



Lebanon Situation Report

December 14, 2023

Background

Information about the current period of cross-border fighting is summarized in Anera's last [Situation Report \(November 2023\)](#).

Overview

After a brief break in armed conflict during the November 24 through November 30 humanitarian pause in Gaza, Hezbollah and Israeli forces resumed exchanging fire on December 1.¹ Previous fighting along the border began on October 8, at the start of the war in Gaza, displacing tens of thousands of Lebanese and refugee families in southern border villages. Displacement levels decreased slightly during the pause but have continued to rise in December since the hostilities resumed.² Lebanon's Ministry of Public Health reports at least 101 killed and 409 injured since the clashes began, including at least 15 civilian deaths.³

Violence at the Lebanon-Israel border

On December 10, Israeli airstrikes destroyed five homes in the southern Lebanon town of Aitaroun, damaging many more residences and injuring at least five people.⁴ The following day, the Israeli army reported that eight rockets were fired from Lebanon toward the city of Ma'alot-Tarshiha in northern Israel, with no injuries reported. Israeli forces continued the intense shelling of several south Lebanon towns including Naqoura, Zibqin, Yarine, Marwahin and Jebbain.⁵

Hezbollah claimed an anti-tank attack on December 7, including missile fire that targeted the Israeli barracks in the border village of Mattat. The strike killed a 60-year-old Israeli civilian farmer.⁶ In retaliation, the Israeli army aimed jets at the Hezbollah control center and claimed to have struck a "terrorist cell" – these attacks killed at least three people, including a 35-year-old woman and her son in the Lebanese

¹ [At least three killed in south Lebanon as Israel, Hezbollah resume fighting | Al Jazeera](#)

² [Lebanon: Flash Update #3 - Escalation of hostilities in south Lebanon, 1 December 2023 | UNOCHA](#)

³ [Lebanon Flash Update #4. escalation of hostilities in south Lebanon, 9 December 2023 | UNOCHA](#)

⁴ [Violence escalates between Israel and Lebanon's Hezbollah amid Gaza assault | Al Jazeera](#)

⁵ [Live Updates: Gaza death toll passes 18,000 as Israel declares Hamas "on verge of dissolution" - Al-Monitor](#)

⁶ [Hezbollah missile from Lebanon kills Israeli civilian | Reuters](#)

town of Houla.⁷ Hezbollah also claimed two attacks earlier on the same day, and Israel shelled and carried out airstrikes on multiple southern Lebanon towns. Israel said it intercepted a “suspicious aerial target” coming from south Lebanon on December 8.⁸ During a visit to troops at the border, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu stated on December 7 that continued Hezbollah attacks would prompt Israel to “turn Beirut and southern Lebanon, not far from here, into Gaza”.⁹

Reuters released a special report on December 7 detailing new evidence supporting accusations that Israeli tank shell killed Lebanese Reuters journalist Issam Abdallah on October 13.¹⁰ Human Rights Watch condemned the attack – which also injured six other Agence France-Presse and Al Jazeera journalists – as deliberate, presenting video and geolocation evidence that show the group of journalists in clear view of Israeli military locations and a helicopter at least one hour before the strike took place.¹¹ Human Rights Watch and Amnesty International both called for investigation of the attack as a war crime.¹²

Displacement

Movement within Lebanon has varied recently, with many internally displaced persons (IDPs) returning to their southern border homes during the humanitarian pause after initially fleeing in October. Financial instability throughout the country makes relocation especially difficult, but many returnees fled their homes again at the end of the pause.¹³ As of December 5, the International Organization for Migration estimates that 58,835 people are internally displaced, a seven percent increase since a previous report on November 28. Of the IDPs, 79% are from the El Nabatieh governorate, and most have fled to another governorate. Another 12% of all IDPs are from Sour, and the majority of these families have relocated within the governorate.¹⁴ Two-thirds of all IDPs are staying with host families, increasing the strain on people who are already struggling to make ends meet four years into Lebanon’s total economic collapse.¹⁵

Food Security and Healthcare

Food security continues to be a struggle for many families in Lebanon, and insecurity will increase as displacement and violence in the south compound the ongoing economic crisis. Current reporting from the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC)

⁷ [At least three killed in south Lebanon as Israel, Hezbollah resume fighting | Al Jazeera](#)

⁸ [Live Updates: UN cease-fire vote delayed as EU sanctions more Hamas commanders | Al-Monitor](#)

⁹ [Netanyahu warns Hezbollah after cross-border attack kills Israeli civilian | Al Jazeera](#)

¹⁰ [Reuters journalist Issam Abdallah killed by Israeli tank, investigation finds | Reuters](#)

¹¹ [Israel: Strikes on Journalists in Lebanon Apparently Deliberate | Human Rights Watch](#)

¹² [Ibid.; Deadly Israeli attack on journalists must be investigated as a war crime | Amnesty International](#)

¹³ [Border village residents in the south contemplate leaving their houses again after fighting resumes in Gaza | L'Orient Today](#)

¹⁴ [Displacement Tracking Matrix Mobility Snapshot - Round 14 - 07-12-2023 | IOM Lebanon](#)

¹⁵ [Ibid.](#)

estimates 1.05 million people in Lebanon — including 411,000 Syrian refugees and 56,600 Palestinian refugees — are in the “crisis” stage of food insecurity. This classification means this group, about 19% of the population, are forced to deplete their own livelihoods and means of income, such as livestock, in order to feed their families.¹⁶ Another 74,000 are in the IPC-labeled “emergency” stage, facing acute food insecurity including substantial malnutrition, resorting to emergency coping mechanisms, and experiencing increased acute death rates due to extreme hunger.¹⁷

The use of incendiary weapons including white phosphorus in airstrikes has caused fires to spread on agricultural land, which will have a long-term impact on food security and agricultural production in Lebanon.¹⁸ Human rights organizations have stressed that the use of white phosphorus in civilian areas and in close proximity to infrastructure is prohibited under international humanitarian law.¹⁹ Lebanon has lodged complaints to the UN Security Council in reference to Israel’s use of white phosphorus and the targeting of olive fields, which provide seven percent of Lebanon’s agricultural GDP.²⁰

Education

Thirty public schools providing education for more than 6,000 students in southern Lebanon have closed due to the clashes. Twenty-four of the closed schools are in Nabatieh. Minimal attendance is reported at 21 additional schools in the same area due to intense fighting.²¹ This adds to the 490,000 students across Lebanon – 27% of school aged children – who are not currently enrolled in school due to a myriad of factors including teacher strikes, transportation limitations, and access to school materials.²²

On November 27, the Caretaker Education Minister in Lebanon announced an emergency schooling plan for the over 10,000 displaced students whose education is disrupted by the current hostilities.²³

Anera’s Response

Our team in Lebanon is preparing for increased violence and displacement. Our medical donations team is prepositioning shipments and preparing to quickly procure and distribute medicines and medical supplies.

¹⁶ [Lebanon: Acute Food Insecurity Situation October 2023 - March 2024 and Projection for April 2024 - September 2024 | IPC](#)

¹⁷ Ibid.

¹⁸ [Lebanon: Flash Update #4 - Escalation of hostilities in south Lebanon, 7 December 2023 | UNOCHA](#)

¹⁹ [Questions and Answers on Israel’s Use of White Phosphorus in Gaza and Lebanon | Human Rights Watch](#); [Evidence of Israel’s unlawful use of white phosphorus in southern Lebanon as cross-border hostilities escalate | Amnesty International](#)

²⁰ [National Green Export Review of Lebanon: Natural Soap and Ecotourism | UNCTAD](#)

²¹ [Lebanon: Flash Update #4 - Escalation of hostilities in south Lebanon, 7 December 2023 | UNOCHA](#)

²² [CRP 3rd Quarter 2023 Education Sector Dashboard | UNHCR](#)

²³ [Lebanon: Flash Update #3 - Escalation of hostilities in south Lebanon, 1 December 2023 | UNOCHA](#)

With support from UNICEF, students enrolled in sewing classes through Anera's Youth Empowerment, Education & Employability program crafted 2,721 winter clothing kits. Of these, Anera's Lebanon team has distributed 1,431 kits so far. Anera's other technical and vocational training programs and employability support programs are also still running, helping students gain job-specific skills and providing career guidance and networking assistance.

Our [rooftop gardens](#) in Lebanon continue to support livelihoods and address food insecurity.