



Humanitarian Crisis in Lebanon

Situation Report #5

February 14, 2025

Following the recent ceasefire and multiple mass displacements, health facilities in Lebanon need equipment, medical supplies, rehabilitation, and mental health and WASH capacity to re-stabilize communities affected by the conflict. In response, Project HOPE is supporting health workers and strengthening local health systems.

Situation Update

The humanitarian situation in Lebanon remains critical despite recent political progress, including the November ceasefire agreement and election of a new president in January. Hostilities between Hezbollah and Israel —which escalated between October 2023 and November 2024 — left deep scars on civilians and civilian infrastructure alike, exacerbating pre-existing vulnerabilities and creating **extensive humanitarian needs that must be addressed in order to re-stabilize communities and ensure a healthier future for Lebanon.**

At the time of this report, more than 890,000 people previously internally displaced by the conflict have returned to their communities and nearly 99,000 remain displaced. Lebanon's Ministry of Public Health (MoPH) reports that, since October 2023, over 17,300 people were injured and more than 4,100 were killed in Lebanon, including 54

Key Updates

- Project HOPE is **seeking additional funding to revive the capacities of health facilities** across the country, including an ICU in Hasbayya (Nabatieh) and 16 primary health centers.
- Project HOPE, in partnership with the NMHP and the WHO, facilitated **Psychological First Aid trainings and certification** using a training of trainers (ToT) model for 25 frontline responders who will now train their peers.
- Project HOPE supported primary health clinics in the Mount Lebanon region through **surge nursing staff and essential medications** to ensure access to comprehensive care for acute, chronic, and maternal health needs.
- Project HOPE recently **operated a mobile medical unit** that provided screenings, vaccinations, mental health support, and referrals to those displaced by the recent conflict.

civilians killed since the cessation of hostilities in December. In addition, as a result of ongoing political shifts in Syria, approximately 94,000 individuals, including Syrian refugees and Lebanese returnees, crossed into Lebanon since early December. Many of these community members are living in the Baalbek governorate, where resources and services for displaced individuals are already strained.



Project HOPE's Regional Program Manager, Roy Sayegh, visits the city of Baalbek, Lebanon, which sustained heavy damage from airstrikes during the conflict between Israel and Hezbollah. Photo by Jana Khoury for Project HOPE, 2024.

As communities attempt to recover, families are returning to villages that have been decimated by violence and health workers are coping with the chaos of the past 16 months, placing immense pressure on Lebanon's health system. Our team reports that health workers are seeing an increased demand for hospitalization, complex medical interventions, and mental health services. The displacement crisis has also intensified the need for mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) services to address the needs of children and other vulnerable groups who have been affected by this crisis. Children are reeling from the disruption to their daily routines, the damage to their communities, and the loss of their sense of safety.

Project HOPE's Response in Lebanon

Project HOPE's Emergency Response Team continues to deliver critical humanitarian support across Lebanon, addressing the needs of communities made vulnerable by the ongoing crisis by delivering essential items, strengthening the capacity of mental health providers, and improving access to health care in the most affected communities. The following sections detail activities conducted since the last Situation Report, as well as potential areas of future support in response to emerging needs.

Primary Health Care

Project HOPE operated a mobile medical unit (MMU) in Lebanon, staffed by dedicated local doctors and nurses. This MMU delivered critical health services to families forcibly displaced by the conflict, including primary health care, screenings, vaccinations, mental health support, and referrals for an average of 74 consultations per day. Project HOPE also previously provided surge nursing support to a primary health clinic in the Mount

“The physical impact of the conflict is coupled with a heavy mental health toll. People have been in survival mode for so long. Now, people must process trauma, deal with anxiety, and face a profound sense of loss. We have a lot of work ahead of us.”

— Roy Sayegh, Regional Program Manager

Lebanon region to address increased demand and enable the clinic to continue delivering essential primary and maternal health services.

Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS)

In partnership with the National Mental Health Programme (NMHP) and the World Health Organization (WHO), **Project HOPE's team in Lebanon finalized the certification of 25 local frontline responders in a Psychological First Aid (PFA) training using a Training of Trainers (ToT) model.** This initiative was directly informed by a needs assessment conducted by Project HOPE, which identified an urgent and escalating demand for MHPSS services, particularly among children affected by the crisis. By training trainers, Project HOPE ensures the broad dissemination of PFA activities across communities, exponentially increasing our reach and impact. The training also aligned with NMHP's integration of mental health services in the local health system, reinforcing long-term sustainability and resilience.

Essential Item and Medical Supply Distributions

Project HOPE has distributed hygiene kits, pillows, and winterization supplies to affected families, offering critical relief and support amid harsh conditions. This assistance was particularly vital as winter intensified across the country, helping displaced families stay safe and healthy while they try to rebuild their homes and lives following the ceasefire. Our team also previously delivered emergency medicine supplies to health facilities and partnered with the René Mouawad Foundation (RMF), a local nonprofit, to deliver urgently needed medications and increase access to essential supplies.

Upcoming Activities and Emerging Needs

Project HOPE remains committed to responding to the evolving needs of displaced populations and strengthening the health facilities caring for communities **recovering from over a year of violence and attempting to build a sustainable, self-sufficient future.**

The following planned initiatives have been planned in collaboration with the MoPH and the NMHP and are essential to addressing Lebanon's pressing health challenges and ensuring long-term resilience. However, achieving these goals requires urgent financial support to cover operational costs, secure necessary equipment, and expand outreach to under-resourced communities.

Health Clinic Support

Project HOPE's recent health assessment of 16 primary health care centers (PHCCs) across Mount Lebanon, South, Beqaa, Nabatieh, and Baalbeck-Hermel governates has identified critical gaps in health care delivery. To address these gaps in service delivery, **Project HOPE is attempting to secure funding to subsidize the cost of essential services, provide urgently needed medicines and supplies, repair damaged facilities, and train health workers to strengthen their capacity and build long-term resilience.**

This potential investment in Lebanon's health system would be exceptionally cost-effective due to subsidization protocols set in place by the MoPH, which significantly reduce operational expenses and costs for patients to make primary care more

“During my recent visit, I met mayors from border towns who lost loved ones simply because they could not access basic medicines for diabetes or hypertension. I talked to the head nurse at a hospital who triaged her own children when they were injured, including her 14-year-old son who was tragically killed. She decided to leave nursing to care for her two surviving children.”

— Rabih Torbay, President and CEO of Project HOPE

accessible. With donor support, Project HOPE can maximize impact by leveraging these subsidies, ensuring that every dollar contributes directly to delivering high-quality, sustainable health services to communities in highly vulnerable positions.



Project HOPE's team in Lebanon, including CEO & President, Rabih Torbay, visit with community members at the Qornayel Public School, which sheltered displaced families in November of 2024. Photo by Jana Khoury for Project HOPE, 2024.

“Without immediate international aid and long-term investment, this health emergency will claim more lives long after the guns go silent.”

— Rabih Torbay, President and CEO of Project HOPE

Hygiene Promotion

In collaboration with the humanitarian sector's water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) cluster, Project HOPE is coordinating efforts to initiate hygiene promotion activities designed to improve sanitation practices, improve access to clean water, and reduce the risk of disease outbreaks.

Critical Care Support in Hasbaya

Contingent on additional funding, Project HOPE is preparing to provide operational support and procure essential, lifesaving equipment and supplies for an Intensive Care Unit (ICU) in Hasbaya (Nabatieh). With an additional \$84,000 in funding, **this ICU could become self-sustaining and continue to provide care in a region that has been critically impacted by the recent hostilities**, building resilience and ensuring access in the long-term.

Expanded Mental Health Activities

Pending additional funding, the response team on the ground in Lebanon will conduct additional mental health and resiliency trainings to **improve and expand access to mental health care at PHCCs** and provide critical mental health interventions to frontline responders and the communities they serve.

For further information, contact media@projecthope.org

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