The Lebanon Humanitarian INGO Forum (LHIF) is a group of 27 international NGOs who are working to address the needs of vulnerable individuals, families and communities throughout Lebanon. The purpose of LHIF is to help members undertake their work more efficiently and effectively by facilitating coordination, advocacy, representation and information sharing. LHIF works to develop a unified INGO voice on issues of common concern and provides a platform to facilitate action on joint initiatives.

Formed in October 2012, LHIF is a forum where all members have an equal voice in decision-making. Any organization that fulfills the following criteria may apply to join: registered as an NGO in a foreign country; registered in Lebanon or in process of registration; signatory to the Code of Conduct of the Red Cross/Red Crescent Movement and NGOs in Disaster Relief; operating in humanitarian sectors; and currently implementing projects in Lebanon. A five-member Steering Committee elected on a 6-monthly basis represents LHIF externally and oversees LHIF activities. A full-time Secretariat provides strategic and logistical support to further LHIF objectives. The LHIF Secretariat is administratively hosted by the Danish Refugee Council and funded by the Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection Department of the European Commission (ECHO).

LHIF’s Work

- **Representation:** LHIF facilitates representation of INGOs in the LCRP Steering Committee, Humanitarian Country Team, and Inter-Sector Working Group, and represents members with donors, the diplomatic community, Government of Lebanon, national NGOs, and Red Cross/Red Crescent movement, as requested.

- **Facilitating engagement in response planning and coordination:** LHIF mobilized INGO participation in the RRP6 and Lebanon Crisis Response Plan (LCRP) planning processes, and pushed for ensuring that the response focused also on the needs of Lebanese communities. LHIF looks to enhance, support and facilitate INGO engagement in inter-agency and sector coordination structures, not to duplicate these structures.

- **Advocacy:** In Lebanon and via members’ international presence and networks, LHIF continually advocates for greater support to and solidarity with the crisis that Lebanon is facing, through lobbying with key stakeholders and awareness raising initiatives such as the 4Lebanon campaign.

- **Spearheading joint initiatives to better meet response needs:** LHIF initiated the Multi-Sector Needs Assessment Phase 1 process to help improve the evidence base for the response, and has consistently played a key role in efforts to improve vulnerability- and needs-based planning and targeting.

- **Supporting members to address common operational challenges:** LHIF supports members to better navigate and comply with administrative procedures, such as for visas, work permits and registration.

LHIF Members’ Work

The work of LHIF members covers all sectors: education, health, food security, protection, shelter, basic assistance, livelihoods, social stability, water and sanitation, as well as longer-term development programs. LHIF members work closely with the communities they serve, local civil society, municipalities, the Ministry of Social Affairs, and technical ministries such as the Ministry of Education and Higher Education, the Ministry of Public Health, and the Ministry of Energy and Water. LHIF members work in partnership with over 100 national NGOs, and employ over 3,300 Lebanese citizens.

All LHIF members work with both displaced and host communities. To highlight some examples of work with Lebanese communities and institutions: In 2014, over 550,000 Lebanese citizens benefited from community support projects implemented by LHIF members, and over 215,000 benefited from activities supporting waste management and access to water. LHIF members improved 45 schools, supported dozens of health clinics, and provided psycho-social support to 20,000 Lebanese children. Over $11,000,000 reached more than 2,000 Lebanese landlords and building owners through private infrastructure improvements and cash-for-rent.

LHIF is an independent NGO forum supported by ECHO. For more information or to join, contact info@LHIF.org
A nation of only 4.4 million people, Lebanon has done more than any other country to support refugees from the war in Syria, taking in over 1.2 million Syrians and Palestine Refugees from Syria.

The international community must urgently increase its support to Lebanon through humanitarian and development funding, resettlement of refugees from Syria, and redoubled efforts to find a political solution to the Syrian conflict.

Supporting Lebanon now can make the critical difference both for the millions of people in need in Lebanon and for ensuring that Lebanon’s stability is maintained.

Lebanon hosts the largest per capita refugee population in the world.

Lebanese infrastructure and public services are under extraordinary strain.

Poor and vulnerable communities in Lebanon are paying the price.

Refugees are at the end of their ability to cope, with conditions rapidly deteriorating.

www.LHIF.org/4Lebanon