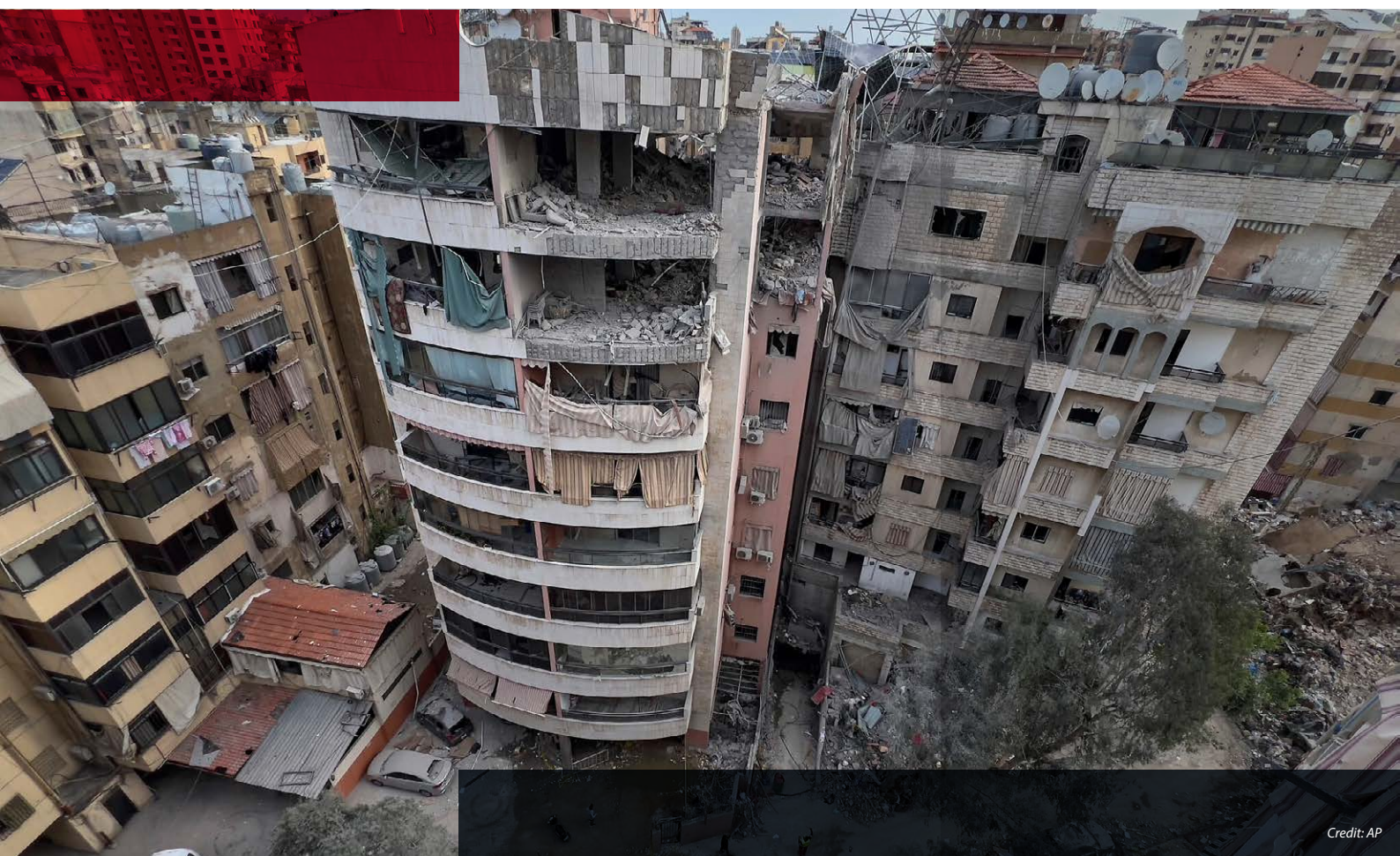


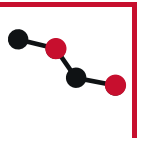
Lebanon at War

Crisis Update

April 2025



- 03 ● Key Takeaways
- 05 ● Conflict Updates
- 11 ● Economic Updates
- 13 ● Political Updates
- 15 ● Access to Services
- 17 ● Looking Forward



The Monthly Lebanon Crisis Update provides an overview of economic and political developments to alert the international aid response to new and emerging challenges that could impact the humanitarian situation in Lebanon. In the context of the multiple crises affecting Lebanon, the update tracks the impact of political developments on the economy, relevant international developments, updates on service delivery and governance issues, and analysis of the drivers of humanitarian need as they develop. The report also aims to provide nuanced forecasting on contextual shifts relevant to shifting needs and the implementation of humanitarian programming. The report draws upon a desk review of currently available literature, analysis of relevant quantitative data, and key informant interviews with a range of experts and individuals with knowledge of Lebanon's economy.

The Lebanon Crisis Analytics Team (LCAT) provides reactive and in-depth context analysis to inform the aid community in Lebanon. The information and analysis contained in this report is therefore strictly to inform humanitarian and development actors and associated policymaking on Lebanon.

This study/report is made possible by the support of the European Union Humanitarian Aid. The contents of this report are the sole responsibility of the LCAT and do not necessarily reflect the views of the European Union.



Key Takeaways:



- Israeli airstrikes targeting Lebanese territory tapered off in April compared to their post-cessation of hostilities (CoH) highpoint in March. Nevertheless, Israel escalated its campaign of targeted assassinations, killing 13 officials and operatives of Hezbollah and the organization's allies Hamas and Jamaa al-Islamiya. Israel also carried out two airstrikes in Beirut's southern suburbs over the past month – one was an unannounced assassination targeting a Hezbollah official, and the other was a strike on an alleged Hezbollah weapons cache following an evacuation warning. After the latter strike, Israeli leaders warned they would continue to strike anywhere in Lebanon and that they would not allow the southern Beirut suburbs to become a safe operating zone for Hezbollah.
- Israel expanded its military operations along the border with Lebanon, including the destruction of prefabricated housing units, as it seeks to enforce a de facto security zone. At least 28 people were killed by Israeli military actions in Lebanon throughout April. The number of people displaced by the conflict in Lebanon has remained largely stable since Israel withdrew its troops from southern towns and villages on February 18, amid persistent barriers to return, including Israeli military strikes.
- Lebanon's northeastern border with Syria remained relatively calm in April, though a brief exchange of cross-border fire on April 24 near Hermel injured eight Syrian refugees. About 36,180 Syrians had arrived in the North and Akkar as of April 22, including 4,915 between April 17 and 21.
- The parliament approved amendments to the Banking Secrecy Law submitted by the Council of Ministers, satisfying a key International Monetary Fund (IMF) requirement. The amended law will be applied retroactively, effective 10 years from its passage, authorizing state auditors and regulatory bodies to access banking data for all depositors.
- The World Bank and Lebanon have reached a preliminary agreement to increase Lebanon's reconstruction loan from USD 250 million to USD 400 million. Finance Minister Yassine Jaber also announced that talks are ongoing to secure a larger loan package of approximately USD 1 billion, repayable over 50 years, dedicated to the electricity, transportation, water, agriculture, and social affairs sectors.
- Lebanese Prime Minister Nawaf Salam paid his first official visit to Damascus as premier, holding talks with Syrian President Ahmad Al-Sharaa and Foreign Minister Asaad Al-Shaibani. The meetings tackled a range of issues including border security, anti-smuggling efforts, refugee returns, and judicial and trade cooperation. Both sides agreed to establish a joint ministerial committee to follow up on shared concerns. The visit followed a late March meeting between the Lebanese and Syrian defense ministers in Jeddah, amid heightened border tensions and recent cross-border clashes.
- The Lebanese government launched a project to rehabilitate the Beirut Airport Road. As part of the initiative, authorities also ordered the removal of all political and religious posters from public spaces within Beirut.



2025

APRIL

The Israeli Air Force targets Beirut's southern suburbs, killing a Hezbollah official and three other people



2

The Council of Ministers sends proposed amendments to the Banking Secrecy Law to parliament

Lebanese Prime Minister Nawaf Salam pays his first official visit to Damascus



14



16

The Ministry of Interior and Municipalities and Beirut Governorate order the removal of all political and religious posters and billboards from public spaces

The Council of Ministers sends the draft financial sector restructuring law to parliament



17



23

The World Bank reaches a preliminary agreement with Lebanon to increase its reconstruction loan from 250 million to 400 million US dollars

Parliament approves amendments to the Banking Secrecy Law



24



27

The Israeli Air Force strikes a weapons storage facility in Beirut's southern suburbs



Source: AFP

Conflict Updates :

Cessation of Hostilities

The Israeli military campaign in Lebanon, focused on preventing Hezbollah from rebuilding its armed capabilities, continued throughout April.¹ Although the Cessation of Hostilities (CoH), which took effect on November 27, 2024, prohibits offensive Israeli military actions, Tel Aviv has continued to expand its campaign against alleged Hezbollah weapons facilities and other perceived threats, backed by confidential US assurances.² On April 27, Israel bombed what it claimed was a depot in the southern suburbs of Beirut used by Hezbollah to store precision-guided missiles,³ an accusation denied by the party.⁴ The bombing caused no casualties and followed an Israeli evacuation warning that triggered the mass departure of residents from the area.⁵ The strike marked Israel's second targeting of an alleged weapons facility in the greater Beirut area since the CoH came into effect, following a March 28 attack on a depot Israel claimed was used to store unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs).⁶ Israel's sole April strike in the Bekaa Valley⁷ also came as part of the country's campaign against alleged Hezbollah weapon facilities, with Tel Aviv claiming that its bombing outside Baalbek⁸ on April 8 targeted a depot for the organization's aerial defense systems.⁹ On April 28, the Israeli military announced that it had targeted 50 Hezbollah sites in Lebanon throughout the month.¹⁰

¹ Times of Israel, [Strike on Beirut targeted a Hezbollah precision missile warehouse, says Israel](#) April 27, 2025;

Israel Defense Forces, [The Effort in the Northern Sector To Remove Threats and Prevent the Reestablishment of Hezbollah Continues](#) April 23, 2025

² Axios, [Israel and Lebanon agree on a ceasefire](#) November 26, 2024

³ L'Orient Today, [Aoun calls on France, US to 'force Israel to immediately end its attacks'](#) April 27, 2025;

Times of Israel, [Strike on Beirut targeted a Hezbollah precision missile warehouse, says Israel](#) April 27, 2025

⁴ The National, [Israel inflicts new wounds on Beirut as city reels from relentless attacks](#) April 28, 2025

⁵ L'Orient Today, [Aoun calls on France, US to 'force Israel to immediately end its attacks'](#) April 27, 2025;

NNA, [حركة نزوح كبيرة من المنطقة المهددة في الحدث](#) April 27, 2025

⁶ Reuters, [Israel conducts first strike on Beirut's southern suburbs since truce](#) March 28, 2025

⁷ LCAT logs all Israeli airstrikes reported by Lebanon's National News Agency, L'Orient Today, and Al-Mayadeen, and conducts geographical analyses on each.

⁸ NNA, [غارة على حوش تل صفية](#) April 8, 2025

⁹ Israeli military spokesperson Avichay Adraee via X, [أغارط طائرات حربية تابعة لسلح الجو](#) April 9, 2025

¹⁰ Israeli military spokesperson Avichay Adraee via X, [مشاهد من استهداف البنية التحتية](#) April 28, 2025

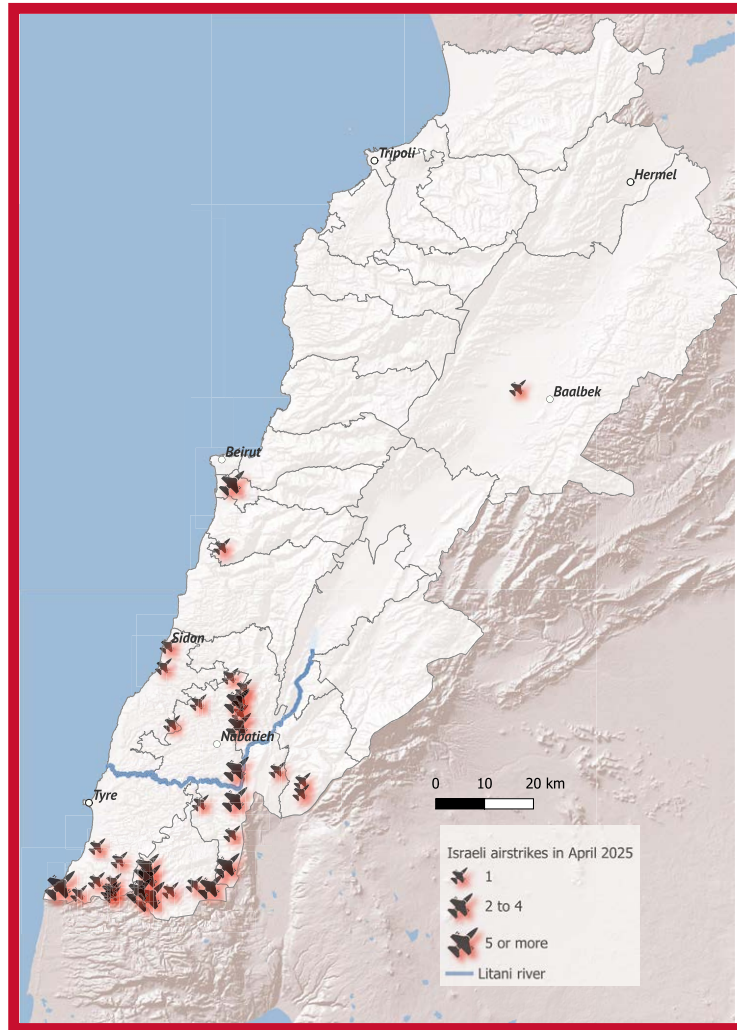


Figure 1: Israel's 71 airstrikes in Lebanon from April 1, 2025 through April 30, 2025.

On April 9, Israel accused Hezbollah of attempting to rebuild an underground weapons production site in the Choueifat suburbs south of Beirut.¹¹ The Lebanese Armed Forces (LAF) inspected the site the following day but reportedly found no military equipment.¹² The CoH calls for the disarmament of Hezbollah, starting south of the Litani river, and stipulates that only state security agencies can be armed throughout Lebanon.¹³ Hezbollah interprets the CoH's provisions as only having jurisdiction over Hezbollah's arms south of the Litani.¹⁴ The LAF had reportedly taken control of 190 of 265 Hezbollah military sites south of the Litani as of mid-April.¹⁵

¹¹ Israeli military spokesperson Avichay Adraee via X, [هكذا يحاول حزب الله إعمار موقع إنتاج في الضاحية الجنوبية](#), April 9, 2025

¹² L'Orient Today, [Choueifat Hezbollah military site: Are the Israeli accusations true?](#) April 10, 2025;

An-Nahar, [تغريدة أدعى تحرك الجيش اللبناني ولجنة المراقبة: تفشيش ثالث لمكان في الشويفات](#), April 10, 2025

¹³ The National, [Revealed: Full text of the Israel-Hezbollah ceasefire agreement](#) November 27, 2024

¹⁴ Al-Manar, [الشيخ قاسم: المقاومة ثبتت وانتصرت.. وملتزم بالإبقاء والإعمار](#), December 15, 2024

¹⁵ AFP, [Most Hezbollah military sites in south Lebanon under army control](#) April 12, 2025

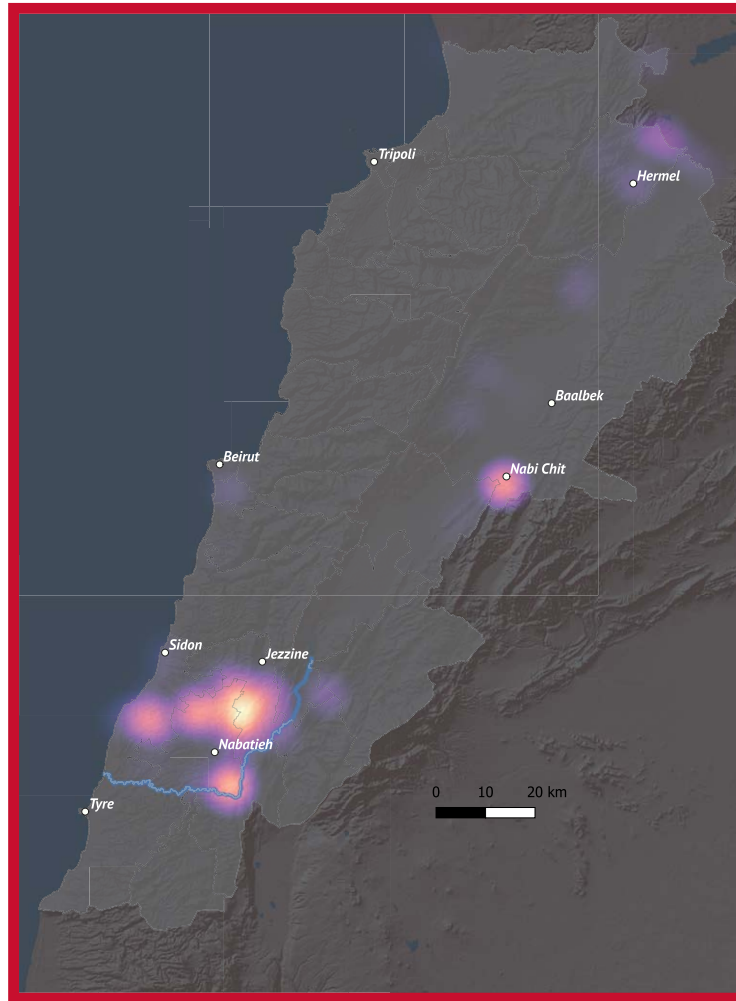


Figure 2: A heatmap of Israeli strikes north of the Litani river since the start of the CoH on November 27, 2024. Strikes are clustered in the remote valleys between Nabatieh and Jezzine, as well as around Nabi Chit near the Syrian border.

The frequency of Israeli airstrikes decreased in April compared to their peak in March, with a total of 71 strikes, 20 of which occurred north of the Litani.¹⁶ However, Israel escalated its targeted assassinations in Lebanon in April, conducting airstrikes against 11 Hezbollah officials, 1 from Hamas, and 1 from Jamaa al-Islamiya's Fajr Force – its highest monthly tally since restarting this campaign in mid-February.¹⁷ On April 1, Israel conducted its first targeted assassination in the greater Beirut area since the CoH came into effect, killing four – including a Hezbollah official – and injuring seven others in a strike targeting an apartment in the southern suburbs of the capital.¹⁸ Israel targeted a Hamas official on April 4 in Saida¹⁹ and a Jamaa al-Islamiya-Fajr Force official on April 22 in Baaouerta,²⁰ approximately 15 kilometers south of Beirut. The Israeli military also widened the geographic scope of its campaign, launching strikes in major urban areas and along roadways that had rarely or never been targeted since the start of the CoH.

¹⁶ LCAT logs all Israeli airstrikes reported by Lebanon's National News Agency, *L'Orient Today*, and *Al-Mayadeen*. LCAT logged 117 airstrikes in March 2025, 61 in February 2025, 29 in January 2025, 75 in December 2024, and 11 between November 27, 2024 and November 30, 2024. For context, Israel conducted an average of 297 strikes per month between November 2023 and August 2024, before the start of its widescale military campaign on September 23, 2024.

¹⁷ LCAT logs all reports of Israeli targeted assassinations against Hezbollah officials and officials of allied parties. LCAT does not include Israeli strikes targeting ostensibly low-ranking Hezbollah members and operatives in this tally. LCAT logged six targeted assassinations in March and five from February 15 through February 28.

¹⁸ *L'Orient Today*, [Who was Hassan Bdeir, a Hezbollah official killed in a new Israeli strike on the southern suburbs?](#) April 1, 2025;

NNA, [عمليات طوارئ الصحة: ارتفاع عدد شهداء الغارة على الضاحية](#) April 1, 2025

¹⁹ *L'Orient Today*, [Who was Hassan Farhat, Hamas local leader assassinated by Israel in Saida?](#) April 4, 2025

²⁰ *L'Orient Today*, [Israeli strikes kill two, including al-Jamaa al-Islamiya commander, in Chouf and Sour districts](#) April 22, 2025

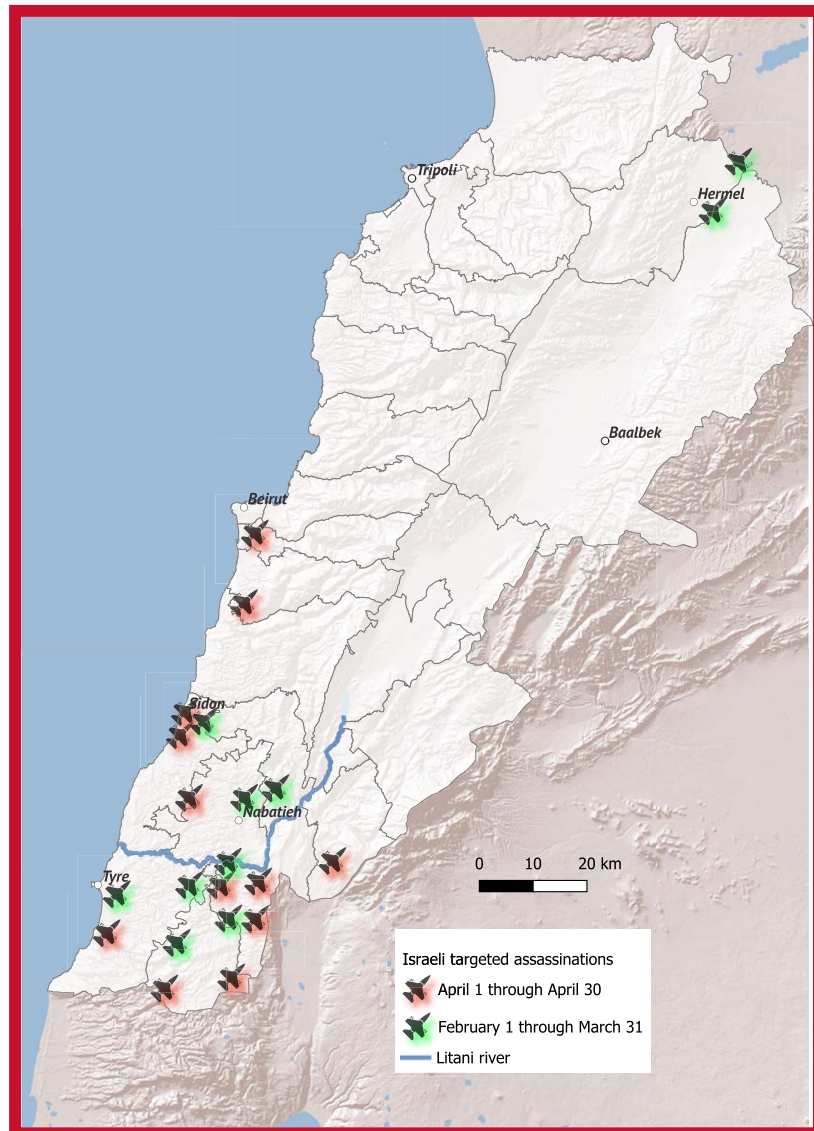


Figure 3: The locations of Israel's targeted assassinations since the start of the CoH.

Hezbollah has refrained from overt military action against Israel since early December. The organization has claimed only one attack against Israel since the start of the CoH – firing two mortar rounds on December 2 at the contested Shebaa Farms area claimed by Lebanon, Israel, and Syria²¹ – an action it called an initial and defensive warning.²² Since the start of the CoH, Hezbollah has deferred to the Lebanese state to pressure for Israel to stop its military actions in Lebanon. On April 28, Hezbollah Secretary-General Naim Qasem stated that his organization remains committed to the CoH and the LAF's deployment in southern Lebanon, urging the Lebanese government to take stronger action to ensure its implementation.²³

²¹ L'Orient Today, [To whom do Shebaa Farms belong?](#) January 24, 2024

²² NNA, [المقاومة الاسلامية "ردا على الخروقات الاسرائيلية"](#) December 2, 2024

²³ L'Orient Today, [Qasem: The strike on the southern suburbs is a political aggression aimed at changing the existing rules](#) April 28, 2025



On April 3, United States (US) Deputy Special Envoy to the Middle East Morgan Ortagus visited Lebanon and emphasized that the US requires the initiation of a nationwide plan to disarm Hezbollah as a condition for Israeli withdrawal and reconstruction.²⁴ Ortagus reaffirmed the US's continued support to the LAF, while also stressing that US support for Lebanon is contingent on reforms.²⁵ On April 30, President Joseph Aoun met with the new chairman of the ceasefire supervision committee, US Major General Michael Leeney, in the presence of his predecessor US Major General Jasper Jeffers and US ambassador to Lebanon Lisa Johnson. Aoun called for the committee to take on an expanded role in pressuring Israel to end its violations of the CoH.²⁶

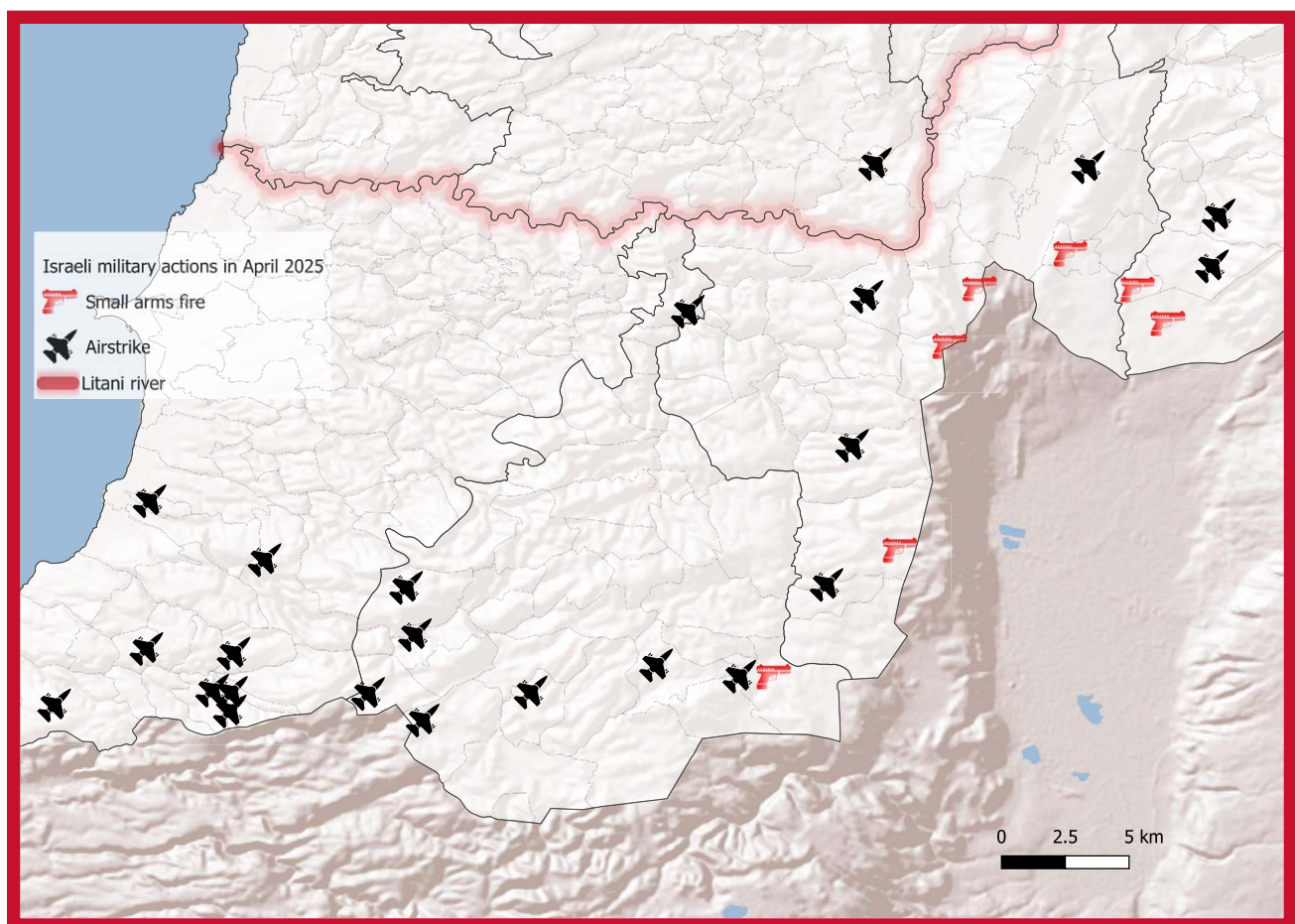


Figure 4: Israeli airstrikes and small arms fire in southern Lebanon in April 2025.

Israeli military actions in Lebanon's border regions continue to hinder the return of internally displaced persons (IDPs) and threaten reconstruction efforts. On April 2, Israeli Defense Minister Israel Katz said that his country would indefinitely enforce a vaguely delineated security strip on Lebanese territory that includes five Israeli hilltop military outposts.²⁷

²⁴ The Cradle, [US gives Lebanon ultimatum to disarm Hezbollah or face war: Report](#) April 3, 2025

²⁵ L'Orient Today, [Ortagus in Beirut: Hezbollah disarmament and economic reforms](#) April 6, 2025

²⁶ L'Orient Today, [Aoun meets new head of the cease-fire supervision committee](#) April 30, 2025

²⁷ Times of Israel, [In Lebanon, Katz says troops to stay 'without time limit' to defend border communities](#) April 2, 2025



Israeli troops regularly open small-arms fire along the border, including on April 8, when two people were injured near Mays al-Jabal during a Council of the South inspection of property damage.²⁸ Israeli UAV strikes targeted excavators and bulldozers working in the border region on at least five occasions throughout April. Israel has also waged a campaign of destroying prefabricated living units set up in the border region, conducting at least 20 strikes against these temporary structures in the past month, out of a total of at least 26 since the start of the CoH.²⁹ According to the Council of the South, Israel has destroyed 47 of the 102 prefabricated units that were installed in southern Lebanon.³⁰ Israeli troops also regularly deploy quadcopters over the border region to drop stun grenades, conducting 18 such attacks in April – the highest monthly tally since November 2024.³¹

As of April 16, 91,574 people remained displaced across Lebanon as a result of Israeli military action.³² The number of IDPs has remained relatively static since Israel completed its withdrawal from towns and villages in southern Lebanon on February 18, when 98,994 people remained displaced.³³ A total of 28 people were killed in Lebanon last month by Israeli military action.³⁴

Syria-Lebanon Clashes

The situation along Lebanon's northeastern border with Syria was relatively quiet in April following months of intermittent clashes since the fall of the Bashar al-Assad regime in Syria in early December 2024. On April 24, an exchange of fire erupted along the border north of Hermel. As with the clashes in and around Houch al-Sayyid Ali in March³⁵ – which left seven dead and 52 injured in Lebanon – the exact circumstances of the fighting remain unclear. The LAF announced that the exchange of fire originated from Lebanon due to smuggling activities, prompting the Syrian military to return fire.³⁶ Meanwhile, Syria's state news agency accused Hezbollah militants of opening artillery fire toward the Syrian military.³⁷ This echoed Syria's accusation in March, when it announced that Hezbollah militants took part in the fighting while media reports said the clashes involved Lebanese tribal members. Lebanon's state news agency reported that during this exchange of fire, an explosive-laden UAV detonated in Houch al-Sayyid Ali, injuring eight Syrian refugees.³⁸

²⁸ L'Orient Today, [Woman succumbs to injuries from Israeli strike in Sour; two injured by Israeli gunfire on Mais al-Jabal](#) April 8, 2025

²⁹ LCAT logs all Israeli airstrikes reported by Lebanon's National News Agency, *L'Orient Today*, and *Al-Mayadeen*, noting when they pose a barrier to return by targeting reconstruction activity, including the bombing of prefabricated housing units.

³⁰ L'Orient Today, [Truce talks in Cairo: Israeli source denies reported 'breakthrough'](#) April 29, 2025

³¹ LCAT logs all Israeli quadcopter attacks reported by Lebanon's National News Agency, *L'Orient Today*, and *Al-Mayadeen*. LCAT logged 18 such incidents in April 2025, 17 in March 2025, 7 in February 2025, 10 in January 2025, and none earlier in the CoH period starting on November 27, 2024.

³² IOM, [Mobility Snapshot - Round 85](#) April 17, 2025

³³ IOM, [Mobility Snapshot - Round 77](#) February 20, 2025

³⁴ LCAT logs all reports by the Lebanese Ministry of Public Health, National News Agency, *L'Orient Today*, and *Al-Mayadeen* of casualties caused by Israeli military actions. When reports differ between sources, LCAT uses figures reported by the Ministry of Public Health.

³⁵ Mercy Corps Lebanon, [March Crisis Update](#) April 4, 2025

³⁶ Lebanese Armed Forces, [الجيش ينفذ تدابير أمنية استثنائية على أثر الاشتباكات عند الحدود اللبنانية السورية](#) April 25, 2025

³⁷ SANA, [مصدر: وزارة الدفاع: لسانا: أطلقت ميليشيات حزب الله](#) April 24, 2025

³⁸ NNA, [إصابة 8 نازحين سوريين بجروح جراء انفجار درون مخفخة في حوش السيد](#) April 24, 2025



Source: NNA

Economic Updates:

On April 24, the parliament approved amendments to the Banking Secrecy Law, satisfying a key IMF requirement.³⁹ The law will take effect retroactively, dating back 10 years from its passage.⁴⁰ On April 2, the Council of Ministers sent the draft amendments to parliament, where deputies debated amendments to the seventh article in the original law – passed in 1956 – authorizing state auditors and regulatory bodies to access banking data for all depositors.⁴¹

On April 23, Minister of Finance Yassine Jaber reached a preliminary agreement with the World Bank to increase the value of its reconstruction loan to Lebanon from USD 250 million to USD 400 million. While visiting the US,⁴² the minister also stated that the World Bank and IMF are preparing a broader loan package for Lebanon worth about USD 1 billion, repayable over 50 years. If finalized, the package will likely be divided as follows: USD 250 million for electricity and transportation infrastructure, USD 256 million for water, USD 200 million for agriculture, and USD 200 million for social affairs.⁴³

Tourist arrivals to Lebanon in 2024 dropped by about 32% compared to 2023, largely due to the Israel-Hezbollah conflict.⁴⁴ The number of overall arrivals to Lebanon in the first quarter of 2025 declined by 1.42% compared to the same period in 2024, suggesting that the tourism sector is not on track to swiftly recover.⁴⁵

³⁹ NNA, [إقرار تعديلات قانون السرية المصرفية](#) April 24, 2025

⁴⁰ L'Orient Today, [Joint commission approves revision of banking secrecy rules](#) April 17, 2025

⁴¹ Lebanese Parliament, [اللجان المشتركة أقرت التعديلات على قانوني السرية المصرفية والنقد والتسليف](#) April 16, 2025

⁴² L'Orient Today, [Jaber holds several discussions in preparation for IMF, World Bank Spring meetings](#) April 14, 2025

⁴³ L'Orient Today, [Jaber announces increase of World Bank loan from \\$250 to \\$400 million](#) April 23, 2025

⁴⁴ L'Orient Today, [Lebanon's tourist arrivals drop 32 percent in 2024](#) February 20, 2025

⁴⁵ LBCI, [Beirut Airport sees over 1.25 million passengers in the first quarter of 2025](#) April 10, 2025



A pair of Israeli strikes in Beirut's southern suburbs since the CoH took effect on November 27 has likely discouraged tourists from planning trips to Lebanon's capital.⁴⁶ Despite this, the Association of Travel and Tourist Agents in Lebanon reported no significant impact on travel bookings following the first attack on March 28.⁴⁷

On April 24, the parliament authorized the issuance of LBP 500,000, LBP 1 million, LBP 2 million, and LBP 5 million banknotes.⁴⁸ Currently, Lebanon's largest banknote is worth LBP 100,000, equivalent to approximately USD 1.1, meaning the larger denomination notes should offer greater convenience when conducting transactions in LBP. The new banknotes, once released, are unlikely to affect the exchange rate, as the Central Bank is expected to introduce them gradually to replace the existing LBP supply.⁴⁹

⁴⁶ Addiyar, [إسرائيل تعاود قصف الضاحية... توسيع الحرب مجددا](#), April 27, 2025

⁴⁷ L'Orient Today, [Tourism sector on alert after Israeli strike on Beirut's southern suburb](#), April 2, 2025

⁴⁸ L'Orient Today, [Almost six years after the crisis, Lebanon finally decides to issue new banknotes](#), April 26, 2025

⁴⁹ LBCI, [New banknotes as part of currency reform: Lebanon to introduce LBP 500,000 and LBP 1 million bills](#), April 27, 2025



Source: AFP

Political Updates:

On April 14, Lebanese Prime Minister Nawaf Salam paid his first visit to Damascus as premier.⁵⁰ The prime minister's delegation met with Syrian President Ahmad Al-Sharaa and Foreign Minister Asaad Al-Shaibani to discuss strengthening bilateral relations, addressing issues such as border security, anti-smuggling efforts, land and maritime border demarcation, the safe return of refugees to Syria, the fate of missing and detained Lebanese nationals in Syria, as well as judicial, trade, and energy cooperation. Both sides agreed to form a joint ministerial committee⁵¹ to follow up on shared concerns.⁵² Salam's visit follows a late March meeting between the Syrian and Lebanese defense ministers in Jeddah, where they agreed to form specialized committees to enhance cooperation on key security and military issues. The meeting came amid heightened border tensions that escalated into two rounds of deadly cross-border clashes on February 6 and March 16.⁵³

Following the outbreak of hostilities along the Syrian coast in late March, tens of thousands of displaced Syrian nationals have fled to northern Lebanon. As of April 22, approximately 36,184 people had crossed into the North and Akkar governorates from Syria. Between April 17 and 21, an estimated 4,915 individuals were recorded arriving (either newly arriving or returning) in Lebanon through the north. In the Bekaa region, the Baalbek Disaster Risk Management (DRM) unit has recorded roughly 85,390 arrivals from Syria since December 8.⁵⁴

⁵⁰ NNA, [سalam اختتم زيارته لدمشق: من شأنها فتح صفحة جديدة في مسار العلاقات بين البلدين على قاعدة حسن الجوار والحفاظ على سيادة بلدينا](#), April 14, 2025

⁵¹ The ministerial committee – comprising the Ministries of Foreign Affairs, Defense, Interior, and Justice – is tasked with following up on matters of mutual concern between Lebanon and Syria, including lifting sanctions, attracting investment, facilitating refugee returns, and reopening land export routes.

⁵² Arab News, [Lebanon's Salam meets Al-Sharaa in Damascus to revive Syria ties](#) April 14, 2025

⁵³ Arab News, [Lebanese, Syrian defense ministers ink deal after border security talks](#) March 28, 2025

⁵⁴ UNHCR, [UNHCR Regional Flash Update #24 - Syria Situation Crisis \(25 April 2025\) - Syrian Arab Republic](#) April 25, 2025



The recent refugee influx has sparked communal tensions and drawn a sharp political backlash. Notably, Free Patriotic Movement leader Gebran Bassil denounced the presence of Syrian refugees as a “new kind of occupation” and called for the “unconditional return of all displaced Syrians”. Bassil also criticized the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, accusing the agency of driving the crisis by imposing what he described as “international guardianship” over decisions related to the return of Syrian nationals.⁵⁵

The Lebanese government announced that municipal elections will be held in South Lebanon and Nabatieh on May 24. According to the schedule released by the Ministry of Interior and Municipalities, elections are scheduled for May 4 in Mount Lebanon; May 11 in North Lebanon and Akkar; May 18 in Beirut, Beqaa, and Baalbek-Hermel; and May 24 in South Lebanon and Nabatieh.⁵⁶ To accommodate individuals displaced by ongoing Israeli military action in Lebanese towns along the border, the government announced that it has established alternative polling stations in neighboring villages for those unable to vote in their own towns.^{57,58}

With Mount Lebanon’s elections approaching, 40 of 333 municipal councils in the governorate have been formed through consensus, without holding elections.⁵⁹ In Beirut, the Future Movement’s withdrawal from municipal elections threatens to upend the equal distribution of seats along confessional lines, which has been maintained by convention.^{60,61} Previous attempts to legally divide the capital into two electoral districts for municipal elections have failed.⁶²

⁵⁵ NNA, [Bassil: It is not racism when we demand the return of a people to their land](#) April 26, 2025

⁵⁶ LBCI, [وزارة الداخلية تعلن تواريخ إجراء الانتخابات البلدية والإختبارية بحسب المحافظات](#), March 24, 2025;

IMLebanon, [البحر يوقع قرارات بشأن الانتخابات البلدية في الجنوب](#), April 25, 2025

⁵⁷ IMLebanon, [لا ضمانات أمنية لانتخابات الجنوب](#), April 30, 2025

⁵⁸ Almodon, [إطلاق غرفة العمليات للانتخابات.. سلام: خطوة في تفعيل اللامركزية](#), April 28, 2025;

LBCI, [الانتخابات البلدية في موعدها: الحكومة تؤكد الجاهزية وترى فيها خطوة نحو اللامركزية والتجديد السياسي](#), April 28, 2025

⁵⁹ Saida Online, [«بيروت على حافة التأجيل»... وهذه أكثر المعارك المناطقية الحامية!](#), April 27, 2025

⁶⁰ Almodon, [انتخابات بلدية بيروت: استحقاق المناصفة وهيمنة المحافظ واقتراح التقسيم](#), March 27, 2025;

Aliwaa, [انتخابات بيروت البلدية في مأزق بعد قرار الحريري بتركها عائلية | أرشيف المقالات](#), April 26, 2025

⁶¹ Predominantly Christian political parties are calling for equal confessional representation in the Beirut Municipal Council. Predominantly Muslim political parties and members of the Change Movement are pushing to amend Article 67 of the Municipal Law, which would strip the governor – a Greek Orthodox Christian – of executive powers and transfer them to the mayor and municipal council.

L’Orient Today, [The rise and fall of Beirut’s ‘Baladiye’](#), April 19, 2023

⁶² Asharq Al-Awsat, [المناصفة الطائفية في انتخابات بلدية بيروت يكتنفها الغموض ومخاوف من خلط الأوراق](#), April 28, 2025;

Saida Online, [«بيروت على حافة التأجيل»... وهذه أكثر المعارك المناطقية الحامية!](#), April 27, 2025



Source: L'Orient Today

Access to Services:

The National Social Security Fund (NSSF) announced that its coverage of pharmaceuticals and hospital rates has returned to pre-2019 levels. According to its April 17 statement, the NSSF has restored 90% of hospital coverage for surgeries, 80% coverage for 1,067 acute medications, and enhanced coverage for 3,200 chronic and incurable disease medication.⁶³ Days earlier on April 15, NSSF Director General Muhammad Karaki announced that the fund has increased coverage for radiation therapy and other cancer treatments. The NSSF also increased family allowances (LBP 1.2 million for a spouse, LBP 660,000 per child), a form of direct compensation for eligible individuals who have NSSF coverage.⁶⁴

On April 16, the Lebanese government launched a project to rehabilitate the Beirut Airport Road. The initiative includes repaving the roadway, installing new lighting poles, upgrading safety signage and crash barriers, servicing electromechanical systems, and landscaping.⁶⁵ The project is scheduled to be completed within two to three months.⁶⁶ The Ministry of Interior and Municipalities and the Beirut Governorate also ordered the removal of political and religious posters from public spaces and banned commercial advertisements on public property across Beirut, prioritizing the Airport Road for enforcement.⁶⁷

⁶³ NNA, [كركي: تغطية الدواء تعود إلى ما كانت عليه قبل الأزمة](#), April 17, 2025

⁶⁴ NNA, [كركي: زيادة تعرفه العلاج بالأشعة](#), April 15, 2025

⁶⁵ NNA, [\(UPDATE\) Salam Launches Beirut Airport Road Rehabilitation Project](#), April 16, 2025

⁶⁶ L'Orient Today, [Salam, Rassamny and Hout launch Airport Road rehabilitation project](#), April 16, 2025

⁶⁷ L'Orient Today, [Beirut begins removal of all religious and political banners](#), April 16, 2025;

Ministry of Information, [قرار سياسي بـ«تنظيف» بيروت وطريق مطارها من الصور والأعلام الحزبية](#), April 17, 2025



Throughout April, education sector workers staged protests demanding better working conditions and higher compensation. On April 7, employees of the Lebanese University staged a demonstration in front of the Ministry of Education demanding salary adjustments in line with those of other public sector workers.⁶⁸ On the same day, contract schoolteachers and administrative staff also demanded equal treatment regarding sick leave and compensation. The teachers also called for a clearer definition of their roles, which currently alternate between teaching and administrative duties.⁶⁹ On April 17, the Association of Contracted Teachers in Elementary Education protested outside the Ministry, where they called for a wage correction and denounced the government's decision to revoke their summer productivity allowances.⁷⁰ On April 24, over 2,000 teachers gathered in front of the Ministry to denounce the government's decision to discontinue their summer productivity stipend, arguing it creates a wage disparity between educators.⁷¹ On April 30, Minister of Education Reema Karame announced that secondary school exams would begin on July 9, despite the ongoing protests.⁷²

⁶⁸ NNA, موظفو الجامعة اللبنانية ومديروها اعتصموا امام وزارة التربية للمطالبة بانصافهم April 7, 2025

⁶⁹ NNA, الأساتذة الملحقون بوزارة التربية والإداريون المتعاقدون معها اعتصموا مطالبين بانصافهم April 7, 2025

⁷⁰ NNA, اعتصام لأساتذة الاساسي - اللجنة الفاعلة امام وزارة التربية رفضا لحرمانهم من بدل الانتاجية عن كل شهر في فصل الصيف April 17, 2025

⁷¹ NNA, رابطة الأساتذة المتعاقدين في التعليم الاساسي اعتصمت امام وزارة التربية احتجاجا على وقف دفع بدل الانتاجية April 24, 2025

⁷² NNA, كرامى: الامتحانات الرسمية بدءا من 9 تموز ولا مواد إختيارية بل تخفيض في مضامين عدد من المواد April 30, 2025



Looking Forward:



- Recent Israeli airstrikes and statements indicate that Tel Aviv will continue to escalate its campaign aimed at dismantling Hezbollah's military capacities. Following Israel's April 27 strike near Lebanon's capital, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said that his country would not allow the southern suburbs of Beirut to become a sanctuary for Hezbollah, indicating Tel Aviv is prepared to conduct more attacks in the densely populated area.⁷³ In the same statement, Netanyahu warned that his country would not allow Hezbollah to pose a threat to Israel from anywhere in Lebanon.⁷⁴ Humanitarian actors should not expect Israel's strikes to always follow warnings, as was the case in the most recent strike near Beirut. Israel's targeted assassinations have involved bombing targets on major roadways, including the highway leading north from Beirut, and leveling entire buildings within the municipal limits of Lebanon's capital. While not necessarily likely, humanitarian actors should not rule out Israel conducting limited strikes on Lebanese state infrastructure. For example, an April 8 article in the Saudi-owned Al-Arabiya and an April 14 article in the Jerusalem Post quoted Western security sources claiming that Iran was transferring weapons to Hezbollah via the Port of Beirut – potentially signaling that Israel might consider interdicting such alleged shipments.⁷⁵ Hezbollah, for its part, appears unlikely to retaliate in the near term, based on statements by its officials, who have maintained that it is the Lebanese state's responsibility to end Tel Aviv's military actions in Lebanon.
- Parallel to Israel's military actions, the US will continue to pile pressure on Lebanese leaders to disarm Hezbollah throughout Lebanon. President Aoun has stated that the decision on Hezbollah's disarmament has already been made, while emphasizing the need for dialogue with the group on the issue.⁷⁶ On April 18, Hezbollah Secretary-General Naim Qassem said that his organization would not bow to pressure to disarm north of the Litani river, but would be willing to discuss a national defense strategy with Aoun if Israel halted its military actions in Lebanon.⁷⁷ The following day, a Lebanese outlet cited US diplomatic sources as saying that Hezbollah's stance was obstructing progress and reconstruction in Lebanon.⁷⁸ The US has reportedly informed Lebanese leaders that much-needed international funding for the country's reconstruction and economic recovery is contingent on progress toward Hezbollah's nationwide disarmament.⁷⁹

⁷³ Times of Israel, [IDF strikes Hezbollah missile warehouse in Beirut, kills operative in south Lebanon](#) April 27, 2025

⁷⁴ *ibid.*

⁷⁵ Al-Arabiya, [مصدر أممي للعربية: حزب الله بات يستخدم المسار البحري لنقل الأسلحة للبنان](#) April 8, 2025;

⁷⁶ The Jerusalem Post, [Iran resumes smuggling arms to Hezbollah via Beirut's port](#) April 14, 2025

⁷⁷ NNA, [رئيس الجمهورية شارك والبلنانية الأولى في قداس اجد القيامة في بركي](#) April 20, 2025

⁷⁸ L'Orient Today, [Qassem: Hezbollah 'will not allow anyone to disarm it'](#) April 19, 2025;

⁷⁹ NNA, [نعيم قاسم: لن نسمح لأحد أن ينزع سلاح «حزب الله» أو سلاح المقاومة](#) April 18, 2025

⁷⁴ [مصادر أميركية لـ #الجدد: الخطاب التصعيدي ورفض حصص السلاح بيد الدولة يعيقان مسيرة النهوض في لبنان](#) April 19, 2025;

⁷⁵ [مصادر أميركية لـ #الجدد: تصريحات نعيم قاسم تُعرق إعادة الإعمار وتُعيق الجهود الدولية لوقف الاعتداءات ودفع الانسحاب الإسرائيلي](#) April 19, 2025

⁷⁶ [وزير الخارجية: أبلغنا بوضوح من قبل أورتاغوس بأن لا إعادة إعمار ومساعدات دولية قبل حصة السلاح شمال الليطاني وجنوبه](#) April 10, 2025



A domestic political standoff over Hezbollah's arms could also lead to a breakdown in consensus over other issues, such as the nascent efforts to enact financial and economic reforms. A prolonged and deepening political crisis on the issue could spill over into growing domestic tensions and strife, though Hezbollah has repeatedly voiced a conciliatory and supportive stance for Lebanon's new president and government since the start of the CoH.

- Amendments to the Banking Secrecy Law are an important step forward in implementing long-sought reforms but the arduous task of realizing financial sector reform that adheres to IMF requirements requires further, likely more difficult-to-achieve steps.⁸⁰ The details of the draft "law for resolving the situation of banks and reorganizing it" have yet to be made public, and meaningful financial sector restructuring will not be possible until the "financial gap" law is passed in the parliament.⁸¹ This law should determine the share of responsibility that the financial sector, the state, and depositors will assume in filling the gap created by the sector's losses.
- Lebanon is facing a sharp drop in annual rainfall, which will impact the availability of water for general consumption and limit supplies to the agricultural sector as the dry summer months draw nearer. The Ministry of Energy and Water is already working with regional water agencies and formulating an emergency response plan to improve institutional coordination⁸² but years of mismanagement and neglect – including inadequate infrastructure, uncontrolled waste dumping, and poor environmental planning – are set to compound the effects of the crisis. Demand for water deliveries via truck will likely surge, driving up costs and further burdening vulnerable households struggling to afford basic water access. Water shortages could also compromise the safety and quality of supply, likely increasing the risk of contamination and spread of waterborne diseases, such as cholera.

⁸⁰ Presidency of the Council of Ministers, [الرئيس سلام يتأخر جلسة لمجلس الوزراء](#) April 4, 2025

Presidency of the Council of Ministers, [جلسة 8 نيسان 2025](#) April 8, 2025

Presidency of the Council of Ministers, [الرئيس سلام يتأخر جلسة لمجلس الوزراء](#) April 11, 2025

Presidency of the Council of Ministers, [الرئيس سلام يتأخر جلسة لمجلس الوزراء](#) April 12, 2025

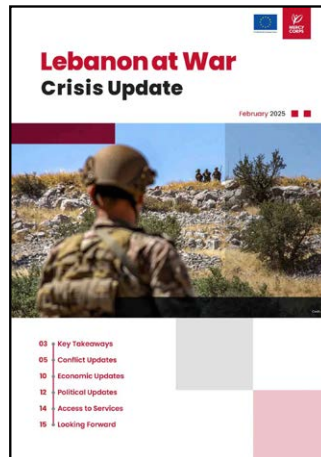
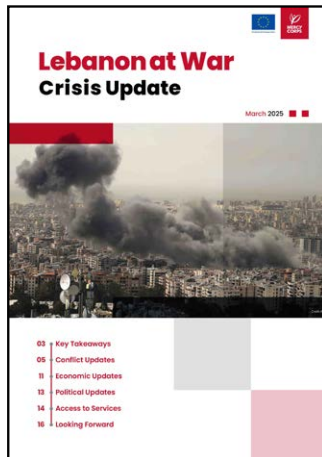
Presidency of the Council of Ministers, [الرئيس سلام يجلس جلسة لمجلس الوزراء في القصر الجمهوري](#) April 17, 2025

⁸¹ Presidency of the Council of Ministers, [جلسة 8 نيسان 2025](#) April 8, 2025

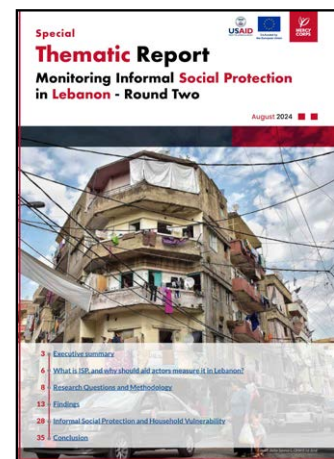
⁸² LBCI, [Lebanons Energy Minister says launching emergency plan to tackle water shortages during summer](#) April 9, 2025



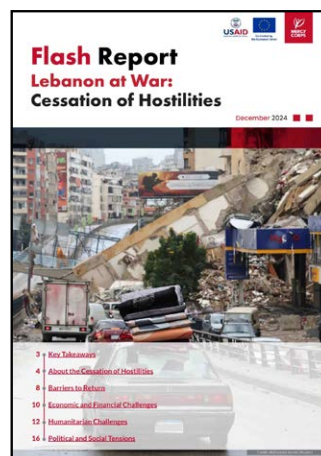
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