

On the Move – Latest migration news

MIGRANTS AND REFUGEES IN LEBANON

10/05/2022-24/05/2022

- After the shipwreck of 23 April 2022, where 7 people lost their lives and many are still missing, families [demand answers](#) from the state as the migrants' boat sank after colliding with a Lebanese navy vessel. EuroMed Rights and the Lebanese Center for Human Rights published a [joint statement](#) demanding a transparent investigation into the incident.

5/04/2022-10/05/2022

- On 29 April 2022, the Lebanese Army [detained](#) 5 people in the city of Tripoli who were allegedly preparing to smuggle 85 migrants by boat to Europe.
- On 23 April 2022, a boat [capsized](#) off the coast of Tripoli, Lebanon, with approximately 70 people on board, both Syrians and Lebanese. Authorities were able to rescue 48 people, and 6 bodies were recovered while the rest remain missing. The names of five of the deceased have been confirmed: Riad Dandchi, Hanan al-Jamal, Bahaa Murad, Bahaa Dandashi and Muhammad Abbas Al-Khashin.
- More than [100,000 Ethiopians](#) are estimated to be living and working in Lebanon under the kafala sponsorship system, which binds the worker to the employer and strips them of many rights. Since April 2020, at least 10 Ethiopian migrant workers have died in unclear circumstances and no investigation was launched by Lebanese authorities. Despite their vulnerability however, going back to Ethiopia is not an option as the country is in the middle of civil war.

22/02/2022-08/03/2022

- [A fire broke out in a Syrian refugee camp near Qab Elias](#) in the Bekaa, the official National News Agency (Ani) reported on February 21. The flames destroyed several tents. The Civil Defense intervened and managed to extinguish the fire.

25/01/2022 - 08/02/2022

- [11 Syrian refugees](#) in Lebanon landed in Italy via humanitarian corridors. Another 11 will be evacuated in the next days, mostly for family reunifications.

11/01/2022 – 25/01/2022

- Freezing temperatures and heavy rains are severely affecting Lebanese and refugees in the country. These climate events, topped with the harsh economic crisis in the country, have meant that currently, [9 out of 10](#) Syrian refugees live in extreme poverty and half of the refugee population is food insecure.
- The UN agency for Palestinian refugees [UNRWA](#) seeks \$87.5 million to assist Palestinian refugees in Lebanon, amid the worse economic and financial crisis the country is experiencing in decades. Palestinian refugees, and other refugee communities in the country, experience dire vulnerabilities as lack of access to food and increasing poverty rates.

14/12/2021-11/01/2022

- In the past two years, about [12,000](#) Lebanese have relocated to Cyprus due to the harsh economic situation in the country.

30/11/2021 – 14/12/2021

- Thousands of Syrian refugee children are blocked from [education](#) in Lebanon due to policies that require specific documentation and legal residency in Lebanon that refugee children cannot obtain. This year, the Ministry of Education set an unrealistic deadline for the registration of Syrian refugee children to the school system by 4 December 2021 (the communication was released in the end of November). According to Human Rights Watch, 660,000 Syrian refugee children live in Lebanon: about 200,000 of them have never been to school and 60% were not enrolled in recent years.

16/11/2021 – 29/11/2021

- On the 17th of November 2021, the organisation Refugee Protection Watch launched its annual [report](#) on the situation of Syrian refugees in Lebanon and Syria. Key findings of the report are that the situation in Syria is not adequate for the safe and dignified returns of Syrian refugees, that UNHCR protection thresholds for returnees are not met and that there is a need for durable solutions for refugees stuck in Lebanon, especially by widening the possibilities for resettlements.
- Lebanon's [civil aviation](#) authorities said the country would stop travellers on their way to Belarus from Beirut. The decision comes after other countries in the Middle East have been pressured by the EU to ban flights carrying migrants and asylum-seekers directed to the Belarus-Polish border.
- On the 20th of November 2021, the Lebanese army stopped a boat carrying [90 people](#), mostly Syrians and Palestinians. Similarly, the previous Friday, the Lebanese authorities stopped 82 people on their way to Europe.

- Lebanon's [Foreign Minister](#) said that Syrian refugees must return home. He declared that Lebanon was working together with Russia to repatriate Syrians and avoid Syrian refugees staying in the country for decades.
- [DAWN](#) reports on the inhuman conditions inside Lebanon's prisons. In particular, inside the overcrowded prison of Roumieh, prisoners reported on the widespread diffusion of the Delta variant of Covid-19 that puts them at high risk since they have no access to hygiene and sick detainees are not transferred to hospitals. Besides the risks related to the pandemic, torture and ill-treatment are widespread. Syrian refugees are often wrongfully imprisoned with terrorism charges and exposed to routine abuses and forms of torture. According to government figures, Syrians constitute 28% of the overall number prisoners and 85% of all juvenile detainees.

25/10/2021 – 15/11/2021

- On the [12th](#) of November, European Commissioner **Margaritis Schinas** flew to Lebanon from the UAE as part of an [outreach mission](#) to countries of origin and transit of the people now trapped at the Belarus-Polish border. He met with the Lebanese President and Prime Minister to demand their help in stopping migrants on their way to Minsk.

23/09/2021 – 05/10/2021

- On 29 September 2021, in a [joint statement](#), UNHCR, the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP), and UNICEF, expressed their deep concern on the worsening living conditions for Syrian refugees and Lebanese in Lebanon, where nine out of 10 Syrian refugees are living in extreme poverty.
- The latest [ICMPD assessment](#) focuses on the situation of Palestinian refugees in Lebanon.

21/06/2021 – 05/07/2021

- According to UNHCR, World Food Programme and UNICEF, [food insecurity](#) among refugees has recently increased to "an alarming level". 99% of Syrian refugee households, do not have enough food or enough money to buy food, according to a recent [UNICEF report](#).