

Humanitarian Crisis in Lebanon

Situation Report #2

October 2, 2024

Project HOPE's team is on the ground distributing hygiene kits, including dignity items, to displaced families sheltering in schools across the Mount Lebanon area. The Emergency Response Team has mobilized local health workers and is coordinating with the Ministry of Public Health and local partners to establish mobile medical units to address the growing health needs of the 1 in 5 civilians whose lives have been violently disrupted by the ongoing conflict and displacement.

Situation Update

On September 29, 2024, the Israeli military initiated a ground offensive into southern Lebanon, supported by continuous naval and air strikes. The operation targeted various locations across Lebanon. This marks a significant escalation in hostilities between Israeli forces and armed groups in the region and is likely to cause further displacement and an intensification of humanitarian needs.

The key areas affected include southern Lebanon, where ground operations have intensified, leading to significant damage to infrastructure and residential areas. In the Beqaa Valley, airstrikes have been reported in locations that impact civilian populations and restrict humanitarian access. The Beirut suburb of Dahiyeh has also been heavily targeted by airstrikes, causing widespread displacement and substantial damage. **Project HOPE's team on the ground remains safe and accounted for and reports that areas of Beirut are beginning to overcrowd with displaced families as the violence in the south worsens.**

According to Lebanon's Ministry of Public Health (MOPH), the conflict has resulted in more than 1,600 deaths, including 104 children, 194 women, 41 health workers, and two United Nations staff members, with over 8,400 individuals injured since October 8, 2023. **Over 65% of these casualties have been recorded in the past two weeks.** In the last 24 hours alone, Israeli airstrikes have claimed more than 95 lives and injured 172 people. These numbers will rise as the conflict continues.

Civilians in and around the targeted areas have been forced to flee to safer

Key Updates

- The conflict in Lebanon has intensified since October 2023, causing **over 1,600 deaths, 8,400 injuries**, and widespread displacement.
- An estimated **1 million people** have been forcibly displaced in Lebanon, which is nearly 20% of the country's total population.
- Lebanon's health system is overwhelmed and facing **severe shortages** of staff and supplies, jeopardizing people's access to basic services.
- Project HOPE is **procuring medications** and trauma supplies, as well as **establishing mobile medical units** to provide health care to displaced families.
- Project HOPE is **distributing hygiene kits** and conducting needs assessments in the Mount Lebanon and North governorates.

locations across Lebanon. In some cases, individuals received advance warnings and evacuation orders through automated mobile messages, social media, or local news channels. The MOPH estimates that 1 million people have been forcibly displaced. The International Organization for Migration (IOM) reports that approximately 346,209 internally displaced persons (IDPs) have been recorded in Lebanon, including 121,200 children, and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) reports that by September 30, 2024, more than 100,000 individuals had fled from Lebanon to Syria. The Lebanese Prime Minister, Najib Mikati, has stated that the country is now facing what could be the largest wave of displacement in its history, with one-fifth of the population seeking refuge outside their homes.

In the chaos of conflict and mass displacement, **Project HOPE expects estimations and calculations of the affected population to differ until enough time has passed for concrete counts to be published. What remains clear is that hundreds of thousands of people in Lebanon require humanitarian assistance.**

Around 800 shelters, primarily public schools, have been designated by the Lebanese government to receive IDPs in the Beirut and Mount Lebanon governorates. In response to the displacement crisis, the Ministry of Education has postponed the school year until the second week of October, with potential plans to shift to online learning and virtual classes to ensure continuity.

The scale and urgency of health and humanitarian needs are expected to rise as civilians continue to endure the traumas of violence, forced displacement, disrupted access to health care, food insecurity, and inconsistent access to clean water and sanitation. **Notably, Lebanon's health system was already on the verge of collapse before the recent escalation of violence, suffering from severe shortages in staff, medicines, and essential equipment.**

Since October 2023, five hospitals in the Nabatieh and South governorates have reported damage, and disruptions in health services have impacted 39 primary health care centers. The attacks in the past week have further strained health workers and exacerbated the pressure on the system's limited resources, as survivors continue to seek urgent medical care. **Project HOPE anticipates that health and humanitarian needs will increasingly concentrate in Beirut and surrounding areas that are receiving high numbers of displaced families.**

Project HOPE's Response in Lebanon

In light of the recent escalation of violence within the country, field assessments have revealed an increasing need for mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS), particularly among children. Many children are experiencing multiple traumas, including the terror of being under attack, displacement from their homes, disruption of their education, and the breakdown of their daily lives. In addition to MHPSS services, there is an urgent need for:

“The humanitarian crisis in Lebanon is catastrophic. We are living hour by hour or even minute by minute. A million people are displaced — some of whom are on the streets with no shelter, with many not knowing where their next meal will come from.”

Roy Sayegh – Project HOPE's Program Manager in Lebanon

- Water
- Non-food items (personal hygiene items, dignity items, household items, and cleaning supplies)
- Diapers
- Bedding kits, including blankets, mattresses, and pillows
- Medications for individuals with chronic illnesses

In response to these urgent needs, **Project HOPE has distributed 1,700 hygiene kits and other essential dignity and non-food items to IDPs in 10 schools across the Mount Lebanon area.** These schools were selected in collaboration with the Ministry of Social Affairs to ensure effective assistance was delivered to those most in need.

Project HOPE is working in close coordination with the MOPH to provide critical medications and emergency trauma supplies to health workers who are tirelessly treating thousands of injuries and saving lives. Given that Lebanon's health system was already weakened prior to the recent escalation, Project HOPE is also focused on securing essential medications and medical supplies to strengthen the health system and ensure continuous care for individuals with injuries and chronic conditions.

To address the growing health needs among IDPs living in shelters, Project HOPE is establishing two mobile medical units staffed by specialized local doctors and nurses. These units, once activated, will deliver essential health services directly to displaced populations in need.

Through coordination with the MOPH and partnerships with emergency medical services, primary health clinics, and hospitals, Project HOPE is ensuring that medication distribution is well-structured and aligned with the minimum service package required for health coverage.

In the coming days, Project HOPE will conduct comprehensive health and humanitarian needs assessments in the Mount Lebanon and North governorates. We remain committed to coordinating closely with key local actors to streamline efforts, share information effectively, and avoid duplication of humanitarian responses. Project HOPE continues to call for an immediate ceasefire and an end to the violence in order to protect civilians and enable uninterrupted access to critical health and humanitarian aid.

“From a mental health perspective, this has been traumatizing. How do you explain to a child what a sonic boom or a drone is? The longtail effects of this will last for many years.”

Roy Sayegh – Project HOPE’s Program Manager in Lebanon