

Lebanon: Flash Update #44

Escalation of Hostilities in Lebanon

As of 17 July

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

KEY FIGURES



Total displaced
(IDPs)

412,700

(DRM, LRC, IOM)



Displaced in
collective shelters

30,500

(DRM)



Shelters

292

(DRM)



People killed

4.3 K

(MoPH)



People injured

12.2 K

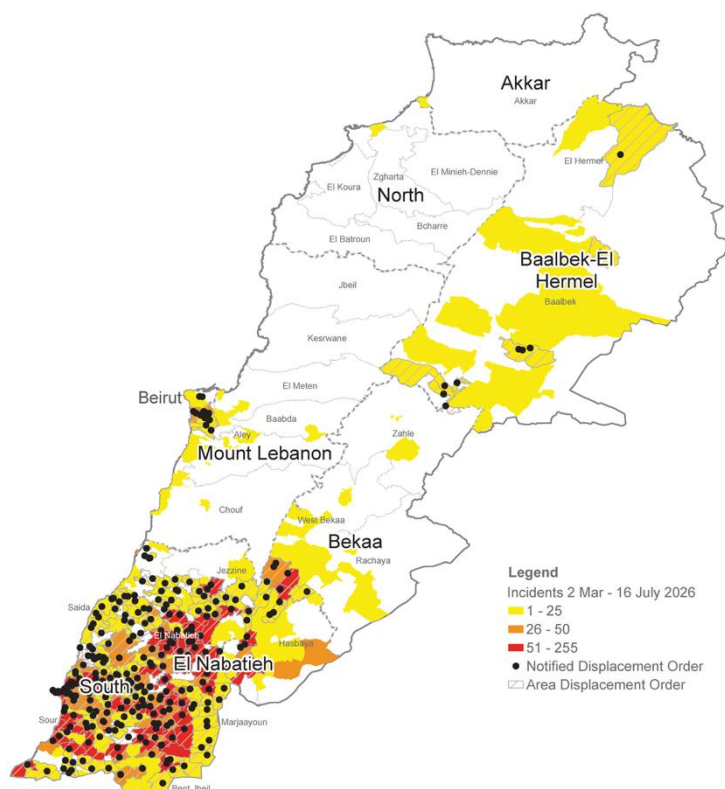
(MoPH)

HIGHLIGHTS

- At least 4,324 deaths and 12,224 injuries recorded due to hostilities since 2 March, with 344 fatalities and 223 injuries since the 20 June ceasefire announcement, according to the Ministry of Public Health.
- 741,111 people reported returned to their areas of origin, while over 412,700 people remain displaced, including 30,500 Internally Displaced Persons (over 53 per cent women and girls) in 292 collective shelters as of 13 July.
- The rate of returns continues to decline as conflict-affected populations face persistent barriers, including limited access to basic services, damaged infrastructure, and unstable security conditions.

SITUATION OVERVIEW

The humanitarian situation in Lebanon remains challenging with continued military activity, prolonged displacement, and precarious return conditions sustaining humanitarian and protection needs. Reports of airstrikes, artillery shelling, demolitions, and other military activity persisted in South and Nabatieh governorates, including locations in Nabatieh, Marjaayoun, and Bint Jbeil districts in Nabatieh Governorate, and Tyre district in South Governorate¹. Security incidents since the ceasefire announcement have largely concentrated in areas between the IDF-declared military areas announced



¹Affected areas include: Nabatieh el Faouqa, Zaoutar ech Charqiye, Kfar Roummene, Kfar Tebnit (Nabatieh); Qantara, Aadchit el Qoussair, Deir Siriane, Dibbine and Houla (Marjaayoun), Aita el Jabal, Baraachit, Beit Yahoun, Biout el Sayed, El Tiri, Haddatha, and Kounine (Bint Jbeil) and Majadel Zoun and Mansour (Tyre).

in April and June, posing continuing risks to civilians remaining in these areas, restricting freedom of movement, impeding returns, and threatening already damaged civilian infrastructure and essential services.

Conflict-affected populations continue to face prolonged displacement. According to Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) reports, 412,701 people remained displaced across Lebanon as of 15 July – only a 4 per cent decrease compared to 8 July. This slowdown contrasts with the sharp reductions observed immediately following the ceasefire announcement and suggests that displacement levels are beginning to stabilize as many households remain unable to return due to insecurity, housing destruction, limited access to services, and livelihood constraints. Seventy-nine per cent of people displaced originate from four districts in South and Nabatieh governorates – Nabatieh, Tyre, Bint Jbeil, and Marjaayoun. Vulnerable displaced populations continue to require shelter, food, health care, water and sanitation services, and emergency cash to meet basic needs.

Population movements remain fluid and increasingly complex. While overall displacement levels are decreasing nationally, localized increases in the displaced populations have been recorded in several districts. In Nabatieh, Marjaayoun (Nabatieh) and Tyre (South) district, the number of displaced people has more than doubled since the ceasefire announcement, while the number of IDPs in Bint Jbeil (Nabatieh) has increased from 128 to 2,129 (Nabatieh), according to DTM. These changes are mainly driven by the movement of displaced people from one district to another, as well as secondary displacement, influenced by evolving security conditions, access to services, availability of shelter, or proximity to areas of origin.

30,500 people continue to reside in 292 shelters. The number of open shelters has decreased from 304 to 292 since 13 July as shelter consolidation and decommissioning continues. Information from the Lebanese Red Cross (LRC) and National Disaster Risk Management Unit (DRM) similarly indicate that returns from collective shelters continue but at a slower pace. While approximately 340 shelters closed nationwide, authorities report that return trends have slowed in recent weeks and that conditions within the IDF-declared military area have remained largely unchanged, with no significant increase in returns observed. Despite the decrease in the collective shelter populations, the majority of displaced people now reside outside shelter settings. DTM data indicate that 69 per cent of IDPs live in rented accommodation, 15 per cent in host settings, 7 per cent in secondary residences, and 1 per cent in at-risk shelter conditions, including informal settlements and unfinished structures.

The pace of return continues to slow with one per cent increase in returns compared to thirteen per cent in the previous week. As of 15 July, DTM reports 741,111 people had begun returning to their areas of origin, including 8,500 people between 8 and 16 July. According to LRC and DRM estimates, approximately 240,000 people have returned to South and Nabatieh governorates alone since the ceasefire announcement, including an estimated 136,000 returnees to Nabatieh Governorate and 104,000 to South Governorate. Returning populations continue to face reduced service access, damaged infrastructure, and precarious security conditions, especially in conflict-affected and hard-to-reach areas of the South, thus resulting in return patterns that may be reversible as households evaluate the sustainability of return.

Humanitarian and protection need remain substantial among displaced populations, returnees, and host communities. Significant protection concerns persist, including UXO contamination, psychological distress linked to repeated displacement and uncertainty regarding return prospects, economic hardship, housing insecurity, legal and documentation challenges, and heightened risks of gender-based violence. Women, girls, children, older persons, persons with disabilities, and households facing prolonged displacement continue to be particularly vulnerable. The continued erosion of coping capacities, rising living costs, and limited livelihood opportunities are further exacerbating humanitarian needs.

Access to essential services remains constrained across many conflict-affected areas. Damage to water systems, electricity networks, health facilities, and public infrastructure continues to affect access to basic services and contributes to growing humanitarian needs. Water and electricity remain among the most frequently reported service gaps in return areas, increasing reliance on temporary and often unsustainable solutions. In the health sector, several hospitals and primary healthcare facilities remain closed or only partially operational, particularly in hard-to-reach areas of South and Nabatieh governorates, where damaged infrastructure, staffing shortages, and access constraints continue to limit service availability.

Humanitarian access remains complex and unpredictable, especially in areas of the South and Nabatieh governorates where security conditions remain volatile. Humanitarian partners continue to rely on the Humanitarian Notification System for humanitarian movements in hard-to-reach areas. However, partners continue to report delays, restricted time windows for movements, route limitations, GPS spoofing, and UXO contamination affecting humanitarian operations. The proportion

of humanitarian movement notifications receiving negative responses increased to 11 per cent during the first 10 days of July, up from 1 per cent in the previous reporting period, highlighting growing operational constraints for humanitarian actors. Access also remains operationally complex in parts of South and Nabatieh governorates, where damaged roads and disrupted telecommunications continue to delay and constrain the delivery of humanitarian assistance.

The Ministry of Public Health reported **4,324 people killed (including 392 women and 253 children) and 12,224 injured (1,450 women and 1,036 children)** as of 13 July. 135 health care professionals have been killed on duty and 406 reported as injured since 2 March. Since the 20 June ceasefire announcement, **344 people have been killed and 223 injured**.

Funding shortfalls remain a major challenge to sustaining humanitarian response. As of 16 July, the 2026 Lebanon Flash Appeal has received \$284.8 million, or 44.5 per cent of the \$639.9 million requested for six months of humanitarian assistance and protection for people affected by the renewed hostilities and residual impacts.

Humanitarian partners continue to emphasize key priorities for the response, including sustained de-escalation and cessation of hostilities, respect for international humanitarian law, protection of civilians and civilian infrastructure, safe and unhindered humanitarian access, support for safe, voluntary and dignified returns, UXO clearance, restoration of essential services, and urgent, predictable funding to sustain humanitarian operations and early recovery efforts.

For further information, please contact:
Kristen Knutson, OCHA Head of Office, knutson@un.org