

THE MIDDLE EAST COUNCIL OF CHURCHES

Light-of-Hope

MECC bulletin for the Middle East and Lebanon ordeal and rescue efforts

Bulletin Number 3 - April 2, 2026



Image Source: [livlovebeirut](https://www.livlovebeirut.com)



مجلس كنائس الشرق الأوسط
The Middle East Council of Churches

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When the Night Feels Endless... Where Does Hope Still Live?

In Lebanon today, the rhythm of life is no longer measured in ordinary days, but in moments of uncertainty — in the sound of distant explosions, in hurried departures, in the silence that follows loss.

Since our last words were written, the weight has grown heavier. Displacement is no longer a passing fear but a prolonged reality. Families are not only fleeing once, but again and again, carrying what little remains of their lives from one uncertain shelter to another. The question is no longer only **where to go**, but **whether there is anywhere left that feels like home**.

Children no longer ask when they will return — many have stopped asking altogether. Mothers carry not only their children, but the invisible burden of fear and exhaustion. The elderly, who once held the memory of more peaceful days, now witness their homeland reshaped before their eyes, often with a quiet grief that words cannot contain.

And yet, amidst this deepening pain, something profoundly human refuses to disappear.

Across shelters, churches, and communities, quiet acts of compassion continue to unfold. A shared meal. A blanket offered. A hand held a little longer. These are not grand gestures, but they are powerful reminders that even when structures collapse, Humanity does not.



The work of the Middle East Council of Churches (MECC) is not only to respond to needs, but to stand present in the midst of suffering — to affirm dignity where it is most at risk of being lost. Through every distribution, every visit, every word of comfort, a simple but vital message is carried: **you are not alone.**

We may not yet see the end of this Crisis, nor fully grasp its toll. But hope, in times such as these, is no longer an abstract idea. It is found in presence. In endurance. In faith that refuses to surrender to despair.

For even when the night feels endless, we hold on to the quiet conviction that dawn — however distant it may seem — has not been extinguished.

Nina Hallak



MECC Work Updates

MECC is mobilizing emergency assistance across Lebanon to support displaced families and vulnerable communities with lifesaving aid and essential services:

As displacement continues to affect communities across the country, MECC is preparing to deliver urgent support to families residing in collective shelters, households hosted within communities, and vulnerable residents in front-line villages in South Lebanon. The response aims to ensure that those most affected by the crisis receive timely and dignified assistance.

MECC is currently **continuing** the mobilization of its emergency response to support internally displaced persons across Lebanon. The intervention will reach families residing in collective shelters in Beirut and Mount Lebanon (BML), South Lebanon, and Akkar, as well as displaced households hosted within communities outside formal shelters. The response will also extend to vulnerable households in front-line villages in South Lebanon who have remained in their homes despite extremely challenging conditions.

This response is being implemented in close coordination with national and local authorities, including the Ministry of Social Affairs (MoSA), the Disaster Risk Management Unit (DRM), municipalities, and local churches, ensuring that assistance is aligned with national response efforts and reaches those most affected.

MECC teams have already initiated procurement and are finalizing logistical arrangements for distributions to begin in the coming days. Planned assistance includes family hygiene kits, winter blankets, diesel support for shelters and municipalities to maintain basic services, medications for patients with chronic diseases who have lost access to treatment during displacement, potable water, cleaning kits to support sanitation conditions, and multi-purpose cash assistance (MPCA) to help vulnerable households meet their most urgent needs.





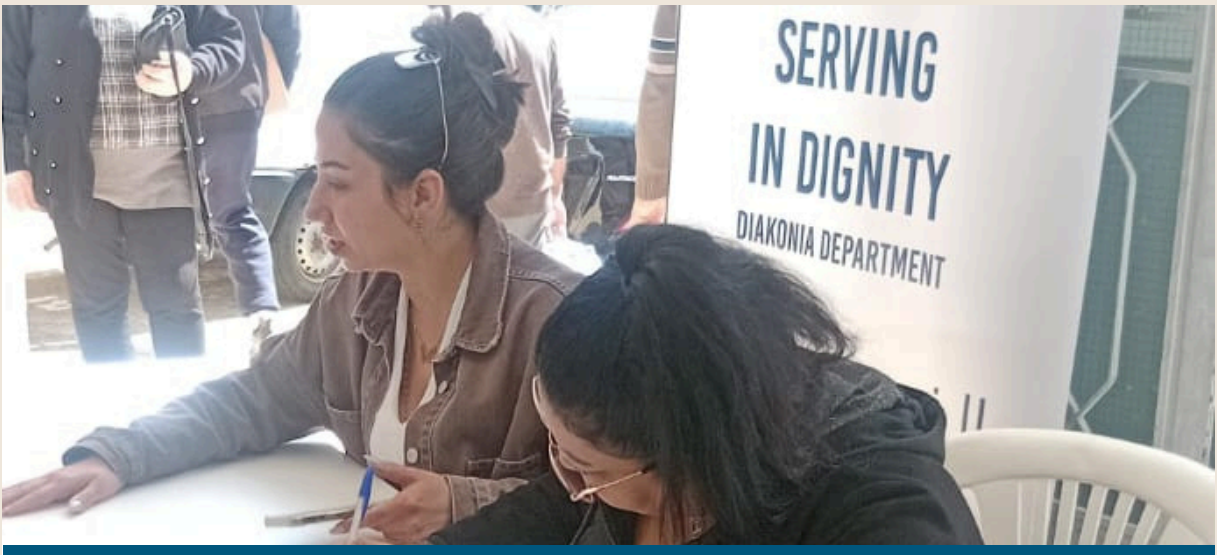
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We continue to distribute medication in Collective shelters and with displaced in BML. In one collective shelter in Achrafieh, MECC responded to children’s urgent medical needs as well as Protection activities with children and mothers. Tyr Collective Shelter received recently from MECC 140 Family hygiene kits.









Casualties, Displacements and Level of Devastation in the ME:

Lebanon

·**Deaths:** + 1268 (among them 51 healthcare workers) Injuries: + 3750.

·**Level of Devastation:** Unlike Iran or Occupied Palestine, no single total building-damage number yet exists due to ongoing war but 100+ towns and villages have been affected by strikes. Also hundreds of strike waves have been concentrated in: South of the Litani River (≈63% of strikes).

Beirut (≈17%). Moreover, the occupier Israeli forces have struck major infrastructure, including main bridges in southern Lebanon (e.g., over the Litani River), cutting connectivity between region and has begun demolishing homes in the south. Also the Bekaa area has been struck .

·**IDPs:** 136,201 scattered in 669 shelters. Ministry of Health designated 77 hospitals which treat IDPs free of charge.

Iran

·**Deaths:** + 1900 civilians. Injuries: +20,000 .

·**Level of Devastation:** The Iranian Red Crescent said 87,294 sites have been damaged or destroyed in Iran since the start of the attacks, including residential, commercial, medical, and educational facilities, 289 medical, health, and rescue centers hit, more than 600 schools damaged or destroyed, a desalination plant destroyed which cut water to 30 villages, at least 30 fuel depots destroyed, electric infrastructure damaged caused blackouts and service disruptions in major cities.

·**IDPs:** Between 3.2 million and 4 million.



Occupied Palestine

·**Deaths:** ~20–23. Injuries: ~4,400 to 6,000.

·**Level of Devastation:** ~200–500+ residential buildings damaged or destroyed, 10,946 claims of damaged buildings, contents/equipment, vehicles, a major hospital (Soroka) was directly hit and severely damaged, at least 1–3 schools damaged, 3 planes parked at Ben Gurion Airport damaged.

·**IDPs:** ~3,000+.

Syria

·**Deaths:** 4.

·**Damage is limited** in geographic scope compared to Lebanon or Iran.

Iraq

·**Deaths:** 2 injured: 4.

·**Level of Devastation:** Unknown number Residential areas struck by drones and missiles in multiple regions, reports of fires, structural damage to buildings including hotels (e.g., Royal Tulip AlRasheed Hotel), diplomatic sites (Baghdad Diplomatic Support Center near Baghdad International Airport), airports, oil fields, and telecommunication towers.



United Arab Emirates

Deaths: 9 Injuries: 178.

Level of Devastation: homes, cars hit by debris. Limited but real civilian property damage. Dubai International Airport damaged leading to fuel tank fire and temporary shutdown of flights, Fujairah oil facilities damaged, Shah gas field operations disrupted, ports such as Jebel Ali and Port of Fujairah damaged, a few government buildings, damage near Palm Jumeirah, Burj Al Arab, and residential/commercial zones, a tower in Dubai Marina.

Kuwait

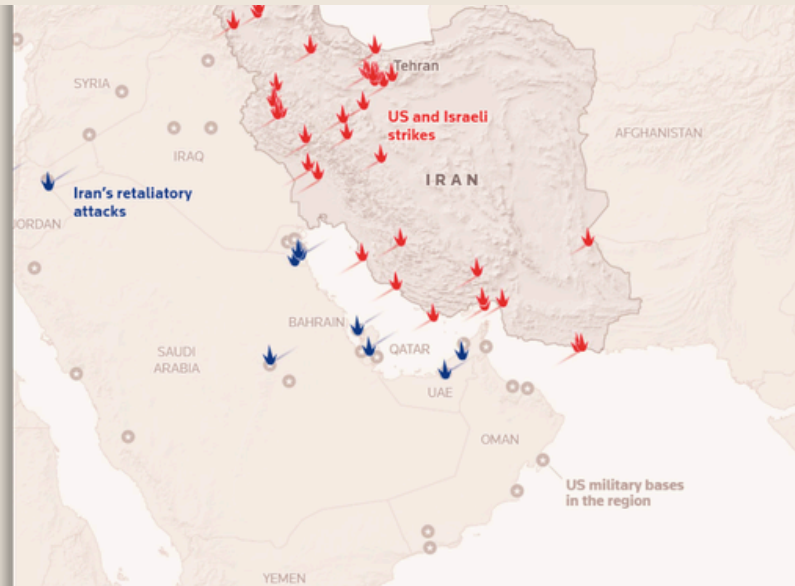
Deaths: ~3–4 injuries: ~32.

Level of Devastation: Some damage to Kuwait International Airport including radar system and fuel tanks, Power generation and desalination damaged, oil refineries damaged, 6 power lines damaged, debris from intercepted missiles fell on some residential areas damaging some buildings.

Oman

Deaths: +7 injuries: +16.

Level of Devastation: Oil storage tanks at Salalah port were hit, causing large fires and structural damage, Port of Duqm and Salalah Port damaged, Sohar industrial zone damaged, 2 damaged oil tankers.



Map Source: Institute for the Study of War & AEI Critical Threats Project

Bahrain

Deaths: +2 injuries: ~50+.

Level of Devastation: Residential neighborhoods and commercial buildings in Manama were hit or damaged by debris, an office tower in the Seef District was struck, causing structural damage, Bahrain International Airport damaged, Mina Salman Port damaged, desalination plant was damaged, fuel depot in Muharraq Governorate was damaged, Aluminium Bahrain (Alba) confirmed an attack on its facilities.

Saudi Arabia

Deaths: +2 injuries: ~12.

Level of Devastation: Residential building hit in AlKharj, Other potential civilian structures and neighborhoods have experienced debris and proximity damage, debris caused a localized fire and minor damage to Saudi Aramco's Ras Tanura oil refinery and AramcoExxon refinery in Yanbu.



Humanitarian Response in Lebanon: (March 25- April 1)

- The EU is stepping up its support for Lebanon amid an escalation of violence and significant displacement, reaffirming its commitment to the country's stability. On top of last week's €100 million in humanitarian aid, the EU is also actively mobilising measures under its €1 billion 2024-2027 financial support package for Lebanon to meet the most pressing needs on the ground.
- The European Commission scaled up its humanitarian response in Lebanon, delivering nearly 150 tonnes of live-saving supplies to support people displaced by the deteriorating situation in the country.
- The UK Foreign Secretary Yvette Cooper announced an additional £2 million in UK humanitarian funding to Lebanon bringing our total contribution to £9.5 million since the beginning of the conflict.
- IRC (International Red Cross) scales up mental health and psychosocial support in Lebanon as hostilities drive surge in psychological distress.