

# ESCALATION OF HOSTILITIES IN LEBANON



Heavy traffic following the thousand of families displaced in the morning of March 2<sup>nd</sup>. Photo taken by a WeWorld's staff member while she remained stuck in traffic for 19 hours after leaving her house in the South in a rush

This Flash Update was prepared by WeWorld and Educo as members of CFA to report on the latest escalation of Israeli hostilities and humanitarian crisis in Lebanon (March 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2026).

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*“We barely had time to breathe after the last war. Less than two years later, we find ourselves here again. Enough is enough. We don't deserve this.”*

**Shatha Al Moukkadem, WeWorld Lebanon Finance Officer and currently internally displaced.**

*“When people ask us how are we doing, we can only say: we're safe. But inside, we carry sadness, heaviness, and a hope that feels far away.”*

**WeWorld staff member currently internally displaced**

*“Last night was extremely difficult for many families. In our neighbourhood in Baalbek, a family lost their daughter and her two little girls in the strikes, and the screams and grief echoed throughout the night. Across Lebanon, thousands of families are fleeing their homes, many with children.”*

**EDUCO staff, Baalbek**

## SITUATION UPDATE

On March 2, 2026, **hostilities in Lebanon escalated sharply amid a wider regional conflict.**

Israel forces launched intensive airstrikes across Beirut's southern suburbs, South Lebanon, and the Bekaa valley, following Hezbollah's response to the killing of the Iranian Supreme Leader Ayatollah Khamenei. Despite repeated Israeli violations of the November 2024 ceasefire, these strikes represent one of the most significant escalations since the agreement. As of **4 March 2026**, Ministry of Health confirmed **over 120 deaths and 680 injuries**. In the past 48 hours, the Israeli army issued evacuation orders for more than 125 villages, **triggering a new wave of mass displacement**. Residents have fled South Lebanon, Baalbek-Hermel region, and Beirut's

southern suburbs toward safer areas, with many seeking shelter in **public schools repurposed as collective shelters**, which is interrupting schooling and regular education services across Lebanon. A further evacuation order issued on 4 March, and the ground incursion across the southern border, are likely to generate additional mass displacement.

According to Lebanon's Disaster Risk Management (DRM) unit, **399 shelters are currently open, though only 52 still have hosting capacity**. More than **93,000 people have been displaced, including over 18,000 children**, within only two days, while thousands more remain stranded on roads or sleeping in their cars.


Israeli airstrikes have caused **significant damage to residential areas and civilian infrastructure, including hospitals**, particularly in densely populated areas. While no new damage to water and other infrastructure has been reported so far, **movement restrictions and insecurity are affecting access to essential services, and schools are currently closed.**

UN-based and Humanitarian actors' early assessments highlight **the urgent need for multisectoral assistance.** Priority sectors include Food Security, WASH, Cash, Protection, Shelter and Core Relief. Immediate food support, emergency water trucking, hygiene kits (including menstrual supplies), sanitation facilities and fuel

for generators are required for displaced households in shelters and hosting communities. In addition, Multi-Purpose Cash Assistance (MPCA) is essential to help families meet urgent needs, alongside the distribution of core relief items, such as mattresses, blankets and dignity kits.

The situation is evolving rapidly, with displacement and humanitarian needs expected to rise, as hostilities continue. WeWorld and Educo continue to coordinate with the Inter-Sector coordination group, Sectoral working groups, and Donors, along with the Lebanese authorities and local partners to scale up assistance across affected areas.

### WEWORLD AND EDUCO INTERVENTION IN THE NEXT TWO WEEKS



**WASH**  
**+2.260 PEOPLE TO SUPPORT**

**311 Emergency Kits** to be distributed to families, for a total of **+1.470 individuals** that will be supported

**420 Menstrual Hygiene Kits** to be distributed to women and girls

**240 Baby Kits** to be distributed to mothers with children below 2 years old


**130 Hygiene Kits** to be distributed to elderly and people with disabilities



**FOOD SECURITY**  
**+4.690 PEOPLE TO SUPPORT**

**~800 Ready-to-eat Meals** to be distributed to **~300 families**, for a total of **+4090 individuals** that will be supported

**300 Dry Food Parcels** to be distributed to around **+600 individuals**



**EDUCATION**  
**+630 CHILDREN TO SUPPORT**

**Learning Continuous Activities** will be guaranteed for at least **+450 children**

**Emergency Psychosocial Support** will benefit **180 children**

**+5.000 individuals to support with the Purchase of Diesel Fuel** for the operation of pumping stations (for the supply of potable and wastewater) in the localities hosting IDPs in the Bekaa

### WEWORLD & EDUCO INTERVENTION

Since the renewed escalation of the Israeli war on Lebanon, **WeWorld and Educo immediately activated their Contingency and Security Plans and Emergency Response. While WeWorld plans to intervene in the Bekaa and Akkar areas, Educo will respond in Bekaa, with a scale-up planned in Beirut and Mount Lebanon areas.** Active coordination is ongoing with national and sub-national coordination mechanisms to assess operational capacity and identify priority needs and response gaps in the most affected areas.

WeWorld is prioritising **basic assistance, particularly Cash, Food and WASH interventions.** Building on its long-standing presence and previous emergency response during the 2024 Israeli aggression, WeWorld has reinforced its logistics capacity to enable faster distribution of food and essential items, as well as the rapid deployment of water-trucking services in the Bekaa and Akkar regions. Building on its experience in Lebanon and other conflict-affected contexts, EDUCO will support WeWorld's Basic Assistance interventions, while complementing the response with Child Protection and Education in Emergencies activities, ensuring that displaced children and families have access to psychosocial support, emergency case management and safe learning opportunities, thereby contributing to a comprehensive ChildFund Alliance response addressing both immediate basic needs and protection risks faced by crisis-affected children.

WeWorld and Educo's direct response will focus on **the distribution of Non-Food Items (NFIs), Food assistance, and the implementation of WASH interventions** for displaced households in collective shelters. The WASH kits are tailored to different groups, including families, women and girls, mothers and their children, elderlies and people with disabilities (PwDs). In general, kits include essential hygiene supplies, such as soap, shampoo, sanitizing towels, diapers, pads, toothbrush and toothpaste, facemasks, baby items and other basic necessities.

In parallel, WeWorld and Educo will distribute **ready-to-eat kits and dry food parcels** to support displaced families' access to adequate nutrition.

In the Bekaa, WeWorld will also **procure fuel to maintain the operation of potable water and wastewater pumping stations**, identified as a critical need amid the new waves of displacement. To complement these activities, EDUCO and WeWorld will provide **Psychological First Aid (PFA), trauma-informed case management, community-based psychosocial support and referrals for high-risk cases**, including unaccompanied and separated children and survivors of violence. EDUCO will support children's well-being and learning continuity during displacement through homework assistance, basic literacy and numeracy activities, the distribution of educational and recreational materials, and support to caregivers to promote children's protection and psychosocial well-being.



Temporary shelter in Beirut, hosting families from the South and the Bekaa Valley - March 3rd 2026 ©Chloé Khoury

### PROPOSED WAY FORWARD

WeWorld and Educo in Lebanon aim **to scale up assistance in areas where needs remain unmet**, with particular attention to the well-being of children, adolescents and youth. The priority is to deliver timely and live-saving assistance that meets the needs of crisis-affected communities and ensures their continued access to basic services. **Restoring key services rapidly, through a conflict-sensitive and inclusive approach and in coordination with relevant national and humanitarian actors** is central to Educo and WeWorld's emergency response in Lebanon.

Given the disproportionate impact of the crisis on children and youth, WeWorld and Educo place their protection at the core of their interventions.

**Ensuring access to adequate nutrition, safe drinking water, emergency child protection, psychosocial services and basic sanitation services** in collective shelters and host communities is essential for safeguarding children's wellbeing.

In a context where displacement is increasing by the hour, and security conditions remain highly volatile, sustained and timely relief assistance is critical. Rapid activation of funds and continued support are crucial to maintaining emergency operations, strengthening the coping capacities of hosting communities, and laying the foundations for early recovery, while ensuring that responses remain child-centred, inclusive and accountable to affected communities.

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