



# Escalation in Lebanon amid Widening Regional Conflict

## UN Women Flash Update #2

7 March - 10 April 2026

### UN WOMEN RESPONSE SNAPSHOT

Lebanon | 7 March – 10 April 2026

#### PEOPLE REACHED



**30,800+**  
INDIVIDUALS REACHED

- **6,226** directly reached
- **6,176** women (99%)
- **24,650+** indirectly reached
- **30%** reached outside collective shelters

#### FOOD SECURITY



**72,000**  
MEALS DELIVERED

- **9,108** individuals reached across **16** shelters
- **160** women provided with income opportunities
- **704** total individuals supported (direct + household members)

#### PROTECTION & PSYCHOSOCIAL SUPPORT



**400+**  
INDIVIDUALS REACHED

- **^350** women & girls (~88%)
- **16** women-led organizations supported
- **50** women hosted in safe shelters
- Scaling legal aid, GBV services and cash-for-protection • Target: 6,000 women & girls

#### WASH



**4,572** DIGNITY / NFI  
KITS DISTRIBUTED

- **15,544** individuals indirectly supported
- Addressing hygiene, dignity, and protection risks in overcrowded settings

#### SOCIAL STABILITY



- Women pebuilders mobilized
- Supporting:
- Community dialogue

## SITUATION OVERVIEW

Since the escalation of hostilities on 2 March 2026, the humanitarian situation in Lebanon has deteriorated significantly, marked by rising civilian casualties and heightened protection risks. On 8 April 2026, the deadliest day since the escalation began, intensified airstrikes reportedly killed at least 203 people and injured more than 1,000, including at least 71 women and 33 children among those killed, and 358 women among the injured. As of 10 April, cumulative fatalities have exceeded 1,888, including at least 220 women.

Mass displacement remains a defining feature of the crisis. The Government of Lebanon estimates that more than 1 million people were displaced within the first two weeks of the escalation. This includes an estimated 620,000 women and girls—nearly one quarter of all women and girls in Lebanon and more than half of those displaced. Of these, approximately 139,673 people are currently sheltering in 682 government-designated collective sites, while over 900,000 are displaced outside formal shelter settings, including in host communities, informal sites, and public spaces.

## GENDER DIMENSIONS & RISKS

On 30 March, UN Women published a [Rapid Gender Analysis \(RGA\): Gendered Impacts of Displacement Outside Collective Shelters in Lebanon](#), drawing on primary data from displaced households, consultations with women-led organizations, and secondary sources. The RGA documents how the crisis is deepening pre-existing gender inequalities while exposing women and girls to heightened and compounding risks. **Key findings include:**

**Invisibility and Exclusion:** Women and girls displaced outside formal shelter settings remain largely invisible to humanitarian actors, with limited access to information, services, and assistance.

**Gendered displacement patterns:** Decision-making around flight followed distinct gender lines. Women framed leaving as necessary to protect children, while men typically organized transport,

routes, and timing. In some cases, families separated, with men staying behind to work or protect assets, leaving women as sole caregivers during and after displacement.

**Barriers to assistance:** Once displaced, women face severe constraints in accessing assistance due to mobility restrictions, unpaid care responsibilities, and social norms. Many rely on intermediaries to receive assistance. Limited affordable housing is pushing families, particularly female-headed households, into overcrowded and substandard conditions, increasing dependence on hosts and landlords and raising risks of exploitation, abuse, and trafficking.

**Economic insecurity:** Loss of income, rising rents, and increasing debt are pushing households toward negative coping strategies, including child labour and early marriage. Women are disproportionately affected; they frequently reduce their own food intake to prioritize children while facing growing barriers to livelihoods due to increased care responsibilities, safety concerns, and limited access to income opportunities. Boys face pressure to contribute to household income, while girls are taking on additional unpaid care roles.

**Sectoral Needs:** Food insecurity, limited access to healthcare (including sexual and reproductive health), mental health and psychosocial support, and inadequate WASH conditions are major concerns, with women and girls facing additional challenges related to privacy, dignity, and menstrual hygiene.

**Structural barriers:** Documentation constraints, information gaps, safety concerns, and restrictive social norms limit women's ability to access assistance safely and independently.

## UN WOMEN'S RESPONSE

**Between 2 March and 10 April 2026, UN Women reached over 30,800 crisis-affected individuals through its humanitarian response, including 6,226 directly (6,176 women) and over 24,650 indirectly.** Thirty per cent of beneficiaries were

reached outside collective shelters, reflecting efforts to support vulnerable populations often excluded from humanitarian assistance.

UN Women's response combines food security, protection, WASH, and social stability interventions delivered through partnerships with women-led and women's rights organizations. This approach provides emergency assistance to underserved populations, strengthens community-based protection, and advances localization, accountability to affected populations, and the meaningful participation of women in shaping and delivering the humanitarian response.

### A. Food Security

UN Women is scaling up support to [gender-responsive community kitchens in Tyre, Sibling, Beirut, Zahle, and Saida](#). These initiatives provide [short-term, dignified income opportunities for displaced women](#) while supporting households to address income gaps and reduce reliance on negative coping strategies.

For example, in Tyre, the community kitchen located within the Union of Municipalities compound also supports small-scale food production, with women cultivating fresh vegetables to supplement meals amid access constraints. The intervention also supports operational costs, including packaging, transportation, and safe delivery of meals, and is implemented in collaboration with WFP and the South Council (Majles Al Janoub).

In addition, in partnership with the Lebanese Union for Persons with Physical Disabilities (LUPD), UN Women is supporting the Access Kitchen initiative in Saida (South Lebanon), Zahle (Bekaa), and Beirut. Led by women with disabilities, these kitchens provide emergency food assistance to displaced and crisis-affected populations while creating short-term income opportunities and promoting the inclusion and leadership of women with disabilities in the humanitarian response.

To date, these initiatives have provided short-term

income opportunities for 160 displaced women, indirectly benefiting an estimated 544 family members. [In total, the intervention has supported approximately 704 individuals while delivering 72,000 safe and nutritious meals to 9,108 residents across 16 collective shelters.](#)

### B. Protection

UN Women is supporting 16 women-led and women's rights organizations across Lebanon to [deliver gender-responsive protection](#). UN Women has reached over 400 individuals, including [approximately 350 women and girls](#). Partners are providing community-based protection, legal assistance, psychosocial support, and referrals to safe shelter and specialized GBV services, alongside cash-for-protection assistance for displaced women and girls, both inside and outside collective shelters.

UN Women is also scaling up [legal protection and community-based GBV risk mitigation](#), including strengthening safeguarding and referral pathways in collective shelters and expanding access to legal information, mediation, and representation aiming to reach 6000 beneficiaries. Coverage of associated costs enables vulnerable women and girls to address civil documentation, housing, and access-to-justice challenges.

UN Women is supporting partners to operate and sustain [safe shelters for individuals facing heightened protection risks](#), including Syrian refugee women and persons with diverse SOGIESC. These shelters provide safe accommodation, psychosocial support, protection services, and referrals to specialized assistance, ensuring confidential and survivor-centered support for those at risk. [The shelters are currently hosting a total of 50 women who are facing heightened protection risks.](#)

### C. Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH)

UN Women has distributed 4,572 non-food item kits addressing urgent needs related to hygiene, warmth, and dignity, indirectly [benefiting an](#)

estimated 15,544 individuals (based on MSNA average household size of 3.4)

#### D. Social Stability

UN Women is mobilizing its network of over 500 women peacebuilders to mitigate rising social tensions and support conflict-sensitive humanitarian action. Through community dialogue, mediation, and outreach, women peacebuilders contribute to reducing tensions between displaced and host communities, fostering community acceptance and trust, and mitigating risks of inter-community tensions. Their engagement also supports the early identification of protection risks and strengthens community-based referral pathways to services.

#### COORDINATION & ADVOCACY

UN Women is co-leading the Gender in Humanitarian Action (GiHA) coordination mechanism, reactivated on 2 April 2026, to support the scale-up of the humanitarian response under the Flash Appeal. Co-led with a local women's organization Justice Without Frontiers, the GiHA Coordination Mechanism plays a critical role in ensuring that gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls are systematically integrated across the humanitarian response. This includes advocating for:

- Improved targeting of women and girls outside collective shelters
- Increased funding for gender-responsive programming
- Strengthened engagement with women-led organizations as frontline responders

#### OPERATIONAL CHALLENGES

Humanitarian actors face multiple constraints in delivering a timely and gender-responsive response:

- **Access constraints:** Ongoing hostilities and insecurity are limiting access to affected populations, particularly in southern areas.
- **Coverage gaps:** Displaced populations outside collective shelters remain difficult to identify

and reach, resulting in exclusion from assistance.

- **Funding limitations:** Limited dedicated funding for gender and protection programming is constraining the scale-up of interventions.
- **Capacity of local partners:** Women-led organizations are overstretched despite playing a frontline role in service delivery.
- **Data gaps:** Gaps in the availability and use of sex-, age-, and disability-disaggregated data, compounded by limitations in existing dataset tabulations, constrain analysis of differentiated needs and weaken evidence-based targeting, prioritization, and humanitarian programming.

These challenges are affecting the scale, inclusivity and effectiveness of the humanitarian response, particularly for women and girls in informal displacement settings.

#### EMERGENCY FUNDING NEEDS

As of 10 April 2026, UN Women has repurposed USD 1.2 million for emergency programming and mobilized an additional USD 600,000 to sustain and scale up operations.

UN Women is seeking an additional USD 4 million to reach an additional 92,250 women and girls affected by the crisis. An additional 756,800 individuals will be reached indirectly.

#### CONTACTS

- UN Women Representative: Gielan Elmessiri, [gielan.elmessiri@unwomen.org](mailto:gielan.elmessiri@unwomen.org)
- UN Women HDP Nexus Analyst & Gender Mainstreaming Focal Point: Sara El Outa [sara.elouta@unwomen.org](mailto:sara.elouta@unwomen.org)