

**Alert note***Lebanon, November 2023***Completed by:** Middle East Council of Churches- Lebanon (MECC)**Date completed:** November 23, 2023**Forum:** Lebanon**Type of emergency:** Internal Displacement**Date of emergency (if rapid onset):** October 2023**The nature of the emergency**

Since the 8<sup>th</sup> of October 2023, exchange of artillery fire and rockets between Hezbollah and the Israeli army commenced, following the Israeli attacks on Gaza, and has been escalating on a daily basis since then. Due to this escalation, several thousand families from South Lebanon have fled their homes to neighboring areas particularly Tyre<sup>1</sup>.

As of 21<sup>st</sup> of November 2023, Lebanon has recorded 55,491 internally displaced persons (IDPs). IDPs have sought safety in 429 locations (villages or neighborhoods) across 355 cadasters throughout Lebanon. Displacement has been observed in 25 out of the 26 districts across all eight governorates. Most of the IDPs (73%) are in five districts out of the total 25 districts hosting IDPs—specifically, Sour, El Nabatieh, Aley, Beirut, and Saida<sup>2</sup>.

Damage has also been inflicted upon private property, public infrastructure, and agricultural land damaged by widespread fires ignited by the use of ammunition with incendiary effect.

In south Lebanon, 52 schools are closed, of which 17 are public, impacting more than 6,000 children who will need to explore alternative options for their education. In active areas of conflict, the number of medical consultations in Primary Health Care Centers (PHCC) has nearly halved. Due to security concerns, five PHCCs in Bent Jbeil and Marjayoun districts are currently closed<sup>3</sup>.

**1. The impact and scale of the emergency (please include your source of information)**

As of November 22<sup>nd</sup>, the emergency is at a medium scale. The crisis of internal displacement as described is in Southern Lebanon from cities right at the borders with Israel.

The incidents have resulted in more than 90 casualties till date including civilians. Residential areas were hit resulting in the destruction of houses and assets, as well as community institutions like schools.

Most of the farmers on the southern border areas were not able to harvest their olive trees. Olive and olive oil represent the main source of income for many families in the area, and a main ingredient in their daily meals. The loss of this income will impact the families for the whole year. Some olive fields have been burnt and destroyed as the result of the wildfire caused by the shelling leaving the farmers without any income and lost assets for years to come. Some other farmers will not have access to their land due to UXOs and the phosphorus shells. On October 31, Lebanon's Agriculture Minister stated that over 40,000 olive trees were burned with banned white phosphorus bombs.

Due to the fighting, in Nabatieh, 16 schools are closed and 6 schools in the South, impacting thousands of children who will need to explore alternative options for their education.

**2. Local and national capacity**

While schools are considered a last-resort option for collective shelters, some most vulnerable displaced families have sought refuge in four schools, namely Tyre Second Intermediate Mixed Public School, Tyre Intermediate Public School for Girls, Tyre Technical School in Tyre, and the Lebanese German University in Tyre. In Nabatiye there are also collective shelters; Marj Al Zouhour Intermediate School and Ezzedine Hotel, Al Nour NGO, Al Salam NGO, Kawkaba Club, and Saidnaya Monastery. Nabatiye hosts about 50% less than Tyre.

<sup>1</sup> <https://dtm.iom.int/reports/mobility-snapshot-round-10-09-11-2023>

<sup>2</sup> [Mobility Snapshot - Round 12- 23-11-2023 | Displacement Tracking Matrix \(iom.int\)](#)

<sup>3</sup> [Lebanon: Flash Update #1 - Escalation of hostilities in south Lebanon, 18 November 2023 | OCHA \(unocha.org\)](#)

The least vulnerable of IDP's are the ones who could afford renting (36%) and those who own a second home (10%). 49% of affected population have sought refuge with families and friends which increases the economic burden on the hosting families as well as the accommodation feasibility.

The Lebanese government, led by the Prime Minister, has updated and published the national preparedness and emergency response plan to enhance response readiness. National Short and Medium-term Preparedness and Response Plan for War and massive displacement scenario are available. Local/national actors, authorities and INGO's are part of this plan. Coordination meetings are held for coordination and collaboration purposes.

Humanitarian sectors are also coordinating the response to the priority humanitarian needs of the affected population, in particular families who have remained in the conflict zone and those who have been displaced.

**3. Key needs and gaps**

**Gaps as of November 11, 2023<sup>4</sup>**

**Basic Assistance:**

- The Disaster Risk Management Unit (DRM) in Nabatieh governorate identified the need for mattresses, blankets, and pillows for 276 IDPs in collective shelters, specifically in Hasbaya district.
- The Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) unit in Tyre has identified the need for 1,300 mattresses and 2,000 pillows to cover the needs across all shelters.
- Mapping of contingency stocks has revealed limited availability in south Lebanon currently.

**Food Security and Agriculture:**

- Providing lifesaving food needs for the population displaced by the ongoing clashes.

**Shelter and winterization:**

- Limited funding availability has led implementing partners to reallocate resources for supporting displaced populations. This has affected regular ongoing activities and delayed winterization efforts in informal settlements, thus increasing the risk for severely vulnerable families during the winter season.
- Regular shelter activities have been suspended in the field due to the crisis, and primary shelter actors in the south face restricted access.

**WASH**

- Water and Sanitation facilities and infrastructure of collective sites would likely require support from sector partners to enable acceptable conditions for displaced people.
- The sector is advocating to secure funds for response to new needs. This has been done so far through the reallocation of funding away from ongoing programs.
- Available stocks of hygiene items, primarily for cholera preparedness, are quickly depleting.

Please indicate whether you are considering:

	Indicate your intention with an <b>X</b> below
Rapid Response Fund ( <i>intended for small and medium scale emergencies</i> )	X
Appeal ( <i>intended for large scale emergencies</i> )	

If you indicate an intention to launch an appeal, the secretariat will activate an Emergency Steering Committee meeting within two working days on receipt of this alert.

<sup>4</sup> LEBANON: HCT Update No. 6

Capacity details of forum members with the intention to respond are given below.

ACT Member	Geographical focus	Sectors of expertise	Support required	Estimated Budget range
MECC	South Lebanon	Relief	Financial Support	US\$150,000

#### 4. Potential responses

ACT Alliance has been working in Lebanon since 2011, now helping/planning to help people affected by the overlapping crises in the country. ACT Forum members include Act Church of Sweden, Diakonia, DSPR-JCC, MECC, DCA, NCA, HEKS-EPER and CA.

ACT Alliance works in all affected areas around Lebanon and has assessed the impact of the recent clashes to better respond to the needs and vulnerabilities.

MECC has started the procurement process to address needs through shifting projects activities and other emergency support. MECC is also working in the South under a cash distribution project with NCA targeting families than have been affected by the conflict.

MECC planned activities:

- 500 hosting households have access to cash assistance to alleviate their economic burden.
- 1,000 families in shelters have access to bottled water.
- 1,442 Women, girls, men and boys are enabled to improve hygiene practices through access to hygiene items in order to prevent communicable diseases.