

The War on Gaza: Impact on Lebanon's Population and the Palestinian Refugees in particular

Lebanon's myriads of crises have persistently evolved in 2024. The economic and financial turmoil that has engulfed Lebanon since 2019 continues to affect a significant portion of its populace, plunging most of the population into poverty. Devaluation of the Lebanese lira (LBP) has led to surges in the costs of essential goods and housing rents. The market's dollarization has exacerbated financial strains for lower-income families, especially those earning their wages in lira, making it increasingly challenging for them to make the ends meet. Deepening financial crises and a lack of governance, essential services and protection have exacerbated poverty and reinforced social and economic inequalities resulting in heightened humanitarian demands among its most vulnerable communities. According to **UN estimates, approximately 3.9 million individuals in Lebanon require humanitarian assistance**. This figure includes **2.1 million vulnerable Lebanese citizens, 1.5 million Syrian refugees (SR), 81,500 migrants living in Lebanon, and 211,400 Palestine refugees both in Lebanon and from Syria (PRL and PRS)**.

With such a state of deterioration for more than half a decade, **the October 7 event has intensified the crises**. There has been no shortage of worry in Lebanon following the Israeli declaration of all-out war on Gaza. Israel has made it clear that war with Hezbollah in Lebanon will lead to devastating consequences for the whole of Lebanon. For months, the question of whether Lebanon will be dragged into another war has dominated life in this country.

Meanwhile, the **repercussions of the war** have spilled into Lebanon, resulting in over **110,000 individuals being displaced**. Based on MoH data released on August 22nd, **2,412** is the number of casualties of the Israeli hostilities on Lebanon, including **564 deaths of civilians, including children**.^[1] **According to Amnesty International**, Israel has demonstrably used internationally unlawful **white phosphorus in southern Lebanon**, targeting civilian areas. The phosphorus has **damaged the environment and farmlands, thereby affecting the livelihoods of residents**. People

living in southern Lebanon, including Palestinian refugees, have had to cease their work due to Israeli airstrikes during the olive and lemon harvest seasons. Residents fleeing conflict areas face increased rental prices in safer regions, driven by an influx of refugees and exploited by landlords amid the humanitarian crisis.

a total. Of the total, **678 injured individuals required hospitalization.**

In a report published in April, UN child experts said that, “Children as young as four are being forced to go to work in Lebanon amid a “massive collapse” in humanitarian funding.” The escalating hostilities on the country’s southern border that threaten to spiral into a “full-scale war” will be devastating for more than 1.3 million children in Lebanon.

Ettie Higgins, UNICEF Lebanon deputy head of office, explained that, “We are seeing tensions really spike and having an impact on children on a daily basis.” Higgins continued noting the high level of trauma displayed by Palestinian refugees now living in “terrible conditions in the camps here” while also suffering the “secondary trauma” of seeing what is happening to fellow Palestinians in Gaza.^[2]

According to UNICEF other reports, there has been a notable rise in signs of anxiety and depression among children across Lebanon, with the emotional burden especially heavy in conflict-stricken southern Lebanon and among Palestinians. Palestinian children face challenges stemming from inadequate living conditions, camp insecurities, and uncertainties about their future. Moreover, the past year has been further overshadowed by unforeseen crises triggered by the war on Gaza, profoundly affecting the Palestinian community in Lebanon, including its children and youth.

Moreover, as of January 2024, **the UNRWA has suffered suspension of funding** due to Israeli allegations accusing the Agency staff’s involvement in the October 7 attack. This cruel decision has resulted in cutting off the sole lifeline to the besieged population in Gaza Strip, and severely **affecting the lifesaving aid provided to the Palestinian refugees in the region, especially those in Lebanon.**

The United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East was created in 1949 to support the influx of Palestinian refugees forced to leave their land in 1948. In Lebanon, UNRWA services have been depleting since 2018 when USA President Trump stopped USA share of fund to UNRWA. The latter has been struggling for ample fundraising and donations needed to support the increasing needs of the Palestinians, especially those in Lebanon.

The Palestinian people in Lebanon's camps have been already living in extreme poverty as result of the crises. They have hardly been able to put food on the table for their families with coping strategies they followed to survive. They already suffer from lack of jobs and of opportunities as the local authorities prohibit them from working in many professions. They were unable to rehabilitate their houses because the authorities ban the construction materials to enter into the camps.

Relief Aid Item Description:

Below is the description of constituents of a food parcel and a hygiene kit that were distributed recently to our targeted families.

Food Parcels

Donated by the Japanese Campaign for the Children of Palestine (CCP), the food package contains the minimal needs of essential nutritious items. Quantities mentioned in this list are sufficient for an average family size of 5 to 6 members, including children. Based on an assessment of the community needs, this parcel serves for about 15 days or 20 as a maximum.

According to the market prices presently, the price of this **food parcel is \$40 USD.**

Contents of the Food Parcel:

#	Item	Quantity
1	Rice	1 pack– 5kg
2	Oil	2 gallons – 2L
3	Sugar	1 pack– 5kg

4	White lentils	2 packs – 1kg each
5	Red lentils	2 packs– 1kg each
6	Haricots	1 pack– 1kg
8	Mortadella (processed meat)	2 cans – 2kg each
9	Pasta	8 pack– 250 gr
10	Tea	1 pack– 1kg
11	Tomato paste	2 packs – 300 gr
12	Thyme	1 pack– 1kg
13	Apricot jam	2 pots – 1 kg each
14	Halawa	2 pots – 400gr each
15	Tuna	4 packs
16	Cardboard box	1 (each portion)

Hygiene Kits

Donated by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the hygiene kit items listed below form the basics needed for any household. A hygiene kit may also include napkins, wet wipes, women’s anti-septic liquid wash for personal hygiene, depending on the fund.

According to the market, the price of this **hygiene kit is \$20 USD**. The items selected are of local brands manufactured in Lebanon.

#	Items
1	Hair Shampoo
2	Toothpaste tubes

3	Hand Soap (Anti-septic liquid)
4	Washing machine soap
5	Dishwashing soap
6	Disinfectant detergents (chlorox)
7	Germicidal bowl disinfectant (Flash)

For purchasing the items, NISCVT seeks offers from local suppliers; the selection process recognizes pre-set criteria of:

1. Good quality of items with acceptable prices;
2. Availability of all the chosen items at the supplier's store;
3. Presentable packaging and delivery to NISCVT centers;
4. Product items are not included in the anti-national boycott lists.

Thank you for your immediate attention and support.

^[1] <https://today.lorientlejour.com/article/1424640/564-killed-since-oct-8-lebanese-health-ministry.html>

^[2] <https://news.un.org/en/story/2024/04/1149166>

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