

## **Lebanon Humanitarian & Development NGOs Forum (LHDF)**

### **Statement on the Launch of the Lebanon Flash Appeal**

#### **Ensuring an Adequate, Inclusive and Protected Humanitarian Response in Lebanon**

As Lebanon faces a renewed escalation of violence and displacement, humanitarian needs are rapidly expanding across the country, placing significant pressure on already fragile communities, public services, and local response systems.

The Lebanon Humanitarian & Development NGOs Forum (LHDF), representing Lebanese local and national NGOs responding across the country, welcomes the launch of the Lebanon Flash Appeal and acknowledges the efforts of the Government of Lebanon, the United Nations, and humanitarian partners to mobilize urgently needed resources in response to the current escalation of hostilities.

Lebanon is once again confronting a rapidly deteriorating humanitarian situation. Communities in Lebanon are experiencing displacement, disruption of essential services, and increasing vulnerability. Current estimates indicate that more than 1.3 million people are affected by the ongoing hostilities and their humanitarian consequences, placing immense pressure on host communities, municipalities, public services, and already fragile local systems.

Lebanese local and national NGOs continue to serve as frontline responders supporting affected populations. Across municipalities, collective shelters, community centers, and host communities, local actors are delivering immediate life-saving assistance, including shelter support, food and basic assistance, health services, protection services, and psychosocial support. Their proximity to communities and longstanding relationships with affected populations enable them to respond rapidly and effectively, often in areas where access for other actors may be limited. Beyond life-saving assistance, local NGOs also play a critical role in promoting social cohesion and community stabilization through their sustained presence, community engagement, and support to both displaced populations and host communities.

LHDF reiterates the importance of funding modalities that enable greater direct access for local and national NGOs. Lebanese NGOs remain among the first responders during crises and play a critical role in reaching affected communities quickly and efficiently. Facilitating more direct, flexible, and predictable funding to local actors is essential to strengthen response capacity, increase operational efficiency, and advance locally led humanitarian action in line with global localisation commitments.

At the same time, effective coordination among responders is essential to ensure a coherent and efficient humanitarian response. LHDF currently brings together around 110 member organizations across Lebanon and supports coordination through Area-Based Coordination mechanisms operating across Bekaa/Baalbek-Hermel, North/Akkar, South/Nabatieh, and Beirut–

Mount Lebanon, facilitating information sharing and operational alignment among local responders. In parallel, LHDF maintains active engagement with national coordination structures.

Sustaining these coordination platforms is essential to ensure that local responders remain effectively connected, informed, and able to contribute to the overall response architecture. Dedicated support for coordination mechanisms led by national NGO platforms is therefore critical to enabling a more efficient and locally anchored humanitarian response.

LHDF also stresses the critical importance of protecting humanitarian personnel and first responders. Recent developments have once again highlighted the serious risks faced by humanitarian workers operating on the frontlines of the response. The tragic loss of 16 first responders during the first ten days of the conflict, while carrying out their humanitarian duties, serves as a painful reminder of these risks. Civilians, humanitarian personnel, and medical teams must be protected at all times in accordance with international humanitarian law.

Lebanon's communities have demonstrated extraordinary resilience and solidarity in the face of successive crises. However, humanitarian assistance alone cannot keep pace with the scale and speed of suffering caused by continued hostilities. The current situation requires renewed international commitment, respect for international humanitarian law, and sustained support for frontline responders.

**LHDF therefore calls on donors and international partners to:**

- Ensure that the Lebanon Flash Appeal is funded adequately, flexibly, and in a timely manner to respond to rapidly growing humanitarian needs.
- Enable greater direct and flexible funding for local and national NGOs, recognizing their essential frontline role in reaching affected communities quickly and effectively.
- Support coordination mechanisms that strengthen locally led humanitarian response, including national NGO platforms facilitating operational coordination and information sharing among responders.
- Uphold the protection of civilians, humanitarian personnel, and medical teams in accordance with international humanitarian law.

Local and national NGOs remain committed to continuing their response efforts and to working in partnership with all humanitarian stakeholders to ensure that assistance reaches the most vulnerable populations in Lebanon quickly, effectively, and with dignity.