

# INFORMATION BULLETIN



International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies  
Fédération internationale des Sociétés de la Croix-Rouge et du Croissant-Rouge  
Federación Internacional de Sociedades de la Cruz Roja y de la Media Luna Roja  
الاتحاد الدولي لجمعيات الصليب الأحمر والهلال الأحمر

## LEBANON: INTERNAL DISTURBANCE

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*The Federation's mission is to improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity. It is the world's largest humanitarian organization and its millions of volunteers are active in 185 countries.*

### In Brief

This Bulletin is being issued for information only, and reflects the situation and the information available at this time. The Federation is not seeking funding or other assistance from donors for this operation at this time.

The International Federation undertakes activities that are aligned with its Global Agenda, which sets out four broad goals to achieve the Federation's mission to "improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity".

#### Global Agenda Goals:

- Reduce the numbers of deaths, injuries and impact from disasters.
- Reduce the number of deaths, illnesses and impact from diseases and public health emergencies.
- Increase local community, civil society and Red Cross Red Crescent capacity to address the most urgent situations of vulnerability.
- Reduce intolerance, discrimination and social exclusion and promote respect for diversity and human dignity.

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All International Federation assistance seeks to adhere to the [Code of Conduct for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and Non-Governmental Organizations \(NGO's\) in Disaster Relief](#) and is committed to the [Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response \(Sphere\)](#) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.

For longer-term programmes in this or other countries or regions, please refer to the Federation's Annual Appeal. For support to or for further information concerning Federation programmes or operations in this or other countries, or for national society profiles, please also access the Federation's website at <http://www.ifrc.org>

## The Situation

In the early hours of Sunday, 20 May, clashes erupted between the Lebanese Armed Forces and an armed group in the northern Lebanese town of Tripoli. The armed confrontation continued throughout the day and resulted in restricted movements for many civilians in the area. The fighting spread throughout the city and into the area of the Palestinian camp, Nahr el Bared, where confrontations have been ongoing since Sunday. As a result, movements of civilians from the camp were severely restricted and the overall circumstances of the affected population were reported as volatile.

A cease in the armed confrontations in the evening of 22 May allowed civilians to leave the camp of Nahr el Bared and seek refuge in the close-by Biddawi camp or in Tripoli town. It is currently difficult to have a full overview of the needs of the population, although the assessment of a team of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), in close collaboration with Lebanese Red Cross (LRC), is ongoing. The situation continues to rapidly evolve and humanitarian actors are in the process of adjusting to the emerging needs.

## Red Cross and Red Crescent action

Since the confrontations erupted on Sunday, the Lebanese Red Cross and the Palestine Red Crescent Society Lebanon Branch (PRCS/L) have been on high alert and were able to mobilize resources to evacuate wounded and provide assistance where possible under very difficult circumstances. As the situation evolved, assistance efforts have shifted from evacuating wounded and vulnerable civilians from the camp to addressing the needs of the displaced persons in Baddawi camp and Tripoli town.

Throughout the operation, the Lebanese Red Cross and the Palestine Red Crescent Society Lebanon Branch have been working in close cooperation, with the PRCS/L transporting wounded and sick people to Lebanese Red Cross ambulances at the entrance of the Nahr el Bared camp during the armed confrontations. Access to the Nahr el Bared camp was difficult; however the Lebanese Red Cross was able to negotiate safe passage for a period of time and evacuate victims as well as provide humanitarian aid, including urgently needed medical supplies, which were provided by the ICRC. The PRCS/L hospital in Biddawi camp has received medical supplies in order to treat the wounded and sick people.

The Lebanese Red Cross Emergency Medical Services deployed from the beginning of the disturbances 50 first aid workers and 15 ambulances from the 8 ambulance stations in the north. In addition, another 15 ambulances along with 90 first aid workers have been on stand-by. According to the Lebanese Red Cross, 35 dead bodies were removed, and some 77 wounded people and 419 civilians assisted by midday on 23 May. Youth volunteers and a team from the medico-social department were also in the process of being deployed to Tripoli.

The ICRC sent a medical team to the affected area and has been distributing medical supplies to the PRCS/L hospital, the Nahr el Bared camp medical dispensary and the Lebanese Red Cross ambulance crews. In order to address the needs of the displaced, an ICRC assessment team was deployed to Tripoli town and the Baddawi camp. Throughout the armed confrontations, the ICRC has urged all parties to ensure that civilians not taking part in the hostilities are protected against attack.

## Coordination

The Movement partners have been working in close coordination in order to ensure a coherent operation with efforts being focused on ensuring sufficient and appropriate stocks for the Lebanese Red Cross first aid teams and the Palestine Red Crescent Lebanon Branch operating inside the camp. In addition, regular contact has been maintained with other humanitarian actors and relevant parties.

The International Federation's Delegation in Beirut remains in permanent contact with the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement partners and is on stand-by to support the operating National Societies if requested.

**[Map<sup>1</sup> attached below; click here to return to the title page or contact information.](#)**

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<sup>1</sup> Source: U.S. Central Intelligence Agency ([http://www.lib.utexas.edu/maps/middle\\_east\\_and\\_asia/lebanon\\_pol\\_2002.pdf](http://www.lib.utexas.edu/maps/middle_east_and_asia/lebanon_pol_2002.pdf))

