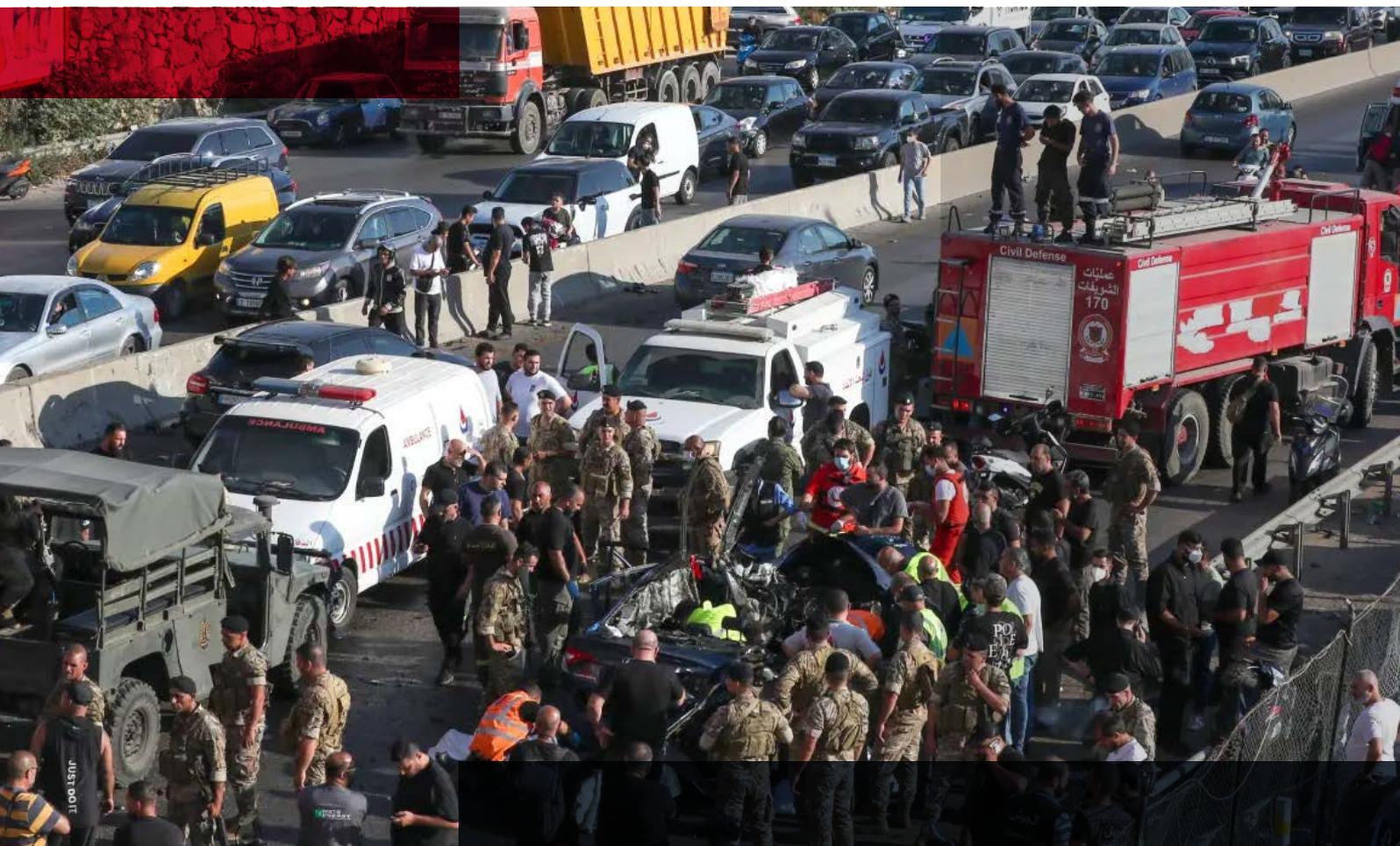
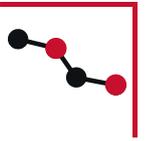


Lebanon Crisis Update

July 2025 ■ ■



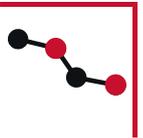
- 02 ● Key Takeaways
- 04 ● Conflict Updates
- 09 ● Economic Updates
- 11 ● Security Updates
- 12 ● Environmental Updates
- 13 ● Looking Forward



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.

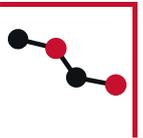
The Lebanon Crisis Analytics Team (LCAT) provides reactive and in-depth context analysis to inform the aid community in Lebanon. The information and analysis contained in this report is therefore strictly to inform humanitarian and development actors and associated policymaking on Lebanon.

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:

- Israel conducted 105 airstrikes in Lebanon in July, its second-highest tally since the Cessation of Hostilities (CoH) came into effect. On July 15, Israel carried out its deadliest bombing wave since the CoH came into effect, killing 12 and injuring 12 more in strikes in eastern Lebanon. Israeli troops' cross-border raids and controlled demolitions continue to hamper the return of internally displaced persons (IDPs) to the southern border region.
- United States Ambassador to Türkiye and Special Envoy for Syria Tom Barrack visited Lebanon twice in July to discuss a plan for the Lebanese government to take control of Hezbollah's weapons. This initiative is reportedly faltering, with Barrack on July 27 calling on Lebanon's government to assume responsibility and commit to Hezbollah's disarmament. The Council of Ministers convened on August 5 to discuss state policy on Hezbollah's armaments. Ministers tasked the Lebanese Armed Forces (LAF) with drawing up a plan to bring all arms under state control by the end of the year.
- Against a backdrop of intensifying heatwaves, severe drought, and a record number of wildfires, the Ministry of Environment launched a USD 3.5 million forest fire prevention project. The initiative supports early warning systems, training for first responders, and post-fire recovery, and contributes to wildfire prevention and rehabilitation programs.
- Lebanon's worsening [drought](#) conditions mean scarcer public water resources for households, agriculture, and energy production. Reservoirs and lakes such as Janaa and Qaraoun are heavily polluted or depleted, forcing hydroelectric plants to shut down, thus increasing dependence on private, and often unregulated, water sources.
- Parliament's Finance and Budget Committee approved the amended draft banking sector law, one of three interdependent pieces of legislation required to honor Lebanon's commitment to the International Monetary Fund (IMF) to introduce a financial reform plan. Committee head Ibrahim Kanaan called on the government to finalize the remaining draft laws on financial sector reform.
- Since mid-July, in a bid to regulate the non-sanctioned presence of Syrian nationals in Lebanon, the LAF and several municipalities have stepped up security measures, and have arrested some 500 individuals and imposed curfews. An initial voluntary repatriation convoy of 72 Syrians departed on July 29, part of a broader UN-backed return program for which 17,000 individuals have registered.



2025

JULY

The Ministry of Environment launches a USD 3.5 million forest fire prevention project

15



15

Israeli airstrikes in eastern Lebanon kill 12 people, the largest single-day toll since the cessation of hostilities (CoH) came into effect

The Shura Council suspends the new fuel tax

17



20



US Ambassador to Türkiye and Special Envoy for Syria Tom Barrack visits Lebanon for consultations on CoH implementation and proposed Hezbollah disarmament

Parliament's Finance and Budget Committee approves an amended version of the draft banking sector restructuring law

28



29



Lebanese authorities and UNHCR coordinate the voluntary return of 72 displaced Syrian nationals



Conflict Updates :

In July, as part of its campaign to dismantle Hezbollah's military capacities, Israel increased the tempo of airstrikes targeting the organization's operatives and infrastructure.¹ Although the CoH – in effect since November 27, 2024² – prohibits offensive Israeli military actions, Tel Aviv has continued its strikes, reportedly backed by confidential US assurances. On July 28, Israeli military officials said that they believed their country's military actions against Hezbollah could compel the organization to disarm throughout Lebanon.³ Throughout July, Israel conducted 105 airstrikes – its second-highest monthly tally since the start of the CoH – including 76 strikes north of the Litani River.⁴ On July 15, Israel conducted its deadliest bombing wave since the CoH was announced, killing 12 people and injuring 12 more in strikes in eastern Lebanon's Bekaa Valley that it said targeted Hezbollah training and weapon facilities.⁵

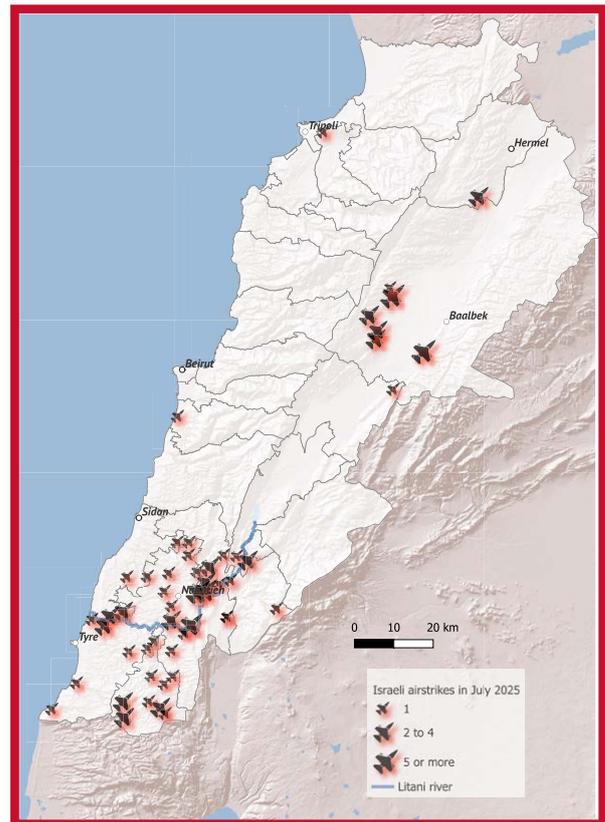


Figure 1: Israel's 105 airstrikes in Lebanon in July 2025.

¹ LCAT logs all Israeli airstrikes across Lebanon reported by Lebanon's National News Agency, *L'Orient Today*, and *Al-Mayadeen*. LCAT logged 105 airstrikes in July, 101 in June, 101 in May, 71 in April, 117 in March, 61 in February, 29 in January, 75 in December, and 11 from November 27 through 30.

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

³ Times of Israel, [IDF assesses successes against Hezbollah since ceasefire could lead to it disarming](#) July 28, 2025

⁴ LCAT logs all Israeli airstrikes across Lebanon reported by Lebanon's National News Agency, *L'Orient Today*, and *Al-Mayadeen*. LCAT logged 105 airstrikes in July, 101 in June, 101 in May, 71 in April, 117 in March, 61 in February, 29 in January, 75 in December, and 11 from November 27 through 30. LCAT logged 76 strikes north of the Litani in July, 74 in June, 53 in May, 20 in April, 79 in March, 44 in February, 16 in January, 32 in December, and 7 from November 27 through 30.

⁵ National News Agency, [طوارئ الصحة: حصيلة الغارات المعادية على محافظة البقاع وبعلبك الهرمل 12 شهيدا و 12 جرحا](#) July 15, 2025; Times of Israel, [12 said killed as Israel hits elite Hezbollah force deep inside Lebanon](#) July 15, 2025



Five Hezbollah members reportedly died in these strikes, which also killed seven Syrians, including a family of five.⁶ As part of its aerial military campaign, Israel also carried out 20 targeted assassinations of purported Hezbollah military operatives.⁷

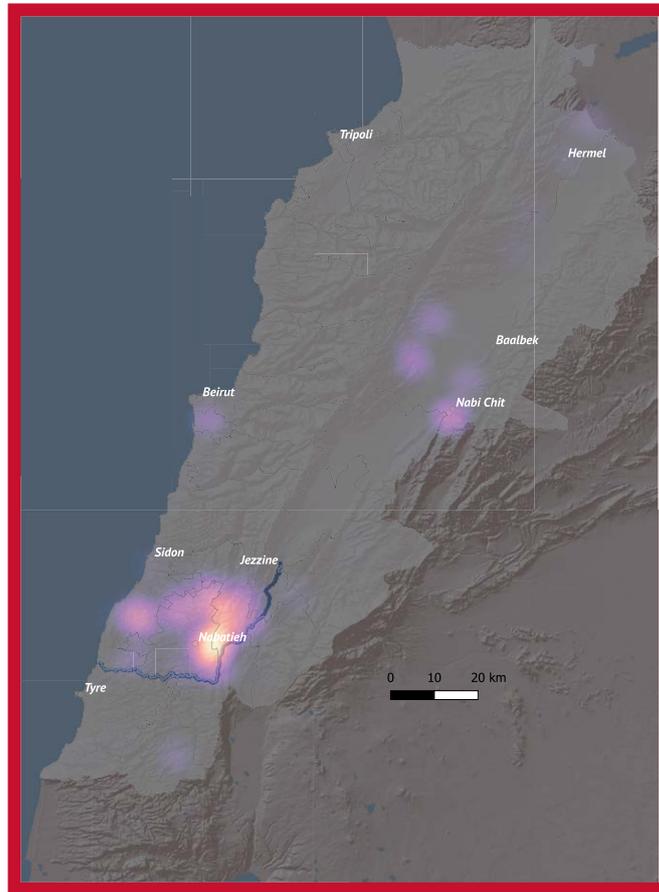


Figure 2: A heatmap of Israeli strikes north of the Litani River since the start of the CoH on November 27, 2024. Strikes are clustered in the remote valleys between Nabatieh and Jezzine, as well as around Nabi Chit near the Syrian border.

While Hezbollah condemns these strikes – including those in Bekaa on July 15, which it dubbed a massacre⁸ – the organization has refrained from retaliating. The organization has claimed only one attack against Israel since the start of the CoH – two mortar rounds fired on December 2 at the contested Shebaa Farms area claimed by Lebanon, Israel, and Syria⁹ – an action it called an “initial, defensive warning.”¹⁰ Hezbollah has otherwise deferred to the Lebanese state to pressure Israel to stop its military actions in Lebanon and withdraw from five Lebanese hilltops near the border. In a July 18 speech, Hezbollah Secretary-General Naim Qassem reiterated his party’s stance that Lebanese state authorities are responsible for defending Lebanon in line with the provisions of the CoH.¹¹

⁶ Reuters, [Israeli strikes on Lebanon kill 12, including five Hezbollah fighters](#) July 15, 2025;

Governor of Baalbek and Hermel Bachir Khodr (via X), [@bachirkhodr](#) July 15, 2025

⁷ LCAT logs all Israeli statements of targeted assassinations, cross-referencing them with Lebanese media reports.

⁸ National News Agency, [حزب الله دان المجزرة الصهيونية في وادي فعرا: العدو المجرم يحاول بالدم والنار الضغط على الإرادة الوطنية](#) July 15, 2025

⁹ L’Orient Today, [To whom do Shebaa Farms belong?](#) January 24, 2024

¹⁰ National News Agency, [ردا على الخروقات الاسرائيلية، المقاومة الاسلامية “ردا على الخروقات الاسرائيلية”](#) December 2, 2024

¹¹ National News Agency, [قاسم في تأييد علي كركي](#) July 18, 2025

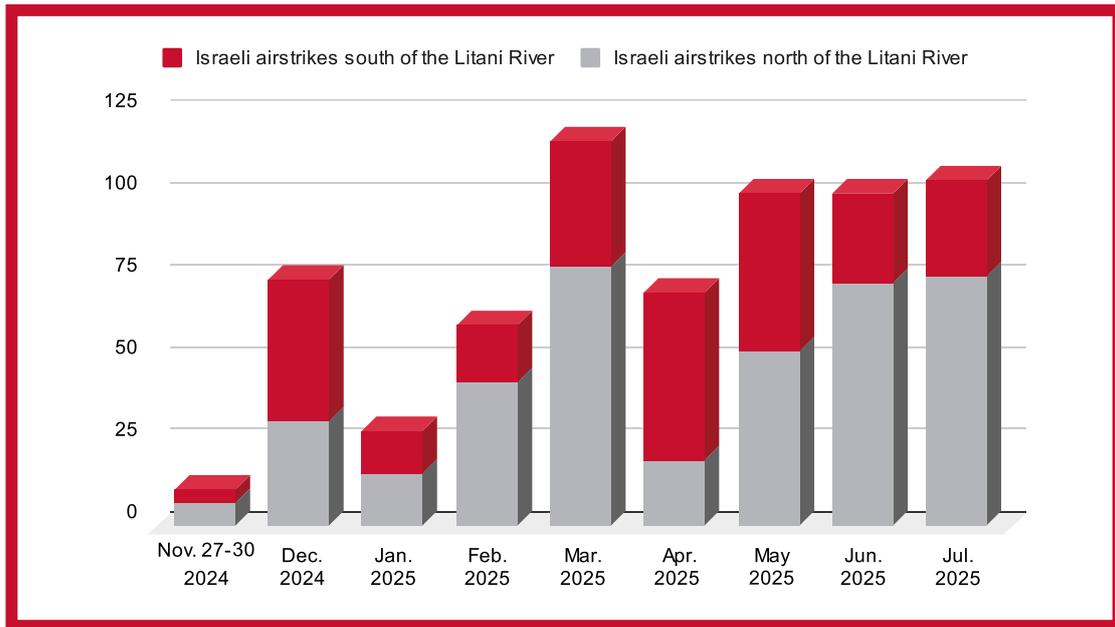
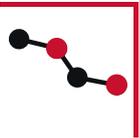


Figure 3: Israeli airstrikes in Lebanon since the CoH came into effect on November 27, 2024.

The CoH calls for the disarmament of Hezbollah, starting south of the Litani River, and stipulates that only the LAF and state security agencies can be armed throughout Lebanon.¹² Hezbollah interprets the CoH's provisions as only applying to its arms south of the Litani.¹³ On July 30, Hezbollah Secretary-General Qassem stated that his organization would not hand over its weapons as demanded by Israel, adding that the US was attempting to intimidate Lebanon.¹⁴ The LAF have reportedly dismantled approximately 90% of Hezbollah's military sites south of the Litani.¹⁵

US Ambassador to Türkiye and Special Envoy for Syria Tom Barrack visited Lebanon twice in July for talks with Lebanese authorities on Washington's proposal for the nationwide disarmament of Hezbollah.¹⁶ Prior to his first trip from July 7 to 8, the US envoy called the CoH a "complete failure" due to both Hezbollah's alleged violations of the armistice – a reference to the organization not disarming nationwide – and Israel's continued airstrikes.¹⁷ Media reports and contradictory statements have circulated over Washington's proposed roadmap and Lebanon's responses, which have not been made public. During his second trip from July 20 to 23, Barrack reportedly received a Lebanese proposal for Israel to halt its military strikes in Lebanon as an initial step to facilitate efforts to disarm Hezbollah,¹⁸ which Tel Aviv rejected.¹⁹

¹² The National, [Revealed: Full text of the Israel-Hezbollah ceasefire agreement](#) November 27, 2024

¹³ Al Modon, [نعيم قاسم: نلتزم بالإبقاء والإعمار.. وسنكون إلى جانب سوريا](#) December 5, 2024

¹⁴ National News Agency, [قاسم: لن نسمح لإسرائيل بهزيمتنا ومسألة السلاح هي شأن داخلي ولبنان اليوم أمام تهديد وجودي](#) July 30, 2025

¹⁵ Agence France-Presse, [Lebanese army dismantled 'over 90 percent' of Hezbollah infrastructure near Israel: security official](#) April 30, 2025

¹⁶ Al-Jazeera, [The US asked Lebanon to disarm Hezbollah. How did Lebanon respond?](#) July 8, 2025;

Reuters, [US cannot 'compel' Israel to do anything. US special envoy says in Lebanon](#) July 21, 2025

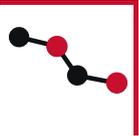
¹⁷ The New York Times, [Israel and Syria in U.S.-Brokered Talks to End Border Conflict, Trump Envoy Says](#) July 3, 2025

¹⁸ Al-Modon, [عون لبارك: من دون إلزام إسرائيل من الصعب تسليم السلاح](#) July 28, 2025;

Reuters, [US pressures Lebanon to issue cabinet decision to disarm Hezbollah before talks continue](#) July 29, 2025;

L'Orient Today, [Barrack headed to Tel Aviv after Beirut, nothing new so far](#) July 23, 2025

¹⁹ Al-Jadeed, [رسمياً.. السلاح على طاولة مجلس الوزراء](#) July 29, 2025



Contradictory reports and statements have also circulated over whether Barrack has relayed specific deadlines for Lebanese authorities to disarm Hezbollah. On July 7, he said that Beirut was not obligated to follow imposed deadlines on Hezbollah's disarmament.²⁰ However, on July 23, Barrack told journalists that any deadlines on disarmament were being set by Israel, days after he said the US could not compel Israel to change its policies for Lebanon.²¹ On July 27, Barrack said that the Lebanese government needed to "act now" on the issue of Hezbollah's disarmament.²² On July 31, President Joseph Aoun called for the disarmament of all armed groups in Lebanon, including Hezbollah.²³ The Lebanese government is reportedly discussing a phased 120-day plan for disarmament in line with US – and by extension Israeli – demands. The first step involves the cabinet asserting that all arms should be placed under state control, including those of Hezbollah.²⁴ During the August 5 Council of Ministers session, the cabinet did not issue an explicit decree on Hezbollah's arsenal, though the ministers did task the LAF with developing a plan by the end of the month for ensuring a state monopoly on arms across the country.²⁵

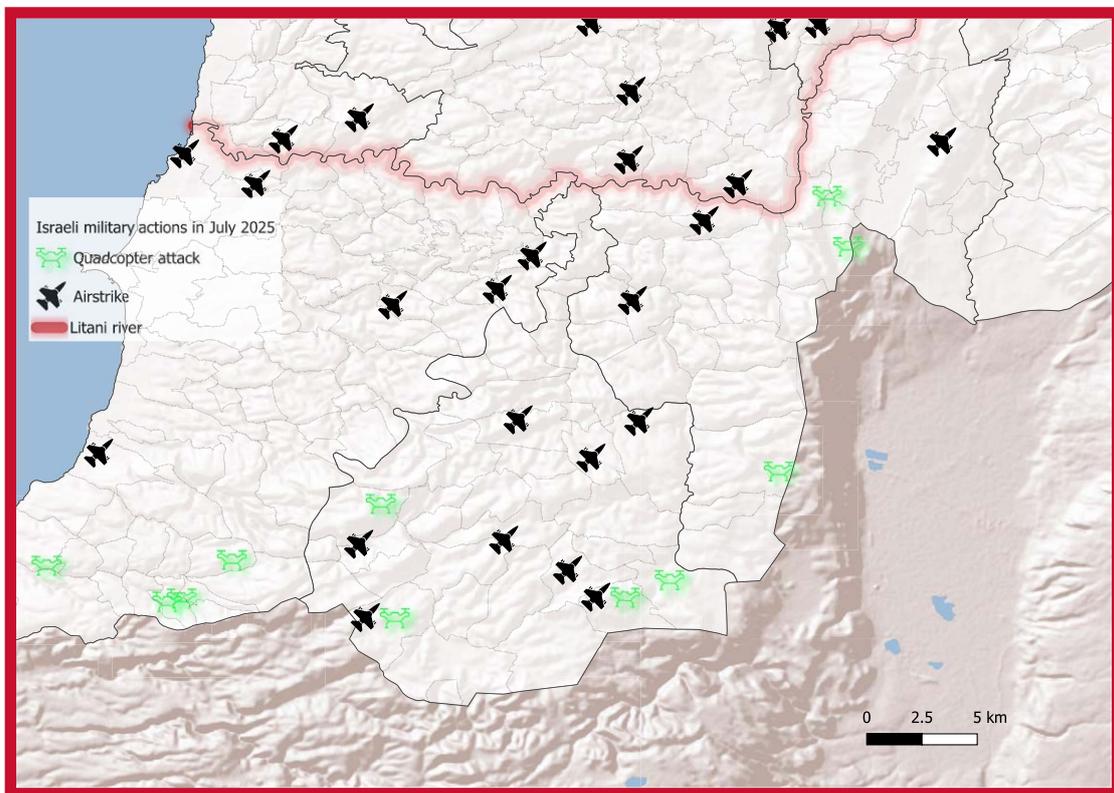


Figure 4: Israeli airstrikes and quadcopter attacks in southern Lebanon in July 2025.

From the start of the CoH through July 7, the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) has recorded the confiscation of 276 weapon caches south of the Litani, ranging from light arms to rocket launchers.²⁶ Under the terms of UN Security Council Resolution 1701 that ended the 2006 Lebanon War, UNIFIL is mandated to assist the LAF in ensuring that Lebanese territory south of the Litani River remains free of non-state weapons.²⁷

²⁰ LBCI, [US envoy Barrack from Baabda: I am grateful for Lebanon's response as there's a 'real' opportunity](#) July 7, 2025

²¹ Nida al-Watan, [برك محبط ... والوقت بيد حيران لبنان](#) July 24, 2025

²² Ambassador Tom Barrack (via X), [@usambturkiye](#) July 27, 2025

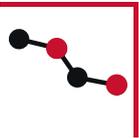
²³ France 24, [لبنان: الرئيس جوزاف عون يلتزم بسحب سلاح حزب الله وتسليمه للجيش](#) July 31, 2025

²⁴ L'Orient Today, [Cabinet meeting on weapons: Will Hezbollah and Amal play along?](#) July 31, 2025

²⁵ National News Agency, [سلام يعد مجلس الوزراء: تكليف الجيش بوضع خطة لحصر السلاح بحدود نهاية العام الحالي وجلسة الخميس](#) August 6, 2025

²⁶ L'Orient Today, [In southern Lebanon, UNIFIL conducts one of its largest operations since the cease-fire](#) July 10, 2025

²⁷ United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon, [UNIFIL Mandate](#) May 28, 2025



Since late April, UNIFIL troops have been met with hostility several times from residents of southern Lebanese towns, reportedly because the peacekeepers are sometimes not accompanied by LAF soldiers.²⁸ At least 16 such incidents have been reported since April 28, with only one in the past month.²⁹ UNIFIL's mandate is set to end on August 31; a UN Security Council vote is required to renew it for one year. Lebanon formally requested a renewal on June 27,³⁰ amid reports in Israeli media that the US might block this by exercising its veto power at the UN Security Council.³¹

Israeli military actions in Lebanon's border regions continue to impede the return of IDPs and obstruct reconstruction efforts. Israel regularly conducts military actions in a vaguely delineated security strip of Lebanese territory along the border that includes five Israeli hilltop military outposts. Starting on June 20, Israel resumed its intermittent controlled demolitions of structures along or near the Lebanese border, a policy it largely stopped after withdrawing from most of the border region in mid-February.³² Beyond detonating structures, Israeli troops crossed the border on July 4 and destroyed a bulldozer in Mays al-Jabal belonging to the Council of the South³³ and searched homes in Mari on July 23.³⁴ On July 9, the Israeli military announced it had conducted a cross-border raid to destroy Hezbollah arms approximately 1 kilometer from the border, the first time Tel Aviv publicly claimed such an operation since its troops partially withdrew from Lebanese territory.³⁵ Israeli quadcopters dropped small munitions within the border area at least 29 times during the month, the second-highest tally since the start of the CoH.³⁶ These quadcopter attacks pose a danger to the environment and agriculture in the region. A July 7 strike started a fire in olive groves outside Chihine and fishermen in Naqoura were subject to three strikes during the month.³⁷

Israeli military action in Lebanon killed at least 40 people in July – the highest monthly death toll since the start of the CoH – and injured 62 others, bringing the total number of fatalities since the start of the CoH to at least 263.³⁸ As of May 31, 82,632 people remained displaced across Lebanon due to Israeli military action.³⁹ The number of IDPs in Lebanon has dropped by 16.5% since Israel completed its withdrawal from southern towns and villages on February 1 – 98,994 people remained displaced at the time.⁴⁰

²⁸ L'Orient Today, [Why is hostility toward UNIFIL on the rise?](#) May 6, 2025

²⁹ LCAT logs reports by the National News Agency, L'Orient Today, and other Lebanese media outlets on confrontations involving UNIFIL peacekeepers.

³⁰ UN Security Council, [2025 Monthly Forecast: Middle East – Lebanon](#) June 30, 2025

³¹ Jerusalem Post, [Israel, US agree to cease UNIFIL ops. in southern Lebanon](#) June 8, 2025;

Times of Israel, [US said to mull dissolving UN peacekeeping force in southern Lebanon](#) June 8, 2025

³² LCAT logged at least 10 demolitions of structures from June 20 through July 31. The only other demolitions LCAT logged after Israel's withdrawal from most of the border region were on February 26 and April 24.

³³ National News Agency, [قوة معادية فجرت جرافة على طريق ميس الجبل – جولا](#) July 4, 2025

³⁴ L'Orient Today, [Israeli president visits Gaza, defends Israel's actions as 'in accordance with international law'](#) July 23, 2025

³⁵ Times of Israel, [Troops destroy Hezbollah arms in rare southern Lebanon ground raids, IDF says](#) July 9, 2025

³⁶ LCAT logs all Israeli quadcopter attacks 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.

LCAT logged 29 such attacks in July, 21 in June, 31 in May, 20 in April, 17 in March, 7 in February, and 10 in January.

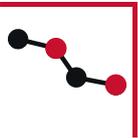
³⁷ *ibid.*

³⁸ 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.

LCAT logged 40 deaths in July, 22 in June, 22 in May, 30 in April, 32 in March, 22 in February, 39 in January, 34 in December and 26 between November 27 and November 30.

³⁹ International Organization for Migration, [Lebanon — Mobility Snapshot - Round 87](#) June 5, 2025

⁴⁰ International Organization for Migration, [Mobility Snapshot - Round 77](#) February 20, 2025



Source: AFP

Economic Updates:

On July 1, the Central Bank issued Basic Circular 169, which bars commercial banks from completing USD withdrawals other than those mandated under Basic Circulars 158 and 166.⁴¹ The Bank noted that some depositors are attempting to exceed the withdraw limits stipulated under Circulars 158 and 166, with some even filing cases against Lebanese banks in foreign courts. While the Central Bank acknowledged depositors' right to access their funds, it considers that methods outside existing circulars undermine the principle of equal treatment among depositors. On July 2, the advocacy group "Depositors' Cry" denounced Circular 169, claiming that the Bank is in practice limiting access to accounts and that its actions constitute a violation of depositors' rights. The group deemed the decision "a continuation of the former Central Bank administration practices" – in reference to when former Governor Riad Salameh and interim Governor Wassim Mansouri led the country's top monetary authority – and added that it believes that Circular 169 was issued to support the interests of commercial banks.⁴²

On July 17, in response to an appeal submitted by the Syndicate of Bus and Public Transportation Vehicles Owners and Transport Offices and the Free Patriotic Movement, the Shura Council suspended the recently imposed fuel tax.^{43,44} It will remain suspended pending the Council's review of the appeal.⁴⁵ Revenues from the tax had been earmarked to finance salary increases for LAF members.⁴⁶ Finance Minister Yassine Jaber stated that fuel taxes collected prior to the Shura Council's decision came into effect can be used to cover LAF salaries for June and July.⁴⁷ The day after the suspension, Octane 98, Octane 95, and diesel prices dropped by LBP 99,000, LBP 100,000, and LBP 161,000, respectively.⁴⁸

⁴¹ As of July 1, 2025, Basic Circulars 158 and 166 allowed eligible depositors to withdraw USD 800 and USD 400 per month, respectively.

⁴² National News Agency, «صرخة المودعين» أعلنت رفضها للتعميم 169 الصادر عن مصرف لبنان: باطل، قانونا وأخلاقيا وسنواجهه بكل الوسائل المتاحة، July 2, 2025

⁴³ Mercy Corps Lebanon, May 2025 Crisis Update June 3, 2025

⁴⁴ LBCI, بيان من التيار حول قرار مجلس شوري الدولة بشأن وقف تنفيذ قرار الحكومة يفرض ضريبة على المحروقات، July 17, 2025

⁴⁵ Annahar, الشورى جمد قرار الضريبة على المحروقات... فهل تتأثر الزيادات للعسكريين والمتقاعدين؟، July 20, 2025

⁴⁶ Mercy Corps Lebanon, May 2025 Crisis Update June 3, 2025

⁴⁷ LBCI, بعد قرار مجلس شوري الدولة بشأن الضريبة على المحروقات... هذا ما قاله وزير المال، July 26, 2025

⁴⁸ Annahar, وزارة المالية تبليغ كتابا حول قرار مجلس شوري الدولة بشأن الضريبة الإضافية على أسعار المحروقات، July 21, 2025



On July 28, Parliament’s Finance and Budget Committee approved the amended “draft law concerning the reform and reorganization of the banking sector in Lebanon.” If approved by the parliament, the law would establish the High Banking Committee (HBA), the regulatory and auditory body responsible for executing banking sector restructuring.^{49,50} Finance and Budget Committee Chairman Ibrahim Kanaan urged the government to complete the “draft law concerning the financial gap and fiscal stabilization”,⁵¹ the last of three laws needed for Lebanon to fulfill IMF requirements and unlock foreign state financial assistance.⁵²

On July 14, the Central Bank issued Basic Circular 170, barring all Lebanese financial and investment institutions from dealing with unlicensed and sanctioned financial entities.⁵³ The circular specifically mentions Qard Al-Hassan, Tashilat, Al-Yusr, and Muslim Financial House, all of which are Hezbollah-affiliated. The Central Bank explained that the decision was issued to protect the Lebanese financial sector from sanctions imposed by foreign governments and bolster efforts to remove Lebanon from the Financial Action Task Force’s grey list. Entities failing to comply with the provisions of the circular could face suspension, revocation, or investigation by the Special Investigation Commission.⁵⁴

⁴⁹ L’Orient Today, [Bank restructuring: Finance and Budget Committee approves draft law](#) July 29, 2025

⁵⁰ The new HBA structure will involve two separate chambers where the Central Bank, government, commercial banks, and depositors will all be represented. One chamber will be enforcing sanctions against non-compliant banks while the other chamber will oversee the reform process on the long term and taking decisions against banks subject to restructuring or liquidation.

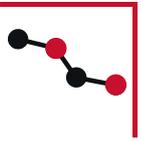
L’Orient Today, [Banking reform caught in last-minute wrangling](#) July 28, 2025

⁵¹ Lebanese Parliament, [لجنة المال والموازنة أقرت مشروع القانون المتعلق بإصلاح وضع المصارف في لبنان وإعادة تنظيمها معدلا](#) July 28, 2025

⁵² For Lebanon’s financial reform plan to comply with IMF requirements, it must pass and implement three interdependent laws on banking secrecy, restructuring banks, and distributing financial losses. Two of these laws have already been passed by the Finance and Budget Committee.

⁵³ Banque du Liban, [Decision 13735](#) July 14, 2025

⁵⁴ L’Orient Today, [BDL bans banks and financial institutions from dealing with companies like al-Qard al-Hassan](#) July



Source: AFP

Security Updates:

Since mid-July, the LAF has stepped up efforts to monitor and curb the entry and presence of Syrian nationals who are not legally authorized to reside in Lebanon. For the past two weeks, the military has been conducting raids and erecting checkpoints across Lebanon, actions which have led to the arrest of approximately 500 Syrian nationals for breaching residency and identification requirements.^{55,56} Following recent fighting in Syria's Suweida Governorate, several Lebanese municipalities have imposed curfews and updated their registries of displaced Syrian nationals,⁵⁷ including Aley, Bshamoun, and Zgharta.⁵⁸

These stepped-up security measures come on the heels of the government's June initiative to facilitate the return of 200,000 to 300,000 Syrians by September 2025, through financial incentives and the waiving of penalties for breaching residency requirements.⁵⁹ The plan has gained some traction: in the first half of July, 17,000 individuals registered for the voluntary return program.⁶⁰ On July 29, the first repatriation convoy transported 72 Syrian nationals to their home country.⁶¹

⁵⁵ Enab Baladi, [اعتقالات عشوائية تستهدف سوريين في لبنان](#) July 22, 2025

⁵⁶ CNN, [الجيش اللبناني يعلن توقيف عشرات السوريين ومداومة مخيمات لهم لهذا السبب](#) July 12, 2025;

Lebanese Armed Forces, [توقيف 63 سوريا لتجولهم داخل الأراضي اللبنانية بطريقة غير شرعية و7 أشخاص لارتكابهم جرائم مختلفة](#) July 20, 2025

⁵⁷ Al Araby, [حظر تجول سوريين في لبنان إثر المواجهات الدامية في السويداء](#) July 16, 2025

⁵⁸ Future, [بسبب الظروف... بلدية عاليه تفرض حظر تجول ليلي على السوريين](#) July 17, 2025;

Erem News, [بلدة في جبل لبنان تفرض حظر تجول ليليا على الأجانب](#) July 15, 2025;

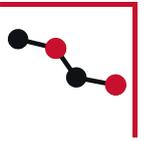
National News Agency, [بلدية زغرتا - إهدن دعت النازحين إلى التسجيل في دوائرها منعا للملاحقة](#) July 16, 2025

⁵⁹ Asharq Al-Awsat, [خطة لبنانية جديدة لإعادة النازحين السوريين](#) June 8, 2025

⁶⁰ National News Agency, [UNHCR and IOM launch organized voluntary return programme for Syrian refugees in Lebanon](#) July 30, 2025

⁶¹ LBCI, [First voluntary Syrian refugee convoy returns from Lebanon through Jdeidet Yabous crossing](#) July 29, 2025

⁶² L'Orient Today, [Lebanon launches \\$3.5 million forest fire risk management project](#) July 16, 2025



Source: Anadolu

Environmental Updates:

On July 15, the Ministry of Environment launched a USD 3.5 million forest fire prevention project.⁶² The initiative – implemented through partnerships with the United Nations Office for Project Services, the World Bank, and local organizations – supports first responders with early warning systems and equipment to facilitate a rapid and coordinated response. It will also fund forest assessments, sustainable management practices, and post-fire reforestation efforts.⁶³ The National Council for Scientific Research is providing additional support through wildfire prevention programs that focus on community awareness, early warning systems, and fire impact assessment and recovery after a fire.⁶⁴ The launch comes amid growing concerns over intensifying heatwaves and rising numbers of forest fires. Minister of Environment Tamara Elzein reported a notable spike in wildfires, with 6,345 recorded in 2024 compared to 4,264 in 2023, and 466 wildfires in the first half of 2025.⁶⁵ The blazes that threatened the cedar forests of Qala in northern Lebanon in late July have underscored the urgency of these initiatives.⁶⁶

Summer drought has continued to plague the agriculture sector and vulnerable households. Contamination of Janaa Lake in southern Lebanon is already preventing farmers from drawing on a key water source, while livestock breeders in Bekaa are facing similar shortages.⁶⁷ Director of the National Litani Authority Sami Alawieh stated that inflows to Lake Qaraoun amounted to only 45 million cubic meters of water in the first half of 2025, adding that the lake is now heavily contaminated.⁶⁸ The drought has also forced hydroelectric power plants along the Litani River to shut down, putting additional strain on the country's main public energy provider. Across the country, diminished state water provision and water rationing mean that households are increasingly seeking alternative sources such as private water providers and wells in neighboring villages.⁶⁹

⁶³ National News Agency, [سلام رعى إطلاق مشروع "إدارة مخاطر حرائق الغابات" في السرايا](#) July 15, 2025

⁶⁴ National News Agency, [الزین وهانی شارکا في إطلاق الحملة الوطنية للحد من خطر حرائق الغابات](#) July 22, 2025

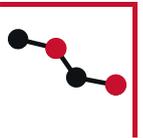
⁶⁵ National News Agency, [سلام رعى إطلاق مشروع "إدارة مخاطر حرائق الغابات" في السرايا](#) July 15, 2025

⁶⁶ L'Orient Today, [Forest fire ongoing in Qala forest, Akkar](#) July 24, 2025

⁶⁷ L'Orient Today, [Agricultural lake in Shebaa unusable due to drought](#) July 14, 2025

⁶⁸ L'Orient Today, [Qaraoun Lake reaches its lowest level ever recorded](#) July 16, 2025

⁶⁹ L'Orient Today, [Private water trucks return early to ease Beirut water shortage](#) July 4, 2025; National News Agency, [مؤسسة مياه لبنان الشمالي تصدر جدولاً](#) July 25, 2025; National News Agency, [معامنة النبطية وبلدياتها من شح المياه تتكرر مع حلول فصل الصيف ولا حل إلا بمياه الصهاريج المكلفة والأهالي يناشدون حلولاً جذرية](#) July 23, 2025; National News Agency, [سكان حي السيادة في الشرقية يشكون انقطاع المياه منذ شهر رغم المراجعات](#) July 18, 2025; National News Agency, [سعد عرض مع زواره الاوضاع](#) July 17, 2025; National News Agency, [كاهن رعية بلدة حقل العزيمة: نواجه أزمة انقطاع المياه بشكل مستمر رغم كثرة بنابيع الضنية](#) July 15, 2025; National News Agency, [الامنية واجتاجا على قطع ماء الري عن النساتين](#) July 15, 2025; National News Agency, [لجنة مائية لمعالجة أزمة شح المياه لري بساتين المزارعين](#) July 14, 2025; / National News Agency, [اعتصام في حمدون أمام مصلحة المياه - المنية احتجاجا على قطع ماء الري عن النساتين](#) July 14, 2025; National News Agency, [استمرار انقطاع المياه في شارع السلاف العريض - الدكوانة ومناشدات بالتحرك لتأمينها](#) July 11, 2025



Looking Forward:

- Diplomatic efforts aimed at Hezbollah's nationwide disarmament are unlikely to achieve a breakthrough soon, and a large-scale Israeli military operation in Lebanon now appears more likely than it has in past months. The cabinet's decision to task the LAF with formulating a disarmament plan is unlikely to satisfy Israel, and possibly the US, both of which are demanding a disarmament roadmap and timeline. Lebanon's political leaders largely practice consensus decision-making – especially on significant issues – and at present it seems that Hezbollah and its ally Speaker of the Parliament Nabih Berri will not support a nationwide disarmament on Israel's terms. Instead, Lebanon's leaders will likely attempt to stall and drag out negotiations, while hoping the US will pressure Israel to make concessions and not escalate militarily in Lebanon. However, Tel Aviv does not appear poised to offer significant concessions, while Washington is unlikely to apply real pressure on Tel Aviv. During a July 29 press tour, the Israeli military touted its military accomplishments over Hezbollah and ability to protect residents of northern Israel.⁷⁰ The following day, Israeli Finance Minister Bezalel Smotrich – a hawkish political figure – said that his country would not withdraw from the five hilltops it currently occupies in southern Lebanon, adding that Tel Aviv would level buildings in the southern suburbs of Beirut in a bid to push for Hezbollah's disarmament.⁷¹ In the absence of a diplomatic breakthrough, Israel's potential responses range from increased airstrikes – including in the greater Beirut area – to a wide-scale campaign similar to its military operations between September and November of 2024.
- Electricity production by the Litani River Authority (LRA) from January to June 2025 totaled 69 gigawatt hours (GWh), an 82.5% drop compared to the 395 GWh produced over the same period in 2024.⁷² This falloff, stemming from Lebanon's prolonged drought, has already **affected some 500,000 residents**, and will likely disrupt direct electricity coverage to 109 municipalities, and indirect coverage for another 220 in the South, Nabatieh, and Bekaa governorates. The LRA also powers key infrastructure in the region, including water pumping stations and wastewater treatment facilities.⁷³ Power shortages are likely to spark tensions among residents who previously depended on the LRA to provide approximately 20 hours of electricity coverage daily.⁷⁴

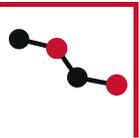
⁷⁰ Mako (Israel Channel 12), [באמת מתכוונן למלחמה? ההערכות כצה"ל לגבי חיזבאללה](#), July 29, 2025

⁷¹ Israel Hayom, [סמוטריץ' לתושבי הצפון: זו הצעה שאי אפשר לסרב לה](#), July 30, 2025

⁷² Litani River Authority, [Electricity production](#) June 2025

⁷³ National News Agency, [مصلحة الليطاني: إنتاج حوالي 500 مليون كيلو واط ساعة ووفر للخزينة زاد عن 49 مليون دولار](#), July 5, 2025

⁷⁴ National News Agency, ["كهرباء لبنان": ملتزمون العدالة في التغذية بالتناوب بين كافة المناطق اللبنانية](#), March 21, 2025



The agricultural sector will also suffer, as local farmers shoulder additional costs for water and pesticides, which in turn will make local produce less competitive compared to foreign imports.⁷⁵ The poorest communities are generally hardest hit by drought, particularly those in the Akkar and Baalbek-Hermel governorates, where agriculture is the mainstay of the local economy.⁷⁶ On June 24, the Ministry of Agriculture announced that it is working with the World Bank to secure a USD 200 million loan to fund programs to improve climate resilience.⁷⁷ Agriculture Minister Nizar Hani also stated that a national agricultural program has been launched, providing training workshops for farmers across Lebanon, in conjunction with weekly television broadcasts aimed at both farmers and consumers.⁷⁸ While these measures represent a positive strategic shift toward green policies and increased food security, implementation remains a major concern due to institutional fragmentation, political interference, and lack of coordination among ministries.

- The Finance and Budget Committee's approval of the draft bank restructuring law is but one step toward the broader reform needed to secure IMF support, but there is still a long way to go. The three interdependent pieces of financial sector reform legislation⁷⁹ have yet to be enacted as a single, coherent package. Legislation on financial loss redistribution continues to be the biggest roadblock – the bank restructuring law cannot be implemented without it coming into effect – particularly as it will invariably harm some interests and benefit others.
- The government's voluntary repatriation plan is seen by many as a concrete step toward addressing the now over one-decade-long Syrian refugee crisis, though there are reasons to be skeptical that it will be carried out as planned. Although some 17,000 people have signed up for the program, it is unclear whether there will be broad uptake among hundreds of thousands of Syrian nationals in Lebanon.⁸⁰ Aside from the fact that past repatriation and refoolment plans have fallen far short of their goals, the plan is likely to draw significant criticism. Human rights activists argue that such measures are a coercive tactic to force returns in the absence of a safe repatriation framework.⁸¹ Challenges facing returning Syrians include barriers to securing housing, employment, and education, and fear of violence in their home country.^{82,83}

⁷⁵ Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations, [Water scarcity means less water for agriculture production which in turn means less food available, threatening food security and nutrition](#) March 21, 2023;

World Bank Group, [Droughts and Agriculture in Lebanon: Causes, Consequences, and Risk Management](#) October 1, 2018

⁷⁶ World Bank Group, [Droughts and Agriculture in Lebanon: Causes, Consequences, and Risk Management](#) October 1, 2018

⁷⁷ National News Agency, [وزارة الزراعة نوهت بإقرار اللجان المشتركة اتفاقية القرض مع البنك الدولي بقيمة 200 مليون دولار لدعم التحول الأخضر في القطاع](#) June 24, 2025

⁷⁸ Shorouk News, [وزير الزراعة اللبناني: العدوان الإسرائيلي كتد المزارعين 800 مليون دولار](#) July 26, 2025

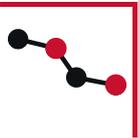
⁷⁹ The three interdependent laws are the banking secrecy law, banks restructuring law, and the financial gap law.

⁸⁰ Asharq Al-Awsat, [خطة لبنانية جديدة لإعادة التنازحين السوريين](#) June 8, 2025

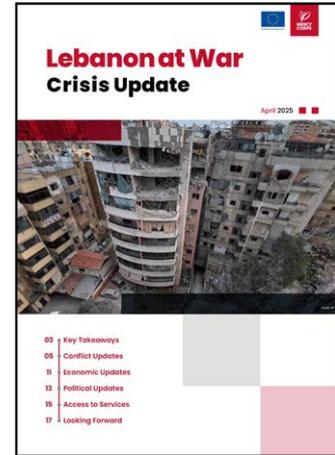
⁸¹ Enab Baladi, [اعتقالات عشوائية تستهدف سوريين في لبنان](#) July 22, 2025

⁸² UNHCR, [Repatriation explained: why Syrian refugees are voluntarily returning](#) March 12, 2025

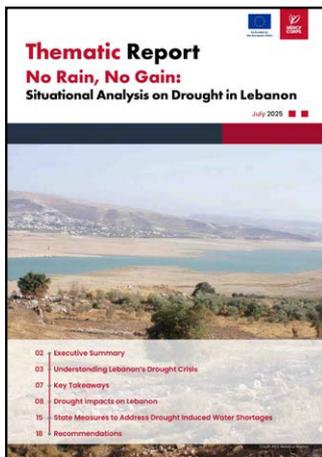
⁸³ UNHCR, [UNHCR Flash Intention Survey2025](#) February 2025



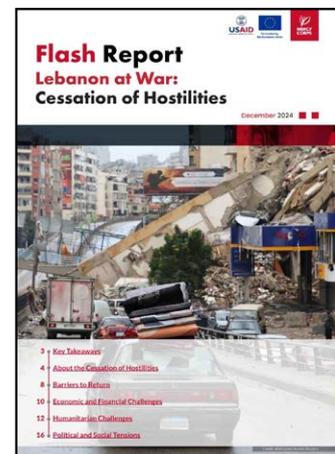
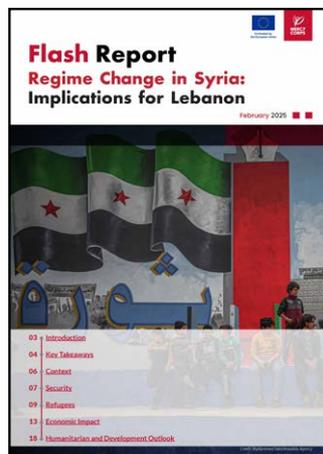
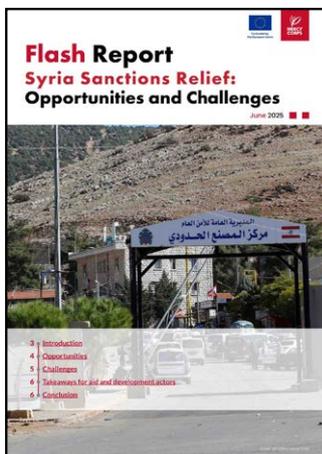
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