



Photo: Joshua Betson/NRC

NRC's operations in Lebanon

Humanitarian overview

Lebanon remains the country hosting the largest number of refugees per capita: an estimated 1.5 million Syrian refugees and an estimated 257,000 Palestinian refugees. Lebanon continues to be affected by a colossal economic crisis and an uncertain political atmosphere. In the last three years the currency has lost more than 95 per cent of its value. Over half of the Lebanese population is currently living below the national poverty line. For Syrian refugees, the figure is even higher, with nine out of ten refugee families currently living in extreme poverty. Community tensions are at an all-time high.

The Lebanese government has become very explicit in its position that the return of refugees to Syria should be prioritised given its own unprecedented crisis. It reactivated the refugee return facilitation scheme in October 2022 and since the beginning of 2023 is sending back to Syria more people than before. Over 80 per cent of Syrian refugees do not have legal residency in Lebanon, which jeopardises their sense of safety and overall protection.

NRC's operation

NRC supports people affected by displacement and the local host communities, and wants to be a strong voice for the protection and rights of the refugees, navigating a tense operating environment.

NRC emphasises partnering with local authorities and developing relationships with central Ministries. At the community level, NRC operations favour a participatory approach and has a conflict-sensitive lens.

NRC is supporting Syrian and Palestinian refugees, vulnerable Lebanese citizens and migrants through the programmes listed below:

NRC Lebanon

Established	2006
International staff	20
National staff	419



NRC Lebanon

Country office

Beirut

Areas of operation

Beirut, Mount Lebanon, South, North and Bekaa



NRC Lebanon

Country director: Maureen Philippon

Phone: +961 (0)1 366 113 (4) (5)

Education

We run programmes at our learning centres, support programming in Lebanese public schools and in schools run by the UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestinian Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA). Our education activities include:

- supporting access and transition to formal education through non-formal education programmes and school retention support
- training teachers and enhancing their techniques
- raising awareness of parents on the importance of education and their involvement in their children's learning process
- school rehabilitation

Youth

NRC's youth programme supports both refugee and Lebanese youth with structured, quality learning opportunities to facilitate their transition to livelihoods, improve social engagement and facilitate advanced education. We prioritise youth who are not enrolled in any form of education, employment or training (NEET)

since this group is particularly at risk of both labour market and social exclusion. Youth activities include:

- competency-based technical and vocational training and life skills courses
- accredited Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) and online courses
- stackable accredited language courses
- recreational and social activities
- post-graduation on the job training and youth-led community initiatives

Information, counselling and legal assistance (ICLA)

NRC Lebanon's legal protection programme aims to improve the access to rights and essential services for refugees, Lebanese citizens, migrant workers and other displaced people. Our ICLA activities include:

- supporting access to civil documentation, including the registration of life events, and legal residency
- conflict dispute resolution including in the context of housing disputes and forced evictions
- legal assistance and representation for refugees

- through lawyers
- information provision on employment and housing land and property (HLP) rights
- due diligence; confirming property ownership or usage rights
- training sessions to other stakeholders on legal topics
- targeted legal advocacy and policy work

Shelter

NRC Lebanon's shelter and settlement programme aims to facilitate access to safe, dignified and adequate housing for the most vulnerable, through both advocacy and programmes at the individual, household, community and policy level. Our shelter activities include:

- integrated housing and neighbourhood upgrades following a Settlement-Based Approach (SBA)
- supporting municipalities in terms of disaster risk reduction and disaster risk management
- emergency shelter interventions, including in response to extreme weather conditions
- cash for rent assistance for vulnerable families
- housing maintenance and upgrades in exchange for various rental schemes (rent-freeze, rent reduction, rent-free or occupancy free of charge)

Water, sanitation and hygiene promotion (WASH)

We work with communities and public service providers to expand water, sanitation and hygiene services for vulnerable population groups, including in Lebanese host communities. Our WASH programme has also been essential in response to the Covid-19 pandemic and Cholera outbreak in Lebanon. Our WASH activities include:

- integrating adequate water, sanitation and hygiene facilities into our shelter interventions
- water, wastewater and hygiene interventions at the individual, household and community level
- piloting more sustainable water and wastewater solutions for vulnerable communities
- supporting solid waste management at the municipality level

Emergency response

NRC Lebanon's Emergency Response Unit (ERU) responds to various emergencies (floods, fires, evictions etc.) in shock-prone communities across the country. ERU activities include:

- the provision of basic assistance (mattresses and blankets, kitchen sets, hygiene kits, etc.) and shelter kits
- site improvement and implementation of WASH activities
- cash-based interventions

Livelihoods and food security

Through this recently established sector of work for NRC Lebanon, we aim to:

- integrate livelihoods and food security considerations across NRC's other programmatic areas of focus
- undertake a pilot project, in partnership with local actors, to actively involve vulnerable communities in the development of sustainable practices to build more local and resilient food and agricultural systems, improving food security, livelihood opportunities, income and well-being

NRC Lebanon is grateful for the generous support from our donors:

Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs (NMFA)
Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA)
Germany through the German Development Bank (KfW)
Directorate-General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO)
State Secretariat for Migration (SEM)
Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC)
European Union Regional Trust Fund in response to the Syrian Crisis, The "MADAD fund"
German Federal Foreign Office (GFFO)
Global Affairs Canada (GAC)
Agence Française de Développement (AFD)
Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ)
UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)
Norwegian Scouts