

Ceasefire in name only:

Ongoing attacks, occupation and displacement in Lebanon

Today marks one year since the escalation of hostilities erupted across Lebanon in September 2024, following almost a year of violence on the southern border that began on October 8, 2023. According to the Lebanese Ministry of Public Health, the Israeli forces killed more than four thousand people¹ - an average of over three children per day between October and November 2024² - and injured thousands. Lebanon experienced the largest wave of internal displacement in decades, with 1.2 million people forced from their homes, notably in southern Lebanon, the Bekaa, and southern Beirut suburbs. Essential civilian infrastructure, such as homes, hospitals and schools, as well as agricultural lands were destroyed.

Continued military operations, prolonged displacement and protection risks

Despite the 27 November 2024 ceasefire, the Israeli Forces carried out almost daily military activities, especially in southern Lebanon. Airstrikes, artillery shellings and drone attacks also targeting UNIFIL along with the ongoing occupation of five areas, continue to inflict significant harm on civilian populations, including health workers. Threats to civilians continue: as of July 2025, there have been at least 260 casualties confirmed in the country due to military attacks post-ceasefire, including at least 71 civilians³.

While 970,000 individuals have been able to return to their homes, 82,000⁴ are still unable to do so because of destruction, ongoing occupation and violence. Protracted displacement has severely increased protection risks, particularly for vulnerable populations. Women in shelters face increased risks of Gender-based Violence (GBV), children are being forced into child labour to support households that lost their livelihoods, and access to services for persons with disabilities is heavily limited, with many instances of psychosocial trauma.

Extensive destruction, with up to 25% of buildings in Southern Lebanon damaged or destroyed, has left some areas uninhabitable. Amnesty International has documented the deliberate destruction of over 10,000 civilian structures, including homes, schools, and water facilities between October 2024 and January 2025 in Lebanon - many of which were destroyed *after* the ceasefire agreement.⁵ The destruction or repurpose of over 60 schools means that children's access to education is limited, heightening the risk of psychosocial distress, child labour, and child marriage. Repeated attacks on medical infrastructure, which international law prohibits, has hampered humanitarian efforts. Human Rights Watch notes that even if homes are still standing, the lack of essential services such as water, electricity,

¹ Lebanon conflict at 'critical point' with more than 3,000 confirmed dead, UN news, November 2024 ([Source](#))

² ESCWA, Lebanon War 2024 Socioeconomic impact analysis ([Source](#))

³ OHCHR Israeli operations in Lebanon continue to kill civilians ([Source](#))

⁴ IOM, Mobility Snapshot

⁵ Amnesty International, Lebanon: Israeli military's deliberate destruction of civilian property and land 'must be investigated as war crimes', August 2025 ([Source](#))

and healthcare infrastructure makes return unfeasible⁶ and increases the exposure to protection risks. The destruction of farmland and irrigation systems, as well as new checkpoints rendering some lands inaccessible in border areas have left many families without a means of income, leading to child labor and food insecurity. The World Bank has estimated the recovery and reconstruction needs to be at a cost of USD 11 billion.⁷

Humanitarian and recovery challenges

One year on, civilians in Lebanon remain trapped in precarious conditions. Families are struggling to rebuild their lives, while surviving amid the threat of unexploded ordnance (UXO), potential chemical contamination⁸, and severely damaged critical infrastructure in the south. All this with little or no access to livelihoods, rendering recovery and stability nearly impossible, especially among the displaced and refugee populations. While humanitarian access has improved, assistance as well as recovery and reconstruction remain restricted in some areas due to continued attacks and occupation. At times, organizations have had to limit the delivery of essential services such as food^{9,10}, water, medical supplies, and education,¹¹ increasing economic hardship.

"I will stay here in front of the rubble of my home, even if I have to sleep in a tent. I will gather tree branches to cook dinner for my children. Even if the war returns, I will not leave my land again."

- resident of Nabatieh governorate -

The absence of decisive international action has emboldened repeated violations of the ceasefire, contributing to broader regional instability and breaches of international law. We, the undersigned humanitarian organizations, call upon the **parties of the conflict** to:

- End the ongoing violations of the ceasefire agreement, with an immediate cessation of hostilities.
- Ensure the protection of civilians, including displaced persons and those living in frontline areas, in line with International Humanitarian Law (IHL) and International Human Rights Law (IHRL) obligations.
- Ensure unimpeded humanitarian access to affected populations, and an end to all attacks on peacekeepers and humanitarian aid workers.

The **international community** to:

- Place civilian protection at the center of all diplomatic engagements, ensuring that humanitarian concerns are prioritized in engagements with the parties to the conflict.
- Support independent investigations into violations of IHL and IHRL, and activate accountability mechanisms to end impunity.

⁶ Human Rights Watch, Lebanon: Destruction of Infrastructure Preventing Returns, February 2025 ([source](#))

⁷ [World Bank RDNA](#)

⁸ OCHA, Flash Update n 56 ([Source](#))

⁹ Action Contre la Faim, May 2025 ([Source](#))

¹⁰ WFP, Situation Report, May 2025 ([Source](#))

¹¹ UNICEF, Lebanon, August 2025 ([Source](#))

- Halt transfer of arms and military equipment to parties to the conflict where there is the risk they could be used to commit violations of IHL or exacerbate displacement.
- Actively support regional stability through sustained diplomatic efforts to de-escalate tensions and prevent further conflict.

To donors and development actors:

- Provide sustained funding for the reconstruction of essential infrastructure and services such as schools, clinics, food production facilities and water systems, ensuring efforts are inclusive, community-driven, and rights-based to enable safe, voluntary, and dignified returns.
- Prioritize funding for sustainable agriculture, including land clearance and rehabilitation from UXO and potential chemical contamination, restoration of productive assets, and support for smallholder farmers to restart production.
- Ensure funding for protection services, including Gender-based Violence (GBV) case management, child protection, mental health support, and humanitarian mine action (HMA), including life-saving explosive ordnance risk education (EORE) in affected areas including frontline areas.
- Support the restoration of essential infrastructure such as schools, clinics, water systems to enable safe and dignified returns.

Signatories:

Action Against Hunger

Anera

Centre Libanais des Droits Humains (CLDH)

Danish Refugee Council (DRC)

Danmission

Humanity & Inclusion (HI)

International Rescue Committee (IRC)

INTERSOS

Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC)

Save the Children International

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