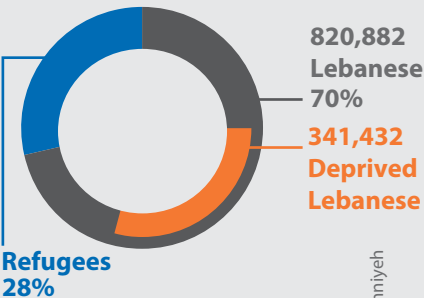


POPULATION OVERVIEW

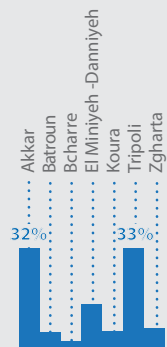
1,163,912

People living in North and Akkar Governorate



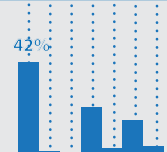
Refugees 28%

Lebanese



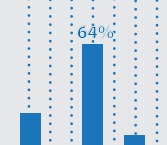
Registered Syrian Refugees

251,537



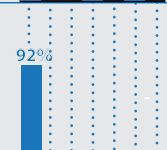
Palestine Refugees

76,871



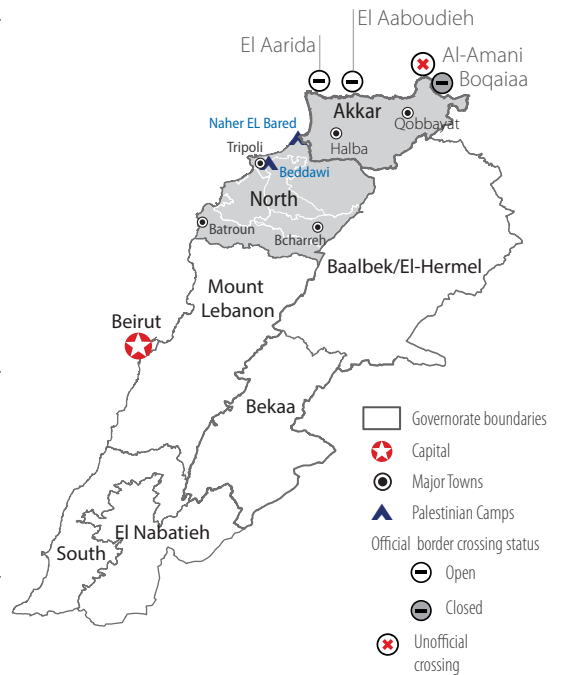
Lebanese returnees

14,622



GENERAL OVERVIEW

Northern Lebanon – made up of the North and Akkar Governorates – is one of the country’s most deprived regions, with severe poverty. Out of a population of 1.164 million people, 532,000 live in poverty: 341,000 deprived Lebanese, over 140,000 Syrian refugees, 51,000 Palestine refugees. The most vulnerable localities are along the border with Syria and east and north of Tripoli. Tripoli, the capital of the North governorate, is Lebanon’s second-largest city and hosts 43,558 Syrian refugees; the remainder of the region (T5 & Akkar) hosts 275,000 refugees, many of them live in informal settlements and substandard shelters. Akkar Governorate, the poorest of Lebanon’s governorates, shares a 100km border with Syria and has three official crossing points: El Aarida, El Aboudiyeh and El Boqayaa. Due to the region’s proximity to the border, the conflict in Syria has had a strong spillover effect with the arrival of high numbers of refugees. The crisis has also triggered a downturn in economic and commercial activities, as the area strongly relied on trade with Syria.



The region is composed of a majority of Muslim (Sunnis), Christians (Maronites & Orthodox), with a minority of Alawites and Shiites. Long-standing politico-sectarian tensions between the Alawite and Sunni communities were exacerbated by the Syrian crisis and tore apart Tripoli’s neighborhoods of Jabal Mohsen (Alawite) and Bab el Tebbaneh (Sunni) from 2008 to 2015, killing 200 people and injuring more than 2,000. However, the security situation in the region has largely stabilized since the end of the Tripoli unrest and the implementation of the security plan by the Lebanese Armed Forces, with the exception of Wadi Khaled, a former smuggling hub next to the Syrian border which remains a pocket of occasional insecurity.

Another major need in the area is the high unemployment level, with both host communities and displaced people in the area relying heavily on unskilled labour and irregular jobs. The unemployment rate of working age population in Northern Lebanon is 53 per cent (World Bank). These unemployment levels are a key driver of intercommunity tensions alongside already-challenged resources and infrastructure as well as political rhetoric.

HUMANITARIAN & STABILIZATION SITUATION

As per UNHCR’s registration data, the arrival of more than 251,000 refugees into northern Lebanon since the beginning of the Syria crisis has put a strain on water, electricity, waste management and other basic services in an area of poor infrastructure. Key needs include the rehabilitation of sewage and potable water networks, as well as improved waste management systems. Public institutions including schools and health centres are inadequate and need additional support.

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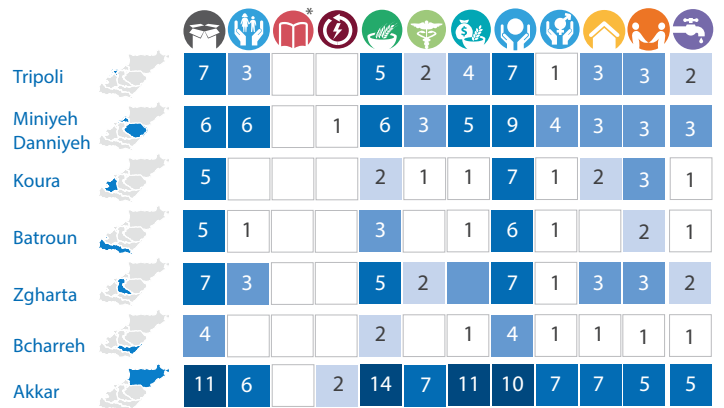
	NORTH	AKKAR	Total National
Informal Tented Settlements (ITS)			
1,888 Tents	7,342 Tents	46,429	
10,320 Syrian Refugees	42,220 Syrian Refugees	262,376	
Public Schools			
46 out of 265	45 out of 163	1279	
Primary Health Centers			
8 out of 32	1 out of 22	220	
Social Development Centers (SDCs)			
7 out of 29	6 out of 20	233	
Municipalities/Union of Municipalities			
14/162	7/111	76/1078	

With many Syrian refugees in the area living in informal tented settlements and collective shelters, they are subject to various evictions scenarios imposed by the municipality of the landlords: in the first half of 2017, almost 4.7 per cent of Syrian refugee households were evicted in the North, and 3.6 per cent in Akkar. Significantly, 61 per cent of households in Akkar have no members having legal residency– one of the highest percentages in all of Lebanon. Overcrowding is also a serious issue for refugees: the VASyR 2017 shows that North has a rate of 36 per cent of overcrowding for refugees, and Akkar has a rate of 28 per cent. The region hosts more than 40,000 Palestine refugees in Nahr el Bared and Baddawi camps, including almost 3,860 Palestine refugees from Syria (PRS). Poverty has increased among Palestine refugees in the North, with 72 per cent living under the poverty line, up from 65 per cent in 2010. There are extensive unmet humanitarian needs, with an additional strain on services following the arrival of large numbers of PRS. However, in a positive development, donors in October 2016 brought in additional support for the reconstruction of Nahr el Bared camp, with the EU announcing a new allocation of US\$13.4 million.

RESPONSE

A large number of humanitarian actors operate in the North and Akkar, particularly in health, shelter, Water, Social Stability and Livelihoods, education, protection and basic assistance. Interagency coordination meetings take place monthly, in Qobbayat and Tripoli on alternating months. Projects in the North Governorate include comprehensive winterization interventions, as a large part of the region is located at altitude, with Akkar Governorate averaging an altitude of 700 metres. In 2018-2017, North Lebanon winter cash assistance spending was almost equally distributed between food, rent, and fuel heating. Infrastructure and basic services projects include assistance on water trucking, irrigation systems, hygiene kits and other types of assistance. Some partners are also implementing projects that tackle unemployment and lack of infrastructure at once by providing vocational courses, supporting small and medium enterprises and working on solid waste management with the private and public sector. There is a strong food security coverage in the area, with Syrian refugees and vulnerable Lebanese receiving food assistance in the area through assistance to refugees as well as the NPTP.

The region's health infrastructure is inadequate and in need of support. Accordingly, partners have implemented polio vaccination campaigns, malnutrition screenings and reproductive health sessions, and Halba municipality is also working on a new hospital project worth USD 1.5 million. On the protection front, there are several active partners working on projects in the areas of psychosocial support, life-skill programmes, child protection and community-based protection, including innovative projects to teach men about the principles of Protection. Prominent organizations working in northern Lebanon include the national NGOs Beyond, Mouvement Social Lebanon, the Akkar Network for Development, Himaya, March, Lebanese Relief council, Akkarouna, Utopia and other organizations; international NGOs Première Urgence, International Rescue Committee, Solidarités, Norwegian Refugee Council, Concern, International Medical Corps, Danish Refugee Council, War Child Holland and Heartland Alliance; and UN agencies including



Source: ActivityInfo as of 11/06/2018

* Data not available

89 UN Agencies and NGOs operating in the area

ABAAD, ACTED, Al Majmouaa, Al-Fayhaa, ALLC, AlMajmoua, Ana Aqra, AND, ANERA, ARCPA, ARCS, AVSI, Avsi-Cesvi, CARE, Caritas Lebanon, CCP JAPAN, CONCERN, CONECRN, CWW, DAF, Danish Red Cross/Lebanese Red Cross, Dar El Fatwa, DOT, DPNA, DRC, DRC/LRC, FAO, fondation-merieux, GAME, HDA, HDA Association, Heartland, HI, Himaya, HOOPS, ILO, IMC, Injaz, International Alert, Intersos, IOCC, IR, IR Lebanon, IRC, Leb Relief, Lebanese Developers, Lebanese Red Cross, LECORVAW, LRC, LRI, LSESD, Makassed, MAP, Mercy Corps, MoSA, Mouvement Social, MSF, Muslim Aid, Near East Foundation, NRC, Order of Malta, OXFAM, PCPM, PU-AMI, R&R, RESTART Lebanon, RI, Right to Play, RMF, SAFADI, SAMS, SCI, SFCG, SIDC, Solidarités, Solidarites International, TAAWON, TdH-Italy, TDH-Lausanne, UNDP, UN-Habitat, UNHCR, UNICEF, UNIDO, UNRWA, WCH, WFP, WRF, WVI.

Key contacts

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North Governor: Mr Ramzi Nohra **Akkar Governor:** Mr Imad Labaki