



# LEBANON

## 2024-2025 IFRC network country plan

23 January 2024

Multi-Year Funding Requirement **CHF 151.9M**

### In support of the Lebanese Red Cross Society



**204**

National Society branches



**399**

National Society staff



**14,563**

National Society volunteers

### People to be reached



**116,000**

Ongoing  
emergency  
operations



**116,000**

Disasters  
and crises



**430,000**

Health and  
wellbeing



**8,000**

Values, power  
and inclusion

### IFRC network multi-year focus

#### Emergency response

- Multi-layered humanitarian needs

#### Longer term needs

- Health • Disaster preparedness
- Community resilience • Climate change

#### Capacity development

- Effectiveness and internal systems
  - Volunteering
- Resource mobilization and financial sustainability

### Key country data

**Population** **5.5M**

**INFORM Severity rating** **High**

**INFORM Climate Risk Index** **Medium**

**Human Development Index rank** **112**

**Population below poverty level** **27.4%**

# Funding requirements

2024

2025\*\*

Total **66.7M** CHF

Total **85.2M** CHF

Through the IFRC

→ **16M** CHF

Through Participating National Societies

→ **21.2M** CHF

Host National Society

**29.5M** CHF

Through Participating National Societies

→ **9.4M** CHF

Host National Society

**75.8M** CHF

\*\*Projected funding requirements

## IFRC Breakdown

**6M** CHF

Ongoing emergency operations

## Longer term needs

**15.2M** CHF

Disasters and crises

**50.8M** CHF

Health and wellbeing

## Participating National Societies

American Red Cross\*

Australian Red Cross\*

Austrian Red Cross\*

British Red Cross

Danish Red Cross

Finnish Red Cross\*

French Red Cross

German Red Cross

Italian Red Cross

Japanese Red Cross Society

Norwegian Red Cross

Qatar Red Crescent Society

Red Cross of Monaco\*

Spanish Red Cross

Swedish Red Cross

Swiss Red Cross

The Canadian Red Cross Society

The Netherlands Red Cross

Turkish Red Crescent Society

\*National Societies which have contributed only multilaterally through the IFRC in the first half of 2023.

## IFRC Appeal codes

Ongoing emergency response:

**MDRS5002**

Longer-term needs:

**MGRLB001**

## Hazards



Economic hardship



Food insecurity



Population movement



Drought



Fires



Storms

# NATIONAL SOCIETY PROFILE

**The Lebanese Red Cross** was established in 1945 as an auxiliary to public authorities, providing effective and efficient humanitarian assistance to vulnerable communities in Lebanon. It was admitted to the International Federation of Red Cross Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) in 1948. The National Society is the primary provider of ambulance care and blood transfusion services in the country, which are delivered free of charge to those in need. The National Society is also a major actor in the areas of disaster risk management and medico-social services. During the civil war in Lebanon, the National Society built a reputation providing neutral and impartial services to communities in the country and has continued to provide critical services during periods of unrest following the [2019 protest movement](#).

The Lebanese Red Cross has been responding to many crises in recent years and has made significant achievements. Since 2018, the National Society has provided services and humanitarian assistance to more than 475,000 people through its long-term services and development programmes. Through its disaster response and early recovery programmes, it has assisted more than 142,000 people in need of support in 2022. In 2023 alone, the Lebanese Red Cross [responded](#) to multiple needs linked to complex national and regional crises, and climate and health related hazards.

The Lebanese Red Cross [Strategic Plan 2021-2024](#) identifies five overarching operational priorities:

- Ensuring that victims of accidents, illnesses and major incidents receive prompt and effective pre-hospital emergency care
- Providing safe blood products to patients in Lebanon
- Improving access to quality health care services
- Meeting the basic needs, including economic security, shelter, water, sanitation and hygiene of vulnerable people affected by disasters, crises, and emergencies
- Reducing the impact of disasters on the population through prevention and mitigation measures

The Strategic plan also defines ten objectives for the development of the National Society, and three cross-cutting themes consisting of protection, gender and inclusion, community engagement and accountability, and social and environmental development.

The chief strength of the National Society consists in its excellent reputation which always provides the National Society with access to all parts of the country. The Lebanese Red Cross' provisioning of vital national service such as ambulance and blood transfusion give the National Society high visibility and makes it a key partner to authorities and other organizations. The National Society has a wide-ranging response capacity throughout the country which enables it to respond rapidly to disasters and crises.

In Lebanon, the **Palestine Red Crescent Society** is also active, in view of the specific needs of Palestinian refugees. Founded in 1968, the [Palestine Red Crescent Society](#) is the only independent Palestinian institution able to work in the West Bank, East Jerusalem and Gaza, as well as supporting Palestinian refugees in Lebanon, Syria, and Egypt. Until 1994, the Palestine Red Crescent worked outside of the occupied Palestinian territories, after which it was allowed to operate in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. The National Society has a total of 36 branches, sub-branches, youth and volunteer committees in the West Bank, East Jerusalem and Gaza, along with four branches in the diaspora in Lebanon, Syria, Iraq, and Egypt. The National Society supports Palestinians in Lebanon and other vulnerable communities to access primary and secondary health care services, which would otherwise be unaffordable.

The Palestine Red Crescent's branch in Lebanon manages a series of hospitals and clinics, and it provides emergency and other services in refugee camps and other Palestinian communities. Its aim is to support populations who have limited or no access to social and civil rights, public health and educational facilities, and public social services. Without compromising on the medical services offered to the local Palestinian population, the National Society also aims to continue receiving vulnerable refugees at hospitals in Beirut, Tripoli, Saida, Bekaa-Bar Elias, and Tyr.

The Palestine Red Crescent's Lebanese branch currently provides community-based health and first aid at eight refugee camps in Ain el Helwe, Mar Elias, Shatilla, Nahr el Bared, Baalbeck, Burj el Shamali, Albuss, and Tyr. The branch provides in-patient care across five hospitals, for internal medicine, intensive care, pediatric, gynecological, and obstetric services. This plan focuses on the priorities of the Lebanese Red Cross, as well as IFRC network's support to the Palestine Red Crescent Society Lebanon Branch.

# IFRC NETWORK ACTION

## JOINT SITUATIONAL ANALYSIS

Lebanon has been grappling with a multifaceted humanitarian crisis since late 2019. Two powerful explosions at the port of Beirut on 4 August 2020 caused the destabilization of a nation already contending with economic and financial downturns, political instability, the repercussions of the COVID-19 pandemic, and the responsibility of hosting the world's highest refugee population per capita. The country is now in its fourth year of a profound economic, political, and social crisis. As of April 2023, driven by an unprecedented currency depreciation, Lebanon registered the world's highest nominal food price inflation rate at 350 percent year-on-year. The end of the presidential term on 31 October 2022 without the election of a successor has created an institutional void, further delaying the rollout of a comprehensive economic recovery plan.

Adding to the complexity of the situation, Lebanon has also witnessed significant security incidents over the past year. Deadly clashes in Ain al Helwe and Kahale have further threatened the nation's stability. Tensions on the border with Israel have also escalated, adding another layer of concern for the Lebanese people and the international community. Escalations in hostilities in the Palestine-Israel have evoked memories of the 2006 conflict and its profound impact on Lebanon. The northern borders with Lebanon have been witnessing continuous conflicts since 9 October resulting in infrastructure damage and over 10 casualties as well as the displacement of almost 10,000 people both in the south and elsewhere within the country. Locals are concerned that a potential escalation of hostilities could result in a more catastrophic outcome in the present day compared to the 2006 war.

Lebanon's socioeconomic collapse ranks among the top three most severe global economic crises. More than 80 percent of the population now lives in multidimensional poverty, a rate that has doubled since 2019. This poverty encompasses deprivations in healthcare, electricity, water, sanitation, transportation, connectivity, and income sources.

The country's health care system, already strained by the COVID-19 pandemic, is now also grappling with the aftermath of a cholera outbreak. The system is ill-equipped to handle these challenges, especially given the ongoing economic downturn. Essential medicines, once subsidized, have become scarce. Healthcare providers face operational cutbacks due to dwindling fuel, supplies, and human resources. A staggering 40 percent of doctors have left the country, as estimated by the World Health Organization (WHO) in 2021. Recent assessments indicate that a significant portion of Lebanese and Palestinian households could not afford medical treatments in the past three months. The health care system's challenges extend to blood services, which are insufficient to meet the annual demand for blood units. The country's reliance on replacement donors further exacerbates the situation.

Food security is another pressing concern. The first Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) analysis in September 2022 projected acute food insecurity for a significant portion of both Lebanese and Syrian refugee populations. The first Lebanon IPC Acute Food Insecurity Analysis indicated that, between September and December 2022, about 1.98 million Lebanese residents and Syrian refugees—corresponding to 37 percent of the analyzed population—are in IPC Phase 3 or above (Population classified in IPC Phase 3 require urgent humanitarian action to reduce food gaps, protect and restore livelihoods and prevent acute malnutrition).

# ONGOING EMERGENCY RESPONSE

For real-time information on emergencies, see [IFRC GO page Lebanon](#)

<b>Emergency Appeal name</b>	Middle East Crisis   MENA
<b>Appeal number</b>	MDRS5002
<b>Duration</b>	18/10/2023 to 31/12/2024
<b>People to be assisted</b>	Total 500,000, in Lebanon 116,000
<b>Funding requirement</b>	Total funding requirements through the IFRC Appeal: CHF 86 million, for Lebanon CHF 6 million Total federation-wide funding requirements: CHF 100 million, for Lebanon CHF 9 million
<b>Emergency Appeal</b>	<a href="#">Middle East Crisis   Mena Emergency Appeal</a>
<b>Operational strategy</b>	<a href="#">Operational Strategy: Middle East Complex Emergency Appeal</a> <a href="#">Lebanon National Society Response Plan</a>

On 7 October 2023, an escalation of hostilities occurred across the Gaza Strip and the West Bank. The humanitarian needs in the occupied Palestinian territories (oPt) are immense, and the situation is experiencing a rapid decline. Conditions are expected to continue to deteriorate with the increasing numbers of casualties, damaged vital infrastructure, restricted access, and anticipated mass internal displacement with limited passages or humanitarian corridors.

Hostilities in the Palestine-Israel region have precipitated a notable increase in tensions along Lebanon's southern border, evoking memories of the 2006 conflict and its profound impact on the region. The Lebanese Red Cross, informed by the lessons of the past, has taken decisive action to fortify its preparedness for a potential further escalation and to address the immediate humanitarian needs that have emerged from the current situation. In anticipation of potential scenarios that could unfold on a nationwide scale, the Lebanese Red Cross has identified three governorates—South Lebanon, Bekaa, and Beirut—as high-risk areas based on historical data. The current population of these governorates stands at approximately 1,750,000, with a demographic distribution of 51% females and 49% males, including 29% children aged 0-18.

In preparation for these challenges, the Lebanese Red Cross has embarked on a series of readiness and response initiatives, including the prepositioning of essential stocks, and bolstering the capabilities of emergency medical services. The Lebanese Red Cross has also established specific triggers for further action, addressing:

- Health emergencies: mass casualty events, healthcare facilities at capacity, critical medical supply shortages, and disease outbreaks due to compromised infrastructure.
- Shelter crises: significant internal displacement, lack of adequate shelter, and extreme weather conditions that exacerbate vulnerabilities.
- Food security: disruptions in supply chains, heightened food insecurity among displaced populations, and the destruction of agricultural assets.

The Lebanese Red Cross response plan delineates actions to ensure that the National Society is equipped and ready to respond to the evolving crisis. By implementing these measures, the Lebanese Red Cross is committed to maintaining a state of readiness to provide timely and effective humanitarian assistance to those impacted by the escalation in hostilities.



Lebanese Red Cross blanket distributions to Syrians in Katermaya (Photo: IFRC)

# STRATEGIC PRIORITIES



## Climate and environment

In Lebanon, climate change is casting a profound impact on both the health and livelihoods of its citizens. In the years ahead, it is anticipated that nearly 65 per cent of days in Lebanon could be swelteringly hot, posing severe heat-related health risks to the population. Coupled with the escalating heat, the increasing frequency of sand and dust storms due to drought and desertification is intensifying health risks from air pollution. The Environment Committee in the Lebanese parliament has voiced concerns about the human role in these environmental challenges. The committee highlighted that a staggering 80 per cent of fires in Lebanon are man-made, suggesting that Lebanon is on a trajectory towards desertification.

The air quality in Beirut has significantly deteriorated, with thick brownish smog resulting from the widespread use of diesel generators and the combustion of low-quality fuel. The collapse of the electricity sector has further intensified the problem, leading to a 300 per cent increase in pollution from diesel generators according to research by the American University of Beirut. This heightened pollution level poses severe health risks, including respiratory issues among the population. This is compounded by a lack of proper waste management system in place. With collection of waste management inconsistent, open dumping and burning of wastes have become prevalent, leading to environmental and health hazards in the long run. Growing risks from climate change require continued investments in adaptation and preparedness to meet future humanitarian needs resulting from its effects.

Water shortage in Lebanon has reached a critical level. Despite the relative abundance of water resources in the country, mismanagement, contamination, and excessive runoff have exacerbated the water shortage situation in the country. More than 92 percent of Lebanon's wastewater is disposed of without treatment. Most of the river water contains harmful bacteria, making it unsafe for consumption and daily use. Reduced precipitation and the salination of aquifers are diminishing the availability of clean water, a vital resource for any nation.

The repercussions of these environmental changes are not limited to health but extend to the very livelihoods that sustain the Lebanese people. The country's tourism sector, responsible for 38 per cent of the workforce, is in a vulnerable

situation. The combined effects of rising heat, dwindling precipitation, and the threat of sea-level rise could severely impact this industry. Similarly, the agricultural and livestock sectors face daunting challenges in the form of drought, extreme heat, and water shortages, which jeopardizes food security and economic stability. Climate-driven impacts are poised to create substantial protection challenges. The most vulnerable, including those in informal settlements and refugee communities, will endure the maximum impact of these catastrophic changes.

### Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

The Lebanese Red Cross works closely with the Ministry of Environment through a Memorandum of Understanding. The National Society is a signatory of the global Climate and Environment Charter for humanitarian organizations. It is also part of the IFRC's Global Climate Resilience Programme, which aims to scale up locally led climate-smart disaster risk reduction and adaptation efforts to reduce the impact of climate-related disasters and build community climate resilience. The programme aims to support 500 million people in 100 of the most climate-vulnerable countries, focusing on the least supported and marginalized communities. This holistic, multi-year programmatic approach consists of four operational pillars: (1) scaling up climate-smart disaster risk reduction, anticipatory action and preparedness; (2) reducing the public health impacts of climate change; (3) addressing climate displacement; and (4) enabling climate-resilient livelihoods and ecosystem services.

The Lebanese Red Cross seeks to:

- implement climate change adaptation approaches, including awareness building, training and capacity building for communities, youth and volunteers
- implement sustainable energy solutions, expand its use of renewable, clean energy in its facilities, ensure business continuity in the face of energy shortages, and reduce carbon emissions
- integrate climate programming into the National Society's activities, and increase education and awareness-raising among the Lebanese Red Cross's youth sector



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## Planned activities in 2024

- Further leverage disaster risk reduction awareness sessions to disseminate key messages about hazards impacted by climate change, such as floods, winter storms, forest fires, and heatwaves
- Continue to invest in early warning early action and in vulnerability and capacity assessments ([VCA](#)) taking into account climate change
- Further develop targeted actions such nature-based solutions for disaster risk reduction and green roofing
- Continue promoting environmentally sustainable interventions under its [Green Response](#) projects, particularly in water, sanitation and hygiene such as through solid waste compactors, grey water management and renewable energy
- Increase tree planting more trees and the rehabilitation of public green spaces as part of the environment programme

- Further work on the solarization of emergency medical services stations beyond the 20 already equipped and expand to dispatch centres and UHF relays;
  - Pursue efforts in carpooling, recycling of waste, reduction in usage of papers amongst others Spread environmental awareness and promote the adoption of new environmental attitudes and behaviour, leveraging in particular the youth sector
  - Leverage young volunteers trained through the Youth-[adapt curriculum](#) for climate-smart disaster risk reduction
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## Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The **Austrian Red Cross**, **Japanese Red Cross**, The **Netherlands Red Cross** and **Norwegian Red Cross** will be providing support to the National Society in integrating environmental sustainability into WASH interventions in institutions, particularly in public schools and informal settlements.



## Disasters and crises

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The complexity of the crisis in Lebanon has had severe impacts on people's access to necessities. As of 2021, over 80 per cent of the people in Lebanon live in [multidimensional poverty](#), indicating deprivation across areas such as healthcare, electricity, water, sanitation, transportation, connectivity, and means of income. Since 2019, the rate of multidimensional poverty in the country has doubled. The country's socioeconomic collapse has spiraled into one of the top three most severe economic crises in the world.

According to the [2024 Inform Risk Index](#), Lebanon ranks 65 out of 191 countries, indicating that the country is also vulnerable to various risks of natural hazards. Global climate change trends are intensifying Lebanon's susceptibility to wildfires, floods, extreme winter storms, and droughts. In January 2023, Lebanon faced severe weather conditions in the form of heavy rain, precipitation, cold temperatures, and strong winds. The inundation of roads heightened traffic safety risks across the country, aggravating health risks for those living in inadequate shelter, including displaced Syrians in informal tented settlements. Insecurity and violence are on the rise, with [deadly clashes](#) in mid-2023, and tensions on the border with Israel since October (see also under ongoing emergency response section).

The [Assessment Capacities Project \(ACAPS\)](#) highlights two primary humanitarian challenges prevalent in Lebanon: the

socioeconomic crisis and the Syrian refugee crisis. The drivers of the socioeconomic crisis are manifold, but the outcomes are clear: limited access to foreign exchange and imports, and challenges in accessing food, healthcare, education, and other essential services.

## Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

The Lebanese Red Cross is a major responder to disasters and crises that occur in Lebanon, and in 2023 alone, with support from IFRC emergency funding mechanisms, has conducted operations related to the [complex humanitarian crisis](#), severe [weather](#), [civil unrest](#), [conflict preparedness](#) and Middle East complex emergency crisis.

The Lebanese Red Cross aims to meet the basic needs of people affected by disasters and emergencies through a timely and effective response, as an operational priority. It also aims to contribute to sustainable recovery from disasters, emergencies, and crises. This is grounded in a people-centered approach that upholds the dignity of individuals affected by and at risk of these events. Key programmes include economic security, which comprises cash and voucher assistance, shelter and settlement, and water, sanitation and hygiene (see also under health and wellbeing section).

The Lebanese Red Cross also focuses on disaster risk reduction, taking a community-based approach and with an urban [lens](#). It seeks to continue developing anticipatory action and [forecast-based financing](#).

The National Society will bolster its readiness and capacity to respond to impending disasters swiftly and effectively, using the IFRC [Preparedness for Effective Response \(PER\)](#) approach. The Lebanese Red Cross envisions establishing a regional centre of excellence for effective response preparedness, not only to disseminate its own preparedness experiences and lessons but also to compile and analyze lessons and best practices from the broader Red Cross Red Crescent Movement. This collective knowledge-sharing approach aims to strengthen institutional learning and response to crises and emergencies.

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### Planned activities in 2024

- Provide humanitarian assistance to people in need on the basis of the multi-sector needs assessment data, using a vulnerability matrix
- Provide essential services such as unconditional cash assistance and food parcel distribution to sustain the economic security of selected households and communities
- Provide rehabilitation services and small-scale quick-impact shelter and settlements projects to ensure safe, secure, protected, and healthy living spaces that facilitate recovery from the impact of emergencies
- Implement the participatory approach for safe shelter and settlements awareness (IFRC-PASSA) methodology in several neighbourhoods
- Implement community-based disaster risk management activities, delivering awareness sessions and implementing microprojects in communities, schools and informal tented settlements housing refugees
- Train stakeholders, national authorities, and community leaders in preparedness and contingency planning, incident command, and decision-making processes
- Organize relevant simulations and systematically conduct after-action reviews, and
- Establish a regional center of excellence for preparedness for effective response to disseminate preparedness experiences and lessons
- Pursue training of new and experienced volunteers at all levels
- Beef up contingency stocks
- Further develop contingency plans, crisis response plans and standard operating procedures
- Further refine processes for forecast-based financing

- Craft emergency guidelines for internal and external communication and for fundraising efforts
- Strengthen readiness of support services, including by establishing emergency fast-track procedures for human resources, logistics, procurement, and finance

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### Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The Lebanese Red Cross is part of the global [Pilot Programmatic Partnership \(PPP\)](#) between the IFRC and the Directorate-General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (DG ECHO), with implementation support from the German Red Cross, the Norwegian Red Cross, and the IFRC. The National Society will further strengthen the disaster response capacity at the governorate, district and municipality level. Targeted emergency operation rooms at each level will be provided equipment based on an assessment of needs. The National Society is increasing its capacity in information management and the use of GIS to provide digital maps to the emergency operation rooms and response actors during emergencies. At the community level, and following hazards and resource mapping in 18 locations, community emergency response teams will be trained and supported to develop community contingency plans. The **German Red Cross** will provide technical assistance in disaster risk reduction and anticipatory action under the PPP.

The **British Red Cross** is supporting the National Society in disaster management infrastructure and its funding supports the establishment and enhancement of 16 disaster management centres, ensuring that these centers meet the minimum standards required for effective response. This includes providing essential equipment and IT infrastructure, enabling these centers to respond efficiently and swiftly to emergencies and crises.

The **Danish Red Cross** is channeling emergency funds to bolster community capacities in disaster management. Their commitment also extends to initiating livelihood projects for small businesses and launching resilience programmes for children and youth.

The **German Red Cross** will support the National Society in areas like disaster risk reduction, with a spotlight on economic security, training path support, and anticipation. The work will include community-based disaster risk management and disaster preparedness, as well as institutional preparedness through the development of fast-track procedures. The German Red Cross is actively supporting the Anticipation Over Reaction initiative and the development of simplified [Early Action Protocols](#).

The **Spanish Red Cross** is set to enhance the Lebanese Red Cross volunteer management [system](#) in 2024, aiming to refine its strategy based on a leadership and motivation learning and a customer relationship management system.





The COVID-19 pandemic has had a devastating impact on Lebanon's healthcare system, leading to drastic changes in a country already reeling under economic crisis. In Lebanon, medicines which were previously subsidized have become difficult to source, with providers cutting operations due to reduced fuel, supplies, and human resources in the country. Access to medications and hospital care is getting increasingly limited. Hospitals are cutting down on their operational bed capacity and an accelerated exodus of human resources for health is being observed. Safe blood services in the country are becoming insufficient to meet the estimated yearly demand of 130,000–150,000 blood units. The country relies primarily on replacement donors for blood services.

With the severe devaluation of the Lebanese Lira, health financing is becoming increasingly difficult. Out-of-pocket expenditures on health are rising sharply, putting the most vulnerable populations at high risk of financial hardships. Health system resilience and the coping strategies of the population are challenged, threatening health gains made over the past few decades and the sustainability of even basic health services such as primary health care (PHC) and life-saving treatments. Available data show a deterioration in health indicators, with high excess mortality and increased maternal and child mortality rates reported over the past three years among vulnerable Lebanese population, refugees, and migrant workers. The prevalence of non-communicable diseases (NCDs) and mental health conditions is on the rise, while the risk of communicable disease outbreaks, especially vaccine-preventable diseases, and waterborne diseases, is increasing due to lower vaccination coverage and the deterioration of water and sanitation quality and environmental degradation. With an index score of 33.4, Lebanon ranks 111 out of 195 countries on the Global Health Index.

According to the latest multisector needs assessment commissioned by United Nations, 71 per cent of Lebanese households and 74 percent of Palestinian households said that they had been unable to afford medical treatment in the previous three months.

In addition to the adverse impacts the crisis has had on Lebanon's health care system, it has also left growing numbers of people in dire need of economic and health care support, intensified risks to vulnerable groups including refugees and migrants, diminished the capacity of public sector to provide essential services and respond to needs, and diverted attention from longer-term threats and priorities including climate change adaptation and disaster preparedness.

In late 2022, Lebanon experienced its first outbreak of cholera since 1993. The first case of cholera in the region was detected in Syria in September. The virus rapidly spread, crossing the border into Lebanon. The first case in Lebanon was reported

on 6 October, and by 13 October, Lebanon had reported 29 confirmed cases in Akkar and Baalbek Governorates according to UNICEF. By 25 October, confirmed cases had increased ten-fold to 305 per the Ministry of Public Health.

### Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

The National Society runs major health and water, sanitation and hygiene services in Lebanon. Its emergency medical services (EMS) are dedicated to preserving the lives of Lebanon's communities by ensuring access to effective and free pre-hospital emergency care and transportation. The Lebanese Red Cross EMS responds to over 80 per cent of ambulance service requirements in Lebanon. This critical service is delivered through the nationwide toll-free medical emergency hotline "140." The core mission of the EMS is to save lives by offering comprehensive pre-hospital emergency care, high-risk patient transport (hospital-to-hospital), non-urgent patient transport (hospital-to-home, home-to-hospital) and patient care at both station and home settings. Additionally, EMS is actively engaged in specialized activities such as rope rescue, first aid training as well as major incident response and management.

The Lebanese Red Cross blood transfusion services (BTS) operate under the auspices of the Ministry of Public Health to ensure the availability of safe blood products for patients across Lebanon. With 13 centers strategically distributed throughout the country, including two in Beirut, two in the Beqaa, four in Mount Lebanon, two in North Lebanon, three in South Lebanon, the BTS is responsible for collecting, testing, preparing and distributing blood components to hospitals at no cost. The National Society sector will continue to deliver service to patients requiring blood products, all while adhering to rigorous safety and quality standards in accordance with Association for the Advancement of Blood and Biotherapies' guidelines and the Ministry of Public Health's transfusion practices.

The National Society's medico-social services provide quality primary health care through a wide network of primary health care centres (PHC) and mobile medical units. The services focus on non-communicable diseases (medications, and diagnosis), and reproductive health (family planning and consultations), as well as providing beneficiaries with psychosocial services through its social welfare activities (including awareness sessions).

The criticality of water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) interventions of the Lebanese Red Cross to reduce the vulnerability of communities to WASH-related diseases have become more evident than ever with the COVID-19 pandemic and the cholera outbreak which started in October 2022. The

Lebanese Red Cross, including with support from the [IFRC-DREF](#) implemented a multi-sectoral approach that included case identification, response to suspected or confirmed cases, clinical waste disposal, and cleaning and disinfecting in accordance with the National Society protocols. The National Society's WASH interventions range from WASH infrastructure and hygiene kits distribution to hygiene promotion. The Lebanese Red Cross privileges environmentally sustainable [approaches](#), and targets various institutions, including primary healthcare facilities, schools, informal tented settlements, and host communities.

The Lebanese Red Cross high-level objectives include to:

- Improve emergency medical dispatching by strengthening dispatch centers, decreasing response time, and improving access to first aid. This is achieved by daily coaching and monitoring for dispatchers both in-person and online
- Enhance EMS systems by strengthening EMS support functions and ameliorating the effectiveness and sustainability of day shift teams
- Improve the quality of EMS services by ensuring rescuer safety and clinical effectiveness, measuring the quality of prehospital services and implementing quality improvement plans, and ensuring effective preparedness and response to crises and emergencies
- Ensure quality blood components are delivered to patients through the quality control tests
- Scale up primary healthcare services and enhance outreach initiatives to vulnerable host and refugee communities
- Enhance water and sanitation infrastructure and hygiene practices within communities and strengthen early detection of disease outbreaks

The **Palestine Red Crescent Lebanon branch** remains steadfast in its commitment to supporting Lebanese, Palestinian, and Syrian communities in Lebanon through its network of five hospitals. Its proximity to local gatherings and the trust it has built in communities make it an important resource in the country, and its health facilities play a crucial role in providing essential healthcare services, all while significantly reducing the financial burden on patients when compared to private healthcare facilities. The Palestinian Red Crescent allocates funds to improve infrastructure, with the goal of bringing some of its hospitals on par with the best medical facilities in Lebanon.

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## Planned activities in 2024

- Sustain the Lebanese Red Cross pre-hospital care and medical transport
- Support continuity of the Lebanese Red Cross blood transfusion services
- Expand access to the Lebanese Red Cross primary healthcare services
- Provide psychosocial support to affected communities
- Increase the reach of WASH services
- Maintain access for vulnerable populations to secondary healthcare services through the hospitals of the Palestine Red Crescent Lebanon branch

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## Longer-term support from the IFRC network

Through the ECHO [Pilot Programmatic Partnership](#) (PPP), the Lebanese Red Cross will continue to increase capacity for epidemic preparedness and response at community and national levels. Health education activities will continue at household level and in schools, focusing on the prevention of cholera. Training on the safe handling of dead bodies will continue, targeting religious leaders, funeral home workers, and civil defence. The Lebanese Red Cross will work with national authorities to develop a community-based surveillance system and mapping of water resources to facilitate the detection of early signs of an outbreak and contaminated water resources. The **Norwegian Red Cross** provides support in health and WASH under the PPP.

The **IFRC** is coordinating with the Government of Japan on a prospective project for 'humanitarian assistance for healthcare in Lebanon, as a collaborative endeavor to be jointly implemented by the Lebanese Red Cross and the Palestine Red Crescent Lebanon branch. Its primary objective is to address the pressing healthcare needs that have arisen in response to Lebanon's multifaceted humanitarian crisis.

A number of participating National Societies play significant roles in bolstering healthcare initiatives. Their collective efforts will encompass scaling up primary health care services, fortifying mobile medical units, enhancing community outreach initiatives, and providing online materials for hospitals.

The **Canadian Red Cross** is committed to offering monitoring and evaluation support and technical expertise in the health sector. The **Danish Red Cross** will continue its international

procurement for medicines and will jointly develop National Society training materials. The **Japanese Red Cross Society** plans to continue deploying medical delegates to assist the medical staff at hospitals of the Palestine Red Crescent Lebanon branch. They will also provide capacity building for the hospital staff. The **Netherlands Red Cross** has outlined its support plan for Syrian refugees and vulnerable Lebanese communities in Akkar, which encompasses WASH, food parcels, and emergency medical services.

The **Spanish Red Cross** will offer essential analysis materials to the blood transfusion services and supporting medical

social services. Their initiatives will be tailored to ensure access to quality healthcare services to people irrespective of their circumstances.

The **Austrian Red Cross** is supporting WASH initiatives in public schools and informal tented settlements. Their primary focus lies in menstrual hygiene management and fostering community engagement. This initiative underscores the importance of hygiene and community participation in ensuring the well-being of vulnerable populations.



## Migration and displacement

Lebanon is currently grappling with one of the most severe economic crises recorded in recent history. The country's socioeconomic collapse is multifaceted, with its roots in years of accumulating public debt, a soaring fiscal deficit, political instability, and a series of shocks that have destabilized the nation's economic foundation. On top of the socioeconomic crisis, the country is also grappling with the Syrian refugee crisis. Government data estimates suggest that Lebanon, with a population of 5.8 million, hosts approximately 1.5 million Syrian refugees. This figure is in addition to the 207,700 Palestinian refugees and about 14,800 refugees from other nations. This data estimation of the refugee population in Lebanon positions the country as having one of the highest refugee-to-resident population ratios globally.

Refugees and other migrants face a variety of protection issues. Most of the Syrian refugee population in Lebanon struggles to meet their basic needs, with around 43 per cent food-insecure and in dire need of humanitarian assistance. According to the [2021 Vulnerability Assessment for Syrian Refugees](#), 9 out of 10 Syrian refugees in Lebanon live below the extreme poverty line. Poverty among Palestinian refugees in Lebanon is estimated to be [73 percent](#), compounded by the risk of further marginalization and deprivation without a comprehensive social protection scheme to compensate for the losses. Palestinian refugees also face persistent barriers to essential services.

Since the onset of the economic crisis, outward migration from Lebanon has continued to increase. Reliable figures for emigration are lacking, but it is clear that some migrants have resorted to insecure and irregular migratory routes. This issue was brought to international attention in 2022 with the [fatal](#)

[sinking of a boat](#) carrying Lebanese migrants, and migrants from other countries, who were attempting to emigrate from the impoverished city of Tripoli.

### Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

The Lebanese Red Cross has substantial experience in working with refugee and migrant populations. It includes migrants in the implementation of all its programmes and projects and aims to make sure that its activities and services reach refugees and migrants in need. The National Society has access to some of the most vulnerable refugee and migrant populations in Lebanon, including the residents of informal tented settlements. It also has the trust of host communities, ensuring that it is well positioned to address migration issues in ways that uphold social cohesion. The Lebanese Red Cross coordinates its support to Syrian refugees in informal tented settlements with other humanitarian actors through existing mechanisms, to avoid any duplication of service provision and to maximize nationwide coverage.

The Lebanese Red Cross is part of the IFRC three-year [Global Route-Based Migration Programme](#), which aims to improve the safety and dignity of people on the move along deadly and dangerous land and sea-based migration routes across Africa, the Americas, Europe, the Middle East, and North Africa. The programme aims to support 4.7 million people on the move and people in host communities annually through three operational pillars: improving access to assistance and protection, including through [humanitarian service points](#); strengthening National Society capacities; and local to global humanitarian diplomacy.

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## Planned activities in 2024

- Integrate migration and displacement dimensions into needs assessments
  - Develop a dedicated migration plan of action which will include identification of migrants, conducting targeted needs assessments, cross-sectoral coordination, identification of tailored projects and programmes, and field visits to informal tented settlements
  - Conduct sensitization and training for the Lebanese Red Cross staff and volunteers on migration and displacement
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## Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The **IFRC** will continue to support the Lebanese Red Cross to build its capacity for migration activities. It will support the training of National Society staff and volunteers on how to assess, understand and respond to the needs of the migrants, displaced persons, and host communities.

The **Netherlands Red Cross** is supporting the Lebanese Red Cross to assist Syrian refugees and vulnerable Lebanese communities in Akkar with WASH, food parcels, and EMS until February 2024.

The **Qatar Red Crescent** will offer its expertise and support to the Lebanese Red Cross in disaster management, health, and migration in 2024 and 2025, ensuring that the needs of displaced individuals are met with compassion and efficiency.



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## Values, power and inclusion

Although the constitution deems all Lebanese equal before the law, patriarchal values, unequal legislation, and past conflict hinder the country's efforts in creating a more equitable society. This is exacerbated by the country's economic crisis, with deepening poverty, endemic corruption, institutional dysfunction, and political paralysis reinforcing the vulnerability of the least powerful in society.

Certain age groups are vulnerable to protection risks, including children and older people, and people living with disabilities face additional barriers. Eleven per cent of Lebanon's population is over the age of 65, but the UN International Labour Organization (ILO) notes that 80 per cent of Lebanese people over the age of 65 lack any retirement benefits or health coverage. Meanwhile, UNICEF and its partners note that cases of child labour and abuse have increased since the onset of the economic crisis. Refugees and migrants can be particularly vulnerable due to a lack of enforced legal protections. With growing numbers of people in need of assistance, questions over the targeting and allocation of aid have implications for the protection of principled, needs-based humanitarian action that people trust.

According to the World Economic Forum's 2023 Global Gender Gap Report, Lebanese women ranked 132 out of 156 countries in terms of gender equality in the country. The multi-layered crisis has had severe consequences, contributing exponentially to worsening levels of frustration and stress, and increasing the number of gender-based violence incidents in the country. The INTERSOS' protection monitoring (funded by UNHCR) conducted in 2022 showed that 27 per cent of Syrian adults experienced symptoms affecting their mental well-being, which has remained consistent compared to 26 per cent at

the end of 2021, with all reported instances being caused by the family's economic situation.

## Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

The Lebanese Red Cross has made protection, gender and inclusion (PGI) and community engagement and accountability (CEA) cross-cutting themes in its strategy, with the aims to:

- mainstream psychosocial support, protection, gender and inclusion in all operations and programs to ensure the application of "doing no harm" principle and to promote the wellbeing of beneficiaries, staff and volunteers while addressing dignity, accessibility, participation, and security upon delivery of services
- mainstream community engagement and accountability in all programs and operations by ensuring Community participation and feedback, providing information as aid, fostering behavior and social change communication, and encouraging evidence-based advocacy

The National Society has a dedicated PGI focal point within its psychosocial support team, which operates across programmes. It has also developed a roadmap for community engagement and accountability and is improving the use of its hotline to receive feedback and complaints.

For many years, the Lebanese Red Cross has been working on its Restoring Family Links programme in coordination with the ICRC and participating National Societies. The main objective of the programme is to locate missing persons wherever they are using all available means.

The Lebanese Red Cross and its youth sector implement humanitarian values and principles programming, which aims to disseminate knowledge about the Red Cross Red Crescent humanitarian principles and human rights among youth and young adults through fun, interactive and informative sessions, using toolkits such as youth as agents of behavioural change (IFRC [YABC](#)).

The community engagement and accountability activities of the Palestine Red Crescent Lebanon branch include the use of satisfaction forms and satisfaction surveys managed by its quality officers to measure patient experience and feedback. Quality officers are responsible for following up on feedback and tracking resolutions.

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### Planned activities in 2024

- Build PGI and CEA capacity of disaster management staff through a Training of Trainers
- Pursue improvements of the hotline to receive feedback and complaints
- Work towards mainstreaming psychosocial support among all sectors' activities by developing and rolling out tools, systems, manuals, and standard operating procedures
- Continue training all the Lebanese Red Cross staff and volunteers by building and enhancing their capacities in terms of psychosocial support and PGI
- Supervise psychosocial support implementation efforts by providing assistance and guidance wherever required, including on timely delivery of services, referrals, and linkages to relevant stakeholders
- Develop and implement RFL policies, procedures, training and tools

- Deliver RFL sessions to new volunteers as part of the DMS induction sessions and conduct refresher sessions

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### Longer-term support from the IFRC network

With the support of the [Pilot Programmatic Partnership \(PPP\)](#) between IFRC and ECHO, and with implementation support from EU National Societies, the Lebanese Red Cross is improving its community accountability and engagement. The National Society will continue improving the operation of the non-emergency hotline to receive feedback and complaints, according to the standard operating procedures. New tools for collecting feedback and engaging the communities will be added.

The **IFRC** provides technical expertise to the Lebanese Red Cross and Palestine Red Crescent Lebanon branch through dedicated PGI and CEA focal points, offering tailored support to National Societies in the Middle East and North Africa region. One focus of the IFRC is the mainstreaming of the minimum standards for protection, gender [and inclusion](#) across emergency operations.

The **Danish Red Cross** is committed to supporting the Lebanese Red Cross with the development and enhancement of the mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) and PGI framework. This includes establishing clear objectives, integrating monitoring and evaluation mechanisms, and ensuring the quality of MHPSS and PGI activities through comprehensive manuals and tools. Additionally, the Danish Red Cross will facilitate safe and unified referral systems for specialized MHPSS and PGI services. A significant emphasis will also be placed on caring for staff and volunteers in their roles.



## ENABLING LOCAL ACTORS

In 2013, to better address escalating needs in the country, the new Lebanese Red Cross governance and management leadership team launched a comprehensive organizational reform process. The process was accelerated through an organizational development programme after the National Society undertook the IFRC's [Organizational Capacity Assessment and Certification \(OCAC\)](#) process in 2014. The self-assessment is intended to capture the strengths and weaknesses of National Societies as a whole in relation to a wide range of organizational capacities. Over the past three years, this long-term transformational goal has evolved into an organization-wide strategy with a strong commitment to transform the organization's structures, services and local sustainable response capacities, and empower communities through localization of humanitarian action. The first priorities focused on addressing self-identified organizational deficiencies across core support functions, including finance, HR, procurement, and communications and fundraising. After strengthening these core functions, the second phase focused on National Society branch development.



### Strategic and operational coordination

The Lebanese Red Cross strives in fulfilling its auxiliary role by supporting public authorities and collaborating with both international and local organizations. This cooperation is instrumental in working towards the realization of global agendas, such as the Sustainable Development Goals, both on a local and global scale.

The Lebanese Red Cross coordinates humanitarian response with other actors through existing mechanisms and aims at taking a stronger role in interagency coordination. It engages within the broader humanitarian ecosystem and is building a network of partnerships, including UN agencies and the World Bank.

In parallel with increased demand for its health and disaster response services, the Lebanese Red Cross has suffered the loss of almost all its local funding. Since 2019, it has not had support from the Ministry of Public Health for ambulances, blood and primary health services. The fundraising strategy shifted in focus towards the Lebanese diaspora, which is more complex and costly to reach and engage. The focus of the fundraising initiatives—supported by digital communications—over the next three years will be on the recruitment and retention of

The Lebanese Red Cross also initiated its [Preparedness for Effective Response \(PER\)](#) process approach, including commitments, in July 2020. The IFRC PER approach is a continuous and flexible process that enables National Societies to assess, measure and analyse the strengths and gaps of its preparedness and response mechanism and ultimately take necessary action to improve it. These commitments remain a priority for the National Society as a key preparedness and response organization in Lebanon.

The Palestine Red Crescent Lebanon branch carries out targeted capacity strengthening activities in Lebanon, emphasizing branch development in the areas of resource mobilization and a financial policy, human resource strategy, strengthening of voluntary work, establishment of a logistics unit and of a planning, monitoring, evaluation and reporting unit, and improved visibility. Wider National Society development approaches are conducted in Palestine, where the National Society is based.

individual donations and repeat donations. There will also be a concentrated effort to encourage out-of-country corporate entities to enter long-term partnerships with the Lebanese Red Cross.

### Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will further promote the influence of the National Society through its engagement with coordination mechanisms and key external organizations such as UN agencies, international funders, the diplomatic community and academic institutions. The IFRC is also dedicated to enhancing the fundraising capacities of National Societies. This commitment is evident in its collaboration with the ICRC on the [National Society Investment Alliance initiative](#), which aims to bolster the resource mobilization capabilities of the Lebanese Red Cross.

The coordinated support to the Lebanese Red Cross through the ECHO Pilot Programmatic Partnership relies on a common framework that strengthens the National Society's role as the lead local actor. The ECHO PPP also further enhances coordination between the Lebanese Red Cross, the German Red Cross and Norwegian Red Cross, and the IFRC.



## National Society Development

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### Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

The National Society will focus on supporting the financial sustainability of the branches through the connection of the branches into a digital fundraising system, supporting volunteer management at the branch level to increase the scope of volunteering locally, and building on the success of the district level local community assessment to assist the branches in understanding the needs of the communities that they serve and meeting the community's highest priority needs.

### Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The **IFRC** is actively driving forward the localization agenda, aiming to strategically empower the National Society. A key element of this strategy involves collaborating in the National Society Investment Alliance (NSIA), a joint initiative funded in partnership with the ICRC.

The **British Red Cross** is extending its support to two Lebanese Red Cross warehouses to ensure compliance with minimum standards, thereby enhancing the efficiency and effectiveness of disaster management operations. Furthermore, they are actively involved in training volunteers on the disaster management framework and its three-pillar programme.

The **Danish Red Cross** is providing essential technical support to the Lebanese Red Cross Secretary-General's office, in addition to the planning unit. They are supporting the Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) strategy and the peer support programme.

The **French Red Cross** will hire a consultant to conduct a thorough review of the Lebanese Red Cross's logistical and procurement guidelines.

The **Norwegian Red Cross** provides targeted support in organizational development as part of the Pilot Programmatic Partnership (PPP) between the IFRC and ECHO.

The **Spanish Red Cross** is providing personnel coverage and technical support, particularly in the realm of persons living with disabilities and solar panel utilization. These efforts are instrumental in enhancing the quality and accessibility of services.

The **Swedish Red Cross** is initiating measures to strengthen the financial capacity and planning, monitoring, evaluation, and reporting (PMER) support. This commitment reflects its dedication to ensuring efficient resource management and effective project oversight.



## Humanitarian diplomacy

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### Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

The Lebanese Red Cross strives to position itself as an advocate on several humanitarian issues, including the provision of cash assistance in US dollars rather than the heavily devalued local currency, following the port of Beirut explosion. The National Society also seeks to improve communications with the public and strengthen its transparency and accountability through social media channels, its website, and direct communications.

### Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The **IFRC** continues to promote a stronger positioning of the Lebanese Red Cross, the Palestine Red Crescent Lebanon branch, the IFRC and its membership in overall humanitarian response and recovery through strengthened advocacy and humanitarian diplomacy efforts. The IFRC will continue to engage in facilitating speaking engagements for the Lebanese Red Cross, in addition to advocacy and fundraising events in which the National Society's strategy documents are presented.



## Accountability and agility (cross-cutting)

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### Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

The Lebanese Red Cross has pledged to publish both audited annual and emergency response financial statements to provide stakeholders with a clear view of the organization's financial activities and to ensure that resources are used efficiently and effectively. The National Society has outlined a comprehensive plan of action, encompassing various initiatives to enhance its operational effectiveness and the well-being of its volunteers and staff:

- Provide all volunteers and staff with access to a peer support system to enhance the overall well-being of its members
- Ensure that 70 per cent of volunteers leaving the Lebanese Red Cross participate in a formal exit interview to gather valuable feedback and insights from departing volunteers
- Roll out the MOTI (a leadership and motivation learning system) motivation survey in 50 per cent of its volunteer centers
- Ensure that at least 50 per cent of local branches actively participate in the Individual Giving programme
- Ensure that at least 50 per cent of branches produce consolidated annual plans, budgets, financial, and narrative reports according to national standards
- Implement robust policies and procedures related to Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA), fraud, and whistleblower protection, aligning with best practices in these areas
- Ensure that 100 per cent of internal and external complaints received at all levels are collected, logged, processed, and systematically addressed by a centralized unit
- Operational sectors aim to disseminate and implement clear minimum training standards for volunteers and staff at all levels
- Develop and implement a Lebanese Red Cross competency framework, providing a structured approach to skills development and performance assessment
- Integrate 100 per cent of staff into the new performance management system to ensure that employees' performance is effectively monitored and aligned with organizational goals

As part of its digital transformation initiative, the Lebanese Red Cross will establish a robust and well-functioning information management unit to process key data for informed decision-making, ensure that essential data is accurately captured and effectively used to inform decision-making processes, implement a comprehensive software solution that integrates procurement, finance, and logistics functions, and establish a centralized warehousing system to optimize the storage and distribution of essential resources.

### Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will continue to support the Lebanese Red Cross in maintaining security assessments and plans across all operational areas, upholding risk registers and business continuity plans, and conducting financial audits while implementing their recommendations.

## THE IFRC NETWORK

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### The IFRC

The IFRC has maintained a consistent presence in Lebanon for several decades, in addition to being the host for the IFRC MENA regional office. The IFRC engages with all sectors of the Lebanese Red Cross according to the strategic framework in place to support the National Society strategy and plan of action for 2022-2024. Over recent years, the IFRC has offered technical support to the Lebanese Red Cross in various domains, such as logistics and procurement, information management, and planning, monitoring, evaluation and reporting. The IFRC also provides technical and financial support to the Lebanese Red Cross and the Palestine Red

Crescent Lebanon branch, in accordance with their individual priorities. This includes technical support through the IFRC regional office on cross-cutting themes such as protection, gender and inclusion, migration and displacement, and others.

Over the past four years, the IFRC supported the Lebanese Red Cross with a number of Emergency Appeals and Disaster Response Emergency Fund (DREF) operations, in response to complex national and regional crises, election preparedness, cholera and COVID-19 response, severe weather mitigation, population movement, protests, and addressing the Ain al-Helwe clashes.

## IFRC Membership coordination

The IFRC coordination involves working with member National Societies to assess the humanitarian context, humanitarian situations and needs; agreeing common priorities; co-developing common strategies to address issues such as obtaining greater humanitarian access, acceptance and space, mobilizing funding and other resources; clarifying consistent public messaging; and monitoring progress. This also means ensuring that strategies and programmes in support of people in need incorporate clarity of humanitarian action, development assistance, and efforts to reinforce the auxiliary role of National Societies in their respective countries.

The IFRC organizes monthly meetings with the membership to exchange updates, address critical issues, and gather valuable feedback through quarterly surveys. Additionally, the IFRC plays a pivotal role in creating a comprehensive 3W's country-wide dashboard as part of the unified plan.

The Lebanese Red Cross is part of the global [Pilot Programmatic Partnership](#) (PPP) between the IFRC and

the Directorate-General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (DG ECHO), benefitting from the support of the German Red Cross (lead EU National Society) and Norwegian Red Cross for the implementation of activities in the areas of disaster risk management, epidemic and pandemic preparedness and response, and risk communication, community engagement and accountability. The partnership meets the realities of extended crises with longer-term predictable funding, facilitating actions and processes with greater impact. It leverages the IFRC's global network and unique access to people and communities, and it helps to fulfil the ambitions of the European Union as the biggest donor for international aid in the world.

The Lebanese Red Cross has long-term partnerships with a significant number of sister National Societies, and several IFRC members also directly support the Palestine Red Crescent Lebanon branch in their health services.



*Blanket distribution for Palestinians and Syrians in the Palestine Red Crescent Lebanon branch centre (Photo: IFRC)*

## Participating National Society Support

National Society name	Funding Requirement	Climate	Disasters and crises	Health and wellbeing	Migration	Values, power and inclusion	Enabling local actors
Austrian Red Cross	1.9M		●	●			
British Red Cross	2.2M		●				
Canadian Red Cross Society	1.1M			●			
Danish Red Cross	2.9M		●	●		●	
French Red Cross	1.2M	●		●			●
German Red Cross	3.1M		●	●			
Italian Red Cross	100,000			●			
Japanese Red Cross Society	122,000			●			
Netherlands Red Cross	423,000		●	●	●		
Norwegian Red Cross	3.4M			●			
Qatar Red Crescent Society	2.5M		●	●	●		
Spanish Red Cross	630,000		●	●		●	
Swedish Red Cross	1.6M		●	●			
Swiss Red Cross				●			

Total Funding requirement

**21.2M**

## Movement coordination

The International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement's coordination in Lebanon is anchored in the Movement Cooperation Agreement, which outlines the functional coordination mechanisms in the country. Regular meetings are held at the leadership, operational and technical levels. The Movement's coordination mechanisms and practical applications, as part of the Strengthening Movement Coordination and Cooperation (SMCC) process, continue to ensure a coordinated and complementary Movement response in Lebanon. This is carried out in line with the SMCC principles, and the newly adopted [Seville Agreement 2.0](#).

Key coordination mechanisms include:

- Monthly Movement meetings chaired by the Lebanese Red Cross
- Monthly Movement meetings chaired by the Palestine Red Crescent Society Lebanon branch

- Weekly tripartite meetings between the IFRC, the Lebanese Red Cross and the ICRC
- Weekly partner advisory committee meetings between the IFRC, the Lebanese Red Cross, the ICRC, the German Red Cross, the Netherlands Red Cross and the Norwegian Red Cross

The ICRC has been present in Lebanon since 1967, working in close cooperation with the Lebanese Red Cross and the Palestine Red Crescent Society Lebanon branch, assisting and protecting civilians affected by armed conflict. The ICRC supports the National Society in Lebanon across several operational areas including health services, water, sanitation and hygiene, shelter and livelihoods, and cross-cutting themes related to migration, such as restoring family links. The ICRC also provides support on organizational development priorities, including the Safer Access Framework.



## Coordination with other actors

Many international and national humanitarian organizations are actively involved in humanitarian operations in Lebanon, working to assist vulnerable populations. These organizations mainly consist of governmental disaster management bodies, the Lebanese military, UN agencies, INGOs and local NGOs.

The Lebanese Red Cross is mandated by the Government of Lebanon to be the leading emergency responder for ambulance services in the country, and on the Disaster Response Management Unit of the Lebanese Government, maintaining constant coordination of disasters, crises and emergencies. This includes work on disaster risk reduction, for which the National Society links established regional and local contingency plans to the national contingency plan. The Lebanese Red Cross also links established community contingency plans to the Governorate-level, in addition to establishing efficient communications between the various crisis operation rooms at all levels.

The Lebanese Red Cross coordinates with the UN Humanitarian Country Team, led by the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA). During emergencies, the Lebanese Red Cross and the IFRC actively engage in inter-agency coordination mechanisms and

cluster working groups that cover basic assistance, water, sanitation and hygiene, shelter, logistics, cash and others. The National Society took a leading role in the Multi-Sector Needs Assessment process in the aftermath of the Beirut port explosion, in coordination with UNHCR and OCHA, and with the participation of other shelter sector partners.

The National Society manages a number of partnerships with UN agencies, including United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

The Palestine Red Crescent Lebanon branch also engages in partnerships and coordination roles, particularly with the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) and various NGOs working with Palestinian groups and refugee camps. The UNRWA, a UN agency with a specific mandate to serve Palestinian refugees, has suffered declining levels of funding to support its health activities, leaving it unable to deliver services beyond primary health care. The Palestine Red Crescent Lebanon branch is filling the gaps by delivering specialized medical treatment and hospital care to Palestinian refugees.



## The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC)

is the world's largest humanitarian network, with 191 National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and around 15 million volunteers. Our volunteers are present in communities before, during and after a crisis or disaster. We work in the most hard to reach and complex settings in the world, saving lives and promoting human dignity. We support communities to become stronger and more resilient places where people can live safe and healthy lives, and have opportunities to thrive.

### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- [IFRC Global Plan and Country Plans](#)
- [Subscribe for updates](#)
- [Donor response](#) on IFRC website
- [Live Disaster Response Emergency Fund \(DREF\)](#) data
- Operational information: [IFRC GO platform](#)
- National Society data: [IFRC Federation-wide Databank and Reporting System](#)
- [Evaluations database](#)

This plan reflects the priorities of the Lebanese Red Cross Society, the IFRC and National Societies providing international support for 2024 and subsequent years. It is aligned with [IFRC Strategy 2030](#), representing the collective ambitions of the IFRC membership, and is the result of a joint planning process and will serve joint monitoring and reporting. It will be revised on an annual basis to adjust priorities and funding requirements to the needs in-country.

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