



Country card
Lebanon 2023

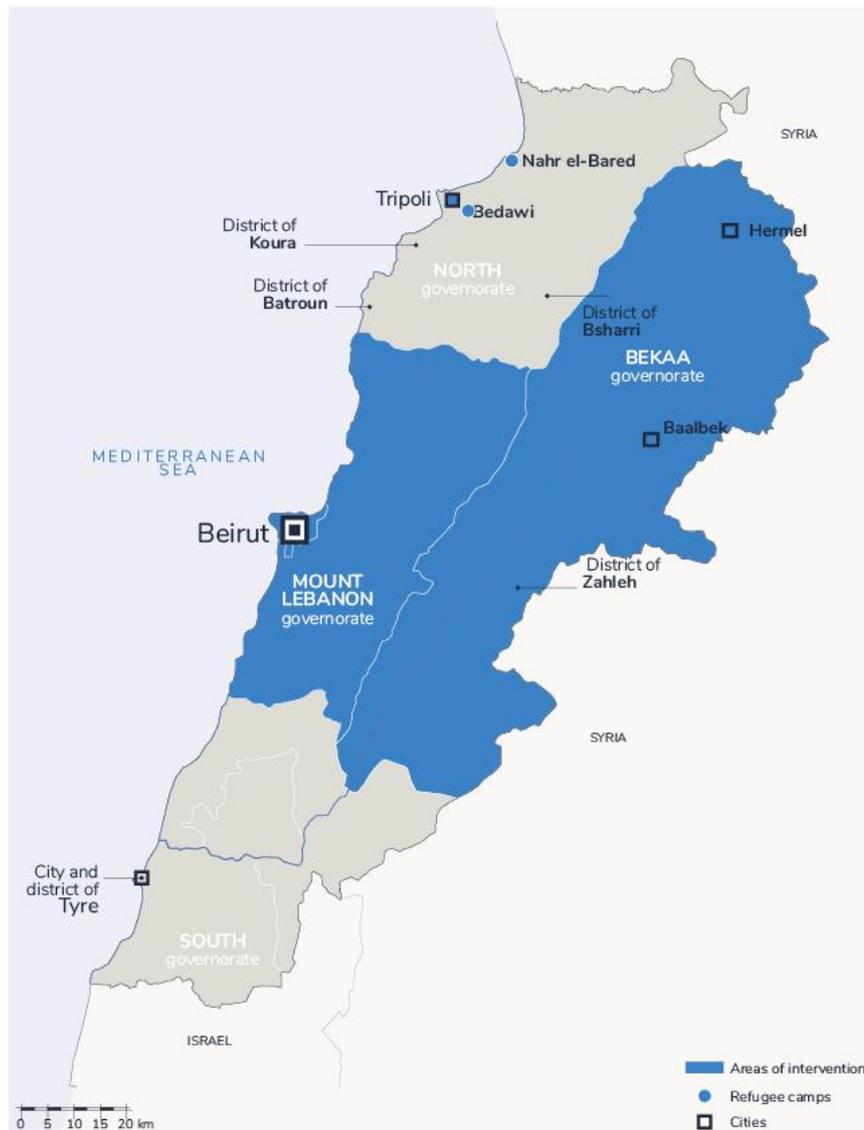




HI Team and intervention areas

HI has 45 staff members in Lebanon.

Lebanon





General data of the country

a. HI internal classifications of the country context

Level of violence	Operations Director Focus	Health Focus	Positioning Focus	Emergency Focus
	Yes	No	No	Yes: High intensity

a. General Data

Country	Lebanon	Neighboring country (Jordan)	France
Population	5489739	10 203 140	65 448 851
IHDI	0.74	0.73	0.9
Gender-related Development Index	0.882	0.875	0.987
Maternal mortality	21	46	8
GINI Index, 2011	31.8	33.7	31.6
Population within UNHCR mandate	850452	769 260	458 919
INFORM index	4.7	4.4	2.2
Fragile State Index	91,8	75.43	30.48
Public social protection	13,9	8.9	32.6
Net official development assistance received (M USD)	1398	3 941.7	N/A



b. Humanitarian law instruments ratified by the country

Humanitarian law instruments	Status
Mine Ban Treaty	Not signed
Convention on Cluster Munitions	Ratified 05/11/2010
UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities	Signed 14/06/2007

c. Geopolitical analysis

1. Social/cultural/demographic elements

Lebanon is a multicultural, multi-religious country with 18 state-recognized religious groups: 4 Muslim, 12 Christian, 1 Druze, and 1 Jewish. The official language is Arabic, but many Lebanese speak French or English.

The Syrian crisis since 2011 has placed an unprecedented strain on the economy, public services, infrastructure, as well as on demographic factors and social relations. Lebanon currently ranks highest in refugee population per capita worldwide, with an estimated 1.5 million displaced Syrians and approximately 250,000 Palestinian refugees living in extreme vulnerability (UNRWA estimation).

The country has faced an unprecedented financial and socio-economic crisis since 2019, leading to a widespread uprising and protest movement. Since then, the country has been grappling with a series of crises, including the successive resignations of prime ministers, contentious debates over forming a new government, a deepening economic and financial downturn, the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, and the devastating explosion at the Port of Beirut in 2020.

Hyperinflation, a devalued currency, and soaring unemployment rates have left the majority of the population struggling to meet basic needs.

Humanitarian needs, once limited to refugees, are now evident among all population groups. Over half of the Lebanese population and 93% of Palestinian refugees are living under the national poverty line, and 90% of displaced Syrian families need assistance to meet their basic survival needs (Lebanon Crisis Response Plan 2023).



While Lebanon has remained a generous host to refugees in the past years, host-community fatigue, combined with depleted resources and deteriorating living conditions, has fueled anti-refugee perceptions.

For 2023, it is estimated that more than half of the population need humanitarian assistance, including 1.5 million displaced Syrians, 2.1 million Lebanese, and more than 200,000 Palestinian refugees (Lebanon Crisis Response Plan 2023). In the first six months of 2023, 2.01 million individuals received food assistance in Lebanon. The main reported needs are food security, livelihood, health, access to services, and protection. Among the most vulnerable persons, those with disabilities are more likely to be left behind while struggling to obtain employment to meet their basic needs and access essential services (World Food Program, Disability Inclusion Survey results, May 2023).

2. Political context

Lebanon experienced a destructive civil war that lasted from 1975 to 1990. Following the civil war, Syria maintained control of large parts of Lebanon until 2005, while Israel occupied Southern Lebanon until 2000. In February 2005, former Prime Minister Rafiq Hariri was assassinated in a car bomb attack, leading to an anti-Syrian movement that resulted in the withdrawal of Syrian troops from Lebanon.

In 2014, the Lebanese government couldn't agree on a new president, leading to a two-year presidential vacuum. The inability to form a government and make critical decisions left Lebanon vulnerable to economic challenges and social discontent.

The Syrian crisis, starting in 2011, significantly strained the country's socio-political and economic stability by 2016.

Lebanon has been marred by economic instability reaching a tipping point in 2019 causing anti-government protests across the country. Fueled by frustration over corruption, economic mismanagement, and a lack of basic services, the protests united people from various sects in demanding a complete overhaul of the political system. It led to the resignation of Prime Minister Saad Hariri.

However, efforts to form a new government were marred by political infighting, with various factions unable to reach a consensus. The Lebanese people, meanwhile, continued to grapple with a deteriorating economy, soaring inflation, and a weakening national currency. The explosion at the Beirut port in August 2020 devastated large parts of the city and further exposed the government's negligence and incompetence.



Mustafa Adib was appointed as prime minister in September 2020 and tasked with forming a government capable of implementing much-needed reforms. However, political factions once again failed to reach a consensus on the distribution of ministerial portfolios.

Since the end of the president's term on October 31, 2022, and following the failure to elect a new president, Lebanon has entered an institutional vacuum. Parliament has become an electoral body, not a legislative one, until a new president is elected.

As of today, after 12 rounds of election sessions, the Lebanese parliament still failed to elect a new president. Lebanon continues to face an institutional vacuum, delaying the implementation of a comprehensive economic recovery.

3. Economic elements

Services dominate the Lebanese economy, representing 78.6% of the country's GDP in 2022 and employing more than two-thirds of the workforce. The banking sector, traditionally the mainstay of the economy, is undergoing a major crisis, with the country facing an imminent risk of default.

The agricultural sector is underdeveloped, contributing only 6% to the GDP in 2022. Key agricultural products include fruits (mainly apples, oranges, bananas, grapes, and significantly, olives).

Industry accounts for 12.8% of the GDP in 2022 and is dominated by the manufacturing of agricultural products, metals, minerals, furniture, and other manufactured goods.

The fiscal upheaval magnified by the COVID-19 pandemic has pushed the Lebanese economy into a downward spiral toward recession, soaring inflation, mass unemployment, shortages of imported goods, and state insolvency. The economic pressure has generated more unrest in the streets and threatens a complete economic collapse.

Since 2020, Lebanon's economic situation has worsened, raising fears of a countrywide collapse. In a context of economic slowdown and declining transfers from Lebanese migrants and bank deposits, the state has become over-indebted and lacks liquidity.

The systemic failure of Lebanon's banking system and the collapse of the currency have resulted in a large, dollarized cash-based economy. The country heavily depends on Lebanese living abroad,



estimated to have received a record 31.7 percent of GDP in remittances in 2022, the second-highest ratio in the world.

Over half of the Lebanese population and 93 percent of Palestinian refugees now live below the national poverty line, and 90% of displaced Syrian families need assistance to meet their basic survival needs. The country is nearly approaching a national humanitarian emergency and widespread food insecurity. According to the latest World Bank Food Security Update, Lebanon is the country worst hit by the food-inflation crisis, with food security continuing to worsen in recent months. Since the beginning of 2023, 2.01 million individuals have received food assistance (2023 2nd quarter sector dashboard, Food Security and Agriculture, Inter-Agency Coordination).

According to the World Bank, inflation was 84.3% in 2020, 154.8% in 2021, and 171.2% in 2022. By February 2023, the Lebanese currency has lost more than 98% of its pre-crisis value on the black market, and this phenomenon is growing day by day. Currently, there are three exchange rates in the country: the official one (now at 15,000), the black market/parallel market one (around 89,500), and an intermediate rate accepted by the banks called Sayrafa (85,500).

Lebanon is increasingly reliant on international aid (increasing by 45% in 2020 to 1.6 billion USD). The International Monetary Fund has decided to provide international public aid to help the country emerge from the crisis, but this is conditional on the implementation of structural reforms, which, at present, have not yet been carried out.

According to the World Bank, Lebanon is ranked among the most severe economic collapses worldwide since the 1850s.

Summary of HI presence in the country

HI began its work in Lebanon in 1992, initially focusing on the Palestinian refugee camps and clusters. The organization's efforts included rehabilitation, promoting the rights of people with disabilities, and mental health work with populations most affected by violence.

Following the 2006 Israeli offensive, the organisation launched operations in North Lebanon to clear remnants of the 15-year Lebanese Civil War. The association also provided emergency assistance during crises affecting the country and the region. For



example, in response to the humanitarian crisis caused by the conflict in Syria, Handicap International initiated emergency projects in 2012 for affected population groups, including refugees and host populations. These projects, often conducted in collaboration with other international or local NGOs, initially aimed to support Syrian refugees with fresh injuries and post-traumatic stress. The focus later shifted to supporting other actors in providing an inclusive emergency response to refugees.

In 2018, HI in Lebanon gradually cover a broader spectrum, including long-term projects in mental health and inclusive education, as well as protracted crisis projects in AVR (Risk Education), mine action, and protection.

. By September 2023, the mission had projects in various areas:

- 2 Inclusive education projects
- 3 Mine clearance projects
- 1 Inclusion (technical assistance) project
- 1 Rehabilitation project that has just ended
- 1 mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) project

In response to the current crises, Handicap International has progressively addressed the deteriorating living conditions within the Health, Education, and Basic Needs sectors.

Conclusion: 25 years ago, Handicap International (HI) launched its initial operations by delivering humanitarian aid to Palestinian refugees, garnering extensive experience in mental health within the context of vulnerability and protracted refugee crises. In 1992, the organization initiated its first clearance operations, establishing HI as one of the most recognized actors in the field, particularly in complex geographical areas such as mountains and forests. Since 2012 and the onset of the Syrian crisis, HI in Lebanon has intensified its efforts by providing significant health and inclusive support to refugees in challenging conditions, while concurrently sustaining long-term projects focused on mental health and disabled persons' organizations. In 2018, HI progressively redefined its actions, directing efforts toward both refugees and the vulnerable Lebanese community.



Overview on ongoing projects

Sectors where HI conducts projects and focus on beneficiaries and operational partnerships

Project title and main sector(s) of intervention	Main activities	Beneficiaries	Final beneficiaries	Partners	Location	Dates of beginning and end of the project	Donors who finance the project
Armed Violence Reduction Land Release, Explosive Ordnance Risk education (EORE) and Mine Victim Assistance in el Chouf District - Mount Lebanon	Clearance of 40,000 m2 impacted by mines and Unexploded Ordnance (UXO) by the deployment of 2 manual mine teams; compiling and analyzing of information through pre and post impact assessment surveys and testimonies from people living in the danger zones to inform the impacted communities; provision of risk education awareness sessions and victim assistance . Improve the	Lebanese communities and Syrian refugee targets: Direct beneficiaries: 20,000 for Land Release, 1,600 for EORE: 50 for Victim Assistance.	Population of Chouf district, Indirect beneficiaries: 291,000 for Land Release, 8,000 for EORE, 250 for VA.	Lebanese Mine Action Centre (LMAC)	Mount Lebanon (Chouf), Aley for EORE.	01/07/2023 to 30/06/2024	CDCS
Land Release operations incorporating innovative technologies in Aley District- Mount Lebanon	accessibility of secure land and infrastructure for communities affected by conflict through the use of innovative approaches to aid the land release processes.	Direct beneficiaries : 8,600 for land release 600 for EORE	Aley district has a population of 196,121 (2017 figures) and 44.127 registered refugees. As for the area concerned by the project, which are assigned to HI by LMAC, there are 56,169 estimated inhabitants.	Lebanese Mine Action Centre (LMAC)	Mount lebanon (Aley)	01/06/2023 to 31/05/2023	MOFA Lux



	<p>. Enhance accountability and safety of the population in Aley district by promoting and encouraging the adoption of safe behaviours that mitigate the risks posed by Mines and Unexploded Ordnances (UXOs)</p> <p>The project aims at supporting Lebanon to utilize an innovative technique in mine actions, using small unmanned aircraft systems to map suspected hazardous areas</p>						
<p>Armed Violence Reduction</p> <p>BUZA - Odyssey2025 - From Innovation to Regional Implementation</p>	<p>(SHA) and confirmed hazardous areas (CHA), in Aaqoura area in Mount-Lebanon with the aim of helping to speed up the process of Land Release and reducing costs during humanitarian mine action activities</p>	<p>Lebanese communities in the target areas</p>	<p>Lebanese communities in the target areas</p>	<p>LMAC and Mobility Robotics</p>	<p>Mount Lebanon Governorate , Aaqoura village and Aley district</p>	<p>01/01/2022 to 31/12/2023</p>	<p>BUZA</p>
<p>Mental Health</p> <p>AFD Touching Minds Rasing Dignity phase 2</p> <p>Towards flexible action for</p>	<p>Strengthen community-based prevention and response mechanisms to make mental health a collective responsibility to improve the quality of life, well-being/positive mental health, and empowerment of</p>	<p>Local partners' technical staff, Mental Health stakeholders team, Women, men, and children, with or without disabilities, experiencing</p>	<p>8000 beneficiaries</p>	<p>MOUSAWAT Association</p>	<p>Bekaa, Beirut and Mount Lebanon</p>	<p>01/01/2022 to 31/12/2025</p>	<p>AFD - co-funding from ECHO</p>



inclusive access to education and vocational training and the construction of a society sensitive to mental health issues and respect for people's rights	people in psychosocial distress and/or with psychosocial disabilities. In particular, the project will strengthen the Mental Health Services (MHS) of the Ministry of Health in the development/revision of national mental health policies and/or strategic plans. Mental health prevention and care services, which are multidisciplinary and community-based, will be consolidated and made operational by strengthening technical, organizational, and operational support. Actions for the promotion of mental health will be developed in partnership with the users in order to reduce their stigmatization, increase their representativeness, as well as their economic and social inclusion. Finally, a knowledge management, development and sharing plan will be put in place in order to share good	psychosocial distress and/or suffering from a mental health problem.
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<p>Inclusive Education</p>	<p>practices in the field of Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) HI will access inclusive public schools (30 pilot schools, 30 new first shift schools, and 20 new second shift schools. The project ensures children receive the needed support</p>		<p>4,278 identified children 2,800 children who would receive Therapy 1,000 children who would receive AT=</p>				
<p>Strengthening Disability Inclusion in Lebanese Public Schools through Assistive Technologies and Capacity Building</p>	<p>through provision of assistive technologies and rehabilitation services. It also focuses on parental engagement and capacity building of teachers to reduce environmental barriers. Furthermore, this project will utilize Assistive Technologies (AT) to promote inclusive education</p>	<p>Children with disabilities and learning difficulties enrolled in public schools</p>	<p>2,850 children who would receive tablets 2,850 caregivers 800 MEHE and DOPs trained members Indirect beneficiaries benefiting from inclusive kits= total schools' students who would benefit from the education kit distribution = 38,400</p>	<p>Ministry of Education Service contracts with Rehab centers</p>	<p>Nation-wide</p>	<p>01/07/2022 to 31/12/2023</p>	<p>UNICEF</p>
<p>Inclusive Education Inclusion of Children with Moderate and Severe Disabilities in Specialized Education Phase 3</p>	<p>The project supports children with moderate and severe disabilities by improving their access to inclusive education [Non-Formal Education (NFE)] through identification, individual assessment, provision of assistive</p>	<p>Children with moderate to severe disabilities</p>	<p>175 children with moderate to severe disabilities (priority will be given to students enrolled in the previous phase of the project to ensure sustainability of education) 30 partners staff (Teachers+ multidisciplinary team members)</p>	<p>The Lebanese School for the Blind and the Deaf, Rayon D'espoir, The National Rehabilitation and Development Center, Mousawat association, The</p>	<p>Beirut, Mount Lebanon; Central Bekaa, Chouf</p>	<p>01/09/2023 to 30/06/2024</p>	<p>UNICEF</p>



devices/rehabilitation, and education and coordination with the Ministry of Education and Higher Education (MEHE) pilot inclusive schools.

40 education actors' members (mainstream schools, informal education centers ...) 1,000 Community Members Indirect beneficiaries are family members of children with severe and moderate disabilities receiving education and rehabilitation services as well as children benefitting from inclusive learning practices at large. The indirect beneficiaries are estimated to be 5,000 individuals.

Lebanese Union for People with Physical Disabilities

Inclusion
Moving Towards Inclusive Humanitarian Action: Empowering Stakeholders for Responsible and Evidence-Based Disability-Inclusive Actions in Lebanon

Supporting Disability mainstreaming in existing Protection coordination mechanisms and systems to improve their disability-inclusion capacities
Supporting the International and local humanitarian actors at organizational and project levels to the improvement of their disability-inclusive response;

3 organizations
Interagency coordination level is trained on disability Inclusion

3 organizations
90 humanitarian workers trained on disability inclusion

N/A

Tripoli and Akkar governorates (North Lebanon)

01/10/2023 to 31/05/2024

OCHA



Donors

<p>OCHA</p> 	<p>MOFALUX</p> 
<p>Centre de crise et de soutien</p> <p>Avec la participation de</p>  <p>MINISTÈRE DE L'EUROPE ET DES AFFAIRES ÉTRANGÈRES</p> <p><i>Liberté Égalité Fraternité</i></p>	<p>UNICEF</p> 
<p>AFD</p> 	<p>BUZA</p>  <p>Ministerie van Buitenlandse Zaken</p>