



# LEBANON

2023 IFRC network annual report, Jan-Dec

21 August 2024

## IN SUPPORT OF THE LEBANESE RED CROSS



32

National Society branches



204

National Society local units



12,000

National Society volunteers



402

National Society staff

## PEOPLE REACHED

Emergency Operations



467,233

Climate and environment



556,010

Disasters and crises



14,791

Health and wellbeing



781,312

## FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

in Swiss francs (CHF)

Country	Funding Requirement		
Country	Funding Requirement		86M
IFRC Secretariat	Emergency Operations	Funding Requirement	29.4M
		Funding	8.4M
		Expenditure	3.4M
Longer-term	Funding Requirement		29.7M
		Funding	15M
		Expenditure	12.6M
Participating National Societies	Funding Requirement		26.9M
		Funding	20.2M
		Expenditure	17.2M

### Lebanese Red Cross

Overview



Funding Sources

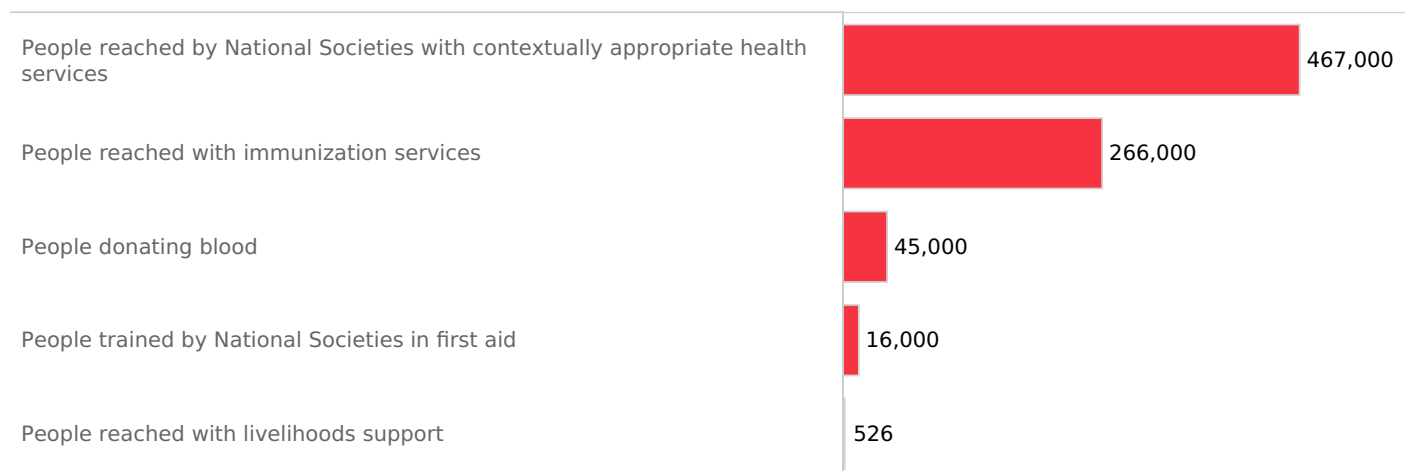


Appeal number **MAALB001**

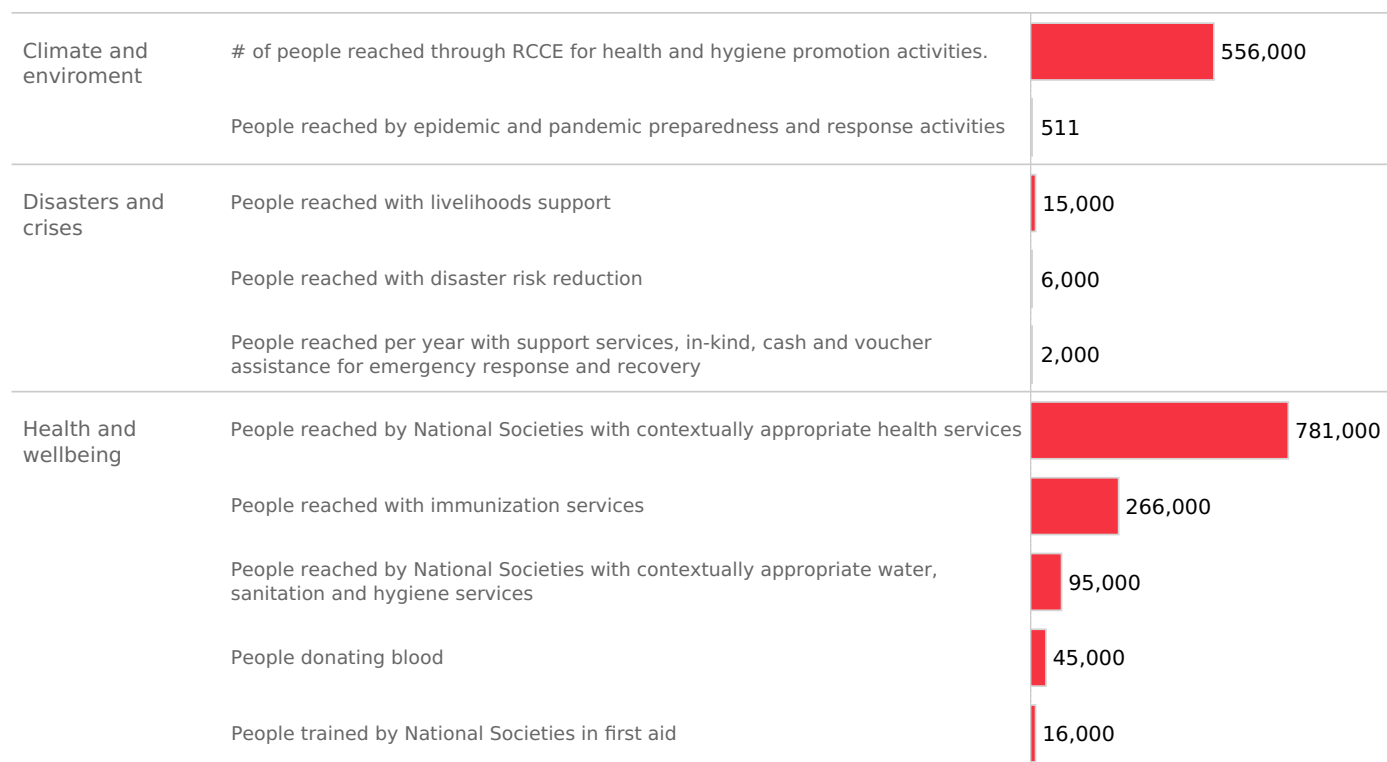
In addition to: CHF 86M Funding requirement for newly launched emergency appeals\*, CHF 369,000 DREF Funding

# ONGOING EMERGENCY INDICATORS

MGRLB001 / Lebanon: Complex Humanitarian Crisis



## STRATEGIC PRIORITIES



# IFRC NETWORK SUPPORTED ACTIVITIES

National Society	Multilateral Support	Climate and environment	Disasters and crises	Health and wellbeing	Migration and displacement	Values, power and inclusion	Enabling Functions
American Red Cross	●						
Australian Red Cross	●						
Austrian Red Cross			●	●	●		
British Red Cross	●		●	●		●	●
Canadian Red Cross Society				●		●	
Danish Red Cross			●	●		●	
Finnish Red Cross	●						
French Red Cross		●	●	●			●
German Red Cross		●	●	●			●
Italian Red Cross	●						
Japanese Red Cross Society				●			
Monaco Red Cross	●						
Netherlands Red Cross	●		●	●			●
Norwegian Red Cross	●			●		●	●
Qatar Red Crescent Society			●	●	●		
Spanish Red Cross			●	●			●
Swedish Red Cross	●		●	●			
Swiss Red Cross			●	●			
Turkish Red Crescent Society	●						

● Supported

# OVERALL PROGRESS

## Context

Lebanon's existing complex humanitarian crisis has been further intensified by the repercussions of the [Gaza war](#) that has affected the country since 8 October 2023. The ongoing conflict has introduced heightened security concerns, creating a precarious environment that poses threats to the population's safety and stability of the nation. Since late 2019, Lebanon has been facing an evolving complex humanitarian crisis since late 2019, generating urgent, widespread and growing needs for assistance and protection. The devastating [Beirut port explosions](#) that occurred on 4 August 2020 compounded an ongoing economic crisis made worse by the COVID-19 pandemic. Notwithstanding such dire conditions, the country still hosts the [highest per capita number of refugees](#) worldwide. These conditions have made the road to recovery and resilience a challenging one on multiple fronts.

[According to the World Bank](#), Lebanon's socioeconomic collapse has spiralled into one of the top three most severe economic crises the world has seen since the 1850s. Over 80 per cent of people in Lebanon are [living in multidimensional poverty](#), which reflects deprivation across areas including healthcare, electricity, water, sanitation, transportation, connectivity and means of income. This represents a doubling of the multidimensional poverty rate from 2019.

The accessibility and quality of healthcare have become particularly concerning. Lebanon's healthcare system is struggling to recover from the stress of the COVID-19 pandemic and prepare for future threats while the economic crisis continues to spiral. It has become more difficult to source previously subsidized medication; providers have had to cut operations due to reduced fuel, supplies and human resources (the World Health Organization (WHO) [estimated](#) in 2021 that 40 per cent of doctors had left the country). According to the latest [multisector needs assessment](#) commissioned by the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), 71 per cent of Lebanese households and 74 per cent of Palestinian households in-country said they had been unable to afford medical treatment in the previous three months.

Economically, Lebanon faces increased strain as the Gaza war contributes to disruptions in trade, heightened financial pressures and additional challenges for critical sectors. The hostile environment diverts attention and resources away from addressing long-term priorities, hindering the nation's ability to navigate and recover from the interconnected crises it currently faces.

## Key achievements

### Climate and environment

In 2023, the Lebanese Red Cross implemented Green Response projects which focused on sustainable water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) interventions and enhanced volunteer capacities through the Y-adapt curriculum. Climate change adaptation was integrated into all interventions, including nature-based solutions and climate hazard awareness. The National Society established community early warning systems and worked closely with the Ministry of Environment. The youth sector's environment programme promoted environmental awareness through afforestation and rehabilitation of public green spaces.

### Disasters and crises

The Lebanese Red Cross has enhanced its crisis response capabilities through comprehensive preparedness initiatives. These initiatives include developing crisis response plans, training staff, conducting simulations and strengthening emergency procedures. Under the Preparedness for Effective Response (PER) initiative, the organization extended its focus to support services such as logistics and finance. The National Society successfully conducted hazards and resource mapping in 18 locations, supporting local authorities in emergency preparedness.

### Health and wellbeing

In 2023, the Lebanese Red Cross assisted people across multiple regions during the cholera outbreak with IFRC Disaster Response Emergency Fund ([IFRC-DREF](#)) support. The cholera response included safeguarding healthcare

workers, patient transport, awareness campaigns and hygiene kit distributions. The National Society's efforts in water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) improved community access to these essential services.

### Migration and displacement

In 2023, the Lebanese Red Cross successfully conducted training for staff and volunteers in Restoring Family Links (RFL) and the management of dead bodies. The Lebanese Red Cross also worked on developing a support plan that involves identifying migrants, assessing their needs, coordinating with stakeholders and visiting informal tented settlements to assess situations there.

### Values, power and inclusion

The Lebanese Red Cross has integrated protection, gender and inclusion (PGI) as a key theme in its Strategy 2022-2024, aiming to implement strong policies for Prevention and Response to Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA). Through its psychosocial support (PSP) programme, as well as its Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA) approaches, the National Society worked on fostering social responsibility and civic engagement, and enhanced its capacity to provide essential services to the most vulnerable.

### Enabling local actors

The Lebanese Red Cross has advanced its operational effectiveness through a series of strategic initiatives. Branch development initiatives have strengthened capacity building, financial sustainability and volunteer management, with a focus on community needs. It has implemented digital fundraising initiatives, enhanced public communications and increased transparency through audited financial statements. Additionally, the National Society has improved preparedness and response capabilities by updating contingency plans, pre-positioning disaster preparedness stock optimizing warehousing and investing in digital transformation which includes the establishment of an information management unit.

## Changes and amendments

The Lebanese Red Cross is facing increased demand for humanitarian services while experiencing a loss of nearly all local funding, including government support for blood and primary healthcare services. This situation has been exacerbated by the unfolding humanitarian situation caused by the Gaza war. As such, the National Society's ability to respond effectively is significantly constrained.

# IFRC NETWORK ACTION

## ONGOING EMERGENCY RESPONSE

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

1

<b>Emergency Operation</b>	Middle East Crisis   MENA
<b>Appeal number</b>	MDRS5002
<b>People to be assisted</b>	87,500 (Inside Lebanon)
<b>Duration</b>	14 months (18/10/2023 to 31/12/2024)
<b>Funding requirement</b>	Federation-wide funding requirements: CHF 100 million IFRC Secretariat funding requirements: CHF 86 million Federation-wide funding requirement for Lebanon: CHF 13,000,000 million IFRC Secretariat funding requirement for Lebanon: CHF 10,000,000 million

<b>Link to emergency appeal</b>	<a href="#">Middle East Crisis   MENA</a>
<b>Operational Strategy</b>	<a href="#">Revised Operational Strategy</a>
<b>Last Operation Update</b>	<a href="#">Operations Update No. 1</a>

Since October 7, 2023, hostilities in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank have intensified to unprecedented levels. Humanitarian needs in the occupied Palestinian territories (oPt) are immense, and the situation is rapidly deteriorating, affecting social and economic stability, security, and aid channels in Gaza and neighbouring countries. Although the situation in each of the surrounding countries vary, most National Societies have undertaken significant response and response preparedness activities while providing essential logistical support and integrated services where needed.

Lebanon's southern border has been the scene of continued conflict since October, leading to internal displacement of people in the south and elsewhere within the country. Cross-border tensions between Lebanon and Israel persist, with Israel launching targeted strikes on military sites. The tensions have further escalated, with Israeli strikes reaching deeper into Lebanon, and several Lebanese civilians being killed. Despite continued attempts at mediation, there is little evidence supporting the likelihood of a rapid de-escalation. An estimated 97 percent of internally displaced people (IDPs) come from Bent Jbeil, Marjayoun and Tyre districts and have relocated to the districts of Tyre, El Nabatieh and Saida.

### Short description of the emergency operational strategy

The operational strategy aims to prepare for and respond to humanitarian needs of people affected in the countries surrounding the occupied Palestinian territories, namely Egypt, Lebanon, Syria and Jordan, especially in supplying humanitarian assistance to Gaza through the Egyptian and Jordanian corridors, and to support Palestinians who have been evacuated for medical support with their families. This will be done by increasing the supply chain capacities in Egypt and Jordan, as well as the readiness of each of the four National Societies—including the Lebanese Red Cross—to ensure that they can respond to potentially increased humanitarian needs. The operation will ensure that the Lebanese Red Cross has the readiness and response capacity to provide integrated assistance, including leveraging its core mandates and capacities especially in health and care, relief and protection.

For the period covering [October 2023 to March 2024](#), the Lebanese Red Cross took proactive measures to bolster its capacities for effective preparedness and response. The National Society expanded the operation of its emergency medical services by deploying additional teams in conflict-prone regions south of the Litani River. Its blood transfusion services sector maintained operational readiness across all centres and headquarters and ensured a consistent presence of approximately 48 personnel at the sites. Through its medico-social sector, disaster management sector, and its disaster risk reduction unit, the Lebanese Red Cross provided WASH services, shelter, cash and voucher assistance (CVA) as well as food security and livelihoods. The National Society's response plan included activities to enhance coordination and partnerships, migration and displacement (restoring family links) services as well as protection and prevention services provided to evacuees and displaced people. Lebanon's initial funding allocation under this appeal was set at CHF 6 million, aimed at addressing the immediate and urgent needs stemming from the crisis.

2

<b>Emergency Operation</b>	Lebanon: Complex Humanitarian Crisis
<b>Appeal number</b>	MGRLB001
<b>People to be assisted</b>	625,600
<b>Duration</b>	3 years (05/08/2020 – 31/12/2023)
<b>Funding requirement</b>	Federation-wide funding requirements: CHF 51 million IFRC Secretariat funding requirements: CHF 37 million
<b>Link to emergency appeal</b>	<a href="#">Lebanon: Complex Humanitarian Crisis</a>

<b>Operational strategy</b>	<a href="#">Lebanon Complex Humanitarian Crisis Operational Strategy</a>
<b>Last operation update</b>	<a href="#">Operations Update No. 4</a>

Lebanon has been facing an evolving complex humanitarian crisis since late 2019, generating widespread needs for assistance and protection. It is in this context that two powerful explosions occurred at the Port of Beirut on 4 August 2020, leaving devastating impacts while the country grapples with overlapping economic and financial crises, political volatility, and the implications of the COVID-19 pandemic as well as hosting the highest refugee population per capita in the world. The combined effects of these crises are leaving growing numbers of people in urgent need of support and deepening risks for vulnerable groups including migrants and refugees.

### Short description of the emergency operational strategy

In response to the complex humanitarian crisis in Lebanon, the IFRC launched an Emergency Appeal in November 2021, encompassing recovery from the Beirut port explosion and addressing broader issues. The 2023 operational strategy focused on sustaining health services by the Lebanese Red Cross and the Palestine Red Crescent Society Lebanon branch, meeting additional needs of affected populations, and enhancing resilience to future risks. Key interventions included supporting emergency medical services, blood transfusion and primary health care, as well as secondary health care services. Other efforts encompassed hygiene promotion, multi-purpose cash assistance, livelihood support, shelter winterization, risk reduction, and climate adaptation. Environmental sustainability initiatives involved renewable energy at Red Cross facilities, while community engagement and accountability were bolstered through call centre support and proactive monitoring. Capacity building on protection, gender, and inclusion, along with migration training, contributed to strengthening the Lebanese Red Cross and Palestine Red Crescent Lebanon branch.

Between [August 2020 to December 2023](#), the National Society provided multipurpose cash assistance to vulnerable households, provided food parcels in Beirut for areas affected by the Beirut Port Explosions, and supported small and medium-sized businesses with cash assistance. Key interventions included supporting emergency medical services, blood transfusion, and primary health care, as well as secondary health care services. Other efforts encompassed hygiene promotion, shelter winterization, risk reduction, and climate adaptation. Environmental sustainability initiatives involved renewable energy at Red Cross facilities, while community engagement and accountability were implemented through call centre support and proactive monitoring. Capacity building on protection, gender, and inclusion, along with migration training, contributed to strengthening the Lebanese Red Cross and Palestine Red Crescent Lebanon branch. Technical support was provided for their development priorities in this final year of the Emergency Appeal.

## STRATEGIC PRIORITIES



### Climate and environment

#### Progress by the National Society against objectives

The Lebanese Red Cross operational sectors work towards promoting sustainable energy solutions for its facilities as well as supporting environmental programming. The disaster management sector promotes environmentally sustainable interventions, particularly in water, sanitation and hygiene ([WASH](#)) interventions, under the “Green Response Projects.” In 2023, the National Society’s disaster risk reduction ([DRR](#)) unit continued to enhance the capacities of its volunteers through the implementation of the [Y-adapt curriculum](#). The unit has mainstreamed the climate change adaptation in all of its interventions, which includes microprojects on [nature-based solutions](#) and green roofing as well as ensuring the promotion of key messages on climate-related hazards such as floods, winter storms, forest fires and heatwaves.

The disaster management sector has initiated climate-smart programming and engaged with relevant actors on community [early warning early action](#) systems. The DRR unit has equally integrated anticipatory action and climate considerations when implementing its “Road to Community Resilience Roadmap” through the enhanced vulnerability

capacity assessment. The DRR unit works closely with the Ministry of Environment and has established a Memorandum of Understanding about climate-related activities. The youth sector, through its environment programme, aims to spread environmental awareness and promote the adoption of new environmental attitudes and behaviours by affected communities. This is done through afforestation projects and rehabilitation of public green spaces.

### IFRC network joint support

The IFRC provided both technical and financial support to the Lebanese Red Cross in implementing its programmes under climate and environment, especially through its contribution to the solarization of emergency medical service stations.

The **Austrian Red Cross**, the **Japanese Red Cross Society**, the **Netherlands Red Cross** and the **Norwegian Red Cross** have supported the National Society on environmental sustainability as part of their WASH programming.

The **French Red Cross** has an ongoing project known as the early warning and early action system project, specifically designed to mitigate the impact of floods. This proactive initiative focuses on enhancing preparedness and response measures to safeguard communities in flood-prone areas.



## Disasters and crises

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

In 2023, the IFRC Disaster Response Emergency Fund ([IFRC-DREF](#)) was approved for the National Society's response to a [cold wave](#).

<b>NAME OF OPERATION</b>	<a href="#">Lebanon Cold Wave 2024</a>
<b>MDR-CODE</b>	MDRLB016
<b>DURATION</b>	3 months (31/01/2024 to 30/04/2024)
<b>FUNDING ALLOCATION</b>	CHF 268,357
<b>PEOPLE TARGETED</b>	13,000
<b>LATEST OPERATION UPDATE</b>	<a href="#">Lebanon Cold Wave DREF Operation Update</a>

The DREF allocation of CHF 268,357 in January 2024 supported the Lebanese Red Cross to assist approximately 13,000 people affected by a low depression in the eastern basin of the Mediterranean Sea leading to a noticeable drop in temperatures and unstable weather conditions since the start of the winter. The National Society supported the targeted people over a three-month period with assistance such as distribution of fuel vouchers, food parcels, replenishment of stock, among others.

### Progress by the National Society against objectives

Under the response preparedness programme, the Lebanese Red Cross is dedicated to bolstering its readiness and capacity to respond swiftly and effectively to crises and disasters. This involves a multifaceted approach, including enhancing crisis response plans, developing specific response procedures and contingency plans, training volunteers and staff at various levels, systematically conducting after-action reviews and organizing relevant simulations. These vital actions are orchestrated through the disaster management sector and the disaster risk reduction unit.

The response preparedness programme, under the banner of the Preparedness for Effective Response ([PER](#)) approach, extends its focus beyond just the operational readiness of the National Society. It also encompasses the readiness of non-operational sectors' support services. Achieving this entails establishing emergency fast-track procedures for human resources, logistics, procurement and finance, alongside emergency action plans, standard operating procedures (SOPs), contingency stocks and [forecast-based financing](#) processes. Furthermore, it involves crafting emergency guidelines for internal and external communication, as well as fundraising efforts.

Importantly, the mechanisms for sharing lessons learnt and experiences are intended to be extended to the regional level of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, employing the same local channels and methods used in Lebanon. The Lebanese Red Cross envisions establishing a Centre of Excellence for Preparedness for Effective Response, not only to disseminate its own preparedness experiences and lessons but also to compile and analyse lessons and best practices from the broader Movement components. This collective knowledge-sharing approach aims to strengthen institutional learning and response to crises and emergencies.

Under the global [Pilot Programmatic Partnership](#) between the Directorate-General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (DG ECHO) and IFRC, the National Society carried out hazards and resource mapping in 18 locations (Akkar, Hermel, Minieh-Donieh, Zgharta, Chouf, Aley, Baalbeck, West Beqaa, Byblos, Keserouan, El Maten, Beirut, Baabda, Zahle, Saida, Nabatieh, Majaayoun and Tyr). The National Society supported local authorities in assessing the needs and in activating their emergency operation rooms.

Furthermore, the National Society's disaster management sector is committed to ensuring appropriate preparedness, timely and effective response, and sustainable recovery from disasters, emergencies and crises. This is grounded in a people-centred approach that upholds the dignity of individuals affected by and at risk of these events. The disaster management sector accomplishes this through several key programmes, such as the Economic Security (EcoSec) programme and the Shelter and Settlement programme.

The EcoSec programme's primary focus is on sustaining the economic security of selected households and communities. This is achieved by providing essential services such as [cash assistance](#) and food parcel distribution, among others. The Shelter and Settlement programme aims to uphold the dignity of affected populations by providing them with safe, secure, protected and healthy living spaces that facilitate recovery from the impact of emergencies, disasters and crises. This is accomplished through rehabilitation services and small-scale quick-impact projects.

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### **IFRC network joint support**

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 IFRC, the German Red Cross and the Norwegian Red Cross. The Lebanese Red Cross was supported in implementing activities in disaster risk management. Under the disaster risk management pillar, the focus has been on local disaster risk management structures, particularly emergency operation rooms and community emergency response teams.

The **British Red Cross** supported the National Society in disaster management infrastructure. It supports the establishment and enhancement of 16 disaster management centres and supports them in meeting the minimum standards required for effective response. This includes providing essential equipment and IT infrastructure which enables these centres to respond efficiently and swiftly to emergencies and crises.

The **German Red Cross** provided support to the National Society through the provision of cash assistance through the [multipurpose cash assistance](#) programme. At an institutional level, the German Red Cross is supporting the Lebanese Red Cross in developing their fast-track procedure. It supports the Anticipation Over Reaction initiative and in the development of simplified [early action protocols](#).

The **Swedish Red Cross** supported the Lebanese Red Cross in its emergency response funding.

The **Swiss Red Cross** supports the National Society through the provision of cash assistance through the multipurpose cash assistance programme. This financial support is instrumental in alleviating the economic burdens faced by vulnerable populations, which offers them greater stability and autonomy.



Lebanese Red Cross team involved in search and rescue efforts following the February earthquakes in Turkey. (Photo: Lebanese Red Cross)



## Health and wellbeing

### Progress by the National Society against objectives

Lebanon experienced a Cholera outbreak at a time when its healthcare and coping capacity is eroded by complex overlapping crises. In 2022, the country experienced a Cholera outbreak which was announced by Lebanon's Minister of Public Health after the spread of the disease accelerated in the country. In response to the public health emergency, the National Society activated an IFRC Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) operation which provided targeted assistance to approximately 90,000 people. The six-month operation, which began on November 11, 2023, and ended on 31 May 2024, covered areas such as Beirut, Bekaa, Mount Lebanon, north and south.

In response to the Cholera outbreak in Lebanon, the Lebanese Red Cross demonstrated a multifaceted approach. It prioritized the safety of healthcare workers, facilitated patient transportation, and conducted extensive awareness sessions and training. Under Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH), the National Society collaborated with municipalities, distributed hygiene kits, and initiated a national hygiene promotion campaign to increase access to clean water. Its collaboration with the Ministry of Public Health and Ministry of Education strengthened response planning and community engagement. Under WASH, the Lebanese Red Cross reached a target of 93,266 individuals, with a focus on areas such as Aarsal and Akkar. Furthermore, the Risk Reduction and Community Engagement initiative impacted 556,010 people, emphasizing precision and relevance in their interventions. Despite variations in targets, the Lebanese Red Cross showcased adaptability and commitment. The use of PowerBI dashboards underscored their dedication to a harmonized and monitored response.

The National Society's medico-social sector services cover the primary healthcare needs mainly through healthcare centres. The overall goal of the medico-social sector is to improve the wellbeing of the vulnerable host and refugee communities in Lebanon by reducing their health and psychosocial vulnerabilities.

The Lebanese Red Cross emergency medical services improve emergency medical dispatching by strengthening dispatch centres, decreasing response time and improving access to first aid. This is achieved through daily coaching and monitoring of dispatchers, both in-person and online. It works to improve the quality of emergency medical services by ensuring rescuer safety and clinical effectiveness, measuring the quality of pre-hospital services and implementing quality improvement plans, ensuring effective preparedness and response to crises and emergencies. This is achieved through the continuous training of volunteers, emergency medical technicians and other capacity building sessions carried out on a regular basis on a national level. Furthermore, the Lebanese Red Cross blood

transfusion services provide health services to the community by delivering blood components to patients for free. The sector ensures that quality blood components are delivered to patients through quality control tests.

The Palestine Red Crescent Society remains steadfast in its commitment to supporting Lebanese, Palestinian and Syrian communities in Lebanon through its network of five hospitals. These hospitals play a pivotal role in providing essential healthcare services, all while reducing the financial burden on patients when compared to private healthcare facilities. This dedication to affordable and accessible healthcare underscores the Palestine Red Crescent Society's role in the region.

Furthermore, Palestine Red Crescent Society demonstrates ongoing dedication to enhancing its healthcare facilities. The organization actively allocates funds to improve infrastructure, with the goal of bringing some of its hospitals on par with the best medical facilities in Lebanon. This investment in upgrading infrastructure reflects the National Society's commitment to providing high-quality healthcare services to the communities it serves, ultimately contributing to improved healthcare access and outcomes for all.

### **IFRC network joint support**

Under the global [Pilot Programmatic Partnership](#) (PPP) between the IFRC and the Directorate-General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (DG ECHO), the Lebanese Red Cross was supported in carrying out community-level awareness raising activities on cholera prevention. The IFRC supported the National Society's efforts in collaborating with the Ministry of Public Health to develop a community-based surveillance system and mapping water resources and points.

The **Austrian Red Cross** has been supporting the National Society in Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) initiatives in public schools and informal tented settlements. Its primary focus lies on menstrual hygiene management and fostering community engagement.

The **Canadian Red Cross** supported the Lebanese Red Cross in scaling up primary healthcare services, while also providing critical support to mobile medical units and community outreach initiatives.

The **Danish Red Cross** supported the National Society's efforts in providing emergency medical services and medico-social services while it also alleviated the financial burden on patients seeking medical care by covering their bills.

The **French Red Cross** supported the National Society in providing [psychosocial support](#) services, emphasizing the importance of mental and emotional well-being in crisis-affected communities.

The **German Red Cross** continued its ongoing projects in collaboration with various sectors, including emergency medical services, blood transfusion services and medical services support which aims to strengthen emergency response and healthcare services in Lebanon.

The **Japanese Red Cross Society** supported the Lebanese Red Cross in facilitating the expansion of primary healthcare by providing online materials for hospitals. These digital resources included quality assurance quizzes and various other digital products, enhancing the capacity of healthcare facilities. Additionally, the Japanese Red Cross deployed doctors and nurses to provide essential technical support and expertise.

The **Netherlands Red Cross** supported the Lebanese Red Cross by contributing to the expansion of primary healthcare services, supporting mobile medical units, conducting community outreach efforts, and enhancing emergency medical services. It provided support to five Palestinian Red Crescent Society hospitals, bolstering their capacity to deliver essential medical services.

The **Norwegian Red Cross** supported the National Society's emergency medical services as well as its mobile medical unit.

The **Spanish Red Cross** offered essential analysis materials to the National Society's blood transfusion services and supported medical services support by covering personnel costs, supplying medicines and providing necessary equipment. The Spanish Red Cross assisted the Palestine Red Crescent Society in developing its own volunteer management system through training courses and direct support, including the implementation of ad hoc volunteer management system tools such as policies and SOPs.



## Migration and displacement

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### Progress by the National Society against objectives

The Lebanese Red Cross includes migrants in the implementation of all programmes and projects. To increase activities and services for migrants in need, the National Society is working on developing a support plan to assist migrants which includes the identification of migrants, conducting needs assessment, coordination with the sectors, identification of projects and programmes, and field visits to informal tented settlements.

The Lebanese Red Cross has been working on its restoring family links (RFL) programme with the main objective of locating missing persons. Moving forward, this programme will be working on three main pillars which include the capacity building of disaster management sector trainers who will attend a training of trainers, deliver RFL sessions to new volunteers, and conduct refresher training. In 2023, the National Society trained a total of 779 branch volunteers in RFL. Furthermore, the RFL programme will also be working on dead bodies management by setting up the relevant teams and providing them with training. In 2023, the National Society trained a total of 150 staff and volunteers on dead bodies' management.

### IFRC network joint support

The IFRC supports the Lebanese Red Cross in its efforts to build its capacity for migration activities. This support includes both financial and technical assistance for programme areas such as training of National Society staff and volunteers on assessing, understanding, and responding to the needs of migrants, displaced persons and host communities.

The **Netherlands Red Cross** is supporting the National Society through a project aimed at assisting Syrian refugees and vulnerable Lebanese communities in Akkar. These efforts primarily revolve around delivering essential WASH services and distributing food parcels.

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The ICRC provides support to the National Society's restoring family links and dead bodies' management initiatives.



## Values, power and inclusion

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### Progress by the National Society against objectives

The Lebanese Red Cross has made Protection, Gender and Inclusion (PGI) a cross-cutting theme in its Strategy 2022-2024. The National Society plans to implement robust policies and procedures related to protection from sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA), fraud and whistleblower protection. The National Society's psychosocial support programme specially focuses on vulnerable groups, in addition to Lebanese Red Cross volunteers and staff.

The Lebanese Red Cross has made protection, gender and inclusion (PGI) a cross-cutting theme in its Strategy 2022-2024. It plans to implement robust policies and procedures related to PSEA (Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse), Fraud, and Whistleblower protection, aligning with best practices in these areas.

The National Society's community engagement and accountability (CEA) programmes empowers volunteers to address the needs of their communities through various initiatives. These initiatives can range from raising awareness about public health issues to organizing blood donation drives and providing first aid training. The CEA program fosters a sense of social responsibility and civic engagement among volunteers, while also strengthening the capacity of the Lebanese Red Cross to deliver essential services to the public. This program plays a vital role in promoting health, safety, and well-being within Lebanese communities.

### IFRC network joint support

The IFRC provides technical support to the National Society through its regional PGI experts to develop necessary institutional capacity, composition, and commitment to address violence, discrimination and exclusion, in addition to mainstreaming PGI minimum standards in emergencies across all operations and programmes. Key focus areas

revolve around benchmarking and monitoring PGI mainstreaming priorities using the IFRC PGI scorecard, training of staff and volunteers, and sensitization on gender-based violence.

The **Spanish Red Cross** supports the National Society through its contributions which support programmes related to inclusion of persons with disabilities.

## ENABLING LOCAL ACTORS



### Strategic and operational coordination

#### IFRC membership coordination

IFRC membership coordination involves working with member National Societies to assess the humanitarian context, humanitarian situations and needs; agreeing on common priorities; jointly 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, links with development assistance, and efforts to reinforce National Societies in their respective countries, including through their auxiliary role.

The Lebanese Red Cross is part of the global [Pilot Programmatic Partnership](#) (PPP) between the European Commission's Directorate-General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (DG ECHO) and the IFRC. This partnership benefits from the implementation support of the German Red Cross as the lead EU National Society, as well as the Norwegian Red Cross, and coordination support from the IFRC. This coordination revolves around the three pillars which are disaster risk management, epidemic and pandemic preparedness and response, and community engagement and accountability (CEA).

The **Lebanese Red Cross** receives support from the **Austrian Red Cross, British Red Cross, Canadian Red Cross, Danish Red Cross, French Red Cross, German Red Cross, Japanese Red Cross Society, Netherlands Red Cross, Norwegian Red Cross, Spanish Red Cross, Swedish Red Cross,** and the **Swiss Red Cross**.

#### Movement coordination

The Lebanese Red Cross ensures regular exchanges with the IFRC, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and participating National Societies, for the alignment of support and action between Movement partners. In times of emergencies, closer coordination is organized. This is carried out in line with the [Strengthening Movement Coordination and Cooperation](#) (SMCC) principles, and the newly-adopted [Seville Agreement 2.0](#).

The ICRC works 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 operations 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 organization development priorities, including the Safer Access framework.

#### External coordination

The Lebanese Red Cross coordinates its support to Syrian refugees in informal tented settlements with other humanitarian actors through existing mechanisms. The water sector in Lebanon is coordinated by the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and with the presence of the main actors in-country. During the initial influx of refugees, the informal tented settlements were divided amongst the main actors to avoid any duplication of service provision and maximize nationwide coverage.

The IFRC is coordinating efforts with the Government of Japan regarding a potential project designed to provide support to the Lebanese Red Cross. This project, known as the "Humanitarian Assistance for Healthcare in Lebanon," is a collaborative endeavour being jointly implemented by the Lebanese Red Cross and the Palestinian Red Crescent

Society - Lebanon Branch. Its primary objective is to address the pressing healthcare needs that have arisen in response to Lebanon's multifaceted humanitarian crisis.

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 several partnerships with UN agencies, including United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).



## National Society Development

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### Progress by the National Society against objectives

The Lebanese Red Cross's branch development programme has a mandate to support branches in capacity building through several activities, such as defining the role of the board and branch members, conduct Branch Operational Capacity Assessment (BOCA) and local community assessments and to disseminate the role of the branch internally and externally. As the decision to formally adopt the Branch Development Framework remains pending, the focus in the current context of instability is on three axes:

- Supporting the financial sustainability of the branches, mainly through the onboarding of branches into the digital fundraising system
- Supporting volunteer management at branch level. The scaling up of the exit interview process and of the peer support system establishes capacities and practices that are useful to the future increase in the scope of volunteering locally
- 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 to introduce the habit of adapting services and activities to match the community's highest priority needs

### IFRC network joint support

The IFRC supports the National Society's efforts in actively driving forward the localization agenda, aiming to strategically empower the National Society to enhance its communication effectiveness. A key element of this strategic involves collaborating in the National Society Investment Alliance (NSIA), a joint initiative funded in partnership with the ICRC.

The French Red Cross supports the National Society in conducting a review of its logistical and procurement guidelines, emphasizing the importance of optimizing these critical processes.

The Swedish Red Cross is initiating measures to strengthen financial capacity and project monitoring, evaluation and reporting support. This commitment reflects their dedication to ensuring efficient resource management and effective project oversight, ultimately contributing to the success of humanitarian initiatives in Lebanon.



## Humanitarian diplomacy

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### Progress by the National Society against objectives

The Lebanese Red Cross fundraising and communications unit focuses on recruiting individual one-time and monthly donors, as well as improving communications with the public and increasing the National Society's transparency and accountability through its social media channels, website and direct communications. The National Society's previous fundraising strategy has been rendered obsolete due to the rapidly evolving context in Lebanon, most particularly,

due to the economic crisis and massive devaluation of the Lebanese Lira. This has required a shift in focus on the Lebanese diaspora, which is much more complex and costly to reach and recruit.

The focus of the fundraising initiatives, supported by digital communications, over the next three years will be on the recruitment and retention of individual one-time and monthly donors. There will also be a concentrated effort to encourage out-of-country corporate entities to enter long-term partnerships with the Lebanese Red Cross.

### **IFRC network joint support**

**The IFRC** supports the Lebanese Red Cross in promoting stronger positioning of the Lebanese Red Cross and the Palestine Red Crescent Society in the overall response and recovery through strengthened advocacy and humanitarian diplomacy efforts. The IFRC supported the National Society in facilitating sessions with key international donors and political decision-makers to advocate for the National Society's work and to highlight its achievements.



## **Accountability and agility (cross-cutting)**

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### **Progress by the National Society against objectives**

In line with its commitment to financial transparency and accountability, the Lebanese Red Cross has pledged to publish both audited annual and emergency response financial statements. This step aims to enhance transparency and accountability in financial matters, provide stakeholders with a clear view of the organization's transparency and accountability in financial matters, and increase the effective and efficient use of resources.

The Lebanese Red Cross has outlined a comprehensive plan of action which encompasses various initiatives to enhance its operational effectiveness, these initiatives include a peer support system to enhance the overall wellbeing of its members, exit interviews for volunteers, motivation surveys, knowledge dissemination, individual giving programmes to mobilize resources from the local community, consolidation of plans and reports, complaint mechanisms, minimum training standards, development of competency framework, performance management of staff through a new performance management system, among others.

The National Society has also embarked on enhancing its preparedness and response capabilities. Efforts under risk management include updating preparedness and response plans, enhancing its emergency response procedures, and stock piling resources to deploy them effectively during times of emergency.

As part of its digital transformation efforts, the Lebanese Red Cross has set objectives as part of its strategic initiative. This includes the establishment of a well-functioning information management unit, ensuring that data is effectively captured for decision-making processes, implementing software solution that integrates procurement, finance and logistics function, and centralized warehousing to optimize the storage and distribution of essential resources.

### **IFRC network joint support**

**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 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.

### DATA SCOPE AND LIMITATIONS

- **Missing data and breakdowns:** National Societies have diverse data collection systems and processes that may not align with the standardized indicators. Data may not be available for some indicators, for some National Societies. This may lead to inconsistencies across different reporting tools as well as potential under or over-estimation of the efforts led by all.
- **Reporting bias:** The data informing this Federation-wide overview is self-reported by each National Society (or its designated support entity) and which is the owner and gatekeeper, and responsible for accuracy and updating. IFRC tries to triangulate the data provided by the National Societies with previous data and other data in the public domain.

### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- [IFRC Lebanon 2023 Financial Report](#)

**Note:** For emergencies for which a financial report is not yet available, see [MDRS5002](#) and [MDRLB016](#)

- [IFRC network country plans](#)
- [Subscribe for updates](#)
- [Live Disaster Response Emergency Fund \(DREF\) data](#)
- Operational information: [IFRC GO platform](#)
- National Society data: [IFRC Federation-wide Databank and Reporting System](#)
- [Evaluations database](#)

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