

PROSPECTS Partnership

Lebanon: Supporting Stability Amid Crisis

Supported by



Government of
the Netherlands

Country Context

Lebanon continues to host one of the world's largest refugee populations per capita. As of August 2026, 878,494 refugees and asylum-seekers had active files with UNHCR, including 866,483 Syrian refugees and 12,011 refugees and asylum-seekers of other nationalities. This has placed enormous pressure on services, infrastructure and communities, leaving social instability in many areas, while also straining an already fragile labour market characterized by high informality and limited job creation. Since 2019, the country has faced overlapping crises, including economic collapse, political paralysis and escalating violence.



Syrian refugee Hind and her daughter Qatr sit in the tent where they have been living since 2016 at a refugee camp in Lebanon.

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By the end of August 2026, an estimated 334,353 people remained internally displaced following the conflict between Israel and Hezbollah. Regional developments have further shaped displacement dynamics, including the fall of the Assad regime in Syria in December 2024, which triggered the arrival of approximately 132,500 Syrians from minority backgrounds by September 2025.

At the same time, refugee returns to Syria have continued at a steady pace. As of August 2026, 681,612 Syrians had been inactivated from UNHCR's records due to confirmed or presumed returns, including through the voluntary repatriation programme launched in July 2025. Despite these movements, many refugees continue to face heightened protection risks, limited access to livelihoods and basic services, and uncertainty about their future. Vulnerable Lebanese host communities share many of these challenges, underscoring the need for sustained humanitarian and development support.

This fact sheet covers cumulative results from March 2019–April 2026.

PROSPECTS in Lebanon

Against this backdrop, the PROSPECTS Partnership – funded by the Government of the Netherlands and implemented by IFC, ILO, UNHCR, UNICEF, and the World Bank – is bringing a joint humanitarian-development approach to Lebanon. By strengthening systems and aligning with national actors, the partnership seeks to improve prospects for both refugees and host communities. Working across four integrated pillars, PROSPECTS is:



Strengthening Protection and Social Protection. Lebanon's overlapping crises leave many families without adequate support. PROSPECTS works to expand child protection and psychosocial services, strengthen community-based support networks, and link vulnerable households to national and local social protection systems, contributing to improved resilience and inclusion. PROSPECTS also supports national and local efforts to prevent and eliminate child labour, including its worst forms.



Promoting Decent Work and Livelihoods. In Lebanon's fragile economy, PROSPECTS supports wage employment and self-employment opportunities aligned with the Decent Work Agenda. This includes promoting a more inclusive labour market, entrepreneurship development, supporting small and medium enterprises to access financial services, and working with the private sector to create inclusive job opportunities despite the country's economic challenges. Interventions contribute, where feasible, to the formalization of enterprises and improved compliance with labor standards.



Expanding Education and Training. PROSPECTS supports vulnerable Lebanese and refugee children to access and return to learning through non-formal education pathways, learning recovery programmes and support to public schools and teachers. For adolescents and youth, technical and vocational training helps strengthen skills and facilitate transitions to decent employment and self-employment.



Investing in Critical Infrastructure. PROSPECTS helps improve essential services in refugee-hosting areas, including water, sanitation and education facilities. Infrastructure interventions contribute to improved service delivery while supporting employment-intensive approaches that generate decent work opportunities where applicable.

Outcomes and Impact

In Lebanon, PROSPECTS has translated its integrated approach into tangible results for refugees and host communities alike. Schools have been rehabilitated and furnished, teachers trained, and refugee students supported to access national curricula and exams, while children and youth continue their education through both formal and vocational pathways, alongside expanded opportunities for skills development, employment and entrepreneurship. Economic inclusion interventions have supported small businesses, strengthened value chains and improved access to finance, contributing to more resilient livelihoods. Families have benefited from legal documentation, child protection services, psychosocial support, and social protection systems and programmes that reduce vulnerability and strengthen dignity.

Together, these efforts are enabling tens of thousands of people to move beyond survival toward greater resilience, inclusion and expanded access to decent work opportunities. Alongside these direct results, PROSPECTS has invested in labour-market evidence, TVET governance, employment services, and social protection policy dialogue, strengthening the systems that connect education, protection and economic inclusion.

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Protection and Social Protection

- **796,122 individuals** processed through UNHCR mandate registration
- **69,506 individuals** benefiting from legal support and case management services, including mental health and psychosocial support
- **165,965 people** supported through cash assistance

Education and Training

- **84,327 children** enrolled in primary or secondary education programmes
- **77,769 children** completed primary or secondary education programmes
- **32,933 individuals** completed technical or vocational education or skills training programmes

Economic Inclusion

- **13,625 new jobs** and/or self-employment opportunities
- **18,738 individuals** accessing financial services to support their business
- **9,272 individuals** gained entrepreneurship, financial and business skills

Critical Infrastructure

- **6,945 people** gained access to clean water

Note: Some activities have relied on multi-donor contributions.

Safaa's Story



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"I feel my daughter has a better chance for the future now, with education and childhood back in her life."

Safaa is a Syrian mother living in Lebanon who works in agriculture with her 12-year-old daughter, Roya. Before participating in the PROSPECTS supported programme, Roya spent long hours working in the fields alongside her mother. Through ILO and UNICEF supported sessions, the family learned more about the risks of child labour and the importance of education. Roya has since stopped working and returned to school, while also receiving support that has helped strengthen her confidence and emotional well-being. She now has more time to study, rest and spend time with other children.