

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 is also facing compounding crises directly impacting basic and public services, in particular electricity, water supply, sanitation and education. More than 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. The Lebanese government has become very explicit in its position that returns of refugees to Syria should be prioritised given its own unprecedented crisis.

Refugees continue to deprioritise vital events registration and legal residency, with 84% of Syrian refugees lacking legal residency permits. Palestinian refugees also continue to live in a precarious situation today with limited access to a range of basic rights. Given UNRWA's limited funding for NGOs working in Palestinian communities, the needs of Palestinian refugees risk being left unaddressed.

NRC's operation

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

NRC Lebanon

Established	2006
International staff	24
National staff	469



NRC Lebanon

Country office

Beirut

Areas of operation

Beirut, Mount Lebanon, South, North and Bekaa



NRC Lebanon

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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: conflict dispute resolution (CDR) including in the context of housing disputes and forced evictions.

- supporting access to and transition to formal education through non-formal education programmes and school retention support
- training teachers and enhancing their techniques through our Better Learning Programme
- 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, social engagement and 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, 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 of 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 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
- 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.

Our 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:

