

### 1. Crisis overview<sup>i</sup>

<b>3.4 / 5</b>	<b>3.7 million</b>	<b>1.4/1.7 million</b>	<b>\$2.71 billion</b>	<b>51.7%</b>
INFORM Severity Index	People in need of humanitarian aid (LRP 2024)	People targeted in the response plan (Syrian, PRS and migrants/Lebanese and PRL 2024)	Required to reach the target (LRP 2024)	Of the required funding secured (LRP 2023)
<b>65 MSEK</b>	-	-	<b>65 MSEK</b>	
Initial allocation	Additional allocation	Flexible funding	Total Sida funding 2024	

Lebanon is experiencing a multidimensional crisis, with spill over effects from the 13-year long Syria crisis, compounded by a spiralling economic crisis and political deadlock. This has led to a near collapse of basic services, a rise in social tensions, and escalating humanitarian needs. The ongoing clashes along the “blue line”, as a result of the Israel-Gaza war has further deteriorated the crisis with over 90,000 individuals displaced in the south, as of March 2024. The country’s currency has lost approximately 98 per cent of its value, with a year on year inflation rate of 230 per cent as of August 2023, while prices of essential goods, including food, have increased more than 1,000 per cent since 2019. In its attempt to slow this economic recession, the Lebanese government removed almost all subsidies previously in place for essential goods such as fuel, wheat and medicines. As a result, food insecurity and poverty have increased rapidly for all populations in Lebanon. 15 percent of the Lebanese population, 27 percent of displaced Syrians, 26 percent of Palestinians from Lebanon and 35 percent of Palestinians from Syria are facing high acute food insecurity. This has led to a rise in the use of negative coping mechanisms and a severe deterioration in living standards for Lebanese and non-Lebanese populations alike, especially affecting persons with disabilities, elderly, women and children. In a country of approximately 6.8 million people, United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), has classified 3.7 million people in need of humanitarian assistance and protection, targeting 3.1 million, including 1.4 million Syrian refugees, Palestinian refugees from Syria and migrant workers, and 1.7 million vulnerable Lebanese and Palestinian refugees.

## 2. Humanitarian needs & affected population

Beginning in 2019, Lebanon is experiencing one of the world's worst economic collapses since the mid-nineteenth century. This collapse is aggravated by political instability, the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Beirut port explosion and the ongoing Israel-Gaza conflict. The economic crisis has led to near collapse of public finances and an increase of poverty levels. In July 2022 the country was downgraded from an upper to a lower-middle-income country and many now rely heavily on remittances from abroad. The economy has become heavily dollarized, and actors such as United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) and United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) have been forced to make large cuts in their assistance as international funding decreases. Meanwhile, Lebanon is managing the spill over effects from the Syria crisis. Out of the 6.6 million Syrian refugees displaced outside of Syria, 1.5 million live in Lebanon. Additionally Lebanon hosts approximately 210,000 Palestinian refugees, as well as a smaller, but highly vulnerable group of migrants. Lebanon is now hosting the most refugees per capita in the world, although it is difficult to know exactly how many refugees reside in Lebanon as UNCHR is disallowed from registering these.

Due to loss of livelihoods and rampant inflation, Lebanese and non-Lebanese households are unable to meet their basic needs, and food insecurity is rising. More people are now relying on harmful coping mechanisms, such as buying food on credit, restricting food consumption or reducing health and education expenditure. 83 per cent of Syrian refugees, 78 per cent of Palestinian refugees, and 59 percent of Lebanese reported adopting food based coping strategies including skipping meals. This in turn has a negative impact on vulnerable groups and their protection needs, as incidents of child labour and child marriages increase and people fall deeper into debt. Increasingly, poverty is forcing more people to attempt dangerous sea crossings, resulting in lives lost. The already underfunded public services is overburdened as people are unable to pay for private service providers. The mismanaged public institutions are near collapse with the health care, education, electricity, and the WASH sectors' collapse most acute. There is a shortage of skilled medical staff and medicines in the country, and many cannot afford to access primary health care. Further, more than 10 per cent of Lebanese children and close to 60 per cent of displaced Syrian children are not attending formal education.

As humanitarian needs increase rapidly and basic services are near collapse, some groups are more vulnerable than others. Female headed households face compounded challenges as women more often than men are unemployed, reliant on family or community assistance, and their vulnerabilities are heightened due to wide-spread gender inequality. For persons with disabilities and elderly, the situation is also of particular concern, as their access to critical health care services has been severely restricted. Migrants and refugee households, already vulnerable due to restricted legal status, have become more at risk of evictions, coerced returns, violence, increased food insecurity, etc., and as the crisis unfolds, social tensions rise and access constraints increase. Finally, within all vulnerable groups children are generally the hardest hit, as the crisis itself and many coping mechanisms used have implications for their nutrition, education and exposure to labour.

### 3. The humanitarian response

The National Poverty Targeting Programme (NPTP) is the only national social assistance programme run by the government. To enhance the reach of the NPTP, the World Bank finances a complimentary project called the Emergency Social Safety Net Project (ESSN). Both initiatives provide a package of benefits that includes health, education and food assistance to families selected based on vulnerability and need. Yet, both have major difficulties keeping up with the increasing poverty. The Lebanese civil society attempts to provide assistance where possible. This is coordinated through the main forum for national NGOs, the Lebanon Humanitarian and Development NGOs Forum (LHDF). The international humanitarian response is overseen by the Resident Coordinator/Humanitarian Coordinator (RC/HC), supported by OCHA. The main coordination forum is the Humanitarian Country Team (HCT) where strategic decision-making and oversight is carried out. It includes representatives from the UN, International Non-Governmental Organisations (INGOs), the Red Cross/Red Crescent Movement, donors, the Lebanon Humanitarian INGO Forum (LHIF) and LHDF.

Until 2023 Lebanon contended with two response plans, the Lebanon Crisis Response Plan (LCRP) targeting Syrian refugees and host communities, accompanied by the Lebanon Emergency Response Plan (ERP), targeting vulnerable Lebanese households. The two response plans were supposed to be complementary, but in practice overlapped with limited coordination. In late 2023 a new consolidated framework was presented, the Lebanon Response Plan (LRP). The LRP began to operate in January 2024 and aim to ‘address humanitarian needs in a way that is moving towards stability’, applying a humanitarian, development and peace nexus approach. The LRP will have a two-year time frame (2024-2025) to promote progress against development objectives in the longer-term. For 2024, 2,71 billion USD have been allocated which can roughly be disaggregated between humanitarian and stabilization interventions as follows: 1,46 billion USD and 1,26 billion USD respectively. The plan will connect the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF), the Lebanon Reform, Recovery, and Reconstruction Framework (3RF), and the national chapter of the Regional Refugee and Resilience Plan (3RP) for the Syria Crisis.

This effort to streamline the assistance provided to Lebanon is ambitious but highly necessary and relevant. This will hopefully help to minimise any overlap and ensure strategic and operational coordination within and across sectors, something that is essential considering the limited humanitarian funding available. It will also try to streamline data collection and analysis, ensuring joint processes, something that is now lacking.

### 4. Sida’s humanitarian allocation

Considering the growing needs across Lebanon, 65 million SEK has been earmarked to respond to the most urgent humanitarian needs without regard to nationality or status. This is less than previous years, as Sida has revised its allocation model. The support will be aligned with the

suggested first two objectives of the LRP; “to enhance protection of the vulnerable population” and “to provide immediate humanitarian assistance to vulnerable populations to ensure their critical needs are met.” Similarly, until the LRP is complete, the ERP objective of providing multi-sectoral life-saving, humanitarian, support to people in areas of most need, as well as the two first objectives of the LCRP to strengthen the protection of humanitarian assistance to Syrian refugees and affected populations in Lebanon, will inform the allocation. Considering this complex aid architecture in Lebanon, a good coordination and alignment between actors is essential. Hence, support to the LHIF is one of the key priorities in 2024.

The advised sectoral focus will be on Food Security, Health, Education and WASH. As previously, these sectors continue to be highlighted by the new LRP, albeit with multi-sectoral approaches when possible. As intercommunal tensions continue to rise in Lebanon, and an anti-refugee narrative is widespread, all interventions supported will also need to include a proper conflict sensitivity- and gender analysis with protection as a central outcome. Additionally, organisations should take environmental impact into consideration when implementing projects. Through this approach, Sida will promote and ensure compliance with the humanitarian principles and encourage partners to have greater impact while avoiding spurring on a deteriorating situation. Finally, to ensure quality funding, Sida will continue focusing on flexibility, localisation, and to some extent on multiyear commitments. To ensure that urgent, prioritised or underfunded needs are supported, the portfolio will keep some targeted funding.

PARTNER	SECTOR	INITIAL ALLOCATION (SEK)	
		2024	2025
AAH	FSL, Nutrition, WASH, Basic Assistance	10,000,000 <sup>1</sup>	10,000,000 <sup>3</sup>
INGO Forum (IRC)	Coordination	1,000,000	-
ICRC	Food Security, Health, Protection	6,000,000	-
LHF	Multi-sector	20,000,000	-
NRC	FSL, ICLA, WASH, Education, Shelter	8,000,000	-
Swedish Red Cross	WASH, Health	14,000,000	14,000,000
UNRWA	Multi-sector	6,000,000	-
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>65,000,000</b>	<b>24,000,000</b>

<sup>1</sup> Already committed in 2023.

## 5. Humanitarian-Development-Peace Nexus

Considering the complexities of the crisis in Lebanon, including the close connection to the Syria crisis, there are opportunities for coordination, complementarity and synergies between humanitarian assistance, development/resilience and peace-building efforts. As for the Swedish assistance, these opportunities are capitalized on through close cooperation between the humanitarian team and the team at the embassy in Beirut working with the Regional Strategy for the Syria-crisis (2016-2024). The latter strategy is focused on resilience building, including lasting livelihood opportunities and access to inclusive and equitable basic public services, as well as support to local peace-building, democracy and human rights, gender equality and human security. The two teams cooperate continuously in regard of *inter alia* joint analysis, risk management and field monitoring and follow-up. A new Swedish regional strategy for the Syria-crisis is currently being prepared, expected to start later in 2024. Once the strategy is approved and operationalisation begins, Sida should look into further opportunities for collaboration between resilience, peace, and humanitarian efforts, and find ways to encourage more synergies in the Swedish assistance. Other strategies that may present opportunities are the Swedish strategy for Human Rights, Democracy and Rule of Law, as well as the strategy for Sustainable Peace, as there are interventions receiving support from both of these in Lebanon.

Further, of the organisations supported in Lebanon, many have a dual mandate, working with both life-saving, humanitarian assistance, and longer-term durable solutions, including resilience and development initiatives. In Lebanon, and Syria, this has allowed some partner organisations to receive funding from both the humanitarian strategy and the Regional Syria strategy. Additionally, any intervention targeting both Lebanese and Syrian refugees has the potential to enhance social cohesion and peaceful co-existence, which fosters a positive protection environment

Looking at the broader picture in Lebanon, the LRP is an ambitious new initiative that combines both humanitarian- and development/resilience efforts. Projects targeting local peacebuilding will also be part of this aid architecture and, when not a target in itself, peacebuilding is often mainstreamed in resilience- and humanitarian interventions. Through joint work (decision-making, analysis, planning and sector coordination) – where the humanitarian space is safeguarded - the LRP has the potential to substantially enhance the interplay between humanitarian-, development/resilience-, and peacebuilding efforts.

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<sup>i</sup> The 2024 initial allocation of humanitarian funding is based on Sida's humanitarian allocation analysis methodology. The methodology was updated during 2023 to more clearly inform an allocation of funding that is proportional between crises, in line with Humanitarian and Good Humanitarian Donorship principles. Key changes in funding levels between the initial allocations for 2023 and 2024 for specific crises are therefore not only reflecting changes in the humanitarian situation but also changes in the analysis methodology. The analysis reflects the current humanitarian situation across crises and is being updated continuously with the latest available data, thereby allowing future allocations to be informed by how indicators have changed since previous allocations. The information in the HCA is based on reports, data, and information from partner organisations and other entities, as well as observations from field visits and dialogue with partners.