On 7 October 2023, Palestinian armed groups in Gaza launched “Operation Al-Aqsa Flood”, injuring, killing, and capturing many Israeli forces and civilians. In response, the Israeli authorities declared a state of war and began a campaign of heavy bombardments on Gaza – resulting in the injuries and deaths of thousands of Palestinians, out of which more than 67 per cent are women and children.

Over 1.5 million people fled their homes in Gaza since violence erupted on 7 October and hundreds of thousands of civilians have little-to-no access to basic commodities including food, water, electricity and fuel. In addition, the deteriorating security situation in the West Bank and border areas between Israel and Lebanon has led to the internal displacement of about 26,232 persons mainly from Southern Lebanon.

The International Organization for Migration (IOM) reiterates the UN calls for an immediate end to the escalating violence and for a humanitarian ceasefire to avert an even greater catastrophe.

Humanitarian access is critical to allow delivery of aid to the most vulnerable and seriously affected populations, as well as a safe passage for third-country nationals trapped in Gaza.

IOM is urgently appealing for USD 69 million to support its response to the rising critical humanitarian needs of hundreds of thousands of civilians in the occupied Palestinian territories and neighboring countries affected by the ongoing hostilities. IOM’s funding received to date has been around 2.6 million USD, received from internal funding streams in headquarters as a front-loading effort to kick start operations and meet the most urgent needs.

Your support is critical in our mission to deliver emergency aid to displaced families in Gaza and in surrounding countries impacted by the crisis and hostilities.
As of 08 November, IOM has received requests from governments to support 2,233 Third Country Nationals (TCNs), including women and children and those with medical conditions, to return to their countries of origin from across the region in response to the crisis. IOM is providing support upon the request of the Embassies with land and air transportation, basic necessities (such as hygiene and dignity kits), accommodation, protection screening, health assessment and flights.

In Lebanon, daily clashes have continued along the southern border with Israel, with increased intensity. As of 7 November 2023, the DTM* Lebanon has recorded 26,232 internally displaced persons (IDPs), showing a 2% increase since 2 November. Most of these IDPs (78%) are located in five districts out of the total 22 districts hosting IDPs—specifically, Sour, El Nabatieh, Aley, Chouf, and Saida. The displacement covers 256 locations (villages or neighbourhoods) across 182 cadastres throughout Lebanon, spanning all 22 districts in seven of the eight governorates. Notably, 59% of the total IDPs are located in Saida, Sour, and El Nabatieh districts, likely because these districts are close to where the majority of the IDPs are displaced from. Currently, there are 11 collective shelters providing accommodation for IDPs, with four in Sour and seven in Hasbaya. Around 49% of IDPs are currently living with host families, while 36% have opted for rental housing. Another 10% have relocated to their secondary residences. A smaller fraction, around 4%, are being housed in Collective Shelters, and 1% have been reported to be staying in incomplete or unfinished buildings.

IOM continues to respond to the ongoing displacement, in close collaboration with UN, NGO and government partners while also supporting preparedness efforts. IOM has purchased 12,128 items including medication boxes, IV solutions, different types of catheters and other medical items (bandages, gauzes, plasters, gloves and sutures) to replenish and preposition stocks of the Ministry of Public Health. As part of this effort, the first batch of essential medicines and other supplies arrived in Lebanon last week and are scheduled to be delivered to hospitals and primary healthcare centres this week based on the Ministry’s distribution plan. Additionally, Trauma, Noncommunicable Diseases Kits (NCD) and Interagency Emergency Health Kits (IEHK) procured for prepositioning are expected to be delivered in Lebanon next week. In coordination with the National Tuberculosis (TB) and AIDS control programs, IOM finalized contingency plans to ensure continuity of TB and HIV care assistance.

In response to the increasing number of displaced individuals in southern Lebanon, IOM has continued distributions in Nabatieh and Saida to provide core relief items (including mattresses, blankets and pillows) reaching 305 individuals between 3-8 November, in coordination with DRM and the Governor of Nabatieh. Since 8 October, IOM, together with SHELD, has provided core relief items to an additional 1,150 IDPs in southern Lebanon. To support the Government of Lebanon’s National Response Plan, IOM, in coordination with local authorities is also prepositioning additional shelter and non-food items (shelter kits, solar lamps, blankets, mattresses, and kitchen sets) for at least 1,200 households which are expected to be delivered mid-November.

As lead agency of the Collective Site Coordination sector, IOM joined an inter-agency field assessment visit on Saturday 4 November with the Minister of Environment to Nabatieh and Hasbaya – two areas receiving a high number of IDPs. During the visit, IOM and other agencies met with the Governor and Mayor of Nabatieh, the Hasbaya Union of Municipalities, several civil society organizations and visited one of the temporary shelters hosting IDPs in Hasbaya.

On 7 November, IOM, WHO and UNHCR took part in a field monitoring visit organized by OCHA. The program included a visit to the informal settlement that accommodates Syrian refugees in Marj El Khokh and a visit to the Marjaoun Hospital to understand the hospital’s level of preparedness, requirements for scale up, and areas where additional support is needed.

As a follow up to the Migrants in Countries in Crisis (MICIC) training that took place on 25 to 26 October, IOM is preparing to deliver Psychological First Aid (PFA) training for first responders from embassies and consulates next week.

In Jordan, IOM Jordan is on the final stages of procuring critical relief items for the Jordanian Royal Medical Services (RMS), who runs a field hospital in Gaza and intends to deploy additional field teams of medical staff to scale-up operations when possible. This includes one generator and over 1,100 medical equipment and supplies, which is expected to be handed over to the RMS in the coming week for deployment to Gaza.

In Egypt, IOM donated 3,000 tarpaulins, 6,013 medicines and medical items, 1,046 hygiene items, 600 mattresses, blankets and bedsheets, and 500 dignity kits to the Egyptian Red Crescent on 15 and 16 October. The items were loaded onto 2 trucks during two separate convoys that crossed the border into Gaza for onward distribution. Additionally, 28,000 bottles of water procured by IOM have been delivered to Egyptian Red Crescent (ERC)’s warehouses in Al Arish and will be loaded on approximately 16 trucks for onward transportation into Gaza early next week.

IOM is coordinating closely its support to TCNs with the Government of Egypt and the ERC, and to date has delivered a total of 180 hygiene kits upon the direct request of an Embassy to support their evacuated TCNs in Egypt on 7 and 9 November. IOM Egypt also continues to coordinate with OCHA via the Inter-Agency Humanitarian Coordination structure on capacity building, training and other support that can be provided to ERC and attend all regular inter-agency coordination meetings on Gaza response.

To support medical evacuations from the border, IOM is procuring 37,000 medicines to be donated to the Egyptian Ambulance Authority under the Ministry of Health and Population. IOM will be receiving 38,960 non-food items, including hygiene kits, jerry cans, and blankets, from the ECHO European Humanitarian Response Capacity (EHRC) in Dubai for in-kind donation to the Egyptian Red Crescent (ERC) and onward transportation to Gaza. The items are expected to arrive from Dubai on 20 November. Also, 55,000 non-food items, including blankets, kitchen sets, mattresses, jerry cans, and lamps, will be arriving from the IOM Global Stocks in Egypt in the coming weeks to be donated to ERC for onward transport and distribution in Gaza.

*The DTM Mobility Snapshot is produced jointly with the Lebanese Red Cross (LRC) and the government’s Disaster Risk Management (DRM) Unit and is the leading source of displacement data for Lebanon.