

## **Displacement surges in Lebanon as humanitarian needs escalate.**

Caritas Australia reports that the humanitarian situation in Lebanon continues to deteriorate rapidly, with mass displacement, mounting civilian casualties, and growing constraints on humanitarian access following renewed escalation earlier this month.

As of the 19<sup>th</sup> of March, more than 968 people have been killed and over 2,400 injured. More than [1 million](#) people have been forced from their homes with over 132,000 people currently in emergency shelters, while many others have sought refuge with host families or in informal settings. Public schools and university campuses have also been repurposed as shelters, interrupting education across the country.

The scale of need comes amid ongoing economic hardship and pre-existing vulnerabilities, compounding the impact on communities already struggling to access essential services.

In response, Caritas Lebanon teams have delivered nearly 98,000 services to over 114,000 people between the 2<sup>nd</sup> and the 16<sup>th</sup> of March. Assistance provided includes:

- Food support, including over 66,000 hot meals
- Shelter and non-food items, such as clothing, mattresses, bedding, and diapers
- Health and mental health services, including 2,500 medical consultations and more than 1,000 psychosocial interventions
- Water, sanitation, and hygiene assistance, including hygiene kits and bottled water
- Protection and education support, including child case management and remote learning support for children with disabilities

Extensive damage to roads and bridge continues to severely hinder humanitarian access and service delivery. Despite these significant access constraints, a joint humanitarian convoy reached southern border villages, supporting communities affected by ongoing hostilities.

Caritas Australia has joined 15 of Australia's leading charities for a joint Middle East Appeal under the Emergency Action Alliance (EAA). The EAA Middle East appeal aims to raise millions of dollars in aid for people in Lebanon, Syria, Gaza, and the West Bank who are facing an escalating humanitarian crisis in the wake of the military action launched in the region in early March.

Caritas Australia also continues to support and stand in solidarity with Caritas Lebanon, and partners across the Middle East, providing emergency services to those in need.

To support Caritas Australia's Lebanon Appeal, visit [www.caritas.org.au/lebanon](http://www.caritas.org.au/lebanon) or call 1800 024 413 toll free.

**ENDS**

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