

Lebanon crisis: escalation of hostilities

Explosions in Beirut, October 2nd ©WeWorld



SITUATION UPDATE

For the second consecutive week, Israeli airstrikes have continued to target densely populated areas across Lebanon, driving waves of displacement and further exacerbating the needs of affected and displaced populations. Areas not previously targeted by airstrikes, including central Beirut and Palestinian refugee camps, have been hit by airstrikes for the first time, signaling a significant shift in the escalations. Since October 8th 2023, Lebanese Ministry of Public Health (MoPH) reported over 9,000 injured and around 1,600 people killed.

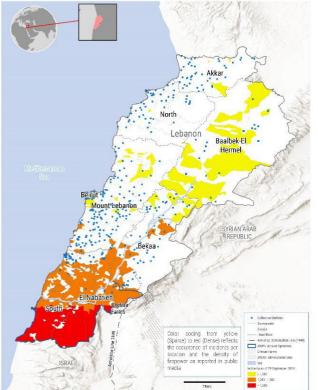
National authorities estimate that over 1 million people are now directly affected and/or displaced by the conflict. IOM DTM reports a total of 346,209 (52% female and 48% male) being displaced since October 8th, with new displacements continuing to be reported and counting still ongoing.

Regarding people residing in shelters, the national Disaster Risk Management Unit (DRM) has recorded more than 155.600 people - half of them women and children - throughout 875 collective shelters. Out of these centers, 625 (71%) have reached their maximum capacity.

In addition, approximately 177,000 Syrian and 63,000 Lebanese nationals have crossed into Syria to escape the conflict, according to the national authorities. This outflow highlights the growing regional dimensions of the crisis, as people flee to neighbouring countries for safety.

Lebanon's health system is under immense strain due to ongoing airstrikes. Around 40 of the 317 primary health centers in the country, and two hospitals, have suspended the provision of services due to the escalation, further exacerbating the crisis' impact on the population. The destruction of health infrastructure, coupled with mass displacement, is creating a worsening humanitarian situation. Compounding these challenges, 25 water facilities have been reported damaged, disrupting water supply for over 360,000 people.

The map below shows the conflict intensity during the period October 2023 - October 1st 2024 (OCHA). Conflict Intensity



OUR INTERVENTION IN LEBANON

Present in Lebanon since 2006, WeWorld goal is to increase the populations' resilience in the governorates of Baalbek-Hermel and Akkar, through interventions in Multi-Sectoral Emergency Response Program, Food Security, Livelihoods, Water Governance and Local Economic Development. WeWorld long-lasting operational presence secures access to the areas of implementation, coupled with a comprehensive understanding of the needs of IDPs, refugees and host communities residing in the area.

WeWorld's operational capacity in Lebanon includes +50 staff members deployed in four office, and one warehouse for emergency items. WeWorld's Humanitarian Aid Unit is supporting the response efforts.



WeWorld's Need Assessment in one of Akkar's public schools turned into a collective shelter, September 30th ©WeWorld

PROPOSED RESPONSE

Despite increasing attacks, WeWorld continues its program delivery and the setting up of a tailored emergency response. WeWorld is currently developing a contingency plan to ensure business continuity, and at the same time it is planning to develop a contingency plan to respond to the newly emerged needs of the groups most affected by the conflict.

WeWorld takes active part to the coordination emergency mechanisms, in close coordination with relevant local authorities.

WeWorld, which is mobilizing internal resources, is planning for an immediate response:

- Conduction of **sectorial assessments** to target IDPs with a focus on the most vulnerable.
- Supporting IDPs in two already-identified designated schools as collective shelters, as schools are not equipped to host people.
- Distribution of life-saving humanitarian aid (food, water and non-food essential supplies like mattresses and hygiene kits) to displaced households, especially those in collective sites.
- Distribution of food voucher and NFI to residents affected by the conflict, with special attention to vulnerable groups.
- Immediate response to support refugee in Syria (Lebanese and Syrian nationalities).

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