

# Lebanon

## Baseline information

### Syria Needs Analysis Project

*This paper outlines the social and economic situation in Lebanon by explaining the causes of the significant underlying vulnerabilities and by exploring how these issues have been compounded by the crisis in Syria and the subsequent population influx. For more information on the current situation of the Syrian refugees in Lebanon see the SNAP [Regional Analysis Reports](#) which are published on a monthly basis.*

*The Syria Needs Analysis Project welcomes all information that could complement this report. For additional information, comments or questions please email [SNAP@ACAPS.org](mailto:SNAP@ACAPS.org)*

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### Overview

**Causes of underlying vulnerabilities:** Lebanon's economic indicators show that the country is highly developed in many aspects, with education and healthcare, for example, being of a relatively high standard. However, the disparity between the wealthy and the poor is vast and many communities found across different parts of the country live in poverty and are under-served by government infrastructure. Even in the suburbs of Beirut, government-provided electricity is only available for 12 hours a day, forcing families to spend money on expensive generators. Economic development is hampered by political instability, corruption, the lack of economic diversity and the high cost of the unreliable electricity supply.

The complex social fabric of Lebanon exists in delicate balance: underlying tensions between communities of differing religious and political loyalties are liable to erupt suddenly and with minimal provocation. This dynamic has greatly contributed to the conflicts that have marked the country's history and continue to flare up in pockets today. Lebanon's Government is a precarious alliance of confessionally divided politicians and, as each group attempts to defend its interests, impasses are common.

Concurrently, Lebanon is highly susceptible to the effects of the Middle East's political, social and economic tides. As a country that imports high percentages of

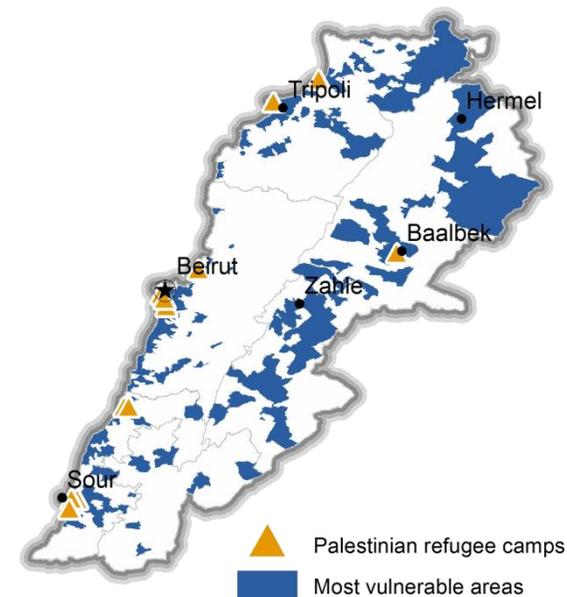
goods and whose economy is reliant on service industries and tourism, it is instantly affected by any changes in the region.

**Impact of the Syrian crisis:** Over the past two and half years, Lebanon has absorbed at least 800,000 Syrians fleeing the conflict. As Lebanon has, for the most part, adopted an open border policy, given its geographic and social proximity to Syria, it has become a natural destination for those fleeing the violence and economic hardship in Syria. The regional instability and the large population influx have put Lebanon under severe strain. Regional trade has adapted to the crisis situation, affecting Lebanon in multiple ways. Meanwhile, with proposals for formal refugee camps being blocked by the authorities, Syrians are living within host communities, either renting apartments; occupying unfinished buildings; gathering in collective shelters; or establishing informal tented settlements, bringing new dynamics to the country's economy and social fabric and compounding the pre-existing vulnerabilities. While the overall impact of the Syrian crisis and refugee influx is estimated to be negative, there are some, mostly short-term, positive effects, including the increase in availability of labour and consumption, which mostly benefits landlords and local businesses.

#### Most vulnerable groups and areas:

Disparities in Lebanon fall along geographic lines and the Syrian and Palestinian refugee populations have, for the most part, settled in areas inhabited by impoverished and vulnerable Lebanese communities where limited or non-existent service provision is then even further stretched. The most vulnerable areas include the highly impoverished North, the Bekaa, the South and the Palestinian refugee camps across the country. Several groups, including Lebanese female-headed households, Palestinians, and Syrian refugees are the most severely affected by any deterioration of the economic situation.

#### Most vulnerable areas\*



\*MOSA / UNICEF used a methodology that assessed the number of households with low income and the number of refugees to identify highly vulnerable areas.

## Country overview

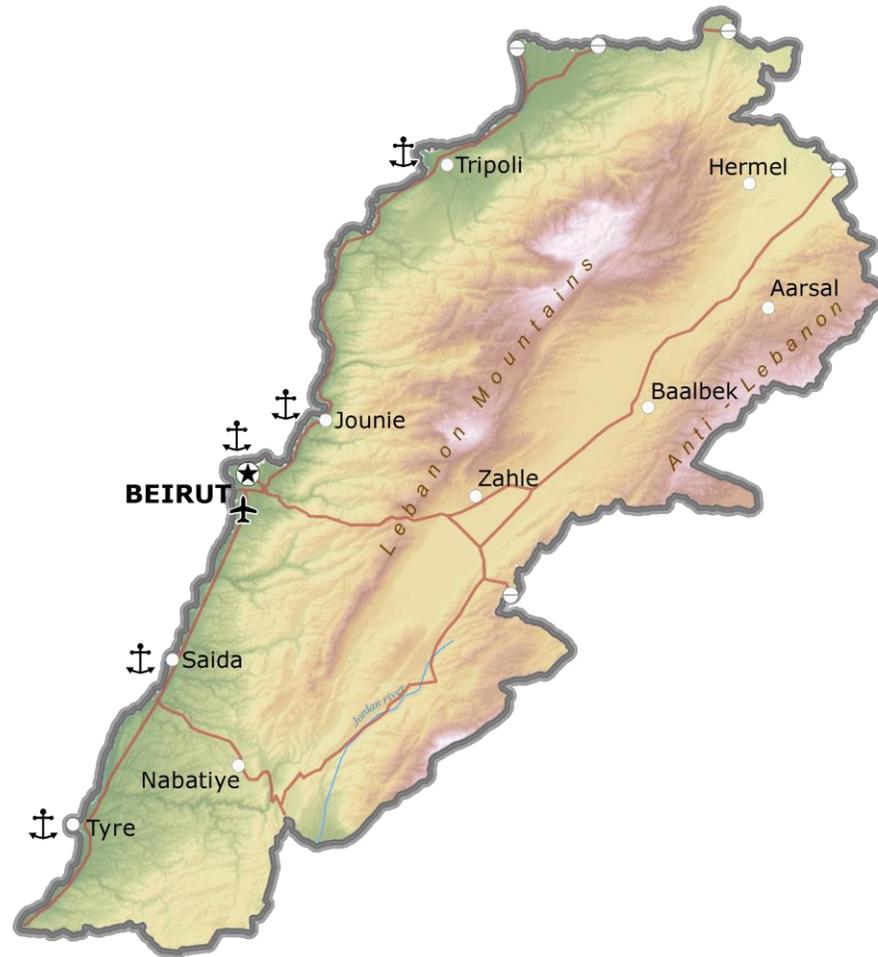
### Key underlying causes of vulnerability

**Governance:** The Lebanese Government has been in deadlock since March 2013, thereby further delaying the implementation of reforms. The long-standing ineffectiveness of the central Government has led to the presence of localised actors who provide services to the population. Law and order, for instance, can be undertaken by local-level supporters of political groups or kinship networks.

**Poverty and inequality:** Although only limited data is available, an estimated 25% of the Lebanese population live on less than USD 4 a day. There are significant regional inequalities in terms of access to public services, employment and infrastructure.

**Employment:** Unemployment rates are estimated at 10-15%, disproportionately affecting the youth and women. A significant percentage of employment is in the informal economy, which is estimated to be equivalent to 30% of GDP. Those working in the informal sector are vulnerable to exploitation and have limited access to basic rights.

**Health:** The health sector is largely privatised. While 50% of the population have medical insurance, the other half are reliant on the Ministry of Health reimbursing a share of the medical bill. Out-of-pocket costs are increasing and healthcare is unaffordable to a growing number of people.



### Impact of the Syrian crisis

**Public services:** The refugee influx has increased demand on services, including health services, education, electricity supply and waste disposal. In December 2012, for example, 40% of primary healthcare visits were made by Syrian refugees, putting more pressure on healthcare staff and equipment.

**Labour market:** The increase in available labour supply has caused more competition between Lebanese host communities and refugees, particularly affecting the wages and income opportunities of low skilled labours in the agricultural, service and construction sectors.

**Trade routes:** The conflict in Syria has disrupted traditional trade routes, affecting both the transport of goods to and through Syria, as well as the import of products from Syria.

**Positive effects:** Although the overall impact of the crisis on the economy is negative, positive effects have also been reported, including an increase in consumption and labour supply benefitting Lebanese companies. Exports from Lebanon to Syria have increased significantly, and for the first time, Lebanon has a positive trade balance with Syria.

## Country overview

### Key indicators

Indicator (2010)	Lebanon	Jordan	Syria
Total population	4.4 million*	6.2 million**	24 million
Under 5 mortality rate (per 1,000 births)	10	20	15
Maternal mortality rate (per 100,000 live births)	25	63	70
Life expectancy at birth (male)	77	72	72
Adult literacy rate	90%*	93%	83%

Sources: [Worldbank](#), [GeoHives](#), \*2012 estimate, \*\*2011

- **Population profile:** The Lebanese population reached 4.4 million in 2012, according to estimates by World Bank. Lebanon is one of the most densely populated countries in the world, with an average of over 400 people per square km of land. Around 90% of the population resided in an urban environment in 2011. ([World Bank 2012](#))

### Population density\*



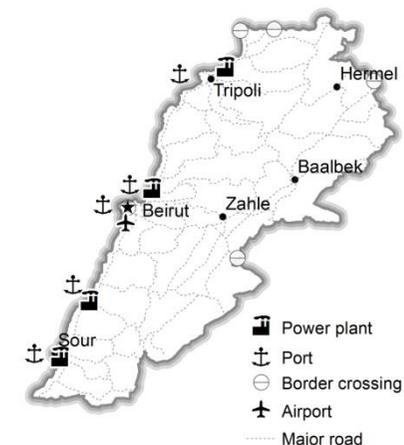
\*Central Administration of Statistics 2007

- The average household size countrywide was 4.3 in 2004, ranging from 3.8 in Beirut to 4.7 in the North. Fertility rates have decreased significantly from 6 births per woman during the period 1950-1955 to 1.5 births per woman from 2005 to 2010, partly due to increasing difficult economic conditions and security problems. ([PDS 2007](#), [UNDP 2012](#), [CAS 2009](#))
- **Socio-cultural characteristics:** Arabic is the official language and, as the majority of school subjects are taught in French or English, both languages are also widely spoken.
- There are 18 recognised religious sects, the most predominant of which are Sunni and Shia Muslims, Christians and Druze. There are also very small numbers of Jews, Baha'is, Buddhists, and Hindus. ([Global Security 2013/06/04](#))

## Access

- **Transport:** Although the Lebanese road system is extensive and 95% of the roads are paved, the road network is of poor quality, overburdened and not complimented by public transport. There is no longer a functioning rail network in the country.
- Maritime transport in is the most important mode for external trade and almost all imported and exported goods are shipped via Beirut port.
- During the winter months (December – March), heavy rain and storms wash away secondary roads and small bridges, while snow in the mountainous areas, especially in Daher al Beidar, can block roads. ([Log cluster](#))
- **Unstable security situation:** The highly unstable security situation across the country has impacted programmes and hindered humanitarian access. In 2012 and 2013, Beirut, Tripoli and the Bekaa have all been subject to IED explosions and the border region with Syria has been shelled frequently. Checkpoints are regularly put in place, particularly in the North and the Bekaa. Although relief actors are not directly targeted, the volatile situation is hampers aid delivery. ([UNFPA 2013/09/10](#), [UNHCR 2013/09/06](#))

### Key infrastructure\*



\*WFP logistics cluster, Electricité du Liban

## Information sources and gaps

- An overview of the main reports on the situation in Lebanon can be found in [Annex A](#). The Government regularly publishes statistics on the state of the population and economy. The [Ministry of Public Health](#), for instance, maintains an Early Warning and Response System (EWARS), where clinics and hospitals submit data on disease incidences on a weekly basis to the ministry.
- However, large information gaps remain, primarily related to:
  - Population statistics - a census has not been conducted in Lebanon since 1932.
  - Recent information on poverty levels: the most recent poverty study was completed in 2004. In addition, recent data on Lebanese households income and expenditure do not exist.
  - Protection: no information on prevalence of protection concerns (i.e. domestic violence, etc.) at a household level exists.

## Political developments

- **Background:** Lebanon is a parliamentary democratic republic, organised along confessional lines with parliamentary seats divided between confessional groups as defined in the 1932 census, when there was a Christian majority. The president is a Maronite Christian; the prime minister a Sunni; and the speaker of parliament a Shia. The Taef Agreement at the end of the Civil War saw executive powers redistributed among these positions. Lebanon has seen a significant change in the demographics of the country since 1932 yet no subsequent census has been undertaken and there has been widespread political resistance to an updated census that would reflect the current population figures of the various communities.
- The current Government consists of an alliance between the March 8 bloc (led by the Shia political parties Hezbollah and Amal and the Patriotic Movement) and allied Christian, Druze and Communist parties. The opposition is led by the March 14 coalition, which is headed by the Sunni Future party with its Christian Kataeb and Lebanese Forces allies, and other parties and independents. Politicians, who adhere strongly to their party's lines, head the various ministries and thus service provision and development are politically charged spheres. The Lebanese Army is considered to be the only organisation that unifies the sectarian groups, but the public is divided in its perceptions of the army's strength and validity.
- There have been no approved budgets since 2005. Reasons include political polarisation in Parliament and the dispute regarding extra-budgetary expenditures. In the absence of approved budgets for the years 2006-2013, Government expenditures have been incurred on the basis of the "one-twelfth rule", according to which the Government is authorised to spend monthly one twelfth of the last approved budget (*i.e.*, the 2005 budget) and other enabling legislation. ([MoF 2013](#))
- **Recent developments:** On 22 March 2013, Prime Minister Mikati announced his resignation and consequently the resignation of his government. The current cabinet is continuing in a caretaker capacity until the major political parties reach an agreement on the formation of a new government.
- Elections scheduled for mid-2013 were delayed until 2014 due to a political stalemate over redesigning the electoral law. Leading politicians have opposed holding elections under the 1960 law, which was enforced during the 2009 elections. Parliament has been unable to agree on a new law. ([Local media 2013](#))
- **Corruption and accountability:** Corruption in Lebanon is present across all sectors of society and all branches of government. Of the 176 countries assessed in the 'Transparency International Corruption Perception Index 2012', Lebanon was ranked 128<sup>th</sup> indicating high levels of corruption. According to the survey 'Administrative Corruption in Lebanon', 65% of companies registered in Lebanon paid bribes to 'facilitate and accelerate Government-related procedures', half of which paid Government officials on a regular basis. ([Lebanon Transparency Association 2011](#))
- In addition, public institutions are ineffective as political affiliations hinder accountability, with political elites appointing senior administrative civil servants and assigning public contracts. ([UNDP 2009](#), [UNDP 2009](#))

## Timeline

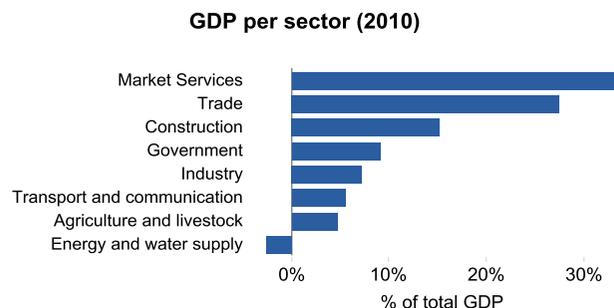
1975-1990	1982-2000	2005	2006	2007	2008	2011
Around 120,000 people are killed and over a million displaced during the 15 year long civil war.	The South Lebanon Conflict, mostly between the Israel Defence Forces and Hezbollah, results in over 400 civilian casualties. Israel withdraws in May 2000.	<b>February</b> Prime Minister Rafic Hariri is assassinated <b>April</b> In response to domestic and international pressure, Syrian troops withdraw from Lebanon.	<b>July - August</b> The July War takes place between Hezbollah and Israel, with Israel launching a major military attack, bombing the southern suburbs of Beirut, the Lebanese airport and parts of southern Lebanon, in response to the capture of 2 Israeli soldiers by Hezbollah on 12 July.	<b>May - September</b> Heavy clashes between Fatah al-Islam, and the Lebanese Armed Forces, primarily in Nahr al-Bared, an UNRWA Palestinian refugee camp. Over 400 people are killed.	<b>May</b> Clashes erupt between different groups throughout the country. The Doha Accord marks the end of these clashes and the 18-month long political crisis. The accord was followed by three years of relative stability and economic growth.	<b>March</b> Anti-Government demonstrations begin in Syria, leading to in a civil war and a large scale influx of refugees into neighbouring countries, including Lebanon

## Economy

- Lebanese economy overview:** Lebanon has a free market economy, with the costs of most goods and services determined mainly by supply and demand. The Government of Lebanon supports private investment, and public ownership has generally been limited to infrastructure and utilities. Banking, tourism and other services form the mainstay of the economy, while agriculture, although important, is becoming less significant. Lebanon imports more than it exports and is largely dependent on imports for food and fuel. Due to the dependence on imports and services (including banking and tourism), economic productivity is highly influenced by regional and international shocks. Since 2009, the Lebanese economy has witnessed a reduction in growth due to political and security uncertainties. This economic decline has been accelerated by the Syrian crisis and refugee influx, which have had a negative impact on economic growth and service provision. At the same time the crisis has some positive effects, including an increase in consumption (including by the humanitarian sector), labour supply and small-scale residential construction. In addition, exports from Lebanon to Syria have increased significantly, and for the first time Lebanon has a positive trade balance with Syria. However, this is outweighed by reduced foreign investment; reduced tourism; and increased demand on Government services (education, health etc.). Annex B outlines the key economic indicators for Lebanon

- GDP by sector:** The Lebanese economy is based primarily on the services sector (around 75% of GDP in 2010), which includes, according to the Ministry of Finances:

- market services, such as maintenance and repairs, hotels and restaurants
- various personal services, such as leisure and domestic care services
- healthcare
- education
- financial services
- Government services
- Transport and communications
- Trade (MoF 2013)



- Agriculture:** Agriculture provides around 5% of GDP and 6% of employment in Lebanon. The most fertile areas are located along the coastal strip and in the Bekaa valley. The diversity of the topography and climate enables cultivation of a wide variety of vegetables, fruits, industrial crops and cereals. In 2010, the contribution of

agriculture to GDP decreased to 4.7%, compared to 6.2% in 2007 due to higher prices of agricultural and other primary products. (MoF 2013)

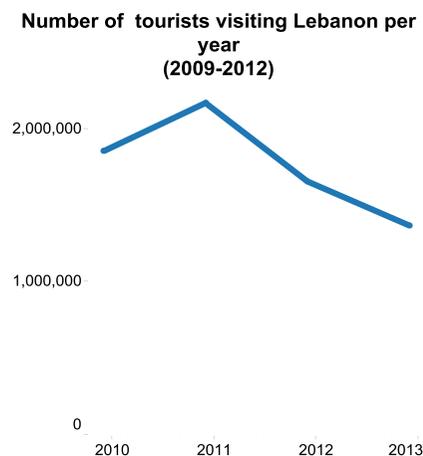
- Energy and water:** The energy and water sector has a negative contribution to GDP. As a net energy importer, approximately 96% of Lebanon's energy consumption is met through the importation of oil and gas. The cost of rehabilitating Lebanon's water distribution networks is estimated at as much as USD 1 billion. (PWC 2013)
- Informal economy:** The informal economy, the segment of an economy that is not taxed, is estimated to contribute 30% of GDP. (Byblos bank 2011)
- Macro-economics:** In 2005 and 2006, GDP growth witnessed a slowdown from 2004 levels following the assassination of Prime Minister Hariri and then again due to the negative impact on the economy of the July 2006 War with Israel, as well as the political tensions that followed. After the conflict, the Lebanese economy recovered and witnessed a boost following the Doha accords in 2008. In 2009, GDP growth started declining, mainly due to political instability. (Daily Star 2013/01/17, The Global Economy 2013, MoF 2013)
- Income per capita:** The latest estimate available for GDP per capita for Lebanon is USD 9,705 (2008 - 2012). During the same period, the GDP per capita for was USD 4,945 for Jordan and USD 3,289 for Syria. (World Bank 2013)
- Consumer confidence:** As the Lebanese economy is largely driven by private sector consumption and foreign investment, consumer confidence is of key importance to economic growth. Consumer confidence in Lebanon is heavily affected by security and political developments, whereas in many other countries confidence is based on macro-economic indicators such as unemployment rates. As a result, the economy is highly vulnerable to shocks, as illustrated by the economic contraction following major security events in 2005 and 2006.
- Trade deficit:** After decades of reconstruction following conflict related damage, Lebanon has persistent trade deficits, whereby the country imports far more commodities than it exports. Main exports are precious stones, metals, electrical equipment, chemical products, food and beverages and paper, while imports are oil, electrical equipment, precious stones and metals, chemical products, base metals, vehicles, food and beverages, vegetable products and animal products. Lebanon's main trading partners are the MENA countries, USA and Europe. The large trade deficits have generally been offset by capital account inflows, such as inflows from remittances and foreign direct investments. The trade deficit increased from USD 9.3 to 14.2 billion between 2009 and 2012. (Trading Economics 2013/09/10, MoF 2013)
- Exchange Rate:** The Lebanese Pound has been pegged to the US Dollar at a closing rate of approximately LBP 1,500 since September 1999. (MoF 2013)
- Recent economic decline:** Due structural economic problems compounded by the Syrian crisis, the economy's growth rate fell to around 2% in 2012 and foreign

direct investment went down by more than half compared to previous years. The growth rate of bank deposits, which is considered as a measure of economic well-being, has decreased by half. Consumer confidence decreased significantly, with both local and foreign investors less inclined to pursue new projects. (MoF 2013, The Lebanese Center for Policy Studies 2012/12, The Global Economy 2013)

- **Budget deficit and public debt:** Government expenditures are structurally higher than revenues, and a large ratio of deficit to GDP has been maintained. The fiscal balance registered a deficit of around 9% in 2012, as compared to a deficit of USD around 6% in 2011, representing a considerable increase. (Daily Star 2013/02/13, Trading Economic 2013/09/10, IMF 2013, MoF 2013)
- Having incurred a large public debt throughout the 1990s as the Government attempted to revitalise the economy following the civil war and due to running fiscal deficits from 2002, successive Governments had been aiming at reducing this debt. As of 31 December 2012, the gross public debt was USD 57.7 billion consisting of 58% of domestic debt and 42% external debt. (MoF 2013, MoF 2013)
- **Inflation:** In 2012, the inflation rate was estimated at 6.5% compared to 5% in 2011. The price increases between 2010 and 2012 mainly affected mainly shelter, fuel and food prices. The most expensive cities in Lebanon are Beirut and Zahle. (CAS 2013/07, IMF 2013, The Global Economy 2013, FAO 2013/04/03)

### Impact of the Syrian crisis

- **Tourism:** In 2011 and 2012, the inflow of tourists was adversely affected by regional turmoil, in particular, the events in Syria. (MoF 2013)
- **Projections:** After an assessment of the economic and social impact of the Syrian conflict, the World Bank estimates that by the end of 2014:
  - GDP growth will be cut by 2.9% each year between 2012-2014, resulting in large losses in terms of wages, profits and taxes.
  - Government revenue collection will decrease by USD 1.5 billion, while
  - Government expenditure will increase USD 1.1 billion due to increased demand for public services due to the influx of Syrian refugees. (WB 2013/09/20)
- **Positive impact of the crisis:** The conflict has also had positive effects on some sectors: revenues for the Beirut Port increased by 26% in 2013, as regional traders increasingly rely on Lebanese merchants and infrastructure. Lebanese



exports have replaced some Syrian exports: industrial exports increased by 13.5% between June 2012 and 2013. (Daily Star 2013/06/20, Al-akhbar 2013/06/17)

- There are also Lebanese who are benefiting economically from the influx - the arrival of aid agencies is injecting money into the local economy and creating job opportunities, local businesses are benefitting from the availability of cheap labour, whilst landlords and landowners are making significant profits on renting out land or living space. (World Vision 2013/07)

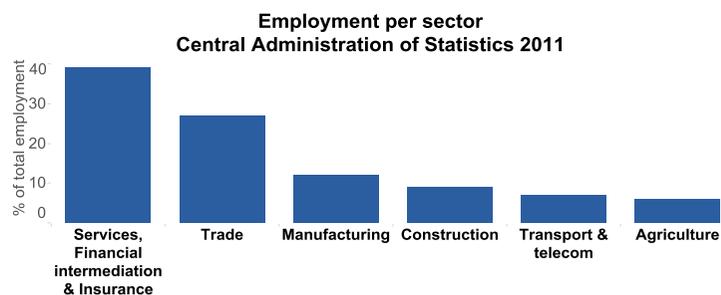
### Hazards

- **Political instability and vulnerability to a sectarian conflict:** Lebanon is extremely diverse religiously and politically, with 18 officially recognised religious groups in Lebanon. This complex religious and ethnic make-up has led to polarised ideological and political views. Sectarian divisions and closely linked political alliances have led to conflict on multiple occasions, most prominently during the 15 year long civil war between 1975 and 1990. Tensions remain high and have been exacerbated by the Syrian crisis as the conflict has spilt over into Lebanon with occasional armed clashes. In addition, some sections of the population support the Government of President Assad while others support the various opposition groups. (BBC 2013/06/20, VOA 2013/07/09, Peace Direct 2013, Global Security 2013/06/04)
- **Government capacity:** The Government of Lebanon has limited capacity to respond to emergencies, both in terms of assets (helicopters, ambulances, etc.) as well as skills. The lack of a functioning national disaster management plan and a lack of effective coordination among key institutions engaged in disaster response has been reported. (Log cluster, UNDP 2010)
- **Earthquakes:** Lebanon lies along the 1,000 km-long left-lateral Levant fault system (LFS) that is responsible for a significant number of seismic events. The fault line lies along the coastal area where most of Lebanon's population, cities and capital investments are concentrated. 20% of buildings across Lebanon risk collapse should an earthquake occur. Early in 2008, part of South Lebanon was shaken by a series of earthquakes, the largest of which on 15 February measured 5.1 on the Richter scale. (American University of Beirut 2011, Daily Star 2012/01/19)
- **Floods:** Floods are common in Lebanon, particularly in the Bekaa valley and are key to agricultural production as they replenish minerals in the soil. However, above average floods regularly cause a loss of agricultural production and population movements. The last major flood in 2003 affected 17,000 people. (Logistics Cluster n.d, Preventionweb 2010)
- **Wild fires:** Wild fires occur on a regular basis, primarily in Mount Lebanon and the North. Between 2004 and 2006, 390 fires occurred. (Logistics Cluster)

## Livelihoods and Food Security

### Livelihoods

- The main areas of employment are services, financial intermediation, insurance and trade.
- The labour market is characterised by:
  - A large number of migrants, mostly working in low skilled labour in the construction, agriculture and services sectors. Estimates of the number of foreign workers in Lebanon are up to 1 million. Most of these are Syrians who work without a required work permit.
  - A high prevalence of informal employment (an estimated 20% of workers).
  - High unemployment rates, primarily for those under 20 years of age. ([WB 2013/09](#), [IRIN 2012](#), [Executive 2009](#), [WB 2013/09](#))
- In a 2012 decree, the minimum monthly wage was set at LBP 675,000 (USD 450) and the minimum daily wage at LBP 30,000 (USD 20). However, not everyone is covered by this decree: migrant workers fall outside minimum wage regulations. ([Daily Star 2012/01/26](#), [LNF](#))
- Women and youth are underrepresented in the labour market. In 2011, only 21% of women were economically active (against 66% of men). Some of the reasons behind women's low activity rates include child bearing, cultural practices and household responsibilities. Lebanese youth below the age of 25 years suffer from weak integration into the labour market. Although there is a lack of data, estimates of unemployment in Lebanon range between 20% for those aged 15 to 20 compared to 4% for adults. ([Daily Star 2011/01/31](#), [CAS 2011](#))
- In 2010, only 37% of Palestinian refugees of working age were employed. Palestinians face large-scale legal and socio-economic obstacles to working in Lebanon. By law, Palestinians refugees are not allowed to follow professions in over 30 syndicates and 72 un-syndicated professions, including medical doctors, engineers, nurses and taxi drivers. With a signed contract from a company, Palestinians are able to obtain a work permit free of charge. Most Palestinians, however, are engaged in occupations that do not need work permits and many remain unaware of the procedures for regularising their status. ([AUB/UNRWA 2010](#), [ILO 2012/11/20](#))



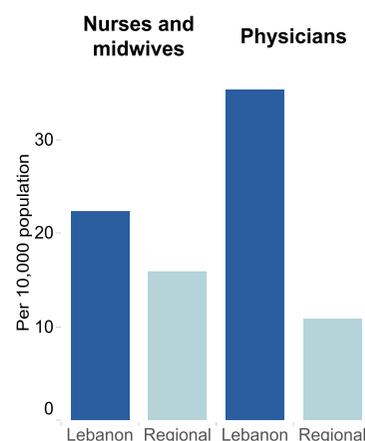
### Food security

- **Food import:** Lebanon is heavily dependent on imported food, with domestic cereal production only covering on average around 17% of consumption needs. The Black Sea region, including Ukraine and Russia, is the main grain source and all wheat is imported through Beirut Port. Inhabitants of the border towns in Lebanon are dependent on Syria as a major source of imported food products and other groceries. ([GIEWS 2013/08/07](#), [AUB 2011](#), [WFP 2013/03](#))
- **Food production:** Agricultural production is concentrated in the Bekaa, which accounts for 57% of the total area used for cereal production. The North hosts 40% of areas used for olive production in the country. ([MoE 2001](#), [FAO 2013/04/03](#))
- **Food access:** Lebanese flat bread is subsidised and is sold at LL 1,500 (USD 1) per 900 grams. Other products are not subsidised and food prices have increased significantly over recent years. The average Lebanese household spends 20-30% of their take-home pay on food. ([WFP 2013/03](#), [BankAudi 2013](#))
- Wheat reserves are kept in stocks on both a national and a household level. On a national level, public silos in Lebanon have the capacity to store around 2.5 months of national consumption. An assessment in August 2012 indicated that around 80% of respondents in the North had stock available. However, this stock covers less than 2 weeks of household consumption. ([DMI 2012/08](#), [Log cluster](#))
- **Poverty profile:** Based on a 2007 UNDP study, around 25% of the Lebanese population lives below the upper poverty line of USD 4 a day, 8% of which is under the lower poverty line of USD 2 a day. There are large geographical disparities – central Beirut only accounts for 1% of the total poor Lebanese. Poverty rates are significantly higher among female-headed households and those headed by an elderly person. In addition, the illiterate and/or unemployed are highly vulnerable to poverty. For those in employment, poverty continues to be more prevalent among agricultural workers and unskilled workers in services, construction and industrial sectors. Two thirds of Palestinian refugees are poor when using a poverty line of USD 6 a day: the poverty rate is higher amongst those in camps than those in gatherings. ([UNDP 2009](#), [UNDP 2007](#), [AUB/UNRWA 2010](#))
- **Impact of the Syrian crisis:** The influx of a large number of Syrians has increased supply of labour and demand for food items, leading to lower salaries for low skilled labour in some parts of the country and an increase in prices for basic commodities. In addition, the conflict in neighbouring Syria has impacted the livelihoods of those living in border areas as they face a decrease in cross-border transportation of food products and agricultural commodities. Overall, Lebanese exports experience difficulties due to the continuing conflict disrupting land routes and causing occasional border closures. The alternative route, by sea, is costlier and unsuitable for perishable products. ([FAO 2013/02](#))

## Health

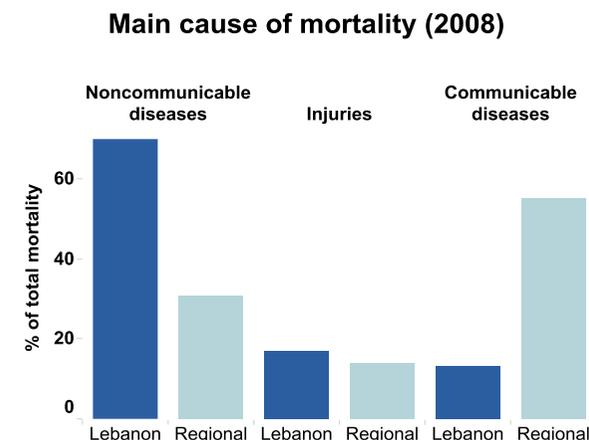
### Infrastructure and coverage

- **Infrastructure:** Most health service delivery is provided by the private sector - There are over 200 hospitals in Lebanon, of which 28 are public. Around 86% of hospital beds are privately owned, with only 14% in the public sector. ([WHO 2010](#), [WHO 2009](#), [MoH 2008](#))
- **Health expenditure:** Government spending on health is declining – the current budget (2012-13) of the Ministry of Public Health (MoPH) is half that of 2005 (from 12% of the budget in 2005 to 6% currently). Around 50% of the population has health insurance. Officially, the MoPH covers part of the bills of those uninsured: uninsured patients pay only 15% of the bill in private hospitals and 5% in public hospitals, with the MoPH reimbursing the remainder. There have been some reports of people being refused entry to hospitals.
- Healthcare costs are being increasingly shifted from the Government to individuals and thus households are forced to increase their own contribution to health costs, including doctor consultations and medicines, from 39% in 2005 to 43% in 2009. As a result of the increased costs, citizens from the Bekaa and the North often crossed the border into Syria to access health centres prior to 2012. ([BemoBank 2013/06](#), [WFP 2013/03](#), [WHO 2010](#), [WHO 2009](#), [WHO 2010](#), [WB 2013](#))
- **Human resources:** There are sufficient medical personnel trained in Lebanon, with around 35 registered physicians per 10,000 people. An estimated 20% of the physicians trained in Lebanon are working outside the country. ([WHO 2009](#), [WHO 2010](#))
- **Maternal health care:** Maternal healthcare is of a high standard, with 95.5% of pregnant women receiving prenatal care. 92% of all births take place in hospitals. The maternal mortality ratio dropped from 104 deaths to 86.3 deaths per 100,000 live births between 1993 and 2004. The majority of women (65%) use traditional methods of contraception, while 35% used modern methods. ([WHO 2007](#), [WHO 2010](#), [UNDP 2009](#))
- **Medicines:** The majority of registered medicines in Lebanon are imported, mostly from Europe and the US. They account for a 94% share of the pharmaceutical market and are imported by 85 importers. The private sector plays a prominent role in procurement and financing of medicines. ([WHO 2009](#))



### Morbidity and mortality:

- **Non-communicable diseases:** Cancer and heart failure account for the large majority of deaths in Lebanon. ([WHO 2010](#))
- **Communicable diseases:** Although mortality from diarrhoeal and upper respiratory diseases is very low, these diseases continue to cause significant morbidity in children and adults. Lebanon has been polio-free since 2002. However, measles remains a concern, with over 1,700 reported cases in 2013. Certain zoonotic diseases such as brucellosis, rabies and echinococcosis are a public health concern as well. ([WHO 2010](#), [WHO 2011](#), [MoPH 2013](#))
- **HIV:** Lebanon remains a low prevalence country for HIV, with around 1,000 cases in 2008. ([WHO 2010](#))
- **Mental health:** Findings of the World Mental Health Survey for Lebanon showed that mental disorders are common in Lebanon, some of which are caused by exposure to war-related traumatic events. A large number of individuals with mental disorders do not receive treatment. ([WHO 2010](#))
- **Nutrition:** Malnutrition has not been identified as a critical issue in Lebanon. Obesity, however, is of increasing concern, particularly among children. ([WHO 2010](#))
- **Disability:** In 2004, the prevalence of disabilities among the general population was estimated at 4% in 2004, with around 2% severe disabilities. This prevalence was expected to have increased due to the 2006 conflict, when at least 3,000 injured were admitted to the hospital. ([LFHS 2004](#))
- **Impact of the Syrian crisis:** The influx has led to an increase in demand for healthcare: in December 2012, 40% of primary healthcare visits were by Syrian refugees. This has resulted in localised shortages of specialised healthcare staff and pressure on equipment and resources, including available hospital beds. ([World Bank 2013/09/20](#))



## Protection

### Justice system and laws

- There are 4 main judicial systems:
  - The civil ('adli) system - includes criminal, commercial, and civil courts and the Court of Cassation
  - The Conseil D'Etat (Majlis Al-Shura) - the administrative system
  - The religious jurisdictional system – for family law
  - The military courts – these have a special criminal jurisdiction restricted to arms and ammunitions, crimes against national security, crimes committed in a military facility and certain specific crimes involving members of the military forces ([Lebanon Report 1997](#), [Library of Congress 2012/07/08](#))
- The justice system in Lebanon is subject to political pressures (both during court proceedings and when the political authority assigns the judges); bribery; slow proceedings; prolonged detention; prolonged hearings; and an insufficient number of judges. Security officials and military personnel benefit from impunity under certain laws, further reducing trust in the judicial system. ([OHCHR 2010/10](#))

### Abuse, torture and detention conditions

- There are reports of the Lebanese Internal Security Forces (ISF) using force to extract confessions, especially from security suspects. Mistreatment during detention has been reported and includes the use of torture in prisons and police stations, the arbitrary detention of foreigners, refugees and asylum seekers, and an overall lack of respect of the standards of detention and fair trial. Security suspects, drug users, sex workers, and lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) people in custody are the most vulnerable to maltreatment. ([HRW 2010](#), [Coalition of Civil Society Organizations 2010/11](#), [Amnesty 2013](#), [HRW 2013/06/26](#))
- Prisons, including pre-trial detention facilities, face numerous problems, chiefly overcrowding and poor sanitation conditions, increases in detainee numbers and the absence of a specialised authority for regular prisons. ([HRW 2010/11](#))

### Death Penalty

- In 2009, 43 persons were sentenced to death. The Criminal Code provides for the death penalty in cases specified in article 549. However, the courts often acknowledge mitigating circumstances and commute the death penalty to life imprisonment. ([HRW 2010/11](#), [Coalition of Civil Society Organizations 2010/11](#))

### Women's rights

- Lebanese law discriminates against women by, among other things, denying them the right to pass their nationality to their children or spouses. ([AUB 2012/05](#))

- Women face discrimination in the public sphere such as sexual harassment, restriction of movement, wages and social pressures arising from traditional norms. These practices emanate from an embedded cultural prioritisation of 'honour' and reputation; which is embedded in the penal code as a mitigating factor in 'honour killings'. ([OHCHR 2010/10](#))

### Child labour

- An estimated 2% of children aged 5-14 years were involved in child labour between 2002 and 2011. Many children work in hazardous conditions in the informal sector, including agriculture, metalwork and crafts, fishing, rock-cutting and tobacco cultivation, especially in remote areas ([Coalition of Civil Society Organizations 2010/11](#), [UNICEF 2012](#))

### Human Trafficking

- Although Lebanon acceded to the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, Lebanon remains a destination country for internationally trafficked persons. These are primarily women who are forced to work as domestic workers or into sexual exploitation. ([OHCHR 2010/10](#), [HRW 2010/11](#))

### Violence and criminality

- Since late 2004, Lebanon has suffered political instability and a decrease in security and citizens' safety. There has been a rapid proliferation of privately owned weapons in Lebanon; most people own at least light weapons for personal protection. Mid-2013 saw an increase in security incidents in Lebanon. On 23 August 2013, 2 bombs in the Lebanese city of Tripoli killed 47 people and wounded over 500. The attacks came just over a week after an attack in Beirut's southern suburbs in which 30 people died, the second in this district in 2013. As a result Lebanese security forces have increased their visible presence (checkpoints, etc.). ([OHCHR 2010/10](#))
- **Impact of the Syrian Crisis:** The Syrian conflict has spilt over into Lebanon and security incidents have been common in the north and Bekaa. Shelling and aerial bombardments are on-going, with opposition groups and Syrian Air Forces regularly targeting areas in the border region of Lebanon. Security is also affected by the increasing tensions between local communities. Kidnappings involving families from the Sunni-majority Eرسال and the Shia clans of the northern Bekaa valley have reportedly been on the rise since the beginning of the Syrian crisis. ([Daily Star 2013/08/05](#), [Daily Star 2013/09/14](#), [World Vision 2013/07](#), [Al-Akhbar 2013/09/09](#), [Daily Star 2013/09/09](#))

### Vulnerable groups:

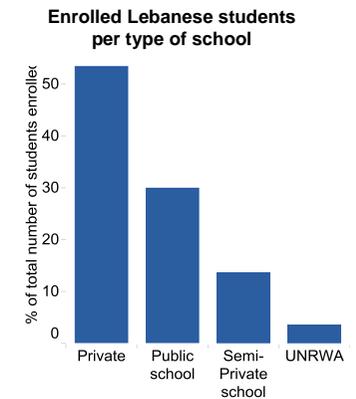
- **Migrant workers:** Although migrant workers constitute a significant proportion of the work force, they have limited protection under Lebanese Law. For

instance, they have only limited access to courts as they do not qualify for legal aid. They pay social security taxes, but are ineligible for any benefits. Migrant domestic workers who are not covered by the labour law often face exploitation and abuse, including underpayment or delayed payment of salaries; physical, verbal and sexual abuse; long working hours; no freedom of association; and confiscation of identity documents. ([Al-akhbar 2013/03/15](#), [HRW 2012/03/23](#)) ([HRW 2010](#), [Coalition of Civil Society Organizations 2010/11](#), [ILO 2010/05/26](#), [OHCHR 2010/10](#))

- **Refugees:** Lebanon hosts around 1 million Syrian refugees, according to Government estimates. Lebanon has not ratified the 1951 Refugee Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and protection mechanisms for refugees are considered weak. People who enter Lebanon through unofficial border crossings are considered as irregularly present in Lebanon and can be arrested and detained. In addition, many refugees who entered regularly cannot afford to renew their stay after 1 year, which potentially exposes them to arrest, detention, and restriction in freedom of movement. ([IRIN 2012/12/24](#))
- Around 280,000 Palestinian refugees, present in Lebanon before the Syrian crisis, remain subject to wide-ranging restrictions on housing and work, and lack information on regularising their status. Palestinian refugees face restrictions on property ownership and labour opportunities. Palestinian refugees from Syria (PRS) residing in Lebanon are particularly vulnerable as they often have little in the way of support networks. ([AUB 2010](#), [OHCHR 2010/10](#), [UNRWA 2011](#))
- In addition to Syrian and Palestinian refugees, Lebanon hosts some 10,000 refugees of other nationalities, primarily from Iraq. Most live in and around the Beirut area in impoverished circumstances. ([UNHCR 2013](#))
- **Persons with disabilities:** In 2000, Lebanon adopted Act No. 220 of 2000 on the rights of persons with disabilities. Under that law, the Rights and Access Program in Lebanon identifies persons with disabilities and provides a disability card that enables them to access free or subsidised services from both Government and non-state providers, including assistive devices and medical aid. However, the law is not fully implemented and access to education and health facilities remains of concern. The scale of the problem is difficult to estimate as there is a lack of updated data on the number and location of those with disabilities. ([Handicap International 2009](#), [Daily Star 2013/04](#))
- **Bedouins:** An estimated 100,000 – 150,000 Bedouins reside in Lebanon and, although originating from Lebanon, many remain stateless. This leaves them in a highly vulnerable situation - for instance, they cannot benefit from public health services and education. ([RSC 2010](#), [RSC 2011](#))

## Education

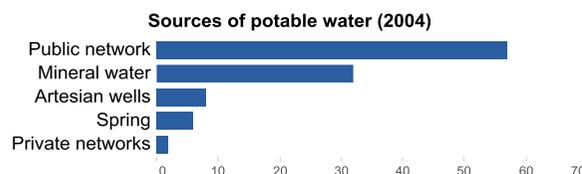
- The adult literacy rate (percentage of persons aged 15 and over who can read and write) was 90% between 2007 and 2011. The primary school net enrolment ratios between 2008 and 2011 was 94% for males 93% for females while the secondary school net enrolment ratio during 2008-2011 for males was 71% and for females was 79%. ([Trading Economics 2013](#), [UNICEF 2012](#))
- Drop-out rates among Palestinian refugees are higher than among Lebanese children because Palestinian children are major source of income for families. ([CCSO 2010/11](#))
- The educational structure in Lebanon is divided into general education, vocational and technical education and higher education. There are 430 vocational schools in Lebanon with over 59,000 registered students and 39 universities and institutes for higher education. ([War Child Holland 2013/05/16](#))
- General education includes:
  - Pre-elementary (3-6 years)
  - Elementary cycle grade 1-6 (6-12 years)
  - Intermediate cycle grade 7-9 (12-15 years)
  - Secondary cycle grade 10-12 (15-18 years)
- Apart from a registration fee (ranging from USD 47 to USD 80 depending on the level) state schools are free of charge. Tuition fees for semi-private schools range from USD 450 to USD 533 per year and are partly subsidised by the Ministry of Education and Higher Education (MoEHE). 289 out of the 363 semi-private schools are run by religious groups and the rest by either NGOs or private individuals. The tuition fees of private schools, which are not regulated by the MoEHE, range between \$1,500 and \$15,000 per year. ([War Child Holland 2013/05/16](#))
- Under Lebanese law, children with special needs are to be fully accepted into state schools. In practice, however, very few state schools are equipped to accommodate these children, lacking the necessary facilities, equipment, teaching aids and qualified special educators. ([War Child Holland 2013/05/16](#), [UNICEF 2012](#))
- **Impact of the Syrian crisis:** During the 2012/2013 school year, around 30,000 Syrian children were enrolled in state schools, leaving an estimated 90% of Syrian refugee children aged 6 to 17 out of school. The main barrier to education is the limited capacity of the state school system to absorb the large number of additional pupils. Only 35% of PRS children in Lebanon have enrolled in school. ([UNHCR 2013/09/06](#), [Oxfam/Abaad 2013/09/06](#), [Daily Star 2013/09/21](#), [UNRWA 2013/09/01](#))



## WASH

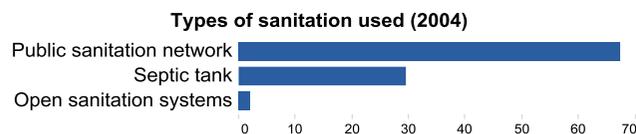
- Unlike most countries in the region, Lebanon has an adequate water supply, due to rainfall and several large rivers. However, mismanagement, including low water storage capacity; the high amount of water lost to the sea; poor maintenance of the water distribution network (40-50% of water is lost through leaks); and the lack of an official management scheme for the water sector means that some regions have an irregular supply of sufficient water. Particularly in the summer months, there are water shortages in several regions. (UN Habitat 2011, World Bank 10/2011)

- Water:** According to the World Bank, 79% of the population had access to the potable water network in 2009. The public network is the most commonly used source of water, however, water availability depends on the season, with only 7.6 and 13 hours/day in the summer and winter seasons respectively. Water is permanently available during winter in 45.5% of the residences that depend on the public network, and is only always available during the summer for 21.2% of residences. (GoL 2004, World Bank 2013)



- Water supplied to the highly urbanised Beirut and Mount Lebanon area, where approximately half of the Lebanese population lives, has steadily dwindled over the past 10 years with residents receiving as little as 3 hours per day of publically supplied water in the summer since 2005. Low-income households are more likely not to be connected to public water service due to their location in the Bekaa valley and the North. (World Bank 2013)

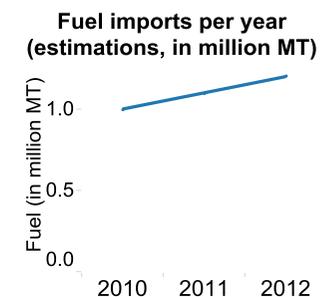
- Sanitation:** According to World Bank figures, as of January 2005, 98% of the population have access to improved sanitation facilities, with 87% of the rural population have access. (GoL 2004)



- Impact of the Syrian crisis:** With the large numbers of Syrians having entered the country, it is estimated that the demand for water has increased by 7% over the pre-crisis demand of 335 million cubic metres per year. The Bekaa valley and the North, traditionally less well-served by the public water system, are the areas with the highest influx of refugees, further exacerbating the impact of the crisis on the water sector. (World Bank 2013)

## Shelter

- Housing has long been a critical issue in Lebanon. Due to a lack of national development policies, weak decentralisation, a lack of finances and poor institutional capacities, settlements have been poorly planned. (UN Habitat 2009)
- The various crises that have hit Lebanon have led to large levels of internal displacement. A large number of displaced people live in illegal settlements in Beirut's suburbs. 53% of the urban population was living in slums in 2005, before the 2006 war with Israel that further displaced many thousands. (UN Habitat 2009)
- In 2004, 70% of households owned the property in which they resided, while the remainder rented or lived in a residence without paying charges. (GoL 2004)
- Around 8% of households in 2004 owned a secondary residence in Lebanon, and 60% of these secondary properties were vacant and unused. (GoL 2004)
- In 2009, a GoL survey found around 930,500 dwellings occupied by households as a primary residence. 43% of dwellings in Lebanon were found in the governorate of Mount Lebanon, where the largest part of the population lived, followed by the North with 18% of the dwellings and 20% of the population, and thirdly the Bekaa. Results suggested under-occupation in Beirut and Mount Lebanon and over-occupation mainly in the North. (GoL 2012)
- There are 12 official Palestinian refugee camps and around 39 informal Palestinian gatherings or unofficial settlements. The camps are extremely overcrowded as no further land has been allocated to them since 1948, despite large population growth. (UN Habitat 2009)
- Around 93% of the population has access to electricity. Electric power consumption in 2010 was 3,475.62 kWh per capita. However, power shortages are very frequent throughout the country and the country generates just 13 terawatt hours of electricity per year. The World Economic Forum ranked Lebanon 141st out of 142 countries in quality of electricity supply in 2011. By comparison, Cyprus, Israel and Syria placed 30th, 36th and 92nd, respectively. (World Bank 2010, World Bank 2012, Executive 2013/02/01)
- The main source of fuel is the import of petroleum products. Other sources of electricity are hydroelectric resources and the import of electricity and gas from Syria. (MoF 2013)

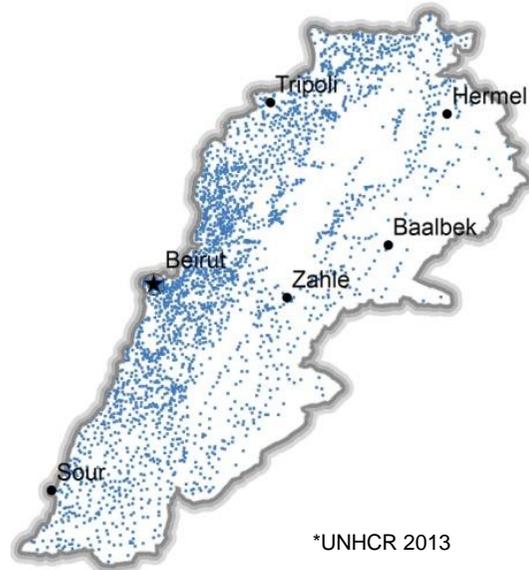


- **Impact of the Syrian crisis:**

As the GoL has not authorised the construction of refugee camps in response to the Syrian crisis, Syrians residing in Lebanon are living in urban environments, either renting residences or living in unfinished buildings, shopping centres, schools or informal tented settlements, where they have little access to services. In August 2013, 14% of the registered refugee population were residing in informal tented settlements. (UNHCR 2013/09/06)

- Overcrowding is becoming a significant problem, Syrian refugees already account for more than 30% of the population in at least 133 locations. Their presence has lead to increasing rent prices (44% increase in rental prices between June 2012 – June 2013), which affects Lebanese as well as Syrians. The poorest Lebanese are often not able to pay the rent increases and there are reports of people being forced to leave areas to make space for refugees. Refugees are often able to pay higher rents because several families agree to live in a single apartment. (CAS 2013/06, World Vision 2013/07)

**Communities hosting refugees from Syria\***



## Annex A - Key background documents

- 2004 – The National Survey of Household Living Conditions <http://www.cas.gov.lb/index.php/en/demographic-and-social-en>
- 2007 – The National Survey of Household Living Conditions <http://www.cas.gov.lb/index.php/en/demographic-and-social-en>
- 2007 – UNDP, Poverty, Growth and Income Distribution in Lebanon <http://www.undp.org.lb/communication/publications/>
- 2009 – UNICEF, Multi Indicator Cluster Survey, [http://www.cas.gov.lb/images/Mics3/CAS\\_MICS3\\_survey\\_2009.pdf](http://www.cas.gov.lb/images/Mics3/CAS_MICS3_survey_2009.pdf) (Arabic)
- 2010- Human Rights Council, Lebanon: Submission to the UN Universal Periodic Review [http://lib.ohchr.org/HRBodies/UPR/Documents/Session9/LB/JS2\\_PCI\\_PaxChristiInternational.pdf](http://lib.ohchr.org/HRBodies/UPR/Documents/Session9/LB/JS2_PCI_PaxChristiInternational.pdf)
- 2010 – IOM, Assessing Basic Socio-Economic Indicators in Northern Lebanon [http://publications.iom.int/bookstore/free/northern\\_lebanon\\_report\\_IOMBeirut.pdf](http://publications.iom.int/bookstore/free/northern_lebanon_report_IOMBeirut.pdf)
- 2010 - UNDP Disaster Risk Assessment in Lebanon – A Comprehensive Country Situation Analysis [http://www.gripweb.org/gripweb/sites/default/files/documents\\_publications/Lebanon\\_CSA%20-%20black.pdf](http://www.gripweb.org/gripweb/sites/default/files/documents_publications/Lebanon_CSA%20-%20black.pdf)
- 2010 – WHO, Country Cooperation Strategy for WHO and Lebanon [http://www.who.int/countryfocus/cooperation\\_strategy/ccs\\_lbn\\_en.pdf](http://www.who.int/countryfocus/cooperation_strategy/ccs_lbn_en.pdf)
- 2011 - Ministry of the Environment, Lebanon State of the Environment Report, <http://www.moe.gov.lb/getattachment/The-Ministry/Reports/State-Of-the-Environment-Report-2001/Chap-2-Agriculture.pdf.aspx>
- 2012 - UNDP, Rapid Assessment of Impact of Syrian Crisis on Socio-Economic Situation in North and Bekaa <http://data.unhcr.org/syrianrefugees/download.php?id=957>
- 2013, Joint Assessment, Lebanon Emergency Market Mapping and Analysis (EMMA) <http://reliefweb.int/report/lebanon/lebanon-emergency-market-mapping-and-analysis-emma-executive-briefing-analyses>
- 2013 - FAO, Agricultural Livelihoods and Food Security Impact Assessment and Response Plan for the Syria Crisis in the Neighbouring Countries of Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon and Turkey <http://www.fao.org/emergencies/resources/documents/resources-detail/en/c/173889/>
- 2013 – WFP, Syrian Refugees and Food Insecurity in Lebanon: Secondary Literature and Data desk review <http://documents.wfp.org/stellent/groups/public/documents/ena/wfp257003.pdf>
- 2013 – World Bank, Economic and social impact assessment of the Syrian conflict <http://documents.worldbank.org/curated/en/2013/09/18292074/lebanon-economic-social-impact-assessment-syrian-conflict>
- 2013- Ministry of Finance, Lebanon Country Profile 2013 <http://www.finance.gov.lb/enUS/finance/ReportsPublications/DocumentsAndReportsIssuedByMOF/Documents/Sovereign%20and%20Investment%20Reports/Country%20Profile/Lebanon%20Country%20Profile%202013.pdf>

## Annex B – Key macro-economic indicators

Subject	2012	2011	2010	2009
<b>GDP (billion USD):</b> the Gross Domestic Product of Lebanon is the total market value of all goods and services produced and sold on the territory of Lebanon. ( <a href="#">World Bank 2012</a> )	42.9	40.1	37.1	34.7
<b>GDP annual growth (%):</b> Economic growth in Lebanon and other countries is calculated as the change in the GDP from one year to the next. It measures whether production has increased or decreased, and by how much. ( <a href="#">World Bank 2012</a> )	1.4	3	7	8.5
<b>GDP per capita (USD):</b> The Gross Domestic Product per capita divided by the total population. ( <a href="#">World Bank 2012</a> )	9,705	9,148	8,552	8,159
<b>Inflation, average consumer prices (%):</b> Inflation is usually calculated as the percent change in the Consumer Price Index (CPI) from one year to the next. ( <a href="#">IMF 2013</a> )	6.5	5	4.5	1.2
<b>Balance of trade (billion USD):</b> The balance of trade is the difference between the monetary value of exports and imports in an economy over a certain period of time. A positive balance of trade is known as a trade surplus and a negative balance of trade is known as a trade deficit or a trade gap. ( <a href="#">EUROSTAT 2013/07/05</a> )	-14.2	-12.5	-10.8	-9.3
<b>Cash Deficit/Surplus (% of GDP)</b> cash surplus or deficit is revenue (including grants) minus expense, minus net acquisition of nonfinancial assets. ( <a href="#">World Bank 2013, MoF 2013</a> )	-9.5	-5.9	-7.7	-8.3
<b>Gross Public debt (% of GDP):</b> The debt incurred by the Lebanese Government, both internal and external. ( <a href="#">IMF 2013</a> )	140	138	142	148
<b>Unemployment rate:</b> Unemployment refers to the share of the labour force that is without work but available for and seeking employment. Definitions of labour force and unemployment differ by country. ( <a href="#">ESCWA 2013</a> )	10.3	9.5	8.6	8.7