

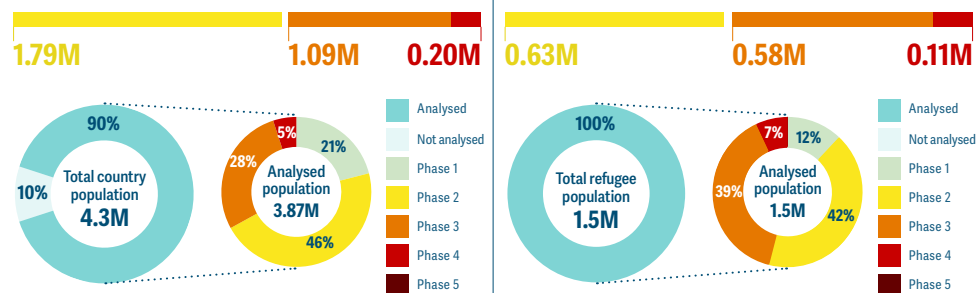
Lebanon

ACUTE FOOD INSECURITY PEAK 2022

1.98M Lebanese residents and Syrian refugees or **37%** of the total analysed populations in IPC Phase 3 or above, September–December 2022

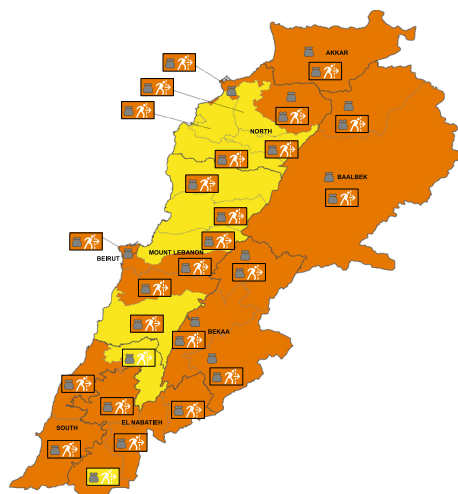
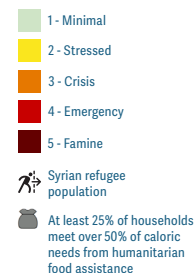
1.29M or 33% of the analysed population are Lebanese residents

0.70M or 46% of the analysed population are Syrian refugees



The IPC considers refugees who are registered with UNHCR (815 000) and non-registered (685 000).
Source: Lebanon IPC TWG, December 2022.

IPC acute food insecurity situation, September–December 2022



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The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on these maps do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

Source: Lebanon IPC TWG, December 2022.

Food crisis overview

In September–December 2022, about 1.98 million Lebanese residents and Syrian refugees, corresponding to 37 percent of the analysed population, faced Crisis or worse (IPC Phase 3 or above), including over 300 000 people in Emergency (IPC Phase 4), driven by the impacts of economic and financial crisis (IPC, December 2022).

The analysis projected that the acute food insecurity situation would worsen for both population groups in January–April 2023, with about 2.26 million people, corresponding to 42 percent of the analysed population in IPC Phase 3 or above, driven by further deterioration of the economic situation including depreciation of the Lebanese pound (LBP), and protracted inflation.

The number of people in Emergency (IPC Phase 4) was expected to increase from 306 000 to 354 000 people, reaching 7 percent of the population analysed (IPC, December 2022).

Lebanese residents

In September–December 2022, 1.29 million Lebanese residents faced IPC Phase 3 or above, representing 33 percent of the analysed resident population. The majority (17) of the 26 districts were classified in Crisis (IPC Phase 3) and nine in Stressed (IPC Phase 2).

The highest prevalence of acute food insecurity among Lebanese residents was observed in four districts in the north – Akkar, Baalbek, El Hermel, and El Minieh-Dennie – where 50 percent or more of the population analysed was facing IPC Phase 3 or above, of whom 10 percent were in Emergency (IPC Phase 4) (IPC, December 2022).

In January–April 2023, as a result of the deteriorating economic situation, it was projected that the number of Lebanese residents in IPC Phase 3 or above would increase to 1.46 million, corresponding to 38 percent of the total country population. The number of districts classified in Crisis was projected to increase from 17 to 19. During this period, 60–65 percent of the Lebanese

resident population in Akkar, Baalbek and El Hermel districts was projected to be in IPC Phase 3 or above, with 15 percent in IPC Phase 4. During both the 2022 peak and the 2023 projection periods, Akkar had the highest number of residents in IPC Phase 3 or above followed by Baabda, Baalbek and Tripoli (IPC, December 2022).

Syrian refugees

In September–December 2022, 0.7 million Syrian refugees faced IPC Phase 3 or above, representing 46 percent of the 1.5 million refugees hosted in Lebanon. Nearly all (24) of the 26 districts in which refugees reside were classified in IPC Phase 3, and just two in IPC Phase 2.

The highest prevalence of acute food insecurity among refugees was observed in seven districts – Akkar, Baalbek, El Hermel, El Koura, Marjaayoun, Tripoli and West Bekaa – with the refugee population in IPC Phase 3 ranging from 55–60 percent and those in IPC Phase 4 from 5–15 percent (IPC, December 2022).

In January–April 2023, as a result of the deteriorating economic situation, it was projected that the number of Syrian refugees in IPC Phase 3 or above would increase to 0.8 million, more than half of the refugee population in the country. During this period, one in five Syrian refugees in Akkar were projected to be in IPC Phase 4. Around 65 percent of the population in El Hermel and Marjaayoun districts, and 60 percent in Baalbek, Beirut, El Koura, El Minieh-Dennie, Tripoli and West Bekaa were projected to face IPC Phase 3 or above. During both periods, Zahle district had the highest number of Syrian refugees in IPC Phase 3 or above, followed by Baalbek and Akkar (IPC, December 2022).

Drivers of the crisis, 2022–23

Economic shocks Since October 2019, Lebanon has been confronted with a severe economic and financial crisis, facing its largest economic recession since the end of the civil war in 1990 as well as the economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. This has been exacerbated by political

stalemate and lack of governance (IPC, December 2022).

High and rising inflation driven by the plummeting exchange rate on the parallel market, the exponential growth of the amount of currency in circulation, the lifting of subsidies on food and non-food products, coupled with elevated international prices (particularly of food and fuel) severely undermined the ability of Lebanese residents and Syrian refugee families to cover their basic needs (WFP, September 2022).

The Lebanese pound lost almost 50 percent of its value on the parallel market between October 2021 and October 2022 and more than 94 percent since the start of the crisis in October 2019, with grave consequences given the country's high reliance on imports for most of its food and non-food needs. The damage to Lebanon's main grain silos incurred during the Beirut port blast in August 2020, coupled with strikes by public sector workers, also strained the country's food import capacity (WFP, September 2022).

In September 2022, Lebanon's food import volume was 17 percent lower year-on-year and 44 percent below that of October 2019 (WFP, October 2022).

The cost of the food component of the Survival Minimum Expenditure Basket (SMEB)¹ increased 19-fold between October 2019 and September 2022 (WFP, October 2022). The unemployment rate jumped from 11 percent in 2018–19 to 30 percent in 2022 (CAS-ILO, May 2022).

The Food Price Index was expected to rise by around 50 percent in the first quarter of 2023, and the SMEB by 20 percent between September 2022 and April 2023. Cash assistance to Lebanese residents was expected to remain at 2022 levels, but purchasing power likely will erode through increasing inflation. Cash assistance to Syrian refugees was expected to reduce by up to 20 percent between January and March 2023 due to lack of funding (IPC, December 2022).

As of August 2022, the average monthly income among Lebanese resident households covered only 29 percent of the SMEB (WFP, September, 2022).

Syrian refugees face significant barriers in accessing the labour market due to lack of legal residency and often reside in sub-optimal conditions, making them highly reliant on assistance (VASyR, 2022). Over 90 percent of Syrian refugee households incurred debts to cover their basic needs. The cost of rent, which represents a significant share of Syrian refugees' household budgets, rose by 170 percent between July 2021 and July 2022. Only 33 percent of the working-age population was employed, and nearly 30 percent of households had no working members (VASyR, November 2022).

Conflict/insecurity Protracted conflict for over a decade in the neighbouring Syrian Arab Republic continues to affect Lebanon in terms of trade and hosting 1.5 million Syrian refugees, increasing demand on already strained institutions; Lebanon has the highest ratio of displaced people to total population in the world (LCRP, June 2022).

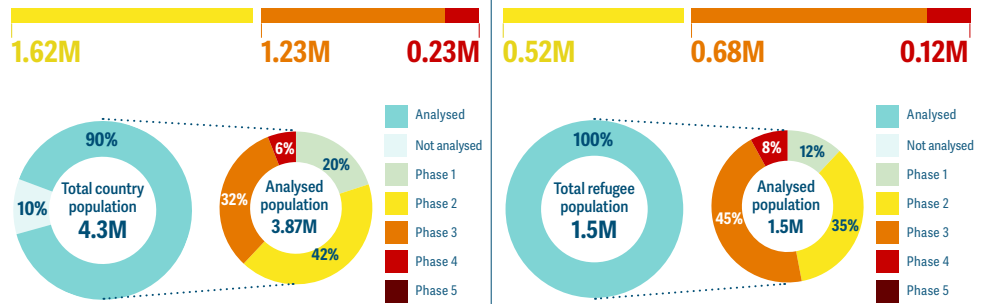
Lebanon has been without a functioning government since 2020. Political volatility has increased tension between groups, resulting in local clashes. Economic and state decay are destabilizing the country's delicate political balance (IOM, December 2022).

ACUTE FOOD INSECURITY PROJECTION 2023

2.26M Lebanese residents and Syrian refugees or **42%** of the total analysed populations in IPC Phase 3 or above, January–April 2023

1.46M or **38%** of the analysed population are Lebanese residents

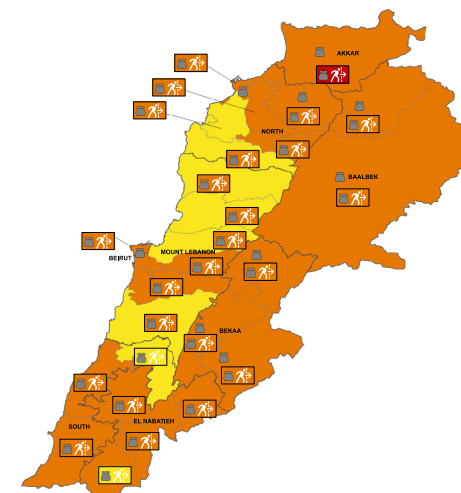
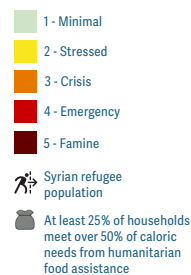
0.80M or **53%** of the analysed population are Syrian refugees



The IPC considers refugees that are registered with UNHCR (815 000) and non-registered (685 000).

Source: Lebanon IPC TWG, December 2022.

Projected IPC acute food insecurity situation, January–April 2023



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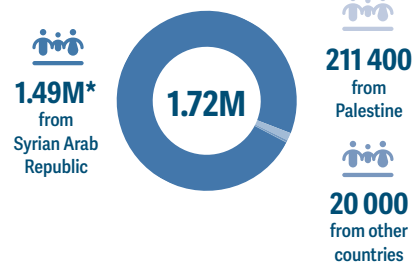
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Source: Lebanon IPC TWG, December 2022.

¹ The value of the SMEB is the absolute minimum amount required to cover life-saving needs

DISPLACEMENT

Refugees, asylum-seekers, and stateless persons, end 2022



* 815 000 registered with UNHCR. Source: 3RP, February 2023.

Refugees Lebanon continues to host the highest number of displaced people per capita and per square kilometre in the world.

The Government of Lebanon estimates that the country hosts 1.5 million Syrians, along with 211 400 Palestine refugees, of whom 31 400 were displaced from the Syrian Arab Republic. These populations live across all governorates in Lebanon (3RP, February 2023).

Acute food insecurity of refugees is worsening, with the Syrian refugee population in Akkar governorate expected to be in Emergency (IPC Phase 4) in 2023 even with anticipated humanitarian assistance.

Palestine refugees' ability to cover their most basic food and health needs is deteriorating, and the socioeconomic crisis is further limiting their access to livelihoods, pushing this already vulnerable population further into poverty and despair (3RP, February 2023).

Regular food price monitoring surveys conducted by the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) revealed that between October 2019–July 2022, the average cost of a food basket in the Palestine refugee camps in Lebanon rose by around 560 percent. The cost of a loaf of bread increased by 966 percent between October 2019–October 2022 (3RP, February 2023).

Palestine refugees, including those displaced from the Syrian Arab Republic, are increasingly adopting negative coping mechanisms to survive. An UNRWA crisis monitoring survey conducted in March 2022 found that 68 percent had reduced the number of meals they consumed in the face of high food costs. In some areas, children were going to school hungry and without lunch (3RP, February 2023).

NUTRITION

Number of children under 5 years old with wasting, 2022



7 500 pregnant and lactating women acutely malnourished, 2022

Source: Global Nutrition Cluster.

Micronutrient deficiencies and sub-optimal feeding practices were widespread (IPC, December 2022). Despite this, the most recently available SMART survey, conducted in 2021, reported that the overall prevalence of wasting in children under 5 years of age was 'low' for Syrian refugee children (2.5 percent) and 'very low' for Lebanese resident children (1.8 percent).

The acute malnutrition prevalence among pregnant and lactating women reached 7.6 percent among Syrian refugees living in informal settlements and 5 percent among Lebanese women.

The prevalence of stunting among Lebanese children aged 6–59 months was 'low' at 7 percent nationally, but of 'medium' concern (11.7 percent) among displaced Syrians residing out of settlements and of 'high' concern (25 percent) among those in informal settlements. The latter marks an increase from 17 percent in 2013 (IPC, December 2022).

Drivers of undernutrition

Inadequate maternal and child-feeding practices Nationally, only 32.4 percent of Lebanese children under 6 months were exclusively breastfed, and only 6 percent of children aged 6–23 months received a Minimum Acceptable Diet (MAD), which is reflective of both inadequate diet diversity and meal frequency.

Syrian refugee infants were more likely to be exclusively breastfed for the first 6 months of life (65.2 percent), but beyond then MAD was also low (6.3 percent for 6–23 month-olds) (SMART, 2021).

Some 41.9 percent of Lebanese women of reproductive age and 41.3 percent of children aged 6–59 months were suffering from anaemia, indicating a severe public health problem.

For Syrian refugees in informal settlements, anaemia was a moderate public health problem (31.4 percent among women and 32.8 percent among children), most of which can be attributed to micronutrient deficiencies (Lebanon Nutrition Sector, 2022).

Limited access to health and nutrition services

The health system has been under significant pressure, including a significant migration of human resources. Up to 20 percent of nurses and 40 percent of doctors are estimated to have left the country. Hospitals face shortages of staff, while medicines are scarce and immunization rates of children have dropped (OCHA 2022). According to mVAM 2022 data, nearly 50 percent of the Lebanese resident population faced challenges to access health services. High costs, lack of health insurance and shortages of medicines were the main access barriers to health services (WFP, July 2022).

Poor household environment Access to safe and sufficient water for drinking and domestic use was problematic. The public water network was severely affected by budget cuts and electricity shortages, with a resultant impact on public health, hygiene and sanitation.

Untreated wastewater dumping increased, and, in October 2022, the country registered its first cholera case since 1993. By the end of November, nearly 4 700 suspected and confirmed cholera cases and 20 deaths were reported across Lebanon.

The WASH sector estimated that the cost for a household to receive sufficient water to meet basic needs was 75 percent of the average wage in July 2022 (WASH Sector, 2022).