



RIJ

国際難民支援会

Building a
Future for
Refugees

Lebanon



Reasons for Displacement:

Lebanon, over the last few decades, has been host to many refugee groups including Palestinian, Iraqi, Egyptian, Iranian, Somalian and Sudanese. However, with the continuing war in Syria,

Lebanon has received over 1,435,840 Syrian refugees since the start of the crisis. This makes it the largest single recipient of Syrian refugees in the world.

Refugees and IDP communities:

With an enormous influx of Syrian refugees pouring into Lebanon, Lebanon's socioeconomic fabric and infrastructure is near collapse. Whilst all refugees are afforded access to basic services like education and health, overpopulation means it is difficult for essential supplies and services to reach everyone. As a result, competition between the host community and refugees is increasing, raising tensions between the two groups.

In an effort to address over-population, Lebanon has recently implemented stricter visa restrictions along the Syrian-Lebanese border to reduce the burden on its economy and people. Critics warn that the new restrictions only serve to add more misery to those fleeing persecution. However, the government argues that international support is insufficient to support the growing crisis.

In addition to Syrian refugees, there is also a significant Palestinian population that lives in informal tented settlements or subsidised housing. Whilst there are some refugee camps recognized specifically for Palestinians, they face issues of poverty, overcrowding, lack of infrastructure, unemployment, and generally poor housing conditions.

Assistance:

- RIJ funded a project that provided 19,000 refugee children affected by trauma with psycho-social therapy. Other projects made therapy available to disabled children, established access to clean water, and provided refugee families with hygiene kits
- International Rescue Committee provided women's shelters and pre-paid ATM cards to be used for essential items



Number of refugees:

1,154,040 residing in Lebanon;
4,272 originating from Lebanon
[source: UNHCR]

Number of Internally Displaced

Persons (IDPs):
19, 719
[source: IDMC]

History:

- 1944**—France grants Lebanese independence but opposition and violence ensue
- 1975**—a deadly bus attack serves as the catalyst for civil war
- 1976**—Syrian troops enter Lebanon to supposedly restore peace but occupation continues until 2005
- 1978, 1982**—first and second Israeli invasions into Lebanon
- 1990**—overthrow of the military government ends 15 years of fighting
- 1996**—direct attacks on Lebanese militia group Hezbollah begin and cause violence in various regions
- 2005**—former prime minister Rafiki Hariri is assassinated by a car bomb in Beirut
- 2012**—with violence increasing in Syria, over 160,000 Syrian refugees have fled to Lebanon
- 2013**—senior Hezbollah commander Hassan Lakkis is shot near Beirut, further escalating tensions
- 2014**—The number of Syrian refugees in Lebanon surpasses one million
- 2015**—New restrictions are placed on Syrian refugees; the influx slows down