



LEBANON

2026-2028 IFRC network country plan



9 January 2026

In support of the Lebanese Red Cross



32

National Society branches



221

National Society local units



400

National Society staff



12,500+

National Society volunteers

People to be reached in 2026



535,000

Ongoing emergency operations



41,000

Climate and environment



107,000

Disasters and crises



427,000

Health and wellbeing



650

Migration and displacement



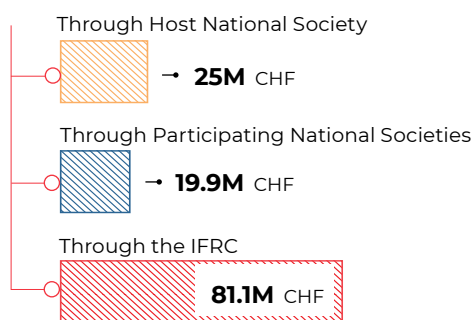
4,000

Values, power and inclusion

IFRC network Funding Requirements

2026

Total 126M CHF



2027

Total 9.9M CHF

2028

313,000 CHF

Projected funding requirements

Participating National Societies

American Red Cross*

Australian Red Cross*

Austrian Red Cross

British Red Cross

Bulgarian Red Cross*

Canadian Red Cross

Danish Red Cross

French Red Cross

German Red Cross

Italian Red Cross

Japanese Red Cross Society

Red Cross of Monaco*

The Netherlands Red Cross

Norwegian Red Cross

Qatar Red Crescent Society

Spanish Red Cross

Swedish Red Cross,

Swiss Red Cross

**National Societies which have contributed only multilaterally through the IFRC in 2025.*

IFRC Appeal codes

Emergency Appeal:

MDRLB017

Lebanon Complex
Emergency

MDRLB015

Middle East Crisis:
MENA

Longer-term needs:

MGRLB001

Hazards



Economic hardship



Food insecurity



Population movement



Drought



Fires



Storms

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 links

INFORM Severity rating

High

INFORM Climate Change Risk Index

Medium

Human Development Index rank

102

World Bank Population figure

5.8M



Lebanese Red Cross volunteers distribute women's emergency kits in Katermaya, supported by the people and government of Japan (Photo: IFRC)

Detailed funding requirements

	2026	2027
	IFRC	IFRC
Ongoing emergencies	74M	MDRLB015- Middle East Crisis: MENA (Not available)
Longer-term needs		
Climate and environment	650,000	650,000
Disasters & crises		
Health & wellbeing	5M	5M
Migration & displacement	750,000	750,000
Values, power & inclusion		
Enabling local actors	500,000	500,000
Total	81.1M	6.9M

Participating National Societies bilateral support

National Society	Year	Funding Requirement	Confirmed Funding	Climate and environment	Disasters and crises	Health and wellbeing	Migration and displacement	Values, power and inclusion	Enabling Functions
Austrian Red Cross	2026	2.5M	1.7M		-	2.2M			186,000
	2027	1.2M	313,000			1M			107,000
	2028	313,000	313,000			313,000			
British Red Cross	2026			-	-			-	-
Canadian Red Cross Society	2026	1.3M			100,000	1.1M		10,000	115,000
	2027	115,000							115,000
Danish Red Cross	2026	5.3M	5.2M	-	-	-			-
French Red Cross	2026	1.9M			56,000	1.6M			150,000
German Red Cross	2026	2.1M			693,000	1.3M	18,000		46,000
	2027	1.7M			462,000	1.2M	9,000		32,000
Italian Red Cross	2026	187,000				187,000			
Japanese Red Cross Society	2026	241,000	241,000			241,000			
Netherlands Red Cross	2026	1.2M			452,000	192,000	371,000		172,000
Norwegian Red Cross	2026	1.5M	1.5M			-			
Qatar Red Crescent Society	2026	189,000			36,000	153,000			
Spanish Red Cross	2026	716,000	716,000		716,000				
Swedish Red Cross	2026	2.8M	1.5M	85,000	339,000	1.3M	1M		
Swiss Red Cross	2026				-	-	-		-

See back page for explanatory note on funding requirements

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 pre-hospital emergency 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. In 2023 alone, the Lebanese Red Cross responded to multiple needs linked to complex national and regional crises, and climate and health related hazards.

According to its Strategic Plan 2025–2029, the Lebanese Red Cross has outlined a renewed strategic framework built around three pillars: Operational Priorities, Priority Investments, and Active Engagement. The five overarching operational goals under the health and resilience priorities are:

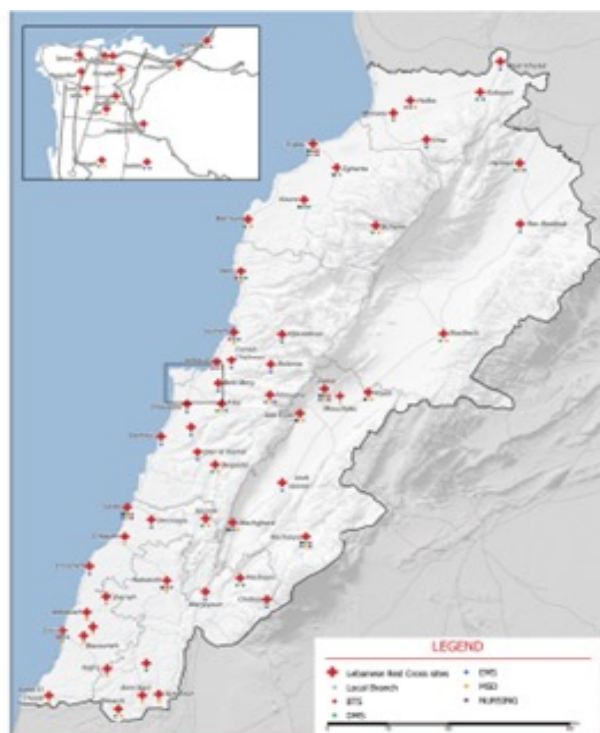
- Save lives by enhancing and expanding the availability of high-quality, effective, pre-hospital care services, ensuring that every individual in Lebanon has timely access to medical support
- Provide safe blood products while developing a sustainable, self-sufficient blood service system that meets the needs of all patients, supported by a robust voluntary donor base
- Contribute to reducing mortality and morbidity of populations in Lebanon by improving access to quality chronic, acute, and preventive health services
- Ensure the safety and well-being of all communities through effective mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery strategies while implementing a resilient disaster management system
- Empower community members as active participants in the promotion of social cohesion, environmental sustainability, and resilience-building through inclusive programmes

These operational priorities are supported by strategic priority investments in financial sustainability, volunteer culture and systems and capacities enhancement, while ensuring active engagement towards people and environment in Community Engagement and Accountability, Mental Health and Psychosocial Support, Protection, Gender and Inclusion and environmental protection and sustainability across all operations.

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.

The Palestine Red Crescent Society's Lebanon branch remains active in Lebanon, in view of the specific needs of Palestinian refugees (see IFRC membership coordination section).

In 2024, the National Society reached approximately 703,000 people through its long-term services and development programmes and 397,000 people through disaster response and early recovery programmes.



Map of Lebanese Red Cross branches

The map does not imply the expression of any opinion on the part of the IFRC or the National Society concerning the legal status of a territory or its authorities

IFRC NETWORK ACTION

JOINT SITUATIONAL ANALYSIS

Lebanon stands at a critical juncture, facing a convergence of environmental, humanitarian and socioeconomic crises that are reshaping the country's landscape. Over the past decade, the nation has endured compounding shocks—from the 2019 financial collapse and the devastating [Beirut port explosions](#) to regional hostilities, protracted displacement and intensifying climate pressures. As of 2025, Lebanon continues to grapple with a deepening humanitarian crisis marked by widespread poverty, fragile infrastructure and growing environmental decline.

Climate change is accelerating Lebanon's vulnerabilities. Increasingly extreme heat, drought, destructive wildfires and erratic rainfall are degrading agricultural land, reducing water availability and amplifying pollution. The collapse of the power sector has pushed reliance on diesel generators, creating hazardous air quality, especially in Beirut, while untreated wastewater and polluted rivers have driven water insecurity to critical levels. Floods, fires and soil degradation are further eroding already weakened infrastructure and livelihoods in both rural and urban areas.

The humanitarian landscape has worsened due to escalating hostilities along the southern border and in Gaza and the West Bank since late 2023. By late 2024, nearly 690,000 internally displaced persons (IDPs) had been [officially recorded](#), with total displacement estimated to reach up to 1.2 million people. More than 4,000 residential buildings have been destroyed and shelters are overwhelmed, with many families residing in overcrowded centres, unfinished buildings, tents or open areas. Attacks on health personnel and facilities have severely constrained emergency and primary healthcare, forcing the closure of nearly 100 primary healthcare centres and damaging dozens of medical facilities and ambulances.

Lebanon's once strong healthcare system continues to deteriorate due to severe shortages of staff, fuel, medicines and funding. More than [40 per cent of doctors have emigrated](#), leaving peripheral regions such as Akkar, Bekaa and Baalbek-Hermel facing critical service gaps. Recent health shocks—including the 2022 cholera outbreak and declining vaccination coverage—highlight systemic weaknesses in water, sanitation and disease prevention systems. Access to care is increasingly unaffordable for both Lebanese nationals and refugees.

[Food insecurity](#) remains a major concern. Between April and June 2025, one in five people—approximately 1.17 million—faced crisis or emergency levels of hunger. While conditions have improved compared to earlier phases of the crisis, the situation remains fragile and dependent on sustained humanitarian support and stability. Lebanon continues to host approximately 1.5 million Syrian refugees and nearly 500,000 Palestinians, the highest refugee population per capita globally. Many live in overcrowded, substandard shelters and rely heavily on humanitarian assistance, while migrant domestic workers remain vulnerable under the restrictive kafala system.

Protection risks are rising across communities. Child labour, early marriage and school dropout have increased as families adopt negative coping mechanisms. More than 600 schools have been damaged during recent hostilities, leaving nearly half a million children out of education—over 80 per cent of them non-Lebanese. Women, children, persons with disabilities and marginalized groups face heightened vulnerability to violence, exploitation and discrimination, further undermining social cohesion.

Lebanon's way forward requires coordinated and sustained action to stabilize essential services, strengthen governance, expand climate adaptation and scale up social protection.

ONGOING EMERGENCY RESPONSE

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

1.

Emergency Appeal name	Lebanon Complex Emergency 2024
IFRC Emergency Appeal code	MDRLB017
People to be assisted	700,000
Duration	26 months (5 November 2024 to 31 December 2026)
Funding requirements	IFRC Secretariat funding requirements: CHF 80 million Federation-wide funding requirements: CHF 100 million
Link to Emergency Appeal	Emergency Appeal Lebanon Complex Emergency
Link to Operational Strategy	Operational Strategy Lebanon Complex Emergency
Link to Latest Operations Update	Lebanon Complex Emergency Operation Update #3

The IFRC launched a dedicated Emergency Appeal to support the Lebanese Red Cross in addressing the severe humanitarian consequences of the recent escalation of hostilities in Lebanon.

Since October 2023, IFRC assistance to the Lebanese Red Cross was provided through the multi-country Middle East Complex Emergency Appeal, which focused on the regional impact of the Gaza crisis. However, the sharp surge in violence in September 2024 resulted in extensive destruction and large-scale displacement, further aggravating Lebanon's already critical socio-economic situation.

This stand-alone Lebanon appeal enables a more robust, Federation-wide response to both the immediate emergency and the longer-term recovery needs of affected communities. While the Middle East Crisis Emergency Appeal will remain active until December 2026, all contributions intended for Lebanon from November 2024 onward should be directed to the Lebanon Complex Emergency Appeal.

Short description of the emergency operational strategy

This strategy outlines a comprehensive response to the recent escalation of hostilities in Lebanon, addressing both immediate humanitarian needs and longer-term recovery. The Lebanese Red Cross, leveraging its extensive local presence and experience, will assist those directly affected—through displacement, loss of family, property and livelihoods—as well as those impacted indirectly by psychosocial and socio-economic challenges. Supported by the IFRC and the global network, the approach prioritizes the most vulnerable, including host and refugee communities. Strong coordination among Movement partners and stakeholders will ensure an effective, well-integrated response. The National Society is currently helping approximately 700,000 people in the areas of:

Shelter, housing and settlements

Distributed 23,651 mattresses, 22,651 blankets and 1,864 shelter kits (including tarpaulins and repair tools) between January and June 2025. Continued to provide emergency multi-purpose cash assistance to help affected households meet their most pressing needs.

Food security and livelihoods

Distributed 167,523 food parcels to 400 families between January and June 2025 across several governorates, including Akkar, Baalbek-Hermel, Beirut, Bekaa, Keserwan-Jbeil, Nabatieh, Mount Lebanon, North Lebanon and South Lebanon.

Multi-purpose cash

Implemented Phase II of its [cash assistance](#) programme from April to June 2025, reaching 2,214 additional households across Baalbek-Hermel, Mount Lebanon, Nabatieh and South Lebanon—bringing the total to 10,796 households assisted since January 2025. Phase II introduced sustained monthly transfers of CHF 162 for six months to the most vulnerable families, using refined targeting through scoring systems and phone-based assessments.

Health and care

Between January and June 2025, the Lebanese Red Cross delivered a comprehensive health response amid conflict and non-conflict emergencies.

- Emergency medical services: 81,987 patients received prehospital care and transport; 15 conflict-injured evacuated, 16 civilians relocated and 31 conflict-related bodies handled with dignity
- Operational capacity: 1,116 EMS volunteers, 1,203 ambulances deployed and 512,333 emergency hotline calls managed

- Training and workforce: 20 dispatchers coached, 298 EMS volunteers trained on EMTs, 312 on First Response and 109 drivers trained; 611 ambulances maintained for readiness
- Blood services: 21,528 units of blood collected and 25,950 components delivered to patients
- Mobile health and PHCs: 876 Mobile Medical Units provided 99,299 consultations and 177,332 medication services
- Immunization: 146,886 vaccines administered and 164,959 children reached with health information
- Psychosocial support and community engagement: 915 youth in life skills sessions, 1,196 children engaged in HVP activities and 926 individuals reached through International Humanitarian Law (IHL) awareness sessions

with children (ages 6–17), followed by two national rollout sessions. Additional modules cover community-based MHPSS and summer camps. Launched a specialized 12-session psychosocial programme for women at risk of Gender-Based Violence, training social workers to lead implementation across multiple areas.

Youth Sector organized school-based mental health awareness events and youth-led initiatives; Disaster Risk Reduction Unit expanded MHPSS programmes for children and youth in war-affected communities; Medico-Social Services delivered national-scale programmes in schools, positive parenting sessions and individual support through healthcare centres and Mobile Medical Units. Disseminated mental health messages and maintained referral pathways to link individuals with specialized services.

Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA)

The non-emergency hotline (1760) handled 44,852 calls, serving as an information hub and feedback channel promoted by volunteers during field activities. Feedback collected via the 140 EMS Call Centre and pilot First Aid satisfaction surveys informed service improvements, including facility upgrades and connectivity enhancements. Donor satisfaction forms and redirected hotline feedback ensured accountability in blood donation processes. Hotline support addressed inquiries and complaints on eligibility and transactions; volunteers trained in culturally sensitive communication; reflection meetings led to improved FAQs, SMS updates and flyers for beneficiaries.

Water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH)

Distributed 36,900 hygiene kits—22,920 in Q1 and 13,980 in Q2—primarily in Beirut, South Lebanon, Baalbek-Hermel, Bekaa, Nabatieh and North Lebanon. Provided 152 household cleaning kits in Baalbek-Hermel to promote safe disinfection practices. Delivered 69,486 litres of potable water to families in Akkar and North Lebanon, ensuring access to safe drinking water amid damaged infrastructure.

Protection, Gender and Inclusion (PGI)

Developed and piloted a new mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) course for staff and volunteers working

2.

Emergency Appeal name	Middle East Crisis MENA
IFRC Emergency Appeal code	MDRS5002
People to be assisted	700,000
Duration	36 months (18 October 2023 extended till 31 December 2026)
Funding requirements	IFRC Secretariat funding requirement: CHF 185 million Federation-wide funding requirement: CHF 200 million
Link to Emergency Appeal	Emergency Appeal Middle East Crisis MENA
Link to Revised Emergency Appeal	Revised Emergency Appeal MENA Middle East Complex Emergency
Latest National Society Operational Strategy	Lebanon National Society Response Plan
Link to Latest Operations Update	Middle East Complex Emergency Operation Update #5

Since 7 October 2023, hostilities have escalated across Gaza and the West Bank, causing severe humanitarian impacts. Over 2,670 deaths and 9,600 injuries were reported in Gaza within the first 10 days, alongside widespread infrastructure damage and restricted access. The situation spilled over into neighbouring countries: southern Lebanon faced continuous clashes, infrastructure destruction and 10,000 displaced people, compounding Lebanon's ongoing economic crisis. Syria, already weakened by years of conflict and the 2023 earthquake, experienced renewed airstrikes, armed clashes and shelling, further straining coping capacities. Across the MENA region, rising tensions, civil unrest and localized escalations threatened to increase displacement, migration and humanitarian needs as conditions remain volatile and deteriorating.

Through this Emergency Appeal, the IFRC seeks to support National Societies across the Middle East and North Africa—specifically the Lebanese Red Cross, Egyptian Red Crescent, Syrian Arab Red Crescent and Jordanian Red Crescent—in enhancing preparedness and strengthening response capacity to address potential escalations of hostilities and resulting humanitarian needs in the region. The MENA Complex Emergency Appeal, earlier ending in December 2025, has been extended until December 2026 to address ongoing humanitarian needs in Lebanon and the region.

Short description of the emergency operational strategy

Since the escalation of hostilities in October 2023, the Lebanese Red Cross has led the response to spillover impacts along Lebanon's southern border, supporting Lebanese, Syrian and Palestinian communities through emergency medical care, blood transfusion, primary healthcare, mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) and essential relief distributions. Preparedness efforts included armed conflict awareness sessions, evacuation drills and the creation of 21 Community Emergency Response Teams (CERTs) trained in first aid, firefighting and crisis management.

The sharp escalation in September 2024 caused over 4,000 deaths, 17,200 injuries and 1.2 million displaced people, while Lebanon's health system suffered severe damage, with 15 hospitals non-operational and 173 attacks on healthcare facilities recorded. Between October 2023 and November 2024, the Lebanese Red Cross conducted 3,125 ambulance missions, transporting 1,178 injured and 448 deceased, supported by 1,215 EMTs. From October 2023 to June 2025, the National Society delivered 223,652 medical consultations, distributed 348,040 medications and provided food parcels, hygiene kits, mattresses, blankets, water and ready-to-eat meals.

The Lebanese Red Cross coordinated closely with government ministries, municipalities and security forces, activating Emergency Operations Rooms and assessing schools for shelter use. It also worked with OCHA, UNHCR and other partners to harmonize response efforts. Complementing its work, the Palestinian Red Crescent Society – Lebanon Branch expanded healthcare and MHPSS for Palestinian refugees in camps.



Climate and environment

Lebanon is grappling with escalating climate-related challenges that pose severe risks to public health, livelihoods and critical infrastructure. Rising temperatures are a major concern, with projections indicating that nearly 65 per cent of days in the coming years could be extremely hot. This trend will increase heat-related illnesses and accelerate drought and desertification, driving more frequent sand and dust storms. Human activity further exacerbates these risks, as 80 per cent of wildfires are man-made, contributing to land degradation and pushing the country toward desertification.

Air quality has deteriorated sharply, particularly in Beirut, where the collapse of the electricity sector has forced reliance on diesel generators and low-quality fuel. Research shows a 300 per cent increase in pollution from generators, creating thick smog and compounding respiratory and cardiovascular health risks. Inconsistent waste collection and open burning add to the toxic mix, creating long-term hazards for communities. At the same time, Lebanon's biodiversity—including forests and marine ecosystems—is under threat from habitat loss, invasive species and rising wildfire frequency.

Water scarcity represents another critical challenge. Despite Lebanon's natural water resources, over 92 per cent of wastewater is discharged untreated and most river water contains harmful bacteria. Reduced rainfall, groundwater over-extraction and salinized aquifers further erode access to clean water. Declining snow cover, once a vital seasonal reservoir, worsens drought periods and limits aquifer recharge. These shortages undermine agriculture, industry and daily life, with rural communities and refugee populations bearing disproportionate impacts.

The economic repercussions of climate change extend across multiple sectors. Tourism, which employs nearly 38 per cent of the workforce, faces mounting threats from rising heat, dwindling precipitation, sea-level rise and coastal flooding. Agriculture—a cornerstone of rural livelihoods—is increasingly vulnerable to declining crop yields, soil erosion, seawater intrusion and extreme weather shocks, while livestock productivity suffers from poor pasture conditions, heatwaves and floods. Together, these risks jeopardize national food security and Lebanon's ability to sustain its agricultural base.

Extreme weather events are becoming more frequent and intense. Shifting rainfall patterns have led to devastating floods, such as the seven-day deluge in 2024 that displaced over 10,000 people and damaged infrastructure in northern Lebanon. Unplanned urban expansion and inadequate drainage systems amplified the impact, while coastal erosion

and seawater intrusion compound risks to infrastructure and local economies.

Lebanon ranks among the least prepared countries globally for climate change, standing 161st out of 192 and second only to Yemen in the MENA region. This vulnerability stems from limited adaptive capacity, further weakened by economic collapse and political paralysis. Climate-driven impacts are creating substantial protection challenges, with the most vulnerable—including refugees and those in informal settlements—bearing the greatest burden. Without urgent investment in adaptation, disaster risk reduction and sustainable resource management, Lebanon faces a future of deepening humanitarian needs and eroding resilience.

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

The Lebanese Red Cross is part of the IFRC's Global Climate Resilience Programme, which aims to foster an unprecedented scale-up in locally led climate-smart disaster risk reduction and adaptation efforts to prevent and reduce climate-related disaster impacts and build community-level climate resilience. The programme aims to support 500 million 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-smart programming into the National Society's activities and increase education and awareness-raising among the Lebanese Red Cross's youth sector

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will continue capacity-building initiatives in 2026, focusing on the implementation of the simplified Early Action Protocol ([sEAP](#)) for winter storms. These measures reflect a proactive strategy to strengthen preparedness and response to climate-related disasters while actively monitoring opportunities to access green climate financing.

The **British Red Cross** will support the Lebanese Red Cross by promoting an integrated approach to climate action and sustainability, leveraging disaster risk reduction and disaster management activities such as Cash and Voucher Assistance ([CVA](#)) and community preparedness initiatives.

The **Danish Red Cross** will contribute to climate resilience programming based on recommendations from the recent MENA Climate Resilience Study, which analysed Lebanon's policy landscape and proposed actionable measures for rural and urban contexts. This support will prioritize [nature-based solutions](#) to mitigate climate impacts at the community level.

Planned activities in 2026

- Institutionalize Community-Based Disaster Risk Management ([CBDRM](#)) at both local and national levels, engaging municipalities, Disaster Risk Management committees and communities to build stronger resilience to climate-related hazards.
- Expand [early warning and early action](#) systems to anticipate and mitigate the impacts of cold waves, heatwaves and other climate-driven risks
- Integrate [climate-smart practices](#) into its water, sanitation and hygiene ([WASH](#)), [shelter](#) and livelihood programmes to ensure long-term sustainability, while introducing and expanding renewable and clean energy solutions across its facilities
- Promote environmental education, foster green behaviours and mobilize local action through youth as leaders
- Embed climate action across its service delivery, operational systems and community engagement, contributing to a safer, greener and more resilient Lebanon



Disasters and crises

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

Lebanon is experiencing overlapping crises that significantly heighten its vulnerability to disasters. The country ranks 19th on the INFORM Risk Index, reflecting the compounded risks of long-standing conflict, political instability, displacement and intensifying climate shocks. These vulnerabilities are exacerbated by one of the most severe economic collapses globally, which has [driven poverty to unprecedented levels](#). By 2021, over 80 per cent of the population lived in multidimensional poverty, facing deprivation in healthcare, electricity, water, sanitation and income—a rate that doubled since 2019. This socioeconomic breakdown has eroded household resilience and coping capacity, leaving millions exposed to humanitarian risks.

The escalation of hostilities along Lebanon's southern border since October 2023 has deepened these challenges. Violence peaked between September and November 2024, resulting in over 4,000 fatalities, 17,200 injuries and mass displacement. By mid-2025, more than one million people had been uprooted, with thousands sheltering in [overcrowded collective centres](#), unfinished buildings and informal settlements lacking basic services. Protection risks remain acute, as many displaced individuals live in unsafe conditions without adequate shelter or

access to healthcare. The influx of Syrian refugees—over 80,000 arrivals by May 2025—has further strained host communities and public services, particularly in Bekaa, Baalbek-Hermel, Akkar and the North.

Food insecurity has emerged as a critical concern. According to the [Famine Early Warning Systems Network](#), one in five people—approximately 1.17 million individuals—faced crisis or emergency levels of acute food insecurity between [April and June 2025](#). This is driven by widespread infrastructure damage, disrupted agricultural production and the compounded effects of years of economic decline. While some recovery is evident, progress remains fragile and any reversal in stability could rapidly worsen the situation.

[Humanitarian response efforts](#) are hampered by insecurity, difficult terrain and limited state capacity. Coordination among national authorities, UN agencies and NGOs is essential but challenged by implementation gaps. Lebanon's Disaster Risk Management Unit provides a framework for preparedness, yet the absence of a comprehensive legal structure leaves roles and responsibilities fragmented. With growing threats from climate change, wildfires, droughts and public health emergencies, the need for stronger governance and disaster law is urgent.

The complexity of Lebanon's crisis underscores the convergence of conflict, economic collapse and climate risks, creating large-scale humanitarian needs and protection challenges. Vulnerable groups—including refugees, internally displaced persons and those in informal settlements—bear the greatest burden. Without sustained investment in preparedness, governance and resilience-building, Lebanon remains highly exposed to future shocks, with profound implications for health, livelihoods and social stability.

Multi-year high-level objectives of the National Society

At the regional level, the Lebanese Red Cross will position itself as a leader in the development of the Disaster Law Treaty, through offering the support to national authorities in aligning Lebanon's frameworks with international standards. Finally, the National Society will renew its efforts to secure parliamentary adoption of the draft law recognizing its auxiliary role, ensuring that its mandate is legally institutionalized and its contributions to disaster preparedness and response are fully acknowledged.

The Lebanese Red Cross' disaster management sector has been actively providing essential relief, including food, hygiene items, mattresses, blankets and other necessary supplies, while the Disaster Risk Reduction unit also supports the government through the deployment of volunteers in Emergency Operation Rooms at the governorate level to enhance coordination and registration of displaced households. The National Society's multi-year high-level objectives are to:

- Ensure timely and inclusive humanitarian assistance for all crisis-affected populations
- Enhance operational readiness and response capacity for multi-hazard emergencies
- Build community resilience through participatory preparedness and risk reduction
- Improve legal and institutional frameworks for disaster governance and recognition of its role
- Position Lebanon to access climate and disaster financing and strengthen long-term recovery mechanisms
- Support legal and policy development, including advancing the Disaster Law Treaty at regional level and securing parliamentary adoption of the draft law recognizing its auxiliary role

Planned activities in 2026

- Continue providing large-scale relief distributions including food, hygiene kits, blankets and medications
- Expand multi-purpose cash assistance and food security interventions to sustain household economic security

- Reinforce preparedness of disaster management centres and specialized response teams, including Urban Search and Rescue (USAR)
- Mobilize volunteers and establish community-based disaster risk management committees for localized resilience planning
- Institutionalize contingency planning for complex crises (economic collapse, displacement, conflict, epidemics)
- Strengthen coordination and governance through participation in national and subnational disaster risk management forums

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The **IFRC** will play a central role in resource mobilization through appeals and the Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (**DREF**), ensuring sustained operations. It will continue building the Lebanese Red Cross' capacity in shelter services and improving overall disaster relief operations. The IFRC will support in strengthening crisis readiness and leading advocacy efforts to improve Lebanon's disaster risk management legal and policy frameworks, including advancing discussions on a national Disaster Law treaty and securing clarity on roles, responsibilities and financing arrangements.

The **Austrian Red Cross** will continue supporting the National Society's response operations in WASH and cash assistance to meet the basic needs of Syrian refugees and vulnerable Lebanese communities.

The **British Red Cross** will contribute towards the enhancement of disaster management centres, equipping them with essential infrastructure and IT systems for rapid emergency response. It will also support community resilience and disaster risk reduction activities in municipalities, schools and communities, while covering urgent training and equipment needs for Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) teams. In addition, the British Red Cross will continue supporting the Lebanese Red Cross' cash programming by funding the deployment of the Cash Regional Coordinator embedded within its Disaster Management team.

The **Canadian Red Cross** will enhance the National Society's immediate crisis response through a contingency funding mechanism, enabling rapid mobilization of resources following sudden-onset emergencies.

The **Danish Red Cross** will expand its support for the Roadmap to Resilience (R2R) by strengthening community-based disaster risk management, equipping CERTs, establishing disaster risk management committees and implementing neighbourhood development projects. It will also provide capacity-building and heavy equipment for USAR teams. On the response side, the Danish Red Cross will contribute to Multi-purpose Cash Assistance for conflict-affected populations and displaced families and strengthen immediate crisis response through a contingency funding mechanism for rapid resource mobilization.

The **French Red Cross** will continue supporting the Lebanese Red Cross' disaster management contingency measures to ensure readiness for potential crises in 2026. This includes strengthening collaboration with the National Centre for Scientific Research (CNRS-L) and the Lebanese Meteorological Authority.

The **German Red Cross** will continue to strengthen community-based disaster risk management through capacity-building and equipping Community Emergency Response Teams (CERTs) and Emergency Operation Rooms (EORs). It will reinforce institutional preparedness and coordination with the Disaster Risk Management Unit (DRMU) and scientific bodies. Additionally, the German Red Cross will

advance anticipatory action by supporting the development of [Early Action Protocols](#), helping the Lebanese Red Cross operationalize [early warning and early action](#) approaches.

The **Qatar Red Crescent Society** will provide direct humanitarian assistance during the 2026 winter season by distributing fuel vouchers to 350 vulnerable households, including Syrian refugees and Lebanese host families.

The **Swiss Red Cross** will provide technical assistance and explore funding for USAR teams, while considering engagement in WASH activities linked to community health and behaviour change. It will also support Phase II of the National Society's Cash Intervention to meet urgent needs of vulnerable communities.



Health and wellbeing

Lebanon's healthcare system, once considered among the strongest in the region, is now under severe pressure due to overlapping crises. The economic collapse since 2019 has eroded public health financing, reduced access to essential services and triggered a mass exodus of health professionals. These systemic weaknesses have been compounded by the ongoing conflict, which has led to widespread infrastructure damage and the displacement of hundreds of thousands of people. Six health facilities in Bint Jbeil and Marjayoun have closed due to insecurity, leaving large populations without access to care. While mobile medical units have been deployed to fill gaps, the system remains overwhelmed and unable to meet growing needs.

The escalation of hostilities has severely disrupted humanitarian health operations. Repeated attacks on healthcare facilities and personnel have further restricted access to critical services, highlighting urgent protection concerns and the need for adherence to International Humanitarian Law (IHL). Displaced families and communities near the southern border face acute health risks, as insecurity limits access to hospitals and clinics. These challenges are compounded by Lebanon's fragmented health governance and limited state capacity to enforce protection measures.

Access to healthcare is highly uneven across Lebanon. Urban centres such as Beirut and Mount Lebanon retain relatively better service capacity, while peripheral regions—including Akkar, Baalbek-Hermel and parts of the Bekaa Valley—struggle with shortages of health workers, medicines and facilities. Lebanon's largely privatized health system has been hit hard by the economic crisis, forcing many households to forgo care due to cost. Refugees and low-income Lebanese families are [disproportionately affected](#), often unable to afford even subsidized services. The [departure of large numbers of doctors](#)

and nurses has shifted priorities toward curative rather than preventive care, weakening essential public health functions.

Lebanon's vulnerability to epidemics underscores the fragility of its health infrastructure. The 2022 cholera outbreak—the first in nearly three decades—[revealed systemic gaps in water and sanitation services](#), particularly in informal settlements and underserved rural areas. Vaccination coverage has declined sharply, leaving thousands of zero-dose and under-immunized children at risk of preventable diseases such as [measles and polio](#). Poor WASH infrastructure continues to fuel communicable disease transmission, compounding the impact of displacement and overcrowding.

Lebanon faces a dual burden of malnutrition and non-communicable diseases (NCDs). Food insecurity has worsened during the economic and humanitarian crises, leaving over 10,000 pregnant and lactating women without adequate maternal nutrition and more than 8,000 children untreated for [severe malnutrition](#). At the same time, NCDs such as diabetes and cardiovascular disease remain prevalent, but access to treatment is increasingly limited due to cost and supply chain disruptions.

The Ministry of Public Health (MoPH) leads the health sector and coordinates with WHO and humanitarian partners through the health cluster. National strategies, including '[Health Vision 2030](#),' aim to modernize the sector and address gaps in human resources, accessibility and financing. However, implementation is constrained by limited resources and the complexities of hosting one of the largest refugee populations per capita globally. Strengthening WASH systems, restoring vaccination coverage and integrating emergency preparedness into health planning are critical priorities for resilience.

Multi-year high-level objectives of the National Society

The Lebanese Red Cross plans to expand its emergency medical services (EMS) by increasing the fleet of ambulances and trained paramedics, improving response times and training community first responders. Additionally, it will focus on strengthening blood services by promoting voluntary blood donation, enhancing the capacities of blood transfusion services (BTS) centers, investing in blood safety and developing a sustainable blood supply system.

The National Society seeks to improve access to quality healthcare by expanding primary healthcare services, strengthening referral systems, addressing chronic diseases and providing mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS). To effectively implement these strategies, the Lebanese Red Cross will collaborate with public authorities, NGOs and international organizations, invest in capacity building, secure funding and resources, utilize data-driven decision making and engage communities in the design and delivery of health services.

The high-level objectives of the National Society are to:

- Deliver equitable, accessible and people-centred healthcare during protracted crises and displacement, ensuring inclusive interventions that leave no one behind
- Reduce mortality and morbidity by improving access to essential health services, including emergency care, chronic disease management and mental health support
- Build resilient health systems capable of responding to emergencies, epidemics and future shocks through strengthened capacity building and community engagement
- Expand primary healthcare services, strengthen referral systems and integrate preventive health education to reduce risky behaviours
- Promote voluntary blood donation, expand blood centres and develop a sustainable blood supply system with robust safety standards
- Train community first responders and engage communities in the design and delivery of health services to foster local ownership and resilience

Planned activities in 2026

- Continue delivering life-saving assistance through ambulance services and prehospital emergency care, primary healthcare centres and mobile medical units Ensure free, effective pre-hospital emergency care and transportation; expand ambulance coverage; and reinforce preparedness for epidemics, pandemics and health crises
- Continue providing blood transfusion services

- Promote voluntary blood donation, implement robust donor management systems, and build hospital partnerships to guarantee safe, high-quality blood products
- Improve access to chronic, acute and preventive health services
- Embed mental health and psychosocial support services (MHPSS) across all health services
- Implement awareness programmes to reduce risky health behaviours among youth and communities, strengthen community engagement for disease prevention and foster inclusive participation in health service design and delivery
- Scale up water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) support for displaced families and host communities

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The **IFRC** will prioritize emergency medical services (EMS) as its primary focus, mobilizing resources to expand the Lebanese Red Cross' capacity in pre-hospital care. It will also reinforce Blood Transfusion Services (BTS) and MHPSS as secondary priorities, while supporting shelter and WASH services. The IFRC will organize anticipatory action workshops, leverage the Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) for rapid response and lead advocacy efforts to strengthen Lebanon's Disaster Risk Management legal and policy frameworks, including advancing a national Disaster Law treaty.

The **Austrian Red Cross** will strengthen BTS through a multi-year programme focused on quality management systems and plasma production capacity, contributing to financial sustainability. It will also support WASH programming in informal tented settlements, schools and host communities, emphasizing gender inclusion, disability access and environmental sustainability.

The **Canadian Red Cross** will contribute to scaling up PHCs by supporting five health centres and extending assistance to Mobile Medical Units (MMUs). It will also strengthen the National Society's immediate crisis response through a contingency funding mechanism for rapid resource mobilization.

The **Danish Red Cross** will play a major role in strengthening Lebanon's EMS system by improving emergency dispatch and ambulance response capacity, ensuring quality and safety in pre-hospital care and promoting staff and volunteer wellbeing. It will also assist the Lebanese Red Cross in identifying sustainable financing models to reduce reliance on international aid while maintaining free lifesaving services. Beyond EMS, the Danish Red Cross will enhance Primary Health Care (PHC) services and Non-Communicable Disease (NCD) response across 22 PHCs, including seven fully supported operationally. This includes improving medicine supply chains, patient education and health information systems. The Danish Red Cross will provide technical assistance to the Lebanese

Red Cross' Medico-Social Services in the integration of MHPSS within the PHCs. Additionally, the Danish Red Cross will support Multi-purpose Cash Assistance for conflict-affected populations and contingency funding for rapid emergency response.

The **French Red Cross** will provide broad support to emergency medical, medico-social and disaster management services, including first aid. It will also deliver training and technical assistance on Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) and health promotion for PHCs and outreach activities. In BTS, the French Red Cross will contribute to plasma and platelet production within the cost recovery strategy, reinforce voluntary blood donation and sustain blood bank management.

The **German Red Cross** will reinforce EMS through the provision of medical equipment, medicines and operational support, including staff salaries. It will also continue supporting BTS by providing medical equipment, consumables and technical assistance to sustain operations. Additionally, the German Red Cross will advance anticipatory action by supporting the development of Early Action Protocols, helping the Lebanese Red Cross operationalize early warning and early action approaches.

The **Italian Red Cross** will focus on EMS operations, supporting volunteer management, logistics and transportation services nationwide. This contribution will help sustain ambulance services and ensure timely emergency response.

Under a five-year NORAD grant (2025–2029), the **Norwegian Red Cross** will support the expansion of PHCs and strengthen [first aid](#) and pre-hospital services under EMS. This long-term investment will improve access to essential health services and emergency care.

The **Qatar Red Crescent Society** will equip seven Lebanese Red Cross health centres with essential medical equipment and provide targeted support for persons with disabilities by covering costs of prosthetics, orthotics, physiotherapy and transportation at the Physical Rehabilitation Centre in Aley.

The **Swedish Red Cross** will provide multi-year Sida-funded support to strengthen WASH programming in informal settlements, PHCs, schools and host communities, integrating environmentally sustainable practices. It will also contribute to the PHC scale-up programme, reinforcing the link between health and community-based water and sanitation initiatives.

The **Swiss Red Cross** will reinforce PHC programmes by supporting accreditation processes with the Ministry of Public Health, contributing to pooled funding and improving financial management procedures. It will also explore outreach and healthy ageing initiatives. In BTS, the Swiss Red Cross will cover operational costs, enhance quality measures and support platelet production capacity through feasibility studies and business planning.



Lebanese Red Cross volunteers and ambulance teams demonstrating emergency response operations amid public. (Photo: Lebanese Red Cross)



Lebanon's migration and displacement dynamics are shaped by overlapping crises—regional conflicts, economic collapse and environmental shocks—making it one of the most complex humanitarian contexts globally. The country functions simultaneously as a destination, transit and origin point, hosting one of the largest refugee populations per capita while grappling with internal displacement driven by recurring hostilities and disasters.

Lebanon hosts approximately 1.5 million Syrian refugees, the highest per capita refugee population worldwide, alongside 489,000 Palestinian refugees, many of whom have lived in Lebanon for decades under restrictive conditions. These communities face chronic vulnerabilities, including limited access to employment, healthcare and education and remain heavily dependent on humanitarian assistance for survival.

The escalation of hostilities along Lebanon's southern border since late 2023 has triggered one of the largest displacement waves in recent history. By October 2024, 689,715 internally displaced persons (IDPs) were recorded, with estimates suggesting numbers could reach 1.2 million. Many IDPs are sheltering in overcrowded collective centres, unfinished buildings, tents and public spaces, exposing them to severe protection risks. UNRWA emergency shelters for Palestinian refugees are already at capacity and hundreds of government-run shelters are overstretched.

Conflict remains the primary driver, particularly along the Blue Line and in southern Lebanon, compounded by spillover effects from the Gaza and Syrian crises. Lebanon's economic collapse—marked by hyperinflation, currency devaluation and unemployment—has deepened vulnerabilities, forcing households into displacement and reliance on aid. Environmental hazards, including floods and storms, further exacerbate displacement, particularly in coastal and mountainous regions.

Lebanon also hosts over 250,000 migrant domestic workers, primarily women from Africa and Asia, employed under the kafala sponsorship system. This system ties workers' legal status to employers, leaving them highly vulnerable to exploitation, abuse and trafficking, with limited legal protections.

Displaced populations face immense humanitarian needs: inadequate shelter, disrupted healthcare and limited education access. Protection concerns are acute for women, children and marginalized groups, who face heightened risks of abuse and exploitation. Refugees and IDPs often lack legal safeguards, as Lebanon is not a signatory to the 1951 Refugee Convention, leaving humanitarian actors to fill critical gaps through frameworks such as the Lebanon Response Plan 2025.

Lebanon's legal and policy frameworks for refugees and migrants remain fragmented, with no formal asylum system and limited institutional capacity to manage displacement. The ongoing economic crisis and political paralysis further constrain governance, making humanitarian coordination essential yet challenging.

Lebanon's displacement and migration landscape reflects a convergence of conflict, economic collapse and environmental stressors, creating severe humanitarian and protection challenges. Without sustained international support and strengthened national frameworks, vulnerabilities among refugees, IDPs and migrant workers will continue to deepen, placing immense strain on host communities and public services.

Multi-year high-level objectives of the National Society

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.

The high-level objectives of the Lebanese Red Cross are to:

- Provide timely, dignified and coordinated humanitarian assistance to migrants, refugees and internally displaced persons (IDPs)
- Promote family unity and protection through Restoring Family Links (RFL) and tracing services
- Ensure all interventions uphold Protection, Gender and Inclusion (PGI) standards and Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA) principles
- Advocate for inclusive migration policies and build partnerships under the IFRC Global Route-Based Migration Programme

Planned activities in 2026

- Embed migration as a cross-cutting theme in health, shelter and psychosocial support programmes
- Maintain real-time tracking and data systems for displaced populations

- Provide tailored services including healthcare, shelter, child-friendly spaces, psychosocial support and legal referrals
- Deliver legal referrals and protection services for vulnerable groups
- Engage displaced communities in the design and delivery of services
- Strengthen partnerships with government and humanitarian actors to improve migration governance
- Train staff and volunteers on migration-sensitive programming and inclusive approaches

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC plays a central role in coordinating and scaling migration-related initiatives in Lebanon, aligned with the Movement's Migration Strategy 2024–2030. Through its partnership with the Lebanese Red Cross and engagement in the MENA Migration Network, IFRC strengthens humanitarian assistance, promotes migrant protection and advocates for the rights and resilience of displaced communities. Multi-year funding from Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida), channelled through IFRC, provides a critical foundation for these efforts, enabling sustained support in one of the world's most displacement-affected countries.

In 2025, the IFRC supported the Lebanese Red Cross to assist around 10,000 people affected by population movement through a DREF allocation of CHF 499,932. The Lebanese Red Cross provided mattresses, blankets, tarpaulins and other essential household items to displaced individuals, continuing support after the second wave of arrivals in March 2025.

The **German Red Cross** remains committed to providing flexible, ad hoc assistance to the Lebanese Red Cross during emergencies affecting vulnerable communities on the move. This support will follow the German Red Cross' holistic programmatic approach, ensuring responsiveness and adaptability to sudden humanitarian needs.

The **Swedish Red Cross** plans to enhance the dignity, protection and living conditions of migrants, returnees and host communities through a Sida-funded migration programme currently under consideration. If approved, the Lebanese Red Cross will serve as the implementing partner, ensuring localized impact along migratory routes and in return contexts.

The **Swiss Red Cross** will continue offering both financial and technical assistance, with a strong focus on mainstreaming migration and displacement into the Lebanese Red Cross' core programming. Additionally, the Swiss Red Cross will provide targeted technical support upon request, reinforcing migration-sensitive approaches across health services and ensuring inclusive care for displaced populations.



Values, power and inclusion

Lebanon's education and protection systems are under severe strain, reflecting the compounded impact of economic instability, political turmoil and regional conflicts. Education, a core societal value, is increasingly compromised as nearly 500,000 school-aged children remain out of school, with over 80 per cent of them being non-Lebanese. The escalation of hostilities has forced many schools to serve as shelters, delaying the 2024–2025 academic year and disrupting learning for more than one million students. Infrastructure damage is extensive, with at least 14 schools destroyed and hundreds more damaged, underscoring the fragility of Lebanon's commitment to education and opportunity.

Protection systems, another fundamental value, are similarly under pressure. Displaced populations—particularly women, children and persons with disabilities—face heightened risks of exploitation, abuse and limited access to essential services. Rising poverty has driven families toward harmful coping mechanisms such as child labour and early marriage, further restricting educational access and increasing vulnerability.

An estimated 400,000 children and 300,000 women and girls are at risk of violence and exploitation, revealing gaps in legal safeguards for marginalized groups, including refugees, LGBTQI+ individuals and ethnic minorities. While initiatives such as the National Social Protection Strategy signal progress, systemic barriers persist in ensuring safety, inclusion and rights protection for all.

Power in Lebanon remains concentrated in the hands of a small elite, entrenched through sectarian affiliations and family networks. This confessional system perpetuates political paralysis, obstructing reforms and deepening public distrust in state institutions. The weakening of governance structures has allowed non-state actors, including militant groups, to gain influence in certain regions, further fragmenting authority and security. Economic power mirrors these dynamics, with elites retaining privilege while vulnerable populations bear the brunt of the economic collapse, widening inequality and fuelling social unrest.

Inclusion remains largely aspirational. Refugees, women, persons with disabilities and other marginalized groups encounter systemic discrimination and social stigma, limiting their access to education, employment and political participation. Gender inequality persists despite incremental progress, leaving women disproportionately affected by poverty and violence. Displacement and infrastructure damage exacerbate inequities in service delivery, while weak accountability mechanisms and distrust in authorities hinder inclusive governance. Although strategies such as the National Social Protection Strategy aim to address these gaps, implementation remains slow and uneven.

The interplay of values, power and inclusion in Lebanon reveals a stark contrast between societal aspirations and lived realities. While education and protection are recognized as essential values, systemic failures and resource constraints undermine their fulfilment. Power structures rooted in sectarianism perpetuate exclusion and inequality, eroding social cohesion and fuelling unrest. Without meaningful inclusion and participatory governance, Lebanon risks further fragmentation. Rebuilding trust, investing in education and protection, promoting gender and social equity and aligning international support with local priorities are critical steps toward creating an inclusive society that safeguards the rights and wellbeing of all its members.

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

The Lebanese Red Cross has integrated Protection, Gender and Inclusion (PGI) and Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA) as cross-cutting themes in its strategy. It also aims to mainstream psychosocial support across all operations and programmes. In addition to this, some of the high-level objectives of the National Society are to:

- Guarantee safe, accessible and standardized channels for community feedback, overcoming barriers such as low literacy and conflict-related restrictions
- Foster a strong culture of volunteering and invest in systems and capacity-building to improve the timeliness, effectiveness and inclusivity of humanitarian responses
- Expand outreach to youth and communities to strengthen civic responsibility, reduce violence and reinforce social cohesion
- Integrate energy-efficient solutions and sustainable procurement practices to minimize environmental impact across operations

Planned activities in 2026

- Develop inclusive communication strategies to address literacy and access challenges
- Maintain and promote the non-emergency hotline (1760) as a key feedback channel and engage volunteers

during operations to collect and respond to community feedback

- Invest in digital systems to improve operational efficiency and service delivery
- Launch youth engagement initiatives to promote civic responsibility and resilience and expand peer support programmes for volunteers
- Strengthen advocacy and awareness campaigns to reduce attacks on healthcare personnel
- Provide tailored mental health and psychosocial support interventions for individuals affected by crises
- Scale up rehabilitation services, including prosthetics, orthotics and physiotherapy and ensure equitable access for vulnerable groups such as refugees, migrants and persons with disabilities
- Adopt energy-efficient technologies in facilities and operations and implement sustainable procurement practices to reduce ecological impact
- Implement training programmes for volunteers in PGI, CEA and MHPSS

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will take a broad institutional role in ensuring that PGI is fully embedded as a cross-cutting theme across all Lebanese Red Cross projects and operations. Through the support of the IFRC, the National Society will integrate PGI alongside CEA, MHPSS and Restoring Family Links (RFL). This will include supporting the development and institutionalization of new policies under the National Society Investment Framework (NSIF), ensuring that the Lebanese Red Cross' humanitarian action consistently reflects protection, inclusion and accountability principles.

The **British Red Cross** will continue to support Medico-Social Services in advancing its PGI framework, with a particular focus on improving Gender-Based Violence (GBV) response capacity. The British Red Cross' support will cover the development of Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs), technical guidance on best practices and policy implementation. In addition, the British Red Cross will provide expertise to strengthen case identification and ensure safe referral pathways for survivors, reinforcing the Lebanese Red Cross' ability to respond effectively to GBV concerns.

The **Canadian Red Cross** will support the Lebanese Red Cross in mainstreaming PGI into its health services, ensuring that protection-sensitive approaches are integrated into medical and community health programmes. This includes training volunteers and staff to apply PGI principles in their daily interactions with affected communities.

ENABLING LOCAL ACTORS

The Lebanese Red Cross is committed to pursuing institutional strengthening and carried out the self-assessment part of the [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.

The Lebanese Red Cross is also committed to the [Preparedness for Effective Response](#) process and is at the orientation phase. The 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.



Key Institutional Indicators

The National Society has put in place the following:

- Strategy to strengthen its auxiliary role
- National Society development plan
- Youth engagement strategies
- Health, accident and death compensation for volunteers
- PSEA Action Plan
- Digital transformation roadmap
- Data management system



Strategic and operational coordination

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

- Fulfil its [auxiliary role](#) by supporting public authorities and collaborating with both international and local organizations
- Coordinate humanitarian response through established mechanisms and strengthen its role in interagency coordination
- Continue to build strategic partnerships with key actors such as UN agencies and the World Bank by engaging within the broader humanitarian ecosystem
- Shift its fundraising strategy toward engaging the Lebanese diaspora—a complex and costly audience to reach- to ensure sustainability and resilience
- Focus on recruiting and retaining individual and repeat donors, supported by enhanced digital communications in terms of fundraising initiatives
- Secure financial stability and continue delivering timely, effective and inclusive humanitarian services

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 the Lebanese Red Cross.

The IFRC will continue to coordinate a health programme called GAVI that was launched in 2025 and will be renewed in 2026 to provide health services and immunization activities.



Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

- Prioritize building a consistent and sustainable stream of funds through the development and implementation of effective cost recovery models, strengthening fundraising efforts and enforcing cost control measures.
- Establish a strong legal framework to support sustainable cost recovery
- Promote shared services across organizational components to optimize resource use and reduce duplication, thereby enhancing overall operational efficiency
- Place volunteers at the centre of interventions by reinforcing a strong volunteering culture
- Strengthen initiatives supporting physical and mental well-being of volunteers and enhance volunteer management systems to improve retention and engagement
- Centralize the management of support services and establish cross-departmental reporting structures to strengthen internal capacities
- Pilot machine learning tools to optimize programme and emergency response design
- Realign organizational structures, roles and responsibilities to improve internal communication, accountability and efficiency
- Implement training programmes for leadership, career development and succession planning to foster staff growth, engagement and retention

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will support National Society development of the Lebanese Red Cross using [funding mechanisms](#) including the IFRC Capacity Building Fund (CBF) and the IFRC-ICRC joint National Society Investment Alliance (NSIA) to secure funding for development initiatives. It will assist the Lebanese Red Cross in implementing digital engagement projects, provide broad capacity-building support and guide the use of key assessment tools such as [OCAC](#) and [PER](#) to identify strengths and create strategic roadmaps.

Lebanon is among the first pilot countries for the National Society Investment Framework (NSIF), now embedded in IFRC's core operating model. Informed by the National Society Investment Dashboard (NSID), NSIF enables evidence-based prioritization and tailored support for programme delivery and institutional development. This approach ensures structured, data-driven engagement with the National Society, focusing on long-term

institutional strengthening and improved system-wide coordination.

The IFRC will consolidate support around shared priorities, deliver multi-year investments and enhance accountability—critical in Lebanon's challenging context of economic instability and high humanitarian needs. NSIF will direct resources where most needed, reduce duplication and improve partner engagement efficiency. Key priorities for the Lebanese Red Cross include financial sustainability, auxiliary-role effectiveness, branch and volunteer development and institutional readiness. Lessons from Lebanon's pilot will inform global scale-up, creating a more coherent and impactful model of National Society support.

The **Austrian Red Cross** will continue providing technical support to strengthen the National Society's WASH and Emergency Response Unit (ERU) capacities, ensuring the sustained high quality of WASH services and enabling staff to deploy regionally during emergencies. In addition, the Austrian Red Cross will continue supporting the Lebanese Red Cross through global initiatives that promote financial sustainability and cost recovery, such as the REDpreneur programme.

The **British Red Cross** remains committed to strengthening the fundraising and communication department. The British Red Cross will provide support to the Learning and Development sector of the Lebanese Red Cross, in alignment with the sector's priorities. This includes the provision of equipment and tools aimed at enhancing the efficiency and effectiveness of training activities.

The **Danish Red Cross** will continue to invest in strengthening the Lebanese Red Cross' branch development framework, through the provision of technical expertise (legal, internal audit, funding of core branch development staff positions and ongoing training and capacity support to branch staff). The Danish Red Cross will also continue to support the operations of the Planning Unit and the Secretary General's office.

The **French Red Cross** will support the reinforcement of the logistics department at the Lebanese Red Cross, mainly channelled through a consultant that will accompany the Lebanese Red Cross logistics in the consolidation and implementation of their strategy all along the year.

The **German Red Cross** will continue to invest in capacity building by supporting tailored training and workshops that strengthen the National Society's technical skills, volunteer engagement, leadership and operational readiness.

The **Swiss Red Cross** will continue supporting the fundraising unit, focusing on consolidating the new team structure and strengthening internal processes. Joint discussions will identify priority areas for technical assistance and potential avenues for diversifying funding sources. Looking ahead to 2026 and 2027,

the Swiss Red Cross will accompany the Lebanese Red Cross in implementing agreed initiatives, providing technical expertise and, where possible, mobilizing external support to reinforce the unit's capacities. The overall aim is to enhance the sustainability of the National Society's fundraising operations and ensure the

unit is better positioned to engage with private sector partners and innovative financing mechanisms. The Swiss Red Cross will also explore possibilities for supporting the National Society's logistics centralization efforts within the new strategy recently developed.



Humanitarian diplomacy

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

- Strengthen communications capabilities and humanitarian diplomacy capacities through the development of a National Society Communication Strategy and a Humanitarian Diplomacy Strategy. These internal documents will identify priority humanitarian issues and define approaches for engaging with decision-makers, the public and partners
- Enhance credibility and influence through transparent reporting, standardized data management and evidence-based operations, enabling more effective external engagement
- Address key barriers to humanitarian action, such as regulatory or financial constraints, by engaging national authorities, decision-makers and regional and global partners in coordinated advocacy
- Expand outreach to diverse audiences—including government institutions, civil society, media and international networks—on specific humanitarian issues, such as access to services, disaster response and the protection of vulnerable groups

- Participate actively in inter-agency and regional platforms, while mobilizing the wider Red Cross Red Crescent Movement to reinforce its advocacy at national, regional and global levels

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC continues to promote a stronger positioning of the Lebanese Red Cross in humanitarian response and recovery efforts through strengthened advocacy and humanitarian diplomacy. It strives to remain an engaged, accountable and trusted partner to the National Societies, as well as to national and international political decision-makers, donors and partners. This commitment is reflected through regular briefings and coordination meetings with the Lebanese Red Cross, the Palestine Red Crescent Lebanon branch and IFRC membership both within and outside Lebanon, alongside continuous engagement with key international donors and political stakeholders. In parallel, the IFRC facilitates speaking engagements and advocacy and fundraising events where the National Society's strategic priorities and achievements are highlighted to enhance visibility, influence and resource mobilization.



Accountability and agility (cross-cutting)

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

- Audit annual and emergency response financial statements
 - Reinforce financial accountability through transparent resource management, cost recovery models and donor compliance
 - Implement and enforce robust policies on Prevention and Response to Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA), fraud prevention, whistleblower protection and ethical conduct
 - Institutionalize Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA) through policy dissemination, sector-specific guidelines and integration across all programme phases
 - Maintain accessible feedback mechanisms and roll out the Community Trust Index (CTI) to measure perceptions and trust
 - Prioritize staff and volunteer wellbeing through peer support systems, leadership development and inclusive recruitment
 - Promote gender balance and diversity while implementing minimum training standards and a competency framework
- Enhance security, risk monitoring and environmentally responsible procurement practices
 - Strengthen planning, monitoring, evaluation and reporting (PMER) systems for evidence-based decision-making and harmonize data for organizational learning
 - Implement the Digital Transformation Roadmap to strengthen data systems, infrastructure and digital literacy

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 and PMER process while implementing their recommendations.

The IFRC will continue to provide longer-term support to the Lebanese Red Cross, focusing on strengthening institutional resilience and strategic positioning. This includes ongoing engagement in financial audits and a commitment to implementing their recommendations to reinforce accountability and transparency. In parallel, the IFRC will facilitate coordination efforts, ensuring alignment with Movement partners and external stakeholders. Through peer learning, technical assistance and strategic planning, the IFRC will help the Lebanese Red Cross evolve into a more agile, sustainable and impactful humanitarian actor.

THE IFRC NETWORK

The IFRC

The IFRC supports the Lebanese Red Cross to execute its auxiliary role in emergency and disaster response through networking and resource mobilization and strategic and operational coordination. In recent years, the IFRC has also supported the National Society through a number of Emergency Appeals and Disaster Response Emergency

Fund (DREF) operations in relation to complex national and regional crises, election preparedness, cholera and COVID-19 response, severe weather mitigation, population movement and protests.

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 IFRC provides technical and financial support to the Lebanese Red Cross. This includes technical support through the IFRC regional office on cross-cutting themes such as protection, gender and inclusion, migration and displacement and others. The IFRC supports the Lebanese Red Cross to prioritize its organizational development, coordinate with participating National Societies and nurture accountability

through the planning, monitoring, evaluation and reporting (PMER) process and financial audits.

The Lebanese Red Cross has long-term partnerships with a significant number of sister National Societies including the **Austrian Red Cross, British Red Cross, Canadian Red Cross, Danish Red Cross, French Red Cross, German Red Cross, Italian Red Cross, Norwegian Red Cross, Qatar Red Crescent, Swedish Red Cross** and the **Swiss Red Cross**. Several IFRC members also directly support the Palestine Red Crescent Lebanon branch in their health services.

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 PMER unit and improved visibility. Wider National Society development approaches are conducted in Palestine, where the National Society is based.



Lebanese Red Cross volunteers prepare for winterization support for Syrian families in Abu Latif camp, Zahle. (Photo: Lebanese Red Cross)

Movement coordination

The **Lebanese Red Cross** ensures regular coordination meetings with the IFRC, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and participating National Societies to share information on humanitarian, longer-term and National Society development programmes. This is carried out in line with the [Strengthening Movement Coordination and Cooperation](#) principles and the newly adopted [Seville Agreement 2.0](#).

The **ICRC** has been present in Lebanon since 1967, working to ensure that people affected by armed conflict receive humanitarian protection and assistance and helping vulnerable communities meet their essential needs.

Coordination with other actors

The Lebanese Red Cross plays a central role in Lebanon's humanitarian ecosystem, mandated by the Government of Lebanon as the leading emergency responder for ambulance services and a key member of the Disaster Response Management Unit. The Lebanese Red Cross maintains constant coordination with governmental disaster management bodies, the Lebanese Armed Forces, UN agencies, international NGOs (INGOs) and local NGOs to ensure effective disaster and crisis response. This includes linking regional and local contingency plans to the national contingency plan and establishing communication channels between crisis operation rooms at all levels.

The Lebanese Red Cross actively engages in inter-agency coordination mechanisms led by the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) and participates in cluster working groups covering sectors such as shelter, WASH, logistics, cash assistance and basic needs. During emergencies, the Lebanese Red Cross and the IFRC collaborate

closely with the UN Humanitarian Country Team to harmonize response efforts. The National Society also took a leading role in the Multi-Sector Needs Assessment following the Beirut port explosion, working alongside UNHCR, OCHA and other partners.

The National Society maintains strategic partnerships with UN agencies, including UNHCR and UNDP and coordinates with the Palestine Red Crescent Lebanon branch, which works with UNRWA and NGOs to support Palestinian refugees. As UNRWA faces declining funding for health services, the Palestine Red Crescent Lebanon branch fills critical gaps by providing specialized medical care and hospital services to Palestinian communities.

Through these partnerships and coordination mechanisms, the Lebanese Red Cross ensures that humanitarian assistance in Lebanon is integrated, efficient and responsive to the needs of the most vulnerable populations.



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 16 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.

About the plan

The plan reflects the priorities of the host National Society, the IFRC and National Societies providing international support, for 2026 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 for joint monitoring and reporting. It will be revised on an annual basis to adjust priorities and funding requirements to the needs in-country.

Explanatory note on funding requirements and definitions

- The total funding requirements show what the IFRC network seeks to raise for the given year through different channels: funding through the IFRC, through participating National Societies as bilateral support, and through the host National Society from non-IFRC network sources. All figures should include the administrative and operational costs of the different entities
- Host National Society funding requirements not coming from IFRC network sources can comprise a variety of sources, as demonstrated when reporting on income in the [IFRC network databank](#)
- Participating National Society funding requirements for bilateral support are those validated by respective headquarters, and often represent mainly secured funding
- IFRC funding requirements comprise both what is sourced from the IFRC core budget and what is sought through emergency and thematic funding. This includes participating National Societies' multilateral support through IFRC, and all other IFRC sources of funding
- Figures for the years beyond 2026 most often represent partial requirements that are known at time of publication. Many National Societies have annual internal approval processes for funding requirements, and lower figures do not mean a decrease in funding requirements in future years
- Missing data and breakdowns: data may not be available from all IFRC network members for funding requirements. This may lead to inconsistencies across different reporting tools as well as potential under-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) 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
- **Definitions:**
 - » **Local units:** ALL subdivisions of a National Society that coordinate and deliver services to people. These include ALL levels (provincial, state, city, district branches, sections or chapters, headquarters, and regional and intermediate offices, as well as community-based units)
 - » **Branches:** A Branch has its roles, responsibilities and relationship with the National Headquarters defined through the National Society's Statutes, including the level of autonomy given, especially in the area of its legal status, mobilising local resources and building local partnerships, and the decisions it makes. It has a local-level decision-making mechanism through its Branch members, board and volunteers, equally defined through the National Society's Statutes

Additional information

- [IFRC network country plans](#) • [All plans and reports](#)
- Data on National Societies on [IFRC network databank](#)
- Live data on active emergency operations on [IFRC GO platform](#)
- Live data on [IFRC-Disaster Response Emergency Fund Response and Anticipatory pillars](#)
- [Evaluations and research bank](#) • [Donor response reports](#)

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