeil district (Nabatieh Governorate).

While the ceasefire has slowed new displacement, people remain on the move in uncertain and unpredictable ways, as many families attempting to return face damaged homes, disrupted services, and ongoing security risks. As of 23 April, 121,225 displaced people were staying in 642 collective shelters, an increase of 3 per cent since the previous report, while also reflecting a decrease of nearly 17 per cent since 16 April, before the initial 10-day ceasefire was announced. The situation is likely to remain fluid, with tentative and uneven movement patterns emerging in the coming days and weeks.

The escalation has paralyzed essential services and caused widespread damage to infrastructure and basic services across southern Lebanon, including residential buildings, road networks, and other vital services. Six hospitals and 51 Primary Healthcare Centres (PHCCs) remain closed due to violence, leaving affected communities without adequate access to healthcare. More than 147 attacks on healthcare have been recorded since 2 March, resulting in 100 deaths and 233 injuries among healthcare workers on duty, albeit no new incidents have been recorded since the last report.

Food prices have risen by at least 6 per cent, creating a gap in the already depleted purchasing power of people in need. Shelter capacity is strained, particularly in Beirut due to secondary displacement patterns, with IDPs moving back towards their home areas from other sites of displacement. Compounding needs are exposing many to exploitation, including through exorbitant rents, while their full return remains hindered by presence of UXOs and lack of basic services.

Since mid-March, several key bridges across the Litani River have been destroyed or rendered inoperable, alongside repeated strikes on secondary bridges, access roads, fuel stations, electricity networks, water infrastructure, telecommunications assets and health facilities. While the Qasmiya bridge has been partially restored, the wider transport network remains severely degraded, limiting predictable access between areas north of the Litani River (NLR) and south of the Litani River (SLR) and constraining sustained humanitarian movements, particularly for trucks, ambulances, large-scale return or relief operations.

HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE

Thanks to the continued generosity of donors, the [Financial Tracking Service](#) showed that the Lebanon Flash Appeal is more than one third funded, with US\$ 102.9 million reported as of 24 April 2026. Additional contributions are essential to ease suffering by enabling urgently needed support activities to reach the most vulnerable.

In-kind assistance continues to arrive: on 23 April, an international joint humanitarian convoy organized by the Jordan Hashemite Charity Organization (JHCO) arrived in Lebanon, carrying food assistance, tents, and essential relief supplies from Jordan and several partner countries, including Australia, Canada, Germany, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Portugal, Romania, Singapore, Spain, Switzerland, and the European Union. On the same day, a French contribution of over nine tons of humanitarian aid arrived in Beirut on a flight facilitated by the European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO), consisting of tents, solar-powered lamps and kitchen equipment to support conflict-affected displaced people.

Emergency cash support is being scaled up through government and partner mechanisms, with targeted assistance for households with disabilities and Palestine refugees, ensuring vulnerable families meet their basic needs. Schools are reopening where possible, using creative and hybrid learning models. Displaced children are supported through psychosocial activities and distribution of learning materials to maintain continuity of education.

Food distributions remain critical as rising prices and disrupted markets erode household purchasing power. Convoys are used to deliver assistance to areas where markets are non-functional. Primary healthcare outreach continues nationwide, prioritizing chronic disease care, vaccinations, and antenatal services. Nutrition partners are addressing wasting and supporting infant feeding practices, though gaps in safe preparation remain.

Displacement patterns remain unstable, with overcrowding in shelters and heightened risks of GBV, child protection concerns, and psychosocial distress. Vulnerable groups face overlapping challenges, requiring

stronger accountability and safeguarding measures. Political polarization and misinformation continue to fuel tensions. Peacebuilding partners, including women peacebuilders, are engaging communities to de-escalate tensions and strengthen resilience. Coordination structures remain active to adapt the response to evolving needs.

Shelter partners are repairing collective sites and distributing relief items to improve living conditions. WASH support ensures access to safe water, sanitation, and hygiene in shelters, mitigating public health risks.



Access and Civil-Military Coordination

Humanitarian partners, with the support of the Humanitarian Notification System (HNS), continue to support civilian populations in conflict-affected and hard-to-reach areas. Between 2 March and 23 April, **84 HNS-facilitated convoys/movements reached populations remaining in hard-to-reach locations** in southern Lebanon, including Hasbaya, Chebaa, Ein Ebel, Tyre, Rmeish, Rihane, Ebel El Saqi, and Tebnine, among others. These movements enabled the delivery of essential, life-saving assistance such as food and bread, fresh vegetables and fruits, flour, safe drinking water, medical supplies, fuel, hygiene and dignity kits, and nutrition support for pregnant and lactating women. They also supported individuals with heightened vulnerabilities to move to safer locations when requested and possible.

Despite reports that the Lebanese Armed Forces have begun repairing damaged roads and bridges following the announcement of the cessation of hostilities on 17 April, humanitarian access remains highly constrained. Access challenges persist due to the continued restriction on returns to areas identified by the Israeli Army, which limits movement and impedes sustained humanitarian operations. Emerging dynamics and related public movement warnings are creating uncertainty regarding civilian movement, returns, access to farmland, and humanitarian operations in affected localities. **Presence of IEDs, UXOs, and conflict debris continues to pose direct risks to humanitarian movements and safe access to affected areas.** The Access Working Group is closely monitoring the situation to track changes to the operational environment. This evolving context continues to contribute to uncertainty and unpredictability with respect to humanitarian access in southern areas, with particularly severe implications for thousands of families who remain in hard-to-reach locations



Multipurpose Cash Assistance (MPCA)

Payments for additional emergency MPCA are ongoing among Cash Working Group (CWG) partners and will continue in the coming weeks. Starting this week, a further 80,000 households will be targeted through the Government-led Shock-Responsive Safety Net (SRSN). As of 23 April, **490,883 individuals** (137,430 households) were assisted, representing a total **disbursement of USD 15.6 million**. Preparations are also underway to initiate similar emergency payments for conflict-affected non-Lebanese populations in the forthcoming period.

In parallel, an ad hoc CWG meeting was held earlier this week to discuss the draft inter-agency **emergency MPCA operational guidelines** applicable across population groups. Partners provided feedback, and work is underway to finalize the draft and circulate it widely among stakeholders for further review.



Education

The Ministry of Education and Higher Education (MEHE) is continuing the phased reopening of schools, with non-occupied facilities gradually resuming operations through a flexible hybrid approach. However, progress remains contingent on available space, staff presence, and students' ability to safely access schools.

Over **370,000 children** remain **internally displaced**, including more than **43,400 currently accommodated in collective shelters**. A total of 462 schools; 342 public, 72 private, and 48 technical, vocational education and training (TVET) institutions are being used as shelters for internally displaced people (IDPs), rendering them unavailable for educational use. While formal learning activities in these shelters remain suspended, education

and child protection partners continue to provide psychosocial support (PSS) and recreational activities for displaced children.

As of 23 April, approximately 180,000 internally displaced children have accessed formal education online, while 109,105 have attended in-person classes, highlighting the critical role of digital platforms in sustaining learning continuity. Education partners have also maintained support through the distribution of learning materials, with **1,584 education kits** reaching around **79,200 children** across governorates.

In the non-formal education sector, more than **4,087 internally displaced children** have benefited from both online and in-person programmes. In addition, **734 children have received individual student kits** or other learning materials.

Food Security & Agriculture

Since the escalation, food security partners have rapidly mobilized to deliver life-saving assistance to displaced populations across the country. Immediate food distributions were launched in collective shelters, with a total of **6.5 million hot and cold meals provided**. In parallel, **86,000 ready-to-eat (RTE) kits**—containing non-cook items such as canned meat, cheese, hummus, and beans—were distributed to help families meet their urgent food and nutrient needs.

Rising food prices continue to place significant pressure on conflict-affected households, particularly among displaced populations. **Price increases** are driven by **higher fuel and transportation costs**, heightened demand linked to the **escalation**, and **disruptions** to regional energy supply routes. In March, the cost of the Food Survival Minimum Expenditure Basket (SMEB) **rose to USD 43.5 per person**, marking a **6 per cent increase** compared to the February average of USD 41. Bread prices have also risen sharply, with **the cost of a large bundle increasing** from LBP 77,000 at the onset of the escalation in early March **to LBP 90,000 by 27 March**—an increase of approximately **17 per cent**. These trends are further eroding purchasing power and limiting households' ability to meet basic food needs.

Humanitarian partners continue to face the growing demand for assistance while contending with supply chain disruptions linked to the ongoing conflict. **The WFP Market Functionality Index** highlights the significant disruptions in most affected areas: **approximately 80 per cent of shops in Nabatieh governorate and two-thirds of shops in the South governorate are reported as non-operational**. To address these gaps, coordinated convoys are being organised to deliver life-saving food assistance where access remains constrained. Nevertheless, delays related to security clearances and administrative approvals continue to hinder the timely delivery of assistance.

Health

As of 21 April, primary healthcare outreach continues through **208 outreach units** (PSUs/MMUs) linked to **185 PHCCs**, supporting service delivery. Access to PHCCs services remains at scale, with **208,769 consultations** provided, including 78,172 IDPs receiving medications. Chronic disease care continues to be prioritized, with **33,816 IDPs supported through chronic medication services**. Essential preventive and priority services remain ongoing, including **vaccination of 6,632 IDP children** (administering 13,106 doses) and **3,3,59 antenatal care consultations**. However, service disruptions persist, with **50 PHCCs currently closed**, while five PHCCs remain operational for chronic and emergency care only.

Nutrition

A total of **18,156 children under five, adolescent girls, and pregnant and lactating women** received one month of emergency nutrition rations and micronutrient supplementation. This included approximately **170 children aged 6–11 months** who were provided with age-appropriate complementary feeding packages. Additionally, **9,202 children under five and pregnant and lactating women were screened for wasting**, with 195 children and 68 women identified and referred for life-saving treatment.

Digital and remote support mechanisms continue to complement in-person services. Through the Infant and Young Child Feeding (IYCF) chatbot, **626 caregivers accessed guidance on optimal feeding practices, while 309 caregivers contacted the national IYCF hotline**, with 209 referred for specialized support. Overall, more than **7,160 caregivers of children under five were reached with IYCF, nutrition, and Early Childhood Development (ECD) counselling and awareness**.

The nutrition sector has strengthened the integration of nutrition and ECD services across multiple delivery platforms, including Primary Healthcare Centres (PHCCs) and their Satellite Units (PSUs). To date, 40 nutritionists have been deployed across 40 PSUs.

In coordination with the Ministry of Public Health (MoPH), the sector is **centralizing all unregulated Breastmilk Substitute (BMS) donations** to ensure compliance with IYCF in Emergencies (IYCF-E) standards. To date, 35 non-breastfed infants aged 0–6 months have received one month of formula milk alongside IYCF counselling. However, a critical gap remains in the provision of essential BMS kits—including feeding tools, safe water, fuel, and hygiene items—required for safe preparation. Efforts are ongoing to mobilize resources to address this gap and reduce associated risks of infection and malnutrition.

Protection

Despite the formal cessation of hostilities, the humanitarian situation remains volatile, uncertain and facing a fluctuating pattern of displacement, with ongoing displacement and returns. While some households attempt to return, many revert to collective shelters within days due to **insecurity, housing damage, and limited services. Safety concerns persist, including family separation, unexploded ordnance (UXO), and broader protection risks**. A significant number of internally displaced persons (IDPs) remain in overcrowded shelters, where **lack of privacy and inadequate WASH facilities**—particularly limited GBV mitigation measures—continue to heighten risks for women, girls, and children. Humanitarian partners also report reduced presence in shelters post-ceasefire, further constraining service delivery.

The protection environment is marked by **rising psychosocial distress, tensions in shelters, and gaps in accountability**, underscoring the need to strengthen PSEA and AAP mechanisms. Some families report being unable to return home due to **damage or eviction** linked to unpaid rent. **Infrastructure and safety concerns** within shelters remain critical. Overall, conditions are not yet conducive for safe, dignified, and sustainable returns, with ongoing access constraints, service gaps, and funding limitations. Vulnerable groups including non-Lebanese nationals, older persons, persons with disabilities, migrant workers, and female-headed households face compounded risks, that includes **restricted movement, limited access to assistance, and increased exposure to exploitation and violence**. Mobile and remote service delivery continues, though gaps in coverage and MHPSS access persist.

Gender-based violence (GBV) risks remain high, driven by overcrowding, economic hardship, and inadequate shelter conditions. **Women and girls face increased exposure to harassment and exploitation**, particularly in private rental arrangements requiring advance payments. Demand for dignity kits and awareness sessions remains high, while GBV safety audits highlight critical gaps in WASH facilities, privacy, and access to services. Service provision in heavily affected areas remains constrained, with partners relying on mobile and remote modalities to maintain support.

Child protection risks have intensified amid returns and continued displacement, including family separation, exposure to explosive hazards, and limited access to services. To date, **70 unaccompanied and separated children have been identified and supported, alongside ongoing family tracing and reunification efforts**. Psychosocial support activities continue, though frontline actors report increasing behavioural distress among children, linked to disrupted routines and high caregiver stress. While efforts to expand risk education and outreach are ongoing, significant challenges remain, including overcrowding, limited supervision, and overstretched frontline capacity.



Shelter


Distributions of core relief items (CRIs) continue for displaced households, guided by context-specific prioritization. Following 20 April, repair activities resumed in operational collective shelters, with partners addressing priority gaps. While some families have returned to their areas of origin, others have relocated to collective sites or remain displaced, including those previously hosted by relatives.

The sector faces ongoing pressure on limited CRI stocks. Although departing families were encouraged to retain items, requests for redistribution have emerged. Due to funding constraints, blanket re-distributions are not authorized, with available stocks prioritized for new arrivals and urgent cases.

To date, shelter partners have supported **40,463 unique households** through the distribution of a total of **116,387 mattresses** and **148,959 blankets**, alongside other items such as **sleeping mats, solar lamps, jerrycans, and pillows**.

In collective shelters, where women and girls represent nearly 52 per cent of residents, **98,599 mattresses and 123,241 blankets** have been distributed, along with additional essential items to support dignified living conditions. Initial CRI distributions have reached all identified households in shelters, with ongoing support targeting new arrivals through referrals. Outside collective shelters, assistance continues on a case-by-case basis, reaching vulnerable households with **17,788 mattresses, 25,718 blankets, and 10,729 pillows**.

Shelter partners have also been assigned 654 collective sites for repairs and upgrades. Of these, 520 have been assessed, and 320 repair requests approved. Works have **commenced in 295 sites, with 183 completed to date**, focusing on improving safety, capacity, and privacy for displaced populations



Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH)

WASH partners have delivered assistance in **607 collective shelters**, ensuring continued access to safe water, sanitation, and hygiene services in high-density and high-risk environments. The scale-up of assistance is helping to mitigate public health risks associated with overcrowding, limited water access, and inadequate hygiene conditions.

To date, **72678 hygiene kits** and **40178 menstrual hygiene kits** and **1052 centre kits** have been distributed across shelters, supporting essential hygiene practices and reducing the risk of communicable diseases. In parallel, **3,611,896 litres of bottled drinking water** and **46,780 m³ of water through water trucking** have been delivered to 625 shelters, addressing immediate drinking water needs in sites with limited or disrupted supply.

In addition, **716,000 litres of fuel have been provided to Water Establishments**, sustaining public water supply services for **622,915 people**. WASH partners have also supported **213 water stations** with fuel, repairs, and spare parts to maintain operations, which is critical to sustaining network functionality under increased demand and reducing reliance on more costly emergency water supply modalities.



Social Stability

During the **seventh week of escalation**, Lebanon remained highly volatile, with political polarization intensifying around the government's decision to pursue direct negotiations with Israel. This **triggered protests in Beirut**, particularly near the Grand Serail, before being contained by **political actors calling for stability**. The announcement of a 10-day ceasefire coincided with unpredictable return movements, though the **sustainability of these returns was unclear**. Security incidents persisted, including strikes damaging Tebnine Governmental Hospital and targeting paramedics in Nabatieh, alongside a deadly attack in Tyre just before the ceasefire. Expanded displacement orders placed heavy pressure on Beirut shelters, forcing many displaced persons into public spaces, while misinformation and polarized narratives further fueled public anxiety.

Tension drivers remained critical across multiple domains. Host community pressure grew, with evictions, checkpoints, and restrictions on IDP movement reported in areas like Mansouriyeh and Mkalles.

State-citizen relations were strained by protests and demands for stronger security presence. The information ecosystem was highly reactive, spreading unverified evacuation calls and increasing panic, while aid delivery faced scrutiny.

Logistics and Telecommunications

During the first month of activation, the [Logistics Cluster](#) supported **49 humanitarian partners** through logistics coordination, common services, access analysis, and information sharing. The Cluster made available to organizations the **common storage facilities** in Beirut with 1,500 pallet capacity and in Zahle with 200 pallet positions. These facilities supported both temporary storage and cargo consolidation for convoy operations. The Cluster coordinated the humanitarian logistics response in Lebanon by aligning partners around shared operational objectives. Access and operational constraints related to security, border procedures, and infrastructure were monitored and communicated, alongside continued coordination with regional teams to support contingency planning and movements.

GENERAL COORDINATION

Humanitarian partners continue to **sustain response across all sectors**, maintaining assistance in both collective shelters and areas of return or secondary displacement. The response remains highly adaptable, with partners adjusting modalities, geographic focus, and prioritization in line with rapidly evolving needs and population movements.

Coordination structures remain fully operational at national and sub-national levels. The Inter-Sector Coordination Group (ISCG), sectors, and Operational Coordination Groups (OCGs) **continue to closely monitor developments, ensuring alignment between field-level response and national planning**. Response monitoring is key and essential to enable timely operational adjustments and inform response planning, hence the monitoring exercise aims to compare funding received against the reached beneficiaries, using a simplified and rapid approach adapted to emergency contexts.

Collective shelters remain open, as returns remain partial, and conditions for safe and sustainable return are not fully established. With the new guidelines, rehabilitation activities have resumed and larger number of shelters are ready to receive IDPs.

Efforts to strengthen the evidence base for response planning are ongoing. The **Emergency Rapid Needs Assessment (ERNA)** activities resumed inside and outside shelters after pausing for four days after the initiation of the ceasefire. The results will help to better understand needs both inside and outside collective shelters, with findings expected to inform response adjustments and future planning scenarios.

Overall, the response continues to operate with high uncertainty, requiring sustained flexibility, close coordination with Government counterparts, and continuous adaptation to ensure assistance remains needs-based and responsive to evolving conditions. As agreed with the Minister of Social Affairs, the Government of Lebanon's lead on the emergency response coordination, a revision and extension of the Flash Appeal covering the period June to August 2026 will be prepared.