

# Information for Syrian Refugees in Lebanon

This document provides you and your family some important information you may need if you decide to return to Syria.

Please note that UNHCR Lebanon is not organizing or having specific programmes for returns to Syria at this stage. UNHCR, together with the rest of the United Nations and international partners, is however actively working to help address the obstacles that refugees see to returning home.



## What civil documents do I take with me if I plan to return to Syria?

In addition to bringing identity documents (e.g. national ID, Passport), it is very important that, if possible, refugees who have decided to return to Syria leave Lebanon with official records of civil events (birth, marriage, divorce, death) that took place in Lebanon. This means that refugees should have a birth, marriage, divorce or death certificate registered with the Foreigners' Registry (Personal Status Department) and stamped by the Lebanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

## Why is it important for me to have these documents if I decided to go back to Syria?

Without these documents there is a risk that these events are not recognized once you return to Syria, which may have long lasting negative consequences such as: inability of children born in exile to prove that they are Syrian nationals; the inability to access inheritance; and the inability to avail yourself of the right of ownership or use of family houses and property.



## Should I take my education documents?

It is equally important that refugees make sure they obtain official documentation confirming education that was undertaken in Lebanon, to support recognition of their studies once they are back in Syria.

## From where can I obtain my education documents?

Formal basic, secondary and vocational education documents can be obtained from the school you have attended in Lebanon, validated at the regional office of the Ministry of Education and Higher Education and have to be stamped and recognized by the Lebanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Beirut. Tertiary education documents can be obtained from Universities, validated by the Ministry of Education and Higher Education and afterward recognized by the Lebanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs. University certificates must also be stamped by the Syrian Embassy.

## What about Informal education and training certificates?

Informal education and training certificates cannot be validated by Lebanese official entities, but could be of value upon your return to Syria. Try to obtain all available diplomas/certificates prior departure.



## Can I leave Lebanon without paying any overstay fee or without being issued a re-entry ban?

Following recent GSO regulations, if you overstayed your residency based on the UNHCR certificate you may still exit the country without paying any fees and without being issued a re-entry ban. This is not the case if your residency is based on other categories, including tourist, work visit, student, medical visits, among others.

For more information check the "Procedures for Syrians entering Lebanon" on [http://refugees-lebanon.org/uploads/poster/poster\\_149865898340.pdf](http://refugees-lebanon.org/uploads/poster/poster_149865898340.pdf)



## What do I do if I have serious medical condition and I want to return to Syria?

In case you are diagnosed with a non-communicable disease (e.g., Hypertension, Diabetes, Asthma, Heart Diseases), then please take note of the below courses of action.

If your patient file is in a public Primary Health Care center (PHCc), you have to go to the PHCc where you are being treated. Request a summary medical report (1 page) of your patient file. Also request a 3 months stock of medicines.

If your patient file is in a Doctors Without Borders PHCc, you have to go to the PHCc where you are being treated. Request a summary medical report (1 page) of your patient file. Also request a 3 months stock of medicines.

## What do I do with respect to vaccination if I have children (0-15 years) accompanying me?

Please make sure to have their vaccination booklet/card available and updated. Additionally, have them vaccinated in the nearest PHCc (check the health leaflet for a full list <https://www.refugees-lebanon.org/en/section/4/health>). If your children were born in Lebanon, then please have a copy of their birth certificate with you.

## What do I do if I am a pregnant woman returning to Syria?

Please make sure to have the pregnancy booklet/antenatal care card with you because you will need it later. Also, make sure to have all the prophylactic medicines until birth with you (Folic Acid, etc). When you arrive to your destination, go to the PHCc where they offer maternity services.

For more individual counselling, advice and support, you can approach or call UNHCR:

### Beirut/Mount Lebanon:

Ramlet El-Baida, Dr. Philippe Hitti St., behind Spinney's Supermarket, Beirut, phone 01-820848

### Bekaa:

Zahle highway, near Kaysar Ata IceCream, Zahle, phone 76-611811

### North - Tripoli:

Next to Rachid Karame Exhibition Centre, Tripoli, phone 06-205003

### North - Quobayat:

Johny Abdo Building, phone 06-205003

### South:

Villa Krischt, Al Hosh, Tyre, phone 76-500370

### Lebanon:

Phone: 01-594250

<https://www.refugees-lebanon.org/>