



Country card

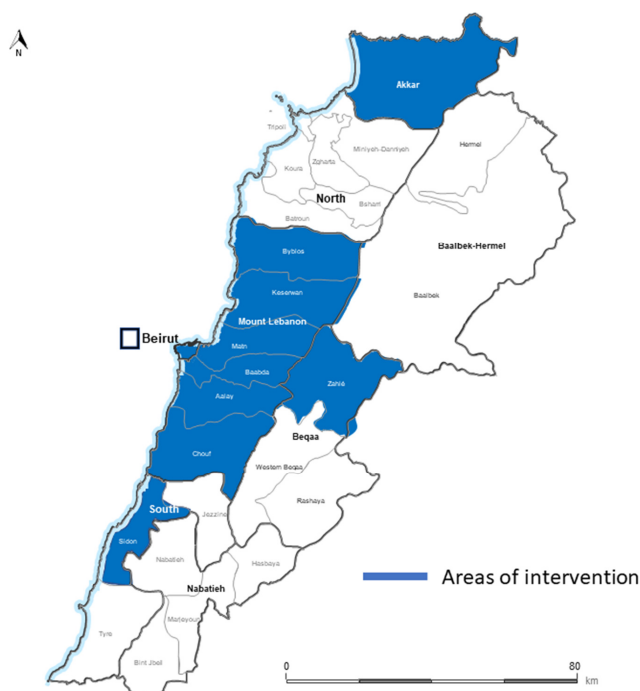
Lebanon 2024





HI Team and intervention areas

HI has 86 staff members in Lebanon.



Commenté [AT1]: update map, including South and Nabatieh Governorate (all south)

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
[currently under revision]	Yes: for comm & advocacy linked to Syrian crisis	No	Yes	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

Social/cultural/demographic elements

Since October 2023, Lebanon has been facing occasional attacks from Israel in retaliation for Hezbollah's support for Hamas and Palestine. While only the southern border of



Lebanon was targeted, over the months and the intensification of the war in Palestine, Israel has extended its operations in Lebanon. September 2024, Lebanon faced a large-scale military operation launched by Israel. Thousands of airstrikes targeting the South, Baalbeck-El Hermel, Chouf, Jezzine, Nabatieh, Keserwan, Saida, Tripoli, Zahlé and Beirut caused widespread destruction.

The Israel Defense Forces then launched a ground invasion and issued several evacuation orders in villages south of the Litani River. The destruction of civilian infrastructure, coupled with massive population displacement, disrupted public services, including healthcare, education, and social protection, and greatly affected the access of the most vulnerable to essential services.

A ceasefire was sealed in November 2024.

1. Social/cultural/economic/demographic elements

Lebanon is a multi-cultural, multi-religious country with 18 state-recognized religious groups: 4 Muslim, 12 Christian, 1 Druze, and 1 Jewish. The 2018 estimates by Lebanon Central Administration of Statistics indicate a population of 4.8M. The official language is Arabic, but many Lebanese speak French or English.

Lebanon has fertile lands and large forests and benefits from a moderate climate and abundant water resources. However, the agricultural sector is under-developed. Industry accounts for 13% of GDP in 2022. It is dominated by the manufacturing of agricultural products, metals, minerals, furniture and other manufactured goods. Offshore gas exploration and production agreements have been recently signed with an international consortium led by Total, and exploration was scheduled to begin in December 2019, however as of 2022 no exploration has started due to challenges of disputed waters with Israel.

Services are the dominant sector of Lebanese economy, representing 80% of the country's GDP in 2022 and employing more than two-thirds of the workforce. The banking sector was traditionally the mainstay of the economy, but it is going through a major crisis, the country facing an imminent risk of default. Tourism used to account for almost 20% of GDP and employs around 18% of the active population, however due to COVID-19 global pandemic, the rising insecurity linked to shortage of fuel and diesel for commodities resulted in a drop of almost 18%. However, summer 2023 marked an important increase in the numbers of passengers visiting Lebanon.

The massive influx of Syrian refugees (25% of the country's population) has shaken the country's demographic balance, labor market, and is putting pressure on the costs of rent, infrastructure and supply of public services (water and electricity). Unemployment has skyrocketed following the inflow of Syrian refugees, which are competing with Lebanese



workers in the informal sector and could hit over a quarter of the workforce. Over 90% of refugees live under the poverty line.

The country faces significant social inequalities. The situation has worsened since the financial crisis in the country in October 2019, with hundreds of thousands of jobs having been lost, businesses closing and poverty increasing.

2. Political context

Lebanon endured a destructive civil war from 1975 to 1990. The Ta'if Agreement of 1990 ended the war, establishing a power-sharing structure among Sunni and Shiite Muslims and Christians. Syria and Israel continued occupying parts of Lebanon post-war, with Syria withdrawing in 2005 after public outcry and international pressure following Prime Minister Rafiq Hariri's assassination.

In 2006, a conflict between Hezbollah and Israel, known as the 2006 Lebanon War, left significant damage and casualties. Political instability continued with clashes.

The Syrian civil war beginning in 2011 exacerbated Lebanon's sectarian tensions, leading to armed clashes and a refugee crisis. By 2016, Lebanon hosted 1.5 million Syrian refugees, straining its economy and social fabric. Persistent political turmoil, including a 29-month presidential void, was only temporarily resolved with Michel Aoun's election in 2016.

Following elections in 2018, Hezbollah's coalition gained parliamentary control, intensifying political challenges. The country's economic collapse in 2019, compounded by political divisions, led to a brief period of political stability but remains highly fragile amid ongoing internal and external pressures.

On August 4, 2020, a massive explosion at the Beirut port, caused by improperly stored ammonium nitrate, killed over 200 people and injured thousands, leading to Diab's resignation a week later. Lebanon's economic situation worsened, with the Lebanese pound losing 80% of its value, a 37% unemployment rate, and increasing poverty, leading to a significant rise in emigration.

As of late 2022, Lebanon faced an institutional vacuum after failing to elect a new president following the end of Aoun's term. Ongoing political deadlock delayed essential economic reforms, exacerbating the country's dire economic crisis, which is one of the most severe globally.

The World Bank indicates that Lebanon's economic collapse may rank among the worst since the 1850s.

Last major political event: Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah was killed in a bombing by Israeli Forces in September 2024. At the head of the movement for more than 30 years, Nasrallah was considered one of the most influential figures in the Middle East and a key



figure in Lebanese political life. It was under Hassan Nasrallah's mandate that Hezbollah became politicized and entered parliament in 1992.

Summary of HI presence in the country

HI's work in Lebanon aims at increasing the inclusion of people with disabilities and vulnerable people¹ in community life, both physically (for instance, by providing access to education and health services and infrastructure, etc.) and in terms of professional, cultural and social inclusion. The organisation also undertakes mine clearance work to protect the local population from the numerous explosive remnants of war from the 15-year civil war, which ended in 1990.

The Organization also provided emergency assistance in the crisis situations that have rocked the country and region, working as well with other actors and UN agencies in making sure operational plans and responses are inclusive and mindful of persons with disabilities.

In 2018, HI programs evolved, developing long term project with Mental Health and Inclusive Education, protracted crisis projects on Risk Education, Mine Action and Protection.

Over the past 10 years, Lebanon has been marked by successive crises that have disrupted the country's economy, access to basic services, inter-community relations, etc. For each of these crises (influx of Syrian refugees since 2012, political-socio-economic crisis in 2019, Covid-19 health crisis in 2020, explosion in the port of Beirut in 2020, conflict with Israel since October 2023), new humanitarian needs have been generated. HI has systematically positioned itself to meet these new needs, either by adapting its current programs or by developing emergency responses.

In the current context of high-intensity conflict and population displacement, HI has initiated an emergency response first by readjusting its ongoing regular projects to take into account new needs, then by developing a new intervention strategy to meet the considerable humanitarian needs. This strategy is based on HI's expertise in Lebanon and is structured around 4 main axes: basic needs, mental health, health, protection and EORE. In addition, HI is implementing a new area of intervention through Atlas Logistique.

¹ People whose independence, dignity or physical or mental integrity is at risk. Vulnerability may be caused by age, illness, infirmity, a physical or mental impairment, or pregnancy.



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
Mental Health Touching Minds Rasing Dignity phase 2 Towards flexible action for inclusive access to education and vocational training and the construction of a society sensitive to mental health issues and respect for people's rights	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 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	Local partners' technical staff, Mental Health stakeholders team, Women, men, and children, with or without disabilities, experiencing psychosocial distress and/or suffering from a mental health problem.	8000 beneficiaries	MOUSAWAT Association	Bekaa, Beirut and Mount Lebanon	01/01/2022 to 31/12/2025	AFD – co-funding from ECHO



	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 practices in the field of Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS)						
Inclusive Education Strengthening Disability Inclusion in Lebanese Public Schools through Assistive Technologies and Capacity Building	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 through provision of assistive technologies and rehabilitation services. It also focuses on parental engagement and capacity building of teachers to	Children with disabilities and learning difficulties enrolled in public schools	4,278 identified children 2,800 children who would receive Therapy 1,000 children who would receive AT=	Ministry of Education Service contracts with Rehab centers	Nation-wide	01/07/2022 to 30/11/2024	UNICEF



	reduce environmental barriers. Furthermore, this project will utilize Assistive Technologies (AT) to promote inclusive education		<p>2,850 children who would receive tablets</p> <p>2,850 caregivers</p> <p>800 MEHE and DOPs trained members</p> <p>Indirect beneficiaries benefiting from inclusive kits= total schools' students who would benefit from the education kit distribution = 38,400</p>				
(Inclusive SRH) Women and adolescent girls with Improved access to Livesaving quality and Affordable SRHR services, adapted to persons with Disabilities and conflict-Affected population in Beirut (WILADA)	The project aims to reduce maternal and infant mortality through an increase in the access, quality and inclusivity of SRHR services for vulnerable women and adolescent's girls including those with disabilities, with a strong integration of GBV and MHPSS.	Women and adolescents with disabilities	The action will target 7,736 persons, out of which 4,587 are women and adolescents girls and 507 of them have a disability.	MEDECINS DU MONDE, (MDM)	Greater Beirut	1/05/2024 to 30/04/2025	ECHO MDM



(IHA, Physical and functional rehabilitation, MHPSS, SRH) Support to acute and post-acute health care for vulnerable persons in Lebanon	Address unmet urgent health needs of extremely vulnerable persons in Lebanon for whom the unavailability of specialized services and disruption in the continuum of care put their lives at risk. The proposed action tackles the needs of persons with acute mental health disorders identified through a lifeline and an existing mental health project implemented by HI, and ii. persons have benefited from medical and surgical care (including lifesaving treatments) at hospital level and discharged with remaining functional limitations (inability to move, see, hear, communicate).	Local population, internally displaced, Refugees	2,559 (1,250 female, 1,309 male)	N/A	Bekaa, South, Mount Lebanon	01/04/2024 to 30/09/2025	ECHO



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<p>(IHA, MHPSS)</p> <p>Emergency Preparedness and early response to Internal Displacement Crisis Southern Lebanon</p>	<p>Anticipate and prepare for a potential surge of casualties and displacements in Southern Lebanon, through preparedness activities led by HI, with its partners and in close collaboration with other stakeholders.</p>	<p>Direct (Health facilities, health staff, civil society organization members, partner staff and people at risk who will receive EORE/CCP awareness)</p> <p>Indirect (Women, men, girls and boys affected by the conflict)</p>	<p>1,250 (1,200 internally displaced persons from southern Lebanon and 50 staff or volunteers from organizations supporting the emergency response to IDP crisis in southern Lebanon.)</p>	<p>Women's Humanitarian Organization (PWHO) - Also known as Sour Community Disability Center</p>	<p>Beirut Governorate (Beirut) South Governorate (Sidon) Mount Lebanon Governorate (Baabda) Nabatieh Governorate (Nabatieh)</p>	<p>09/11/2023 to 31/10/2024</p>	<p>MoFA Lux Emergency Preparedness</p>
<p>(Health (SRHR) and Protection (SGBV))</p> <p>Humanitarian Health & Inclusion response for the most vulnerable internally displaced people and host communities, including persons with disabilities, in Syria, Yemen and Lebanon. Humanity and Inclusion Canada – 2024-2026</p>	<p>Increase access to DGA sensitive multidisciplinary rehabilitation and Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS)</p> <p>Increase access to DGA inclusive, integrated Reproductive Health and Gender Based Violence (GBV) services</p>	<p>providing health and protection services to vulnerable populations. This includes persons with disabilities, injuries, and those with signs of psychological distress.</p>	<p>63,037 beneficiaries in Lebanon, Syria, Yemen</p>	<p>Palestinian Women's Humanitarian Organization (PWHO)</p> <p>Mousawat</p> <p>The Palestinian Red Crescent Society (PRCS) – Lebanon Branch</p> <p>ABAAD (Promotes Gender Equality)</p>	<p>Beirut; two Palestinian refugee camps (Shatila and Borj al Barajneh) and their surroundings.</p>	<p>12/08/2024 to 31/08/2026</p>	<p>GAC</p>



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Integrated emergency response for the crisis affected population in Gaza and Lebanon focusing on Land Release (LR), Education (EORE) and victim Assistance (VA)	The project component in Lebanon aims to conduct Explosive Ordnance Risk Education (EORE) activities primarily in South Lebanon, focusing on areas such as Nabatieh (12 km from the border), Saida-Zahrani, and Tyre, where internally displaced persons (IDPs) are located.	In Lebanon: 1 IDPs, hosting community member women, men, girls and boys, as well as humanitarian workers through the provision of targeted EORE/CPP awareness sessions. 2. IDPs and hosting Community at large through the provision of media awareness campaigns.	In South Lebanon (HI will reach approx. 531,480 individuals by mass media and 7500 individuals by direct EORE/CPP) In Mount Lebanon (Around 20,000 beneficiaries of Local Community should benefit from our Land Release activities in Aley.)	NA	South Lebanon, Mount Lebanon, and Gaza	08/03/2024 to 31/12/2024	GFFO
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Donors

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<p>ECHO</p>  <p>Funded by the European Union</p>	<p>German Federal Foreign Office - GFFO</p>  <p>german humanitarian assistance DEUTSCHE HUMANITÄRE HILFE</p>