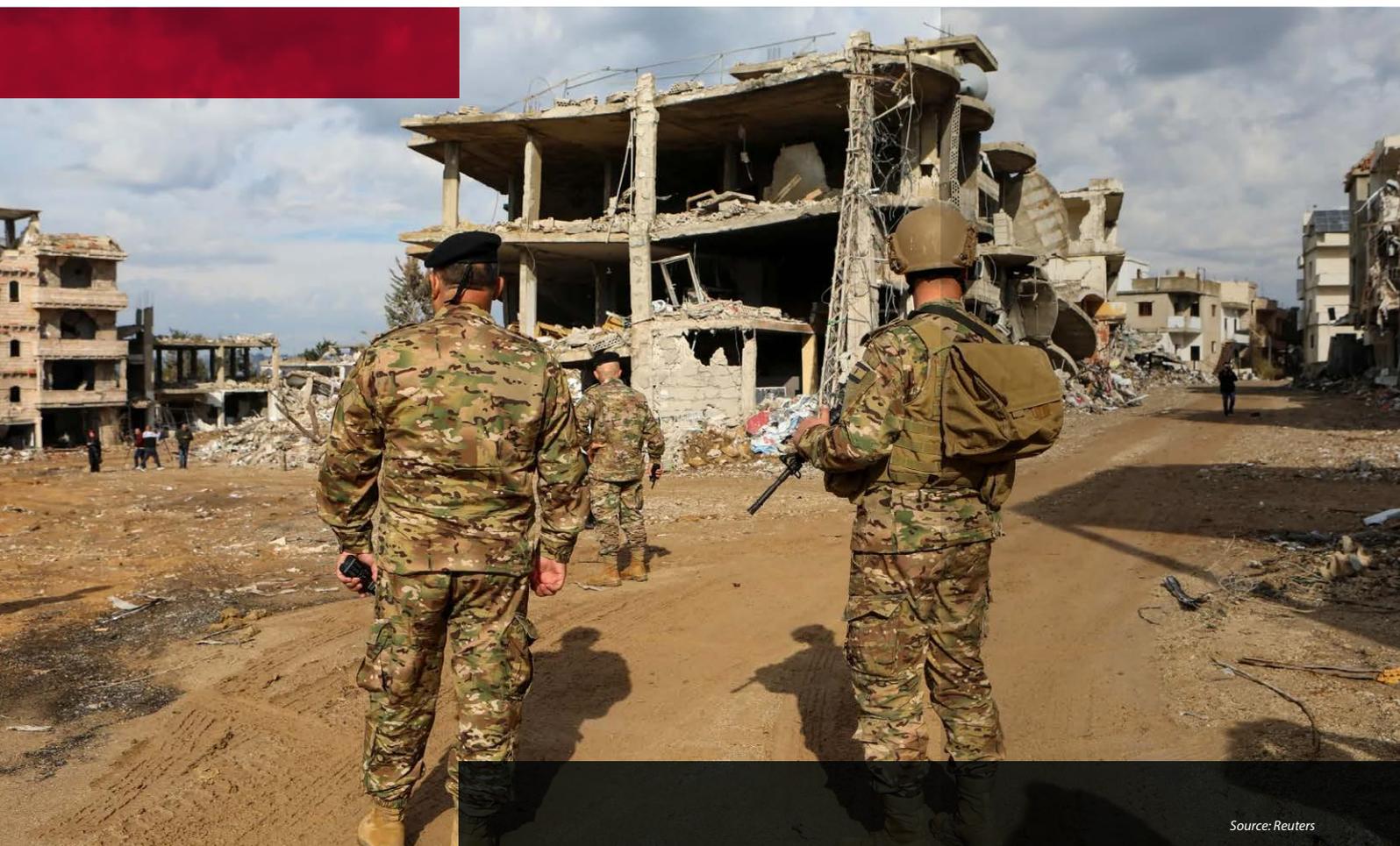


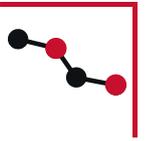
# Lebanon Crisis Update

August 2025



Source: Reuters

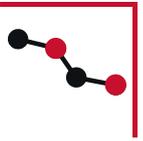
- 02 ● Key Takeaways
- 04 ● Conflict Updates
- 09 ● Economic Updates
- 11 ● Security Updates
- 13 ● Access to Services
- 15 ● Looking Forward



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.*

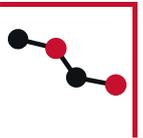


## Key Takeaways:

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- Political tensions are high in Lebanon after the Council of Ministers effectively endorsed a Lebanese Armed Forces (LAF) plan to disarm Hezbollah nationwide on September 5. The US has been pressuring the Lebanese state to impose a monopoly on arms by the end of the year, claiming that such measures could lead to reciprocal actions by Israel. Hezbollah has rejected calls to disarm nationwide, while Lebanon's top leaders have called for Israel to temper its violations of the Cessation of Hostilities (CoH) in response to the cabinet's initial steps toward disarmament in early August.
- Israel has said that it will not scale back its wider military operations until Lebanon starts taking concrete steps to disarm Hezbollah. The pace of the Israeli campaign targeting alleged Hezbollah operatives and infrastructure in Lebanon slowed slightly in August, with Israeli forces conducting 71 strikes throughout the month, down from 105 in July.
- The LAF began implementing a plan to disarm Palestinian armed factions in refugee camps on August 21 in Burj al-Barajneh. The Lebanese-Palestinian Dialogue Committee (LPDC) has hailed the plan as a milestone, though some armed Palestinian factions, including Hamas, have refused to participate.
- The Ministry of Education and Higher Education announced that public schools will continue to operate four days a week during the 2025–26 educational year. The Ministry justified the decision based on resource and capacity constraints. Daily classes have been lengthened to 50 minutes, ostensibly to improve educational quality. Several public education associations criticized these measures, arguing that teachers' compensation has not been adjusted to account for longer working hours.
- The Council of Ministers approved a draft law to provide supplementary pension payments of 12 million Lebanese pounds (LBP) to public sector retirees.
- Finance Minister Yassin Jaber approved a 250 million US dollar (USD) World Bank loan to rebuild infrastructure damaged in the 2024 Israel-Hezbollah War, with a focus on electricity and water networks, schools, and hospitals. Jaber also announced on August 18 that the government had allocated funds for debris removal, including LBP 200 billion for Beirut's southern suburbs and LBP 600 billion for southern Lebanon.



# 2025

## AUGUST

The Council of Ministers tasks the Lebanese Armed Forces (LAF) with developing a plan to bring all arms under state control by the end of the year

5



5

The European Union's "blacklisting" of Lebanon takes effect

The Council of Ministers approves supplementary pension payments for public sector retirees

13



14



A Syrian prisoner dies of a heart attack in Roumieh Prison, sparking a backlash in both Lebanon and Syria

The Ministry of Education and Higher Education announces a four-day school week for the 2025-26 academic year

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21



The LAF implements the first phase of a disarmament plan for Palestinian camps in Lebanon

Minister of Finance Yassin Jaber signs off on a USD 250 million World Bank loan

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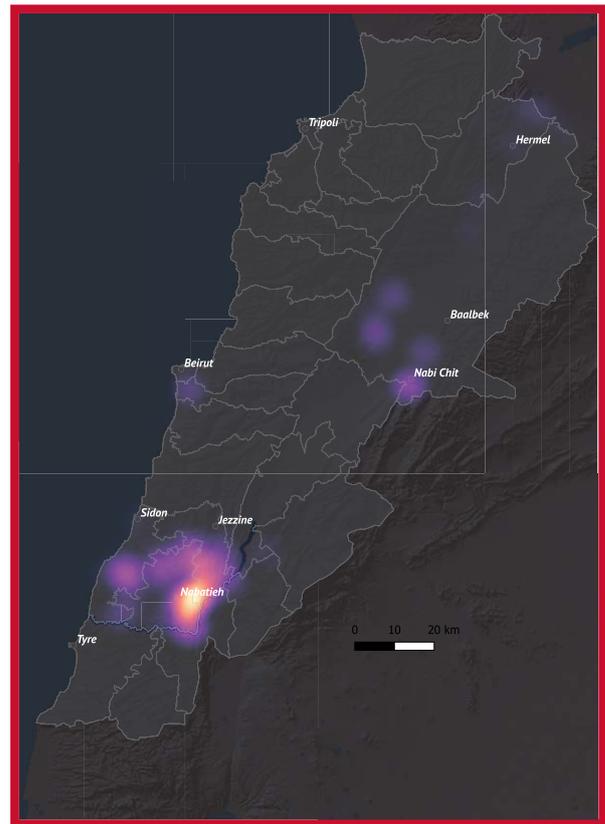
The UN Security Council extends the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon's mandate for one year



Source: AFP

## Conflict Updates :

Tensions mounted in Lebanon throughout August over the US' diplomatic push for the Lebanese state to disarm Hezbollah nationwide. The US plan builds on the CoH between Israel and Lebanon that went into effect on November 27, 2024, which 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.<sup>1</sup> Hezbollah interprets the CoH's provisions as only applying to its arms south of the Litani.<sup>2</sup> During the month, amid Washington's diplomatic efforts, Israel diminished the frequency of airstrikes aimed at dismantling Hezbollah's military capacities and compelling the organization to disarm.<sup>3</sup> Although the CoH prohibits offensive Israeli military actions, Tel Aviv has continued its strikes, reportedly backed by confidential US assurances.<sup>4</sup>



**Figure 1:** A heatmap of at least 445 Israeli strikes north of the Litani since the start of the CoH on November 27, 2024 through August 2025.

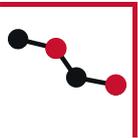
<sup>1</sup> The National, [Revealed: Full text of the Israel-Hezbollah ceasefire agreement](#) November 27, 2024

<sup>2</sup> Al Modon, [نعيم قاسم: نلتزم بالإبواء والإعمار... وسنكون إلى جانب سوريا](#) December 5, 2024

<sup>3</sup> LCAT logs all Israeli airstrikes across Lebanon reported by Lebanon's National News Agency, *L'Orient Today*, and *Al-Mayadeen*. LCAT logged 71 airstrikes in August, 105 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.

On July 29, 2025, the *Times of Israel* reported that the Israeli military assessed that its military actions could potentially enable the disarmament of Hezbollah. *Times of Israel*, [IDF assesses successes against Hezbollah since ceasefire could lead to it disarming](#) July 28, 2025

<sup>4</sup> Axios, [Israel and Lebanon agree on a ceasefire](#) November 26, 2024



In August, following months of US pressure, Lebanon's government took steps to disarm Hezbollah, raising the potential for domestic turmoil. On August 5, Lebanon's government tasked the LAF with formulating a plan – to be presented by the end of the month – for ensuring a nationwide state monopoly on arms by year's end.<sup>5</sup> Two days later, the cabinet approved the objectives of the US disarmament roadmap – which was first presented to Lebanese leaders in June<sup>6</sup> – that calls for the monopoly of arms as well the cessation of Israeli military activities in Lebanon.<sup>7</sup> Hezbollah rejected the government's decisions,<sup>8</sup> while its supporters staged five days<sup>9</sup> of limited protests – amid an LAF security deployment – mainly in the southern suburbs of Beirut,<sup>10</sup> Bekaa Valley,<sup>11</sup> and southern Lebanon.<sup>12</sup> On August 15, Hezbollah leader Naim Qassem stated that his party had decided to hold off on widescale street protests as a conciliatory gesture to allow for talks with the government over disarmament, but warned that Hezbollah could stage large demonstrations.<sup>13</sup>

Subsequent developments complicated the political process to disarm Hezbollah. On August 18, while meeting with Lebanese officials, US Ambassador to Türkiye and Special Envoy for Syria Tom Barrack stated that Israel should temper its military actions in Lebanon in response to Lebanon's initial steps on disarmament.<sup>14</sup> In their meetings with Barrack, Lebanon's president, prime minister, and parliament speaker all called for a step-for-step process on disarmament, according to which Israel would withdraw from five Lebanese hilltops near the border and cease its airstrikes.<sup>15</sup> Under the first stage of the US roadmap, Lebanon's cabinet would formally commit to the disarmament of non-state actors by December 31, 2025 while Israel would stop its military activities in Lebanon.<sup>16</sup> According to media reports, the US was seeking for Israel to withdraw from some of the hilltops it occupies in Lebanon and pause airstrikes against non-urgent threats to reciprocate Lebanon's initial cabinet decisions.<sup>17</sup> On August 25, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu praised the Lebanese government's initial steps towards disarming Hezbollah, but added that his country would only take reciprocal action when the LAF had conducted "necessary" measures regarding disarmament.<sup>18</sup> A day later, Barrack – accompanied by US Deputy Special Envoy for the Middle East Morgan Ortagus and United States Senator Lindsey Graham – met with Lebanese leaders and informed them Israel would not yet scale back its military operations.<sup>19</sup> Following a meeting with Lebanese President Joseph Aoun, Barrack said that Israel wants to see "concrete measures" from Beirut.<sup>20</sup> Lebanon's cabinet convened on September 5<sup>21</sup> to discuss the LAF disarmament plan following protests the previous night opposing the handover of Hezbollah's arms.<sup>22</sup>

<sup>5</sup> Lebanon Prime Minister's Office, [جلسة مجلس الوزراء في قصر بعيدا كلفت الجيش وضع خطة تطبيقية لحصر السلاح قبل نهاية العام الحالي وعرضها على المجلس قبل](#) نهاية الشهر الجاري لاقربها August 5, 2025

<sup>6</sup> 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

<sup>7</sup> Lebanon Prime Minister's Office, [مجلس الوزراء وافق على الاهداف الواردة في مقدمة الورقة التي تقدم بها الجانب الاميركي](#) August 7, 2025

<sup>8</sup> L'Orient Today, [The 11 points of the "Barrack plan" approved by the Salam Cabinet](#) August 8, 2025

<sup>9</sup> National News Agency, ["حزب الله": قرار الحكومة تجريد لبنان من سلاح المقاومة خطبة كبرى وستتعاظم معه وكأنه غير موجود](#) August 5, 2025;

National News Agency, [قماطي عن قرار الحكومة حصر السلاح بيد الدولة: لن يمر ولن ينفذ ولكنه لن يسبب أي تعصيد داخلي](#) August 8, 2025

<sup>10</sup> L'Orient-Le Jour (via X), [@LorientLejour](#) August 11, 2025

LCAT did not find reports of protests after the night of August 11, 2025

<sup>11</sup> Nida al-Watan, [بالفيديو - مسيرات لأنصار "الحزب" بالدراجات النارية في بيروت](#) August 5, 2025

<sup>12</sup> National News Agency, [إقفال جزئي لاوتستراذ رباق - بعلمك لنبلا](#) August 7, 2025

<sup>13</sup> National News Agency, [مسيرات لدراجات نارية وسيارات في النبطية والجوار مؤيدة للمقاومة](#) August 11, 2025

<sup>14</sup> National News Agency, [قاسم في أربعينية الامام الحسين: لن تسلم المقاومة سلاحها والعدوان مستمر ولا تزحوا الجيش في هذا المسار](#) August 15, 2025

<sup>15</sup> The National, [US envoy calls on Israel to honour ceasefire with Lebanon](#) August 18, 2025

<sup>16</sup> Nida al-Watan, [براك وأورتاغوس مقًا يستظلمان خارطة الطريق](#) August 18, 2025;

Al-Akhbar, [يري ليزاك: التزام إسرائيل وقف إطلاق النار مدخل للاستقرار](#) August 18, 2025;

Lebanon Prime Minister's Office (via X), [@grandserail](#) August 18, 2025

<sup>17</sup> Nida al-Watan, [Memorandum: Proposal for Extending and Stabilizing the November 2024 Lebanon Israel Announcement of a Cessation of Hostilities to Promote a Permanent and Comprehensive Solution](#)

<sup>18</sup> Axios, [Scoop: U.S. asks Israel to scale down Lebanon strikes after decision to disarm Hezbollah](#) August 21, 2025;

<sup>19</sup> L'Orient Today, [Barrack's fourth visit: Tactical flexibility, same course](#) August 21, 2025

Israel Prime Minister's Office, [Statement from the Prime Minister's Office](#) August 25, 2025

<sup>20</sup> Asharq Al-Awsat, [يري محيطا من نتائج الزيارة الأميركية: أتونا بعكس ما وعدونا](#) August 27, 2025;

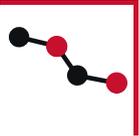
The National, [Lebanese army chief raised prospect of stepping down over Hezbollah disarmament process, sources say](#) August 29, 2025

<sup>21</sup> L'Orient Today, [Barrack from Baabda: Israel ready to withdraw from south Lebanon but wants concrete measures](#) August 26, 2025

<sup>22</sup> National News Agency, [جلسة لمجلس الوزراء في القصر الجمهوري الجمعة في 5 أيلول لعرض الخطة التطبيقية لحصر السلاح ومناقشتها](#) August 29, 2025;

National News Agency, [حسين الخليل: نأمل من الرئيس عون وضع حد للإنبطاحة السياسية لقرارات الحكومة وما تخافه جر البلد إلى حرب أهلية](#) August 27, 2025

<sup>23</sup> National News Agency, [نداء الوطن: جلسة اليوم تبحث في قرارات 5 آب وليس ما اتفق عليه في 7 آب](#) September 5, 2025



The five Shiite ministers withdrew from the cabinet meeting<sup>23</sup> ahead of LAF Commander in Chief Rodolph Haykal presenting the plan.<sup>24</sup> Following the session, Minister of Information Paul Morcos said that the Council of Ministers effectively endorsed the plan while agreeing to keep its details confidential. The LAF is expected to submit monthly progress reports to the cabinet on the implementation of the plan.<sup>25,26</sup>

Pursuant to its push for Hezbollah's nationwide disarmament, the US brokered the August 28 United Nations (UN) Security Council decision to extend the mandate of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) one final time through December 31, 2026.<sup>27</sup> The peacekeeping force will then gradually end its presence within a year of the end of the mandate.<sup>28</sup> Washington said that it voted to end UNIFIL's mandate as it believes the security environment has changed in Lebanon and that the Lebanese state would disarm Hezbollah, which would obviate the need for the peacekeepers.<sup>29</sup> Under the terms of UN Security Council Resolution 1701, which 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.<sup>30</sup> From the start of the CoH through August 29, UNIFIL has recorded the confiscation of 318 arms caches south of the Litani.<sup>31</sup> Since the start of 2025, UNIFIL troops have been impeded by residents of southern Lebanese towns at least 50 times, reportedly because the peacekeepers are sometimes not accompanied by LAF soldiers.<sup>32</sup> On September 2, Israeli forces targeted areas in the vicinity of UNIFIL peacekeepers clearing a road near the Blue Line in Marwahin, dropping four munitions from drones.<sup>33</sup> UNIFIL stated that the action constituted an "unacceptable and a serious violation of Resolution 1701."<sup>34</sup>

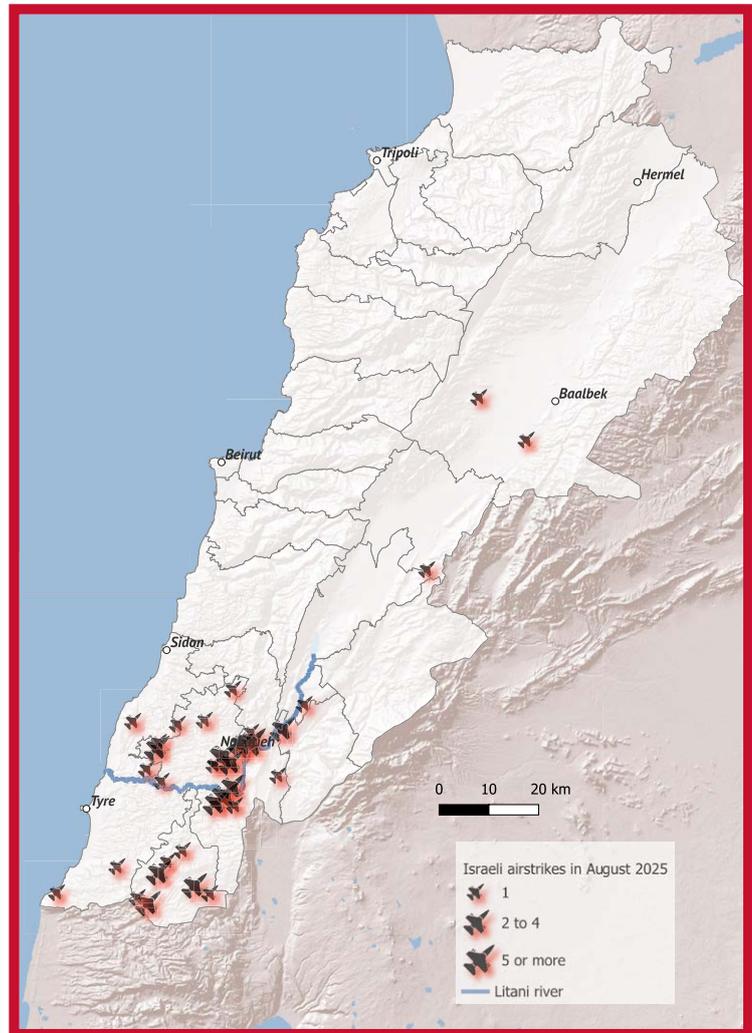


Figure 2: Israel's 71 airstrikes in Lebanon in August 2025.

<sup>23</sup> National News Agency, [انسحاب الوزراء الخمسة من جلسة مجلس الوزراء](#) September 5, 2025

<sup>24</sup> National News Agency, [انضمام قائد الجيش إلى جلسة مجلس الوزراء لعرض خطة الجيش لحصر السلاح](#) September 5, 2025

<sup>25</sup> National News Agency, [مقرص: مجلس الوزراء استمع إلى خطة الجيش ورجب بها والرئيس عون جدد إيداعه للاعتداءات الإسرائيلية واعتبر قرار التجديد لليونيفيل بمثابة انتصار للبنان](#) September 5, 2025

<sup>26</sup> Presidency of the Council of Ministers, [مقررات جلسة 5 أيلول 2025](#) September 5, 2025

<sup>27</sup> United Nations, [Unanimously Adopting Resolution 2790 \(2025\), Security Council Extends Mandate of United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon](#) August 28, 2025;

L'Orient Today, [UN Security Council still negotiating the future of peacekeepers](#) August 25, 2025

<sup>28</sup> *ibid.*

<sup>29</sup> US mission to the UN, [Explanation of Vote on the UN Security Council Mandate Renewal of the UN Interim Force in Lebanon \(UNIFIL\)](#) August 28, 2025

<sup>30</sup> United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon, [UNIFIL Mandate](#) May 28, 2025

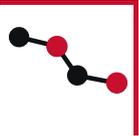
<sup>31</sup> UNIFIL, [UNIFIL uncovers 318 weapons caches in south Lebanon after Hezbollah-Israeli truce](#) August 29, 2025

<sup>32</sup> L'Orient Today, [In south Lebanon, coexistence with UNIFIL turns bittersweet](#) August 13, 2025

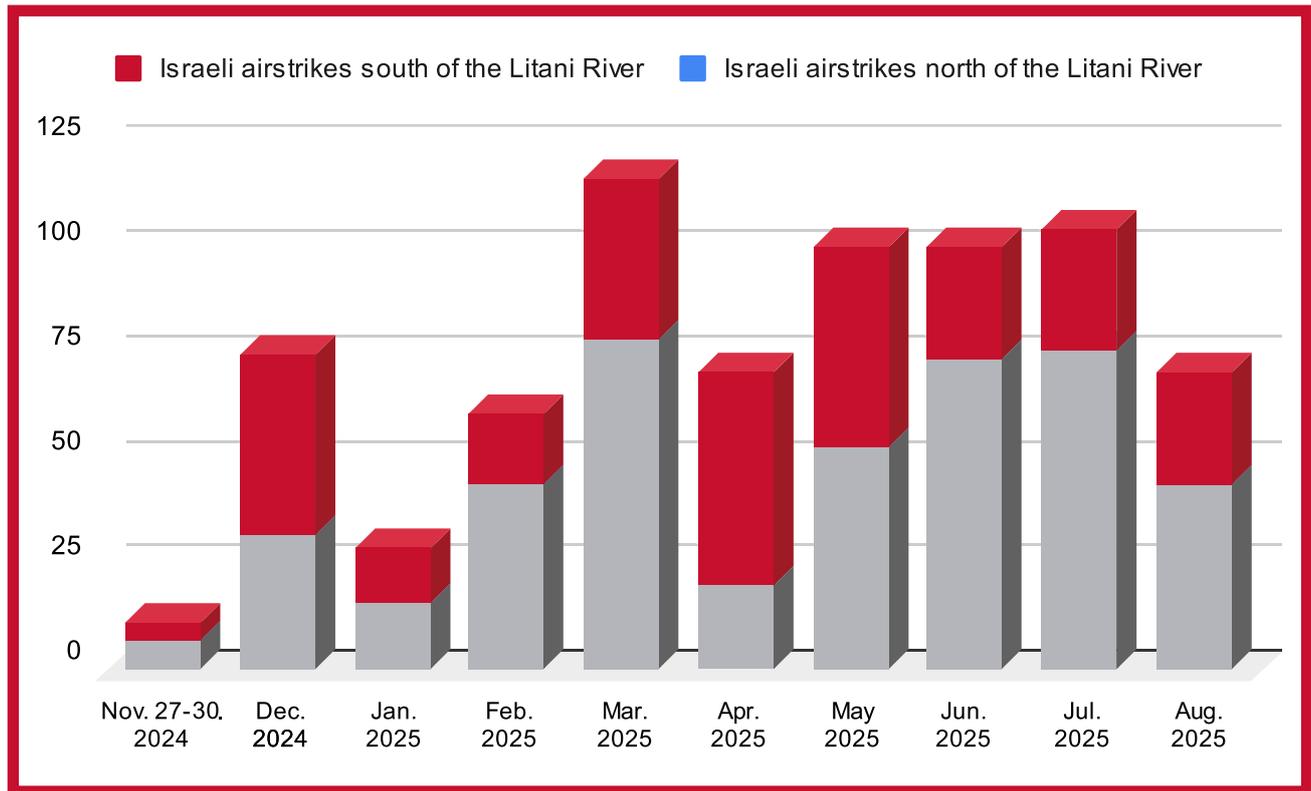
L'Orient Today, [Why is hostility toward UNIFIL on the rise?](#) May 6, 2025

<sup>33</sup> L'Orient Today, [UNIFIL denounces Israeli drone attack on peacekeepers: "one of the most serious" since start of truce](#) September 3, 2025;

<sup>34</sup> UNIFIL, [UNIFIL statement on attack on peacekeepers clearing roadblocks](#) September 3, 2025



Throughout August, Israel decreased the frequency of its bombing in Lebanon, conducting 71 airstrikes, down from 105 in July. Israel struck north of the Litani 44 times this past month, its lowest rate since April.<sup>35</sup> As part of its aerial military campaign, Israel also carried out nine targeted assassinations of purported Hezbollah military operatives.<sup>36</sup> For the first time since the start of the CoH, Israel struck southern Lebanon with at least four surface-to-surface missiles on August 20 and then again two days later.<sup>37</sup> Israel's strikes killed 22 and wounded 38 in August, bringing the death toll since the start of the CoH to at least 289.<sup>38</sup>



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

Hezbollah 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 Syria<sup>39</sup> – an action it called an “initial, defensive warning.”<sup>40</sup> 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 an August 5 speech, Hezbollah's Secretary General warned that his organization would retaliate against any widescale Israeli military offensive with rocket fire on Israel.<sup>41</sup>

<sup>35</sup> LCAT logs all Israeli strikes north of the Litani river. Israel conducted 44 strikes north of the Litani in August, 76 in July, 74 in June, 53 in May, 20 in April, 79 in March, 44 in February, 16 in January, 16 in January, 32 in December and 7 from November 27 through 30.

<sup>36</sup> LCAT logs all Israeli statements of targeted assassinations, cross-referencing them with Lebanese media reports.

<sup>37</sup> LCAT logs all Israeli military actions in southern Lebanon reported by Lebanon's National News Agency, *L'Orient Today*, and *Al-Mayadeen*, noting the type of armament used.

*L'Orient Today*, [Why did Israel fire surface-to-surface missiles in Lebanon for the first time since the cease-fire?](#) August 26, 2025

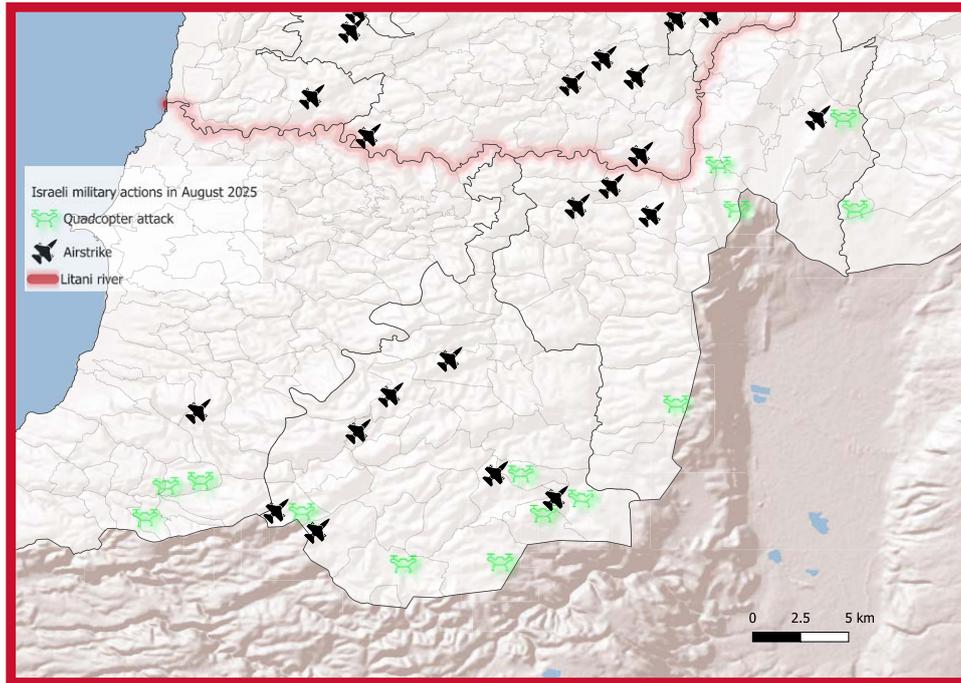
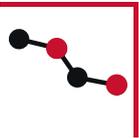
<sup>38</sup> LCAT logs all reports by the Lebanese Ministry of Public Health, National News Agency, *L'Orient Today*, and *Al-Mayadeen* of casualties caused by Israeli military actions. When reports differ between sources, LCAT uses figures reported by the Ministry of Public Health.

LCAT logged 22 deaths in August, 40 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.

<sup>39</sup> *L'Orient Today*, [To whom do Shebaa Farms belong?](#) January 24, 2024

<sup>40</sup> National News Agency, [ردا على الخروقات الاسرائيلية "المقاومة الاسلامية" ردا على الخروقات الاسرائيلية](#) December 2, 2024

<sup>41</sup> National News Agency, [قاسم: إذا شنت إسرائيل حرباً جديدة على لبنان ستسقط الصواريخ عليها والعدوان هو المشكلة وليس السلاح ويجب الاسراع باتخاذ التحقيقات في انفجار المرفأ بعيداً عن التسييس](#) August 5, 2025



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

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. In August, Israeli quadcopters dropped small munitions within the border area at least 40 times, its highest tally since the start of the CoH. These quadcopter attacks obstruct reconstruction efforts near the border, with UAVs dropping explosives near construction equipment at least a dozen times.<sup>42</sup> On August 28, a quadcopter dropped a munition near a resident repairing his home in the border town of Kfar Kila, injuring him.<sup>43</sup> Israeli small arms fire also poses an ongoing threat to returning residents and any potential reconstruction activity. On August 16, Israeli troops opened fire near the mayor of the village of Mari as he was conducting an inspection near the border with members of the Southern Council.<sup>44</sup> The head of the Southern Council, which helps coordinate reconstruction activities, said on August 29 that Israel was targeting vehicles attempting to clear rubble from border villages.<sup>45</sup> Israeli quadcopter attacks also pose threats to the environment and agriculture, with the UAVs dropping incendiary munitions near Jebbayn and Chihine that started fires.<sup>46</sup> Following an August 12 Israeli airstrike that injured two fishermen,<sup>47</sup> Lebanese Agriculture Minister Nizar Hani accused Tel Aviv of conducting systematic attacks against agribusinesses in southern Lebanon.<sup>48</sup> As of May 31, 82,632 people remained displaced across Lebanon due to Israeli military action.<sup>49</sup> 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.<sup>50</sup>

<sup>42</sup> 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 40 such attacks in August, 29 in July, 21 in June, 31 in May, 20 in April, 17 in March, 7 in February, and 10 in January.

<sup>43</sup> National News Agency, [درون إسرائيلية ألقت 3 قنابل صوتية على بلدة كفر كلا واستهدفت مواطنا يرمم منزله](#), August 28, 2025;

National News Agency, [إصابة مواطن بحروح طفيفة جراء قنابل صوتية ألقتها مسترة إسرائيلية على كفر كلا](#), August 28, 2025

<sup>44</sup> L’Orient Today, [The mayor of a town on the southern Lebanese border comes under Israeli fire](#), August 16, 2025

<sup>45</sup> National News Agency, [رئيس مجلس الجنوب تفقد منشأة مصلحة مياه لبنان الجنوبي في صور: العدو يواصل عرقلة أعمال رفع الأنقاض](#), August 29, 2025

<sup>46</sup> National News Agency, [درون إسرائيلية معادية تلقي قنبلتين حارقتين بين الجبين وبارين وتتسبب بحريق](#), August 8, 2025;

National News Agency, [قنبلة حارقة على خراج شيجين تسببت بانفلاق حريق عملت فرق الدفاع المدني على إخماده](#), August 16, 2025

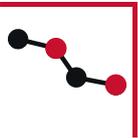
<sup>47</sup> National News Agency, [مسيرة استهدفت محيط ميناء الناقورة](#), August 12, 2025;

L’Orient Today, [Syria, Jordan, US create “working group” to uphold Sweida cease-fire - Live](#), August 12, 2025

<sup>48</sup> National News Agency, [هاني اتصل بلوق مستنكر للعدوان على صيادي الناقورة: لدعم المزارعين والصابادين](#), August 13, 2025

<sup>49</sup> International Organization for Migration, [Lebanon — Mobility Snapshot - Round 87](#), June 5, 2025

<sup>50</sup> International Organization for Migration, [Mobility Snapshot - Round 77](#), February 20, 2025



## Economic Updates:

**On August 5, the European Union's blacklisting of Lebanon as a high-risk country for money laundering and terrorism financing took effect.** European financial institutions, among other "obliged entities," are now required to apply enhanced due diligence measures when engaging in transactions with Lebanon-based entities.<sup>51</sup> The measures are expected to increase transfer costs and could prompt some European banks to curtail or even sever their correspondent relationships with Lebanese institutions. Non-governmental organizations may now face additional hurdles in accessing funds from Europe.<sup>52</sup>

**On August 13, the Council of Ministers approved a draft law to provide supplementary pension payments of LBP 12 million (about USD 134) to public sector retirees.**<sup>53</sup> If approved by the parliament, the law will allow the Ministry of Finance to open an LBP 2.35 trillion (about USD 26.25 million) line of credit to cover pension payments.<sup>54</sup> Finance Minister Yassine Jaber announced that the new measures are part of ongoing efforts to bring wages in line with living conditions.<sup>55</sup>

**On August 14, Financial Prosecutor Maher Shaitou ordered that depositors who transferred large USD sums abroad since the 2019 economic crisis must redeposit equivalent amounts into the country's banking system.**<sup>56</sup>

<sup>51</sup> L'Orient Today, [EU blacklist: strengthened measures against Lebanon take effect Aug. 5](#) August 5, 2025

<sup>52</sup> National News Agency, [«جاء» لحاكم مصرف لبنان: الجمعيات والمنظمات غير الحكومية تواجه عقبات في سحب الأموال من المصارف بعدما صنفت ضمن قائمة الأكثر خطراً](#) August 12, 2025;

MTV, [لبنان بين لائحة الرمادية والسوداء الأوروبية](#), August 14, 2025

<sup>53</sup> National News Agency, [متقاعدو القطاع العام يشكرون جابر والحكومة على منحة الـ12 مليوناً: خطوة تلغي التمييز وتمنح الأمل](#), August 14, 2025

<sup>54</sup> Presidency of the Council of Ministers, [مقررات جلسة مجلس الوزراء رقم 4242/4](#), August 13, 2025

<sup>55</sup> National News Agency, [جابر تابع عملية إعداد موازنة 2026: إقرار دفع 12 مليون ليرة لبنانية شهريا لمتقاعدي القطاع العام إجراء على طريق العمل عليه لتصحيح الرواتب والأجور](#), August 14, 2025

<sup>56</sup> The decision specifies that "natural and legal persons, including bankers, deposit amounts in Lebanese banks equal to the amounts they transferred abroad during the banking and financial crisis [that the country went through] with the aim of reintroducing them into the Lebanese banking system within a period of two months."

National News Agency, [القاضي شعبتو يكلف أصحاب الحسابات التي حُوّلت إلى الخارج إيداع ما يوازئها في المصارف اللبنانية](#), August 14, 2025



The decision comes as part of a larger investigation into funds transferred abroad during the crisis, though legal experts noted that the measure appears intended to “send a message that the state is taking serious steps against some un-conventional banking practices.” Actual enforcement of this decision would be nearly impossible as, among other reasons, there is no legal basis for questioning the transfer of funds that were executed in accordance with Lebanese law.<sup>57</sup>

**On August 17, Standard & Poor’s upgraded Lebanon’s long-term local currency debt rating from CC (currently highly vulnerable) to CCC (currently vulnerable) and revised the outlook from negative to stable.** Although Lebanon’s foreign currency debt maintains its Selective Default rating,<sup>58</sup> the agency noted that the upgrade reflects improvements in Lebanon’s overall financial situation. A potential further rating upgrade and removal from the European Union’s “blacklist” or the FATF’s grey list would depend on continued implementation of banking sector reforms, depositors being able to recover their trapped deposits, reaching an agreement with the International Monetary Fund, and restructuring the country’s Eurobonds portfolio.<sup>59</sup>

**On August 23, as part of a supply agreement with Kuwait, the first Kuwaiti oil tanker arrived in Lebanese territorial waters.** Under the agreement, Kuwait will provide Electricité du Liban’s (EdL) power plants with 132,000 metric tons of diesel fuel. Half of the shipments (66,000 tons) will be donated. The cost of the remaining oil will be covered by EdL revenues, in line with the government’s decision not to draw on public funds to support Lebanon’s public electricity sector.<sup>60</sup>

<sup>57</sup> Sawt Beirut International, [فجيلي لصوت بيروت: قرار القاضي شعبتو بين الرسالة السياسية واستحالة التنفيذ المالي](#) August 20, 2025

<sup>58</sup> S&P applies Selective Default (SD) ratings to entities it projects will likely default on some obligations while meeting other payment obligations in a timely manner.

<sup>59</sup> National News Agency, [وكالة “ستاندرد أند بورز” ترفع التصنيف الائتماني للدين المحلي اللبناني بالعملة المحلية](#) August 17, 2025

<sup>60</sup> National News Agency, [الصدى: مشكورة الكويت على وقفها الى جانب لبنان وأولى ناقلات نفطها رست في مياهه](#) August 23, 2025



Source: AFP

## Security Updates:

**The LAF began implementing a plan to disarm Palestinian camps in Lebanon.**<sup>61</sup> The first weapons handover took place in Beirut's Burj al-Barajneh neighborhood on August 21 – more than two months after a Lebanese-Palestinian summit on May 21,<sup>62</sup> and a subsequent joint meeting of the Lebanese-Palestinian Dialogue Committee (LPDC) on May 23.<sup>63</sup> The head of the LPDC, Ramez Dimashkieh, described the disarmament process as a major milestone that reflects a strategic commitment between Palestinian and Lebanese leaders.<sup>64</sup> Notably, some Palestinian factions – including Hamas – have refused to take part.<sup>65</sup> The future of the disarmament campaign is uncertain, particularly as plans to disarm some camps, including Ain el-Hilweh,<sup>66</sup> have yet to be finalized.<sup>67,68</sup>

**On August 15, following the death of a Syrian prisoner inside Roumieh Prison, members of Syrian tribes staged protests in Lebanon and Syria, and threatened further escalation should Syrian prisoners not be released and repatriated.**<sup>69</sup> Minister of Justice Adel Nassar stated that Lebanese prisons currently hold about 1,700 Syrian detainees, 389 of whom have been convicted.<sup>70</sup> Other sources estimate the number at 2,575 – approximately 32% of Lebanon's total prison population – with about 800 detained for terrorism-related offenses.<sup>71</sup>

<sup>61</sup> Presidency of the Council of Ministers, [بيان صادر عن لجنة الحوار اللبناني-اللسطيني](#), August 28, 2025;

Presidency of the Council of Ministers, [بيان صادر عن رئيس لجنة الحوار اللبناني-اللسطيني السفير رامي دمشق](#), August 21, 2025

<sup>62</sup> National News Agency, [قمة لبنانية - فلسطينية في قصر بعيدا أكدت التزام الجانبين بمبدأ حصريّة السلاح بيد الدولة اللبنانية وتشكيل لجنة مشتركة لمتابعة اوضاع المخيمات](#) May 21, 2025

<sup>63</sup> Presidency of the Council of Ministers, [الرئيس سلام يحضر الاجتماع الأول للجنة المشتركة لمتابعة اوضاع المخيمات الفلسطينية في لبنان](#), May 23, 2025

<sup>64</sup> Alaraby, [تسليم رمزي لسلاح المخيمات الفلسطينية في لبنان](#), August 28, 2025

<sup>65</sup> L'Orient Today, [Disarmament of Palestinian camps: Lebanon takes the bull by the horns](#) August 22, 2025;

Alaraby, [تسليم رمزي لسلاح المخيمات الفلسطينية في لبنان](#), August 28, 2025

<sup>66</sup> Ain el-Hilweh is the largest refugee camp in Lebanon, home to more than 70,000 Palestinians, and carries both historical and symbolic significance. It hosts most Palestinian factions currently active in Lebanon and has been the site of several armed confrontations over the past decade.

<sup>67</sup> L'Orient Today, [Disarmament of Palestinian camps: Lebanon takes the bull by the horns](#) August 22, 2025;

Alaraby, [تسليم رمزي لسلاح المخيمات الفلسطينية في لبنان](#), August 28, 2025

<sup>68</sup> Presidency of the Council of Ministers, [بيان صادر عن لجنة الحوار اللبناني-اللسطيني](#), August 28, 2025;

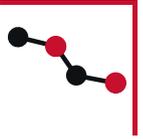
Presidency of the Council of Ministers, [بيان صادر عن رئيس لجنة الحوار اللبناني-اللسطيني السفير رامي دمشق](#), August 21, 2025;

Presidency of the Council of Ministers, [الرئيس سلام يحضر الاجتماع الأول للجنة المشتركة لمتابعة اوضاع المخيمات الفلسطينية في لبنان](#), May 23, 2025

<sup>69</sup> Al-Modon, [غليان في ملف الموقوفين السوريين: هل ترسل دمشق وفدا رسميا](#), August 16, 2025

<sup>70</sup> Asharq Al-Awsat, [وزير العدل اللبناني: جاهزون لمعاهدة مع سوريا لتسليم محكومين بغير قضايا الإرهاب](#), July 12, 2025

<sup>71</sup> Al Araby, [المعتقلون السوريون في السجون اللبنانية.. إليك قصتهم الكاملة | التلفزيون العربي](#), July 26, 2025

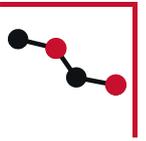


A Syrian judicial and security delegation cancelled a planned August visit to Beirut, reportedly over the failure to reach a bilateral agreement on the fate of Syrian prisoners in Lebanon.<sup>72</sup> Minister Nassar noted that a draft treaty addressing the issue has been prepared and that efforts are underway to accelerate legal proceedings, with a focus on extraditing Syrian convicts not suspected or convicted of terrorism offenses or killing LAF personnel.<sup>73</sup>

<sup>72</sup> The cancellation may have stemmed from Lebanon's refusal to sign an agreement with Syria, which Lebanese officials argued could enable the extradition of Syrian convicts and detainees involved in or allegedly involved in the kidnapping and killing of LAF and security personnel.

Asharq Al-Awsat, [دمشق تباغت بيروت بإلغاء زيارة وفد القضاة - الأمني للبنان](#), August 27, 2025

<sup>73</sup> Asharq Al-Awsat, [وزير العدل اللبناني: جاهزون لمعاهدة مع سوريا لتسليم محكومين بغير قضايا الإرهاب](#), July 12, 2025



Source: Reuters

## Access to Services:

On August 19, the Ministry of Education and Higher Education announced that public schools would continue to observe a four-day week throughout the 2025-2026 academic year.<sup>74</sup> Additionally, individual classes will now last 50 minutes, lengthening the school day by half an hour.<sup>75</sup> The Ministry explained that the 2025 Budget does not cover the additional funding allocations needed to support a five-day week, though it acknowledged that a return to the standard format could be possible once the 2026 budget has been approved.<sup>76</sup> Public education associations claim that the new scheduling violates commitments made during negotiations between public sector educators and the Ministry, primarily because it extends working hours without raising salaries.<sup>77,78</sup> Notably, some 80% of public educators are paid on an hourly basis.<sup>79</sup> The four-day schedule is expected to widen existing learning gaps in public schools and parents have voiced concerns that it may place additional financial burdens on households.<sup>80</sup>

On August 26, Minister of Finance Yassin Jaber approved a USD 250 million loan from the World Bank to reconstruct infrastructure damaged during the 2024 Israel-Hezbollah War. The loan will fund the reconstruction of the electricity and water sectors, schools, and hospitals, and is part of a World Bank project for recovery and sustainable reconstruction that could provide up to USD 1 billion in loans to Lebanon.<sup>81</sup> On August 18, Minister Jaber announced that the government had released funds for debris and rubble removal, including LBP 200 billion earmarked for Beirut's southern suburbs and LBP 600 billion for southern Lebanon.<sup>82</sup> In March 2025, the World Bank estimated reconstruction and recovery costs at USD 11 billion.<sup>83</sup>

<sup>74</sup> Annahar, [قُبيل انطلاق العام الدراسي في لبنان... وزيرة التربية تعلن عدد أيام التدريس أسبوعياً في الرسمي](#), August 19, 2025

<sup>75</sup> Alaraby, [لبنان: وزارة التربية تعتمد 4 أيام تعليم في المدارس الرسمية](#), August 20, 2025

<sup>76</sup> ibid

<sup>77</sup> LBCI, [روابط التعليم الرسمي: لا زيادة في العمل طالما لا زيادة في الرواتب](#), August 26, 2025

<sup>78</sup> Annahar, [قرار التعليم الرسمي 4 أيام أفرح التلاميذ وأثار استياء التربويين](#), August 20, 2025

<sup>79</sup> Alaraby, [لبنان: وزارة التربية تعتمد 4 أيام تعليم في المدارس الرسمية](#), August 20, 2025

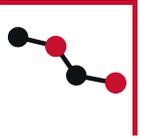
<sup>80</sup> Annahar, [قرار التعليم الرسمي 4 أيام أفرح التلاميذ وأثار استياء التربويين](#), August 20, 2025;

Addiyar, [أربعة أيام وأقساط متصاعدة: التعليم في لبنان بين لعبة مالية وتراجع المستوى - ندى عبد الرزاق](#), August 22, 2025

<sup>81</sup> National News Agency, [جابر وقع قرض الـ 250 مليون دولار لإعادة الإعمار](#), August 26, 2025

<sup>82</sup> National News Agency, [وزير المالية: توقيع قرض إعادة الإعمار والبالغ قيمته 250 مليون دولار مع البنك الدولي سنوفاً في الأيام القليلة المقبلة](#), August 18, 2025

<sup>83</sup> World Bank, [Lebanon's Recovery and Reconstruction Needs Estimated at US \\$11 Billion](#), March 7, 2025



**During the month, the National Social Security Fund (NSSF) adopted new measures to address rising healthcare costs.** On August 7, the Fund increased its contribution to surgical procedures under the lump-sum hospitalization system to 90%, and prohibited hospitals from charging patients amounts that exceed the remaining 10%.<sup>84</sup> The following day, the NSSF raised the fixed daily hospital tariff for burn victims and subsequently increased attending physicians' fees for dialysis sessions to LBP 1.5 million. Finally, on August 25, the NSSF increased coverage for sickness and maternity insurance, including setting the maximum income subject to deductions at LBP 120 million.

On August 18, the NSSF reported that social security expenditures for the health sector, including hospitalization, treatment, and medication, had increased by 65% compared to 2024. To account for this, financial advances totaling LBP 322 billion were disbursed to hospitals and doctors, bringing total payments for the first half of 2025 to approximately LBP 3,298 billion, compared with LBP 2,000 billion for all of 2024. The Fund noted that these measures reflect a gradual return of health services to pre-crisis levels.<sup>85</sup>

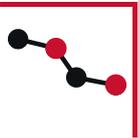
<sup>84</sup> Separately, the NSSF also provided financial advances to three of its offices to ensure continuity of services.

National News Agency, [كركي: رفع نسبة التغطية في كافة الأعمال الجراحية المقطوعة إلى 90% وسلفات استثنائية لمكاتب الصندوق](#), August 7, 2025;

National News Agency, [كركي: رفع تعرفه اليوم الاستشفائي المقطوع للمصابين بالحروق](#), August 8, 2025;

National News Agency, [كركي: 120 مليون الحد الأقصى للكسب وزيادة أتعاب أطباء غسيل الكلى](#), August 25, 2025

<sup>85</sup> National News Agency, [كركي: بالأرقام تقديمات الضمان الصحة توشح إلى بداية حقيقية في مسار التعافي](#), August 18, 2025



## Looking Forward:



- In the coming months, Lebanon's leaders will seek to avoid civil strife over imposing a state monopoly on arms as they attempt to thread the needle between US diplomatic pressure, Israeli military actions, and Hezbollah's refusal to disarm. While the government effectively approved the LAF disarmament plan on September 5, the details remain confidential, in an apparent attempt to not impose a roadmap that would immediately back Hezbollah into a corner. In addition, the plan will most likely not task the LAF with disarming Hezbollah by force. On August 26, US envoy Barrack stated that the LAF's role in disarmament would not be military in nature but rather aim to persuade Hezbollah to surrender its weapons.<sup>86</sup> Media reports have emerged that LAF Commander in Chief Rodolphe Haykal has threatened to resign in objection to any proposal for the army to confront Hezbollah.<sup>87</sup> Hezbollah Secretary-General Naim Qassem on August 25 rejected any plan that includes a step-for-step disarmament and staged Israeli withdrawal from Lebanese territory, instead calling for a national dialogue on his party's arms after Israel withdraws from its outposts and ceases its military actions.<sup>88</sup> Humanitarian actors should expect the party to stage protests against the disarmament plan, particularly as its provisions become clearer during implementation. A Hezbollah spokesperson said on August 29 that the party was preparing to call for gatherings soon.<sup>89</sup> Hezbollah will likely calibrate these street actions to avoid the risk of violence. Speaker of the Parliament Nabih Berri has condemned moves that could lead to civil strife, a message likely aimed at Lebanese leaders who support disarmament as well as his ally Hezbollah.<sup>90</sup>
- Israel is expected to continue its airstrikes in Lebanon amid continuing political and diplomatic efforts to disarm Hezbollah. In an August 25 statement, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said his country would only scale back its military activities when the LAF takes "the necessary steps to implement the disarmament of Hezbollah," an unlikely prospect in the near term.<sup>91</sup> Israel might decide not to escalate its military actions in Lebanon in the coming weeks. In August, it decreased its number of airstrikes but carried out a large wave of strikes outside Nabatieh on the last day of the month.<sup>92</sup> In an August 28 interview, Barrack said that Netanyahu was receptive to lessening the intensity of military actions in Lebanon to facilitate diplomatic efforts.<sup>88</sup> During his latest trip to Beirut, Barrack remarked that Israel would present a counterproposal to the LAF disarmament plan.<sup>89</sup> If Israel perceives that the plan is insufficient, not being implemented, or that diplomatic efforts have stalled, then Israeli forces will likely escalate their military activities, possibly by striking in the southern suburbs of Beirut or conducting large bombing waves against alleged Hezbollah infrastructure in southern Lebanon or the Bekaa, as it has done since the start of the CoH.

<sup>81</sup> BBC News, [بناك يبلغ زيارته إلى الجنوب اللبناني في ظل وقفات احتجاجية على نزع سلاح حزب الله](#) August 26, 2025

<sup>82</sup> Al-Akhbar, [قائد الجيش: أستقبل ولا أسفك الدماء](#) August 28, 2025

The National, [Lebanese army chief raised prospect of stepping down over Hezbollah disarmament process, sources say](#) August 29, 2025

<sup>83</sup> National News Agency, [قاسم: من أراد نزع سلاح المقاومة يعني أنه يريد نزع الروح منا عندها سيرى العالم بأسنا](#) August 25, 2025

<sup>84</sup> L'Orient Today, [Hezbollah disarmament: Why Nasrallah's advisor Hussein Khalil broke his silence](#) August 29, 2025

<sup>85</sup> Asharq Al-Awsat, [يري محيطا من نتائج الزيارة الأميركية: أتونا بعكس ما وعدونا](#) August 27, 2025

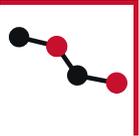
<sup>86</sup> Israel Prime Minister's Office, [Statement from the Prime Minister's Office](#) August 25, 2025

<sup>87</sup> L'Orient Today, [Israeli army launches intense strikes on Nabatieh heights](#) August 31, 2025

<sup>88</sup> Tom Barrack's comments starting at 45:16 in an interview published on X on August 28.

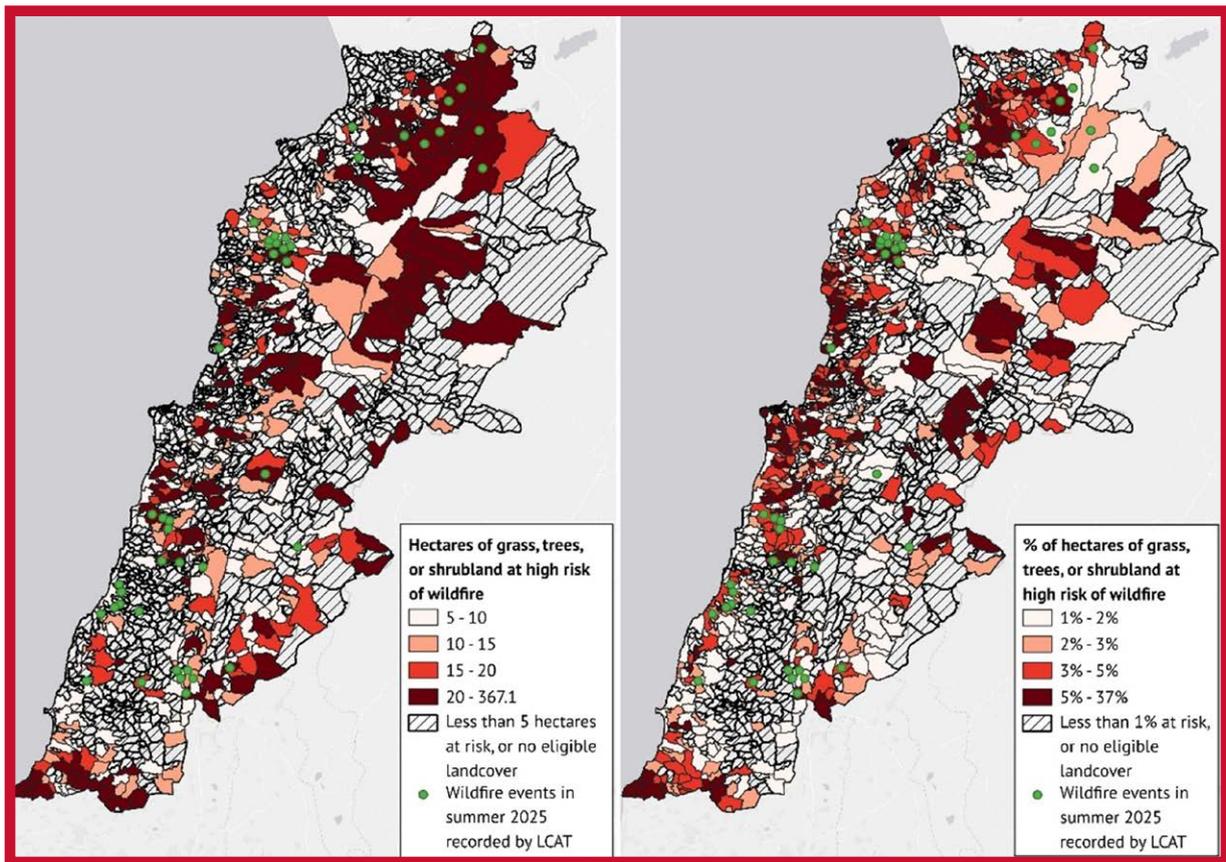
Mario Nawfal via X, [@marionawfal](#) August 28, 2025

<sup>89</sup> UPI, [U.S. envoy: Israel counter-proposal to Lebanon's disarmament plan coming](#) August 26, 2025



- Lebanon continues to suffer the effects of prolonged drought, including a heightened risk of wildfires, which can break out anywhere there is dry vegetation. Regions at high risk include the northern forests of Akkar, shrubland along the western half of Baalbek-Hermel, and orchards/forests and shrubland in southern Sour and Bint Jbeil (which also face the threat of ignition from Israeli airstrikes).

To offer a clearer picture of which areas may catch fire, LCAT identified landcovers reliant on rainfall and surface water that are susceptible to unintentional ignition, including forests, grasslands, and shrublands. Figure 5 shows the proportion of these at-risk landcovers in August 2025, along with the location of wildfire incidents gathered from various media sources.



**Figure 5:** The number of hectares and proportion of forest, grassland, and shrubland at high risk of wildfire in August 2025.

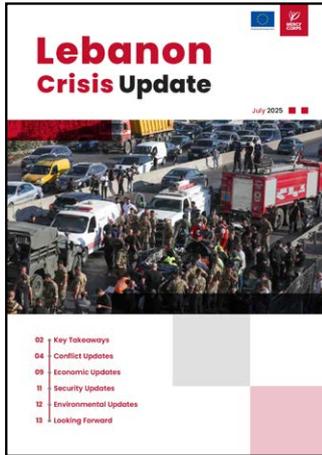
LCAT used recent and historical satellite imagery to identify high-risk areas, first by examining the DynamicWorld<sup>95</sup> satellite-imagery-derived landcover dataset from June to August 2025, which denotes areas identified as forests, grassland, and shrubland. The team then used Sentinel-2<sup>96</sup> satellite data to calculate the Normalized Difference Moisture Index (NDMI) – which measures plant water content – for these areas in August 2025 and compared that to the average NDMI in August 2019 to 2024. The Normalized Difference Vegetation Index, an indicator of vegetation cover, was also calculated to measure the amount of fuel available for wildfires. Areas with vegetation moisture far lower than average and available vegetation for fuel were categorized as being at high risk of wildfires. These areas were used to calculate the hectares and proportion of land at risk per cadaster.

<sup>95</sup> Dynamic World V1, [Dynamic World V1 | Earth Engine Data Catalog | Google for Developers](#)

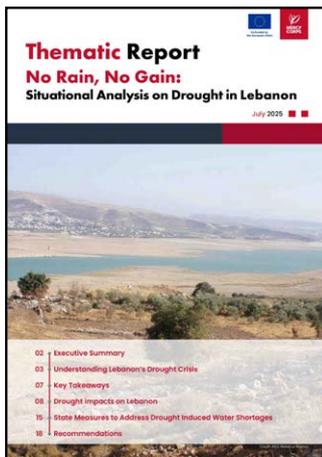
<sup>96</sup> Sentinel-2, [Harmonized Sentinel-2 MSI: MultiSpectral Instrument, Level-2A \(SR\) | Earth Engine Data Catalog | Google for Developers](#)



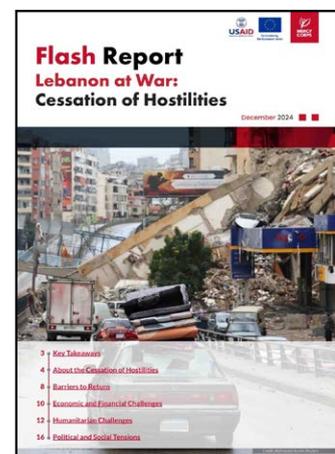
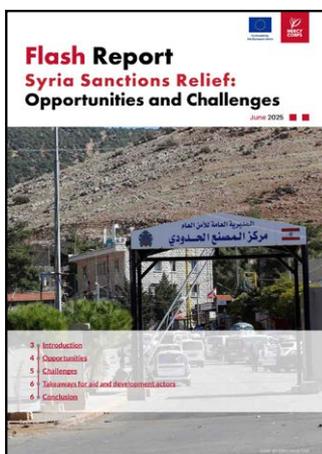
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