

# Swiss Cooperation in Lebanon

## General overview



Information for Syrian refugees about access to service and access to justice.  
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### Context

Lebanon, a small middle-income country with a population of 4.1 million, has been repeatedly exposed to regional conflicts and internal tensions. Different communities sought safety and protection in Lebanon, among them Armenians, Palestine and Syrian refugees. Today, Lebanon is the country with the highest number of refugees per capita worldwide, and is also home to 200'000-300'000 Migrant Domestic Workers.

The Syria crisis has put significant additional strain on the fragile stability, on already weak infrastructure and public services. Whereas on average the economic growth advanced moderately since the end of the civil war in 1990, the Syria crisis has shown its impact since 2011 and many vulnerable Lebanese as well as refugee communities live under precarious conditions.

#### Facts and Figures

Lebanese population	4.1 Mio
Registered Syrian refugees (SR)	1 Mio
Registered and unregistered (SR)	1.2 Mio
Palestine refugees from LEB (PRL)	174,000
Palestine refugees from SYR (PRS)	30,000
Other refugees (mainly from Iraq)	18,000
Unemployment rate (youth) (2016)	24% (35%)
Human Development Index (2014)	0.769

People living below poverty line: Lebanese: 27% (2018); SR: 69% (2018); PRS: 90% (2016); PRL: 65% (2016).

Sources: LCRP, LPDC, UNHCR, UNRWA

### Swiss Cooperation Program Middle East 2019-2022

The Swiss response in Lebanon is based on the Regional Cooperation Program Middle East 2019-2022, which also guides the responses in Iraq, Jordan, Syria and Turkey. Switzerland contributes to protect and empower conflict-affected and vulnerable persons, to save and reconstruct lives, to reduce fragility, to prevent and transform violent conflicts and to generate development perspectives, to promote good governance and protect and promote HR, refugee laws as well as the respect of IHL.



Map of Lebanon

### Domains of intervention

Switzerland focuses on four domains of intervention: Protection and Migration; Education and Income; Water and Sanitation; and Conflict Prevention and Peace Promotion. The Transversal Themes are Good Governance as well as Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment. The latter will be addressed both through mainstreaming gender and a continuation of stand-alone SGBV projects. Durable solutions for displaced persons are promoted where possible. The Swiss response is aligned with the Lebanon Crisis Response Plan.

#### Protection and Migration Domain

Domain objective: Conflict-affected and vulnerable persons (inclusive of Internally Displaced Persons, Refugees, Migrants and conflict affected host communities) live in safety and dignity and enjoy their fundamental rights in line with International Human Rights Law (IHRL), International Refugee Law (IRL), International Humanitarian Law (IHL) and other international bodies of Law.

The Protection and Migration domain focuses on the improvement of relevant laws and policies, their effective implementation and concerted advocacy as well as on equitable access to specialized protection services.

### Education and Income Domain

Domain objective: Conflict-affected and vulnerable children and youth access and complete compulsory quality education and young people and vulnerable families have opportunities to earn a decent living.

The Education and Income domain strengthens pathways to and the completion of compulsory education, and works on aspects of inclusion, protection and quality of education. It also improves income generation and access to income and employment opportunities. By combining education and income, Switzerland stresses on their interconnectedness and mutual reinforcement.

### Peace Promotion and Conflict Prevention Domain

Domain objective: Conflicts are prevented, managed and resolved peacefully in the Middle East.

The Peace Promotion and Conflict Prevention domain is based on three subfields actors: participate in dialogue platforms and initiatives aiming at preventing conflict, achieving sustainable peace and reconciliation; actors participate in or contribute to dialogue platforms and initiatives aiming at preventing conflict, achieving sustainable peace and reconciliation inclusively; and policy, legal and institutional frameworks underpin peace and reconciliation processes/agreements.

### Water and Sanitation Domain

Domain objective: Targeted populations across the region are less vulnerable to water scarcity, water borne diseases, water related conflict and water-related mismanagement.

The Water and Sanitation domain works on life-saving aspects, such as improved and equitable access to safe water and adequate sanitation. On the systemic level, it strengthens good governance and sustainable water and sanitation systems and services and it engages in advocacy and evidence-based policy dialogue, leading to regional water cooperation and mutually beneficial agreements regarding shared water basins.

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## Approach

The implementation of the Cooperation Program follows a whole-of-government-approach. The different offices of the federal administration with their specific mandates mutually complement each other through comprehensive and complementary interventions. In doing so, principles of

Human Rights Based Approaches, Do No Harm and Conflict Sensitive Program Management are at the core of these interventions.

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## Instruments

### Mandates of the federal actors in Lebanon

#### *Federal Department of Foreign Affairs*

##### Directorate of Political Affairs

- Human Security Division: promote peacebuilding, protection of civilian population, policy dialogue and human rights.

##### Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation

- Development Cooperation: promote poverty reduction and sustainable development of natural resources.
- Global Cooperation: foster water management and leverage the potential of migration for development via global political dialogue.
- Humanitarian Aid: alleviate suffering and protect vulnerable groups before, during and after crises or natural disasters.

#### *Federal Department of Justice and Police*

- State Secretariat for Migration: support refugee hosting countries in their strive for protection of persons in need.

In effectively responding to specific needs, the Swiss support is being implemented through the deployment of experts, through un-earmarked or project-specific financial contributions to multilateral, international, and national organization or governmental institutions, and by self-implemented projects via dedicated project teams.

### Financial contributions

Through the Swiss Cooperation in the region, Switzerland contributed with 397 Mio. since 2011, including 70 Mio. for Lebanon. An overall budget of 272 Mio. is planned for the duration of the Cooperation Program 2019-2022.

**Total budget to Lebanon planned for 2019: CHF 19 Mio.**

### Further information

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