



Lebanon Situation Report

March 5, 2024

Background

Information about the current period of cross-border fighting is summarized in Anera's last [Situation Report \(January 2024\)](#).

Overview

Since October 8, exchanges of fire across the southern Lebanon border continue to increase between the Israeli military and armed groups from Lebanon. The hostilities have displaced thousands of families and considerably affected over 60,000 people who remained in the area.¹ Israel continues to violate Lebanon's airspace and target civilians, housing units, agricultural land, commercial buildings, water and sanitation infrastructure, and educational facilities. Tens of thousands of families have lost their livelihoods, and hundreds of families lost their homes. The cross-border rocket fire and shelling burned an essential agricultural area in Lebanon and worsened the food security situation.

On February 15, the UN Humanitarian Coordinator expressed deep concern regarding the increasing number of civilian targets in southern Lebanon, stating:

"The recent surge in hostilities and the reported airstrikes resulting in increasing civilian casualties are extremely concerning. Among the victims are children, mothers, and grandparents."²

Humanitarian organizations are struggling to deliver assistance to southern Lebanon, where security interference, road closures, and transportation interruptions limit access to goods and inflated prices. Multiple districts suffer from acute shortages in access to education, healthcare, electricity, and fuel services.³

The cross-border violence has caused an estimated \$1.5 billion in damage. South Lebanon and Nabatieh hold 21.5 percent of Lebanon's cultivated land, and the damage to agricultural land will cause a loss of income and means of livelihood for farmers.⁴

¹ [Lebanon: Flash Update #11 - Escalation of hostilities in South Lebanon, February 2024 | UNOCHA](#)

² [UN Humanitarian Coordinator on Increase of Civilian Casualties in South Lebanon, February 2024 | UN](#)

³ [Lebanon: Flash Update #11 - Escalation of hostilities in South Lebanon, February 2024 | UNOCHA](#)

⁴ [Lebanon's economy reels as cost of damages from Gaza war soar, February | The National News](#)

Violence at the Lebanon-Israel border

Lebanon's cross-border conflict with the Israeli military includes shelling, artillery and missile attacks, air and drone strikes, armed clashes, and rocket interception. As of February 9, Israel launched over 3,000 strikes inside Lebanon, including 120 white phosphorus incidents that are harmful to agricultural land and have long-term health consequences.⁵

On February 3, the Israeli army stated that it had attacked over 3,400 Hezbollah targets since October 8, killing 200 members of the group.⁶ As of February 13, the hostilities along the southern Lebanese border caused 843 injuries and 177 deaths, of which 92% were male.⁷ Since October 7, Hezbollah has fired over 1,700 rockets toward Israel, killing 15 and injuring over 150 people.⁸

On February 14, an Israeli missile targeted a home in Nabatieh, killing a family of seven and injuring two, including a three-year-old child. This was the most lethal death toll by an Israeli strike in Lebanon since October 8.⁹ On February 15, the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) expressed grave concern over the violence spillover to areas beyond the Blue Line. UNIFIL expressed that the new trend in the exchanges of fire mainly targets civilians and is considered a violation of international law.¹⁰ Fear of another full-scale conflict between Israel and Hezbollah is increasing amidst soaring regional tensions.¹¹

Displacement

As of February 23, the hostilities along Lebanon's southern borders with Israel **displaced 91,288 people**, of which 52% were female and 48% were male. Nine districts reported that some residents had fled and sought safety in 436 locations, of which 1,089 internally displaced persons (IDPs) found shelter in 18 collective shelters, and 354 cadasters reported arrival of IDPs. About 79% of IDPs lived with host families, 15% rented houses, 4% relocated to a secondary residence, and 2% lived in collective shelters.¹² The displaced population includes refugees living in informal settlements in Southern Lebanon, who have become displaced more than once.¹³

⁵ [Lebanese-Israeli Border Escalation, February 2024 | AUB](#)

⁶ [South Lebanon: Despite fears of escalation at the border, diplomacy is making progress, February 2024 | L'Orient Today](#)

⁷ [Cumulative Emergency Report, February 2024 | MoPH](#)

⁸ [Instability in Lebanon, February 2024 | Global Conflict Tracker](#)

⁹ [What's driving Israel's escalation in south Lebanon?, February 2024 | The New Arab](#)

¹⁰ [UNIFIL expresses concern over escalating violence beyond blue line in southern Lebanon, February 2024 | The National News Agency](#)

¹¹ [Hezbollah chief says only Gaza ceasefire will end Lebanon border attacks, February 2024 | AlJazeera](#)

¹² [Displacement Tracking Matrix Mobility Snapshot, February 2024 | IOM](#)

¹³ [Olive Groves, Farms in Southern Lebanon Destroyed In Rising Cross-Border Violence with 86,000 People Forced to Flee, February 2024 | Save the Children](#)

Also, Lebanon's adverse weather conditions as of January 23rd caused flooding and damage to shelters in vulnerable areas, particularly informal settlements. The northern regions faced some of the most significant challenges, including flash floods, soil erosion, and crop loss. More than 320 affected Lebanese and Syrian refugees required temporary relocation following the flooding. Displaced Syrians were relocated to four sites including a mosque, a school, and two city halls. Meanwhile, 20 families sought shelter within the local Lebanese community. All families returned to their informal settlements by January 28th. One Syrian child lost their life in the storm.¹⁴

Environment, Livelihood, and Food Security

Nearly 2 million people in Lebanon face food insecurity. The IPC Acute Food Insecurity Classification expects that 2.26 million people will be food insecure by April. Specifically, refugees are the most affected. The analysis highlighted Palestinian refugees in Lebanon as one of the groups most vulnerable to food insecurity.¹⁵ Other factors exacerbating the food insecurity crisis include the ongoing hostilities on the Israeli-Lebanese border, the sustained economic crisis since 2019, and the current war on Ukraine, which disrupted international trade and wheat imports. These factors have led to highly inflated food prices and acute shortages, especially among vulnerable populations such as refugees, farmers in remote areas who have lost their livelihoods due to the exchange of fires, and thousands of people who are unable to move from their villages despite facing the threat of attacks. In Lebanon, 90% of Syrian refugees experience extreme poverty. Since October 2019, food prices have increased 19fold.

On February 20, the Lebanese Minister of Agriculture stated that the Israeli army continued to repeatedly use white phosphorus in its attacks on Lebanon's southern areas. Under international humanitarian law, this restricted weapon is known to cause immediate and sustainable damage to agricultural lands and the agricultural sector, including agricultural lands, animal wealth, and forests. Responding to this violation of international law, the Lebanese authorities submitted several complaints to the United Nations to no avail. The Minister confirmed that the Israeli attacks burned agricultural land (2,000 dunums), damaged agricultural and forested lands (6,000 dunams), and olive trees (more than 50 thousand trees), as well as other trees and plants. The attacks also resulted in animal losses, including the death of 340,000 chickens and 950 heads of livestock, the destruction of 310 beehives, the destruction of a 600-square-meter fodder warehouse, and the destruction of 6 farms.¹⁶

¹⁴ [Lebanon - Inter-Agency: Storm Response Situation Update, February 2024 | Operational Data Portal](#)

¹⁵ [Lebanon: a story of crisis upon crisis, February 2024 | ITSS](#).

¹⁶ [Israel's attacks with phosphorus bombs under the microscope of scientific facts, February 2024 | Ministry of Agriculture](#)

Lebanon's olive industry comprises over 110,000 farmers and 12 million trees. Olive harvesting is a crucial source of income for hundreds of farmers and accounts for 7% of the country's agricultural GDP.¹⁷ The cross-border exchange of fires burnt thousands of olive trees, displaced thousands of farmers, and interrupted the olive harvest. This will harm livelihoods and food security and increase olive oil prices long-term.

Economy, Education, and Healthcare

Lebanon hosts over 1.5 million refugees, of which more than 800,000 are Syrian. The ongoing conflict in Syria highly affected the trade and tourism industry. The country has one of the world's highest debt ratios to GDP. Lebanon is among the countries hosting the highest refugee populations per capita.¹⁸ Lebanon has faced a continuing and escalating economic crisis and political instability since 2019, which was worsened by the COVID-19 pandemic and global trade interruption following the 2022 war on Ukraine.

The currency devaluation and depletion of foreign reserves affected Lebanon's imports and reduced household consumption and purchase capacity.¹⁹ The ongoing hostilities impacted some of Lebanon's economic sectors, including tourism, trade, hospitality, agriculture, and aviation. The cross-border violence also obliterated critical economic pillars such as health, education, and financial services. The Israeli attacks inflicted damage and destruction on an already impoverished area.²⁰

As of February 15, the hostilities damaged eight water facilities and caused the closure of 50 public schools in border villages, displacing 32,000 children and closing schools in the southern part of the country.²¹

Anera's Response

Winterization Kits

Anera supported displaced families in Lebanon who are unable to meet their basic needs and are facing harsh winter conditions. We distributed 2,700 winterization kits for children and youth aged 0-24 years.

Through this initiative, Anera supported skilled youth who completed sewing courses through Anera's Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) program. We

¹⁷ [Olive Groves, Farms in Southern Lebanon Destroyed In Rising Cross-Border Violence with 86,000 People Forced to Flee, February 2024 | Save the Children](#)

¹⁸ [Instability in Lebanon, February 2024 | Global Conflict Tracker](#)

¹⁹ [Lebanon's agrifood system in times of turbulence: obstacles and opportunities, February 2024 | FAO](#)

²⁰ [Lebanon's economy reels as cost of damages from Gaza war soar, February | The National News](#)

²¹ [Lebanon: At a Glance - Escalation of hostilities in South Lebanon, February 2024 | UNOCHA; Statement on escalation of violence in Lebanon, February 2024 | Save the Children](#)

implemented sewing training in partnership with UNICEF, which offered an income-generating opportunity for youth—allowing them to practice their sewing skills in the production of the kits.

The winterization kits included winter clothes for babies, sweaters and jackets, warm trousers, winter boots, and other winter gear such as hats, mittens, scarves, socks, and thermal sets. This initiative decreases the risk of infections among children and youth.

Food Parcels (Ramadan)

Anera will support 1,250 families in South Lebanon during Ramadan by distributing food parcels and vouchers.

During the month of Ramadan, Anera prioritizes providing food parcels and vouchers to vulnerable households. The parcels include core dry food items supplemented with a voucher, allowing families to buy other necessities. Families tend to use the vouchers for products such as meat, chicken, cheese, bread, water, and cooking gas.

This approach aligns with the humanitarian principle of accountability to affected populations. It encourages families to participate in fulfilling their unique food needs through the use of food vouchers.

Youth-Led Initiatives

As part of Anera's civic engagement program, we engaged 45 displaced youth who implemented four youth-led initiatives. The youth distributed essential non-food items to five centers hosting displaced families in South Lebanon. The items aimed to support hygiene and sanitation efforts and reduce risks of infection.

The items distributed through the initiatives were diverse. They included three washing machines, 100 kg of laundry detergent, 160 carpets, ten hygiene kits, and 18 wash racks.

Health and Medications

Anera dedicates itself to improving patients' access to healthcare, particularly for those displaced during this emergency in Lebanon. Our priorities remain in two aspects. 1) Elevate preparedness in public hospitals for prompt and efficient provision of emergency health services. 2) Ensure uninterrupted treatment for patients with chronic diseases.

As escalations are confined to the Lebanese borders in South Lebanon. Anera focuses our support of emergency supplies and backpacks on hospitals in the South. Anera is also extending assistance to hospitals in other areas to enhance their preparedness if escalations take place.

Anera is distributing acute and chronic medications across Lebanon, supporting displaced persons throughout the country. The distributed medications benefit more than 65 dispensaries and health centers.

Since October 7, we have received 13 shipments of essential medicines and supplies from seven donors. These shipments have a total value of \$25,582,613. We obtained a total of 86 pallets, including medications for chronic, acute, and life-saving cases, in addition to emergency supplies, emergency backpacks, and sutures.

Food Security and Livelihoods

Through the Food Assistance, Multi-Purpose Cash Assistance, & Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene Support Project. Anera provided food and cash assistance to vulnerable households in North Lebanon beginning in August 2023. We seek to provide essential humanitarian support to the most vulnerable people—particularly those affected by the economic crisis in Lebanon to meet their critical needs.

The project ensures that the most vulnerable communities in Lebanon receive humanitarian food assistance to reduce their food gaps and diversify their food intake. The in-kind food parcels and cash assistance benefit 684 families.