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LEBANON'S BATTLE WITH ANTIDEPRESSANTS ADDICTION & UNETHICAL HEALTHCARE PRACTICES

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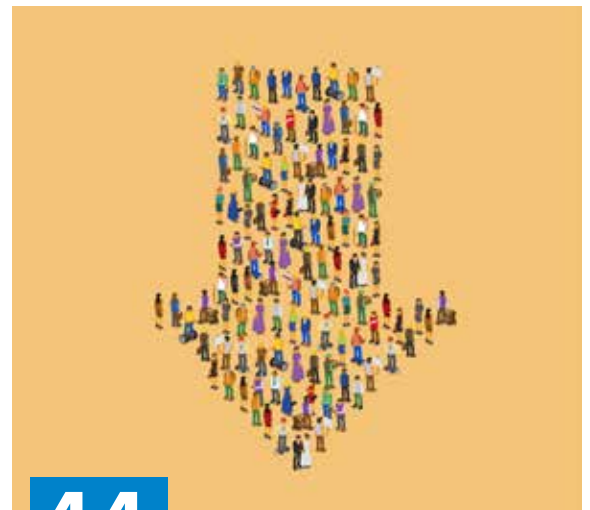
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Published by Information International, *The Monthly* deals with research, economic, financial, social and cultural issues that concern Lebanese citizens and officials. It also publishes periodic public opinion polls on the topics in question.

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Information International S.A.L
Al-Borj Building, 4th Floor Martyr's Square, Commercial Center
Beirut - Lebanon, P.O.BOX: 11-4353 Beirut, Lebanon
Tel: (961-1) 983008/9 Fax: (961-1) 980630
E-mail: infointl@information-international.com
Web: www.information-international.com
Web: www.monthlymagazine.com



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Letters to a Friend Over There (10) **We Are Living with Wolves**

By Jawad N. Adra



The author had previously published a series of eight articles titled “Letters to a Friend Over There” in *An-Nahar*. The series continues in *The Monthly*.

I received your sad and angry letter, as we face what we face in Palestine and Southern Lebanon.

It seems as if we are several peoples in Lebanon, and within each “people” there are factions, and within each individual of these factions, there are more individuals. Our story lies here, in the genetic transformation that occurred within us, making the ego our only driving force, and within that ego, there are many more “egos.”

You may blame me again for returning to our history, but this time you might find the topic pleasing because it’s about Avicenna.

We know him as a physician and surgeon, but what we didn’t know about him is that he conducted experiments to study the effects of psychological conditions on physical states.

You might ask what this has to do with the electricity cuts in Lebanon, the looting of deposits, the lack of healthcare coverage, public transportation, air and water pollution, the increase in diseases, the widespread corruption in laws, and most importantly what is happening in the elections, and the reproduction of the same mentality, the same situations, and the same people.

Avicenna has the answer. He placed two sheep, each in a cage, and provided them with equal food, water, care, and attention, with one difference:

He placed a wolf in a third cage, visible to only one of the sheep.

He then observed what happened...

After a while, it became clear to him that the sheep that did not see the wolf behaved normally and was in excellent health.

On the other hand, he noticed troubling symptoms in the second sheep. It became anxious, stopped sleeping, grew weak and sick, and eventually died.

This is despite the fact that the wolf was imprisoned in the cage.

As for us, my friend, we are living with wolves.

Yours sincerely,

Leader



LEBANON'S BATTLE WITH ANTIDEPRESSANTS ADDICTION & UNETHICAL HEALTHCARE PRACTICES

Amid the ongoing economic and political situation in Lebanon, physical and mental health are becoming more and more important. The country is facing unprecedented economic and social challenges that weigh heavily on the population, in addition to the potential outbreak of a full-scale war in the region. All these factors inevitably affect Lebanese people's health behaviors.

Information International has prepared a study (attached) that examines the use of sedatives and antidepressants within the context of the general mental health situation in Lebanon. The results revealed that Deanxit, a drug banned in several countries, is the most used in Lebanon. This prompted many questions to relevant specialists, especially since it became apparent that many who take sedatives or antidepressants do so without consulting specialized doctors. Moreover, there is a black market for these drugs facilitated by social media.

The Internationally Banned Drug Popular in Lebanon

Deanxit is the most popular anti-depressant in Lebanon despite being banned in many countries. It is a combination of Flupentixol and Melitracen, developed in Denmark in 1971 by Lundbeck. The version used in Lebanon is manufactured in Bangladesh.

This drug did not receive approval for sale in its country of origin and has been banned in many Western European and American countries such as the United States, the United Kingdom, Canada, Ireland, Japan, and Australia. India continues to fight its illegal use.

In a study published in May 2023 conducted in Lebanon by the Emergency Medical Department at the American University of Beirut Medical Center, in collaboration with the Emergency Medical Department at Emory University in Atlanta, and the Stony Brook Cancer Center at Stony Brook University in New York, it was found that 36% of Deanxit users in Lebanon developed drug use disorder, indicating a high level of addiction and dependency on the drug.

Why is this Specific Drug Being Imported to Lebanon?

When asked why Deanxit is used in Lebanon despite the international ban, the answer was that it is legally authorized for import in Lebanon.

However, this authorization raises important questions: Why is this specific drug being imported to Lebanon? It is essential to investigate the legal and commercial dynamics behind this situation to determine if there are specific interests driving the continued circulation of this drug and how it affects the health of citizens.

“36% of Deanxit users in Lebanon developed drug use disorder, indicating a high level of addiction and dependency on the drug”



Increased Rates of Anxiety and Depression, Especially Among Youth We are still in Denial... and Worse is Yet to Come

Lebanon is witnessing a definite increase in depression rates. The deteriorating economic situation, the Beirut port explosion, COVID-19, and unemployment have all significantly increased the sales of antidepressant medications. However, depression is now hitting Lebanese youth in larger numbers compared to the years before the crisis, indicating a deepening sense of despair and anxiety among them. This was confirmed to Informational International by Dr. Rabih Shamai, head of the National Mental Health Program at the Ministry of Public Health in Lebanon.

Dr. Raed Makarem, a pharmacy owner in the Baabda district, also observed a decrease in the consumption of sedatives

and psychiatric drugs that require a prescription, such as Xanax and Alprox. He attributed this to the high cost of psychiatric consultations and the social stigma associated with visiting a psychiatrist in Lebanon, where some prefer to take sedatives without psychiatric follow-up. Concurrently, there has been an increase in the consumption in over-the-counter antidepressants.

Similarly, a pharmacist at a large pharmacy in Beirut, who preferred to remain anonymous, confirmed that the demand for sedatives has remained relatively stable or slightly decreased, a phenomenon he could not clearly explain. In contrast, there has been an increase of over 100% in the demand for antidepressants, particularly Cipralex. The demand for sleeping pills, such as Stilnox, has also doubled. He remarked, “It seems that the use of sedatives has significantly decreased because people feel they have nothing left to lose, and perhaps they no longer feel the anger or need to calm their nerves as before.”

The pharmacist also noted that doctors are increasingly prescribing a combination of antidepressants to treat complex and severe mental health conditions, a practice that was not common before. He also mentioned an increase in suicidal thoughts, which has been corroborated by other sources. Dr. Ziad Mohammed Al-Hajj Shehadeh, a member of the Lebanese Pharmacists Syndicate, pointed out that many cases of anxiety are developing into depression. He noted a change in the nature of mental health conditions in Lebanon, which now often requires psychiatrists to prescribe three or four different medications for a single patient.

Dr. Ziad warned of a malfunction in the mental health system. He explained that the negative results of this malfunction will appear in the Lebanese society in the long term because the effects do not show immediately but go through three consecutive stages, each lasting about five years. Worse is yet to come, as it is impossible for a sick society or parents suffering from anxiety and depression to raise a healthy family.



“ There has been an increase of over 100% in the demand for antidepressants and also the demand for sleeping pills ”

Corruption and Smuggling Under the Guise of Central Bank Subsidies

Lebanon has turned into a sea of corruption and drug smuggling under the guise of the Central Bank’s subsidy policies. Pharmacist Dr. Raed Makarem revealed that “the subsidy policies adopted by the Central Bank were nothing but a cover for money laundering and illegal asset liquidation.” He said, “Anyone with funds in banks could obtain subsidized drugs through the central bank. Over a year and a half since the start of the collapse, these individuals bought large quantities of drugs at subsidized prices, then re-exported them abroad or sold them on the black market for huge profits.” Exploiting subsidies for money laundering

Raed added that over the course of two years, the Central Bank provided more than \$7 billion in subsidies to the drug sector. “Some companies declared importing large quantities of drugs, but in reality, they imported fewer quantities and smuggled the rest. In some cases, they brought in 20% of the declared quantity to Lebanon and smuggled the remaining 80%. In others, 100% of imported products were smuggled across the borders.”

He does not rule out manipulation of drug expiration dates, where large quantities might be stored for years before being sold. For instance, he revealed that “the value of drugs in his pharmacy was 280 million Lebanese pounds (\$190,000 before the crisis), but it dropped to just \$10,000 due to subsidy policies, leading to severe losses for pharmacies adhering to official prices.”

A Stark Contradiction:

Imports and exports have increased, but Lebanon is still suffering from shortages in the drug market

A pharmacist at one of the major pharmacies in Beirut confirmed to Information International that while the Lebanese market experienced repeated shortages in drug availability, the quantity of imported and locally produced drugs increased significantly, especially in 2020. Nevertheless, a large proportion of these drugs were smuggled abroad, bringing in fresh dollars for smugglers.

Government subsidies for drugs continued until April 1, 2022, after which there was a gradual reduction in subsidies with restrictions imposed on the quantities delivered, indicating continued smuggling and reflecting its negative impact on drug security in Lebanon. Previously, drug subsidies amounted to approximately 120 million USD, but in 2022, they were reduced to 35 million USD, covering only chronic medications and medical supplies.

Drugs at a Click

Facebook and WhatsApp: The Black Market for Sedatives in Lebanon

Dr. Mohammad Jaber, the Secretary of the Lebanese Pharmacists Syndicate, told Information International that during the financial crisis and the COVID-19 pandemic, and amid drug shortages, Lebanon witnessed a lenient attitude from the state towards the illegal trade of medications. Under the pretext of unavailability, Lebanese people were able to obtain any type of sedatives without the need for a prescription or medical consultation. Pages on social media freely offer lists of medications, their prices, and their uses.

Dr. Jaber added that the Lebanese Pharmacists Syndicate lacks the necessary authority for inspection and monitoring, which is a significant gap in the Lebanese healthcare system.

Overprescription of Psychiatric Drugs in Lebanon

Pharmacist Dr. Raed Makkarem criticized the phenomenon of overprescribing sedatives by some doctors in Lebanon. He urged them to review their professional codes and commit to prescribing medications as a last resort. "Lebanese people have developed resistance to antibiotics, sedatives, and painkillers due to excessive and rapid prescriptions."

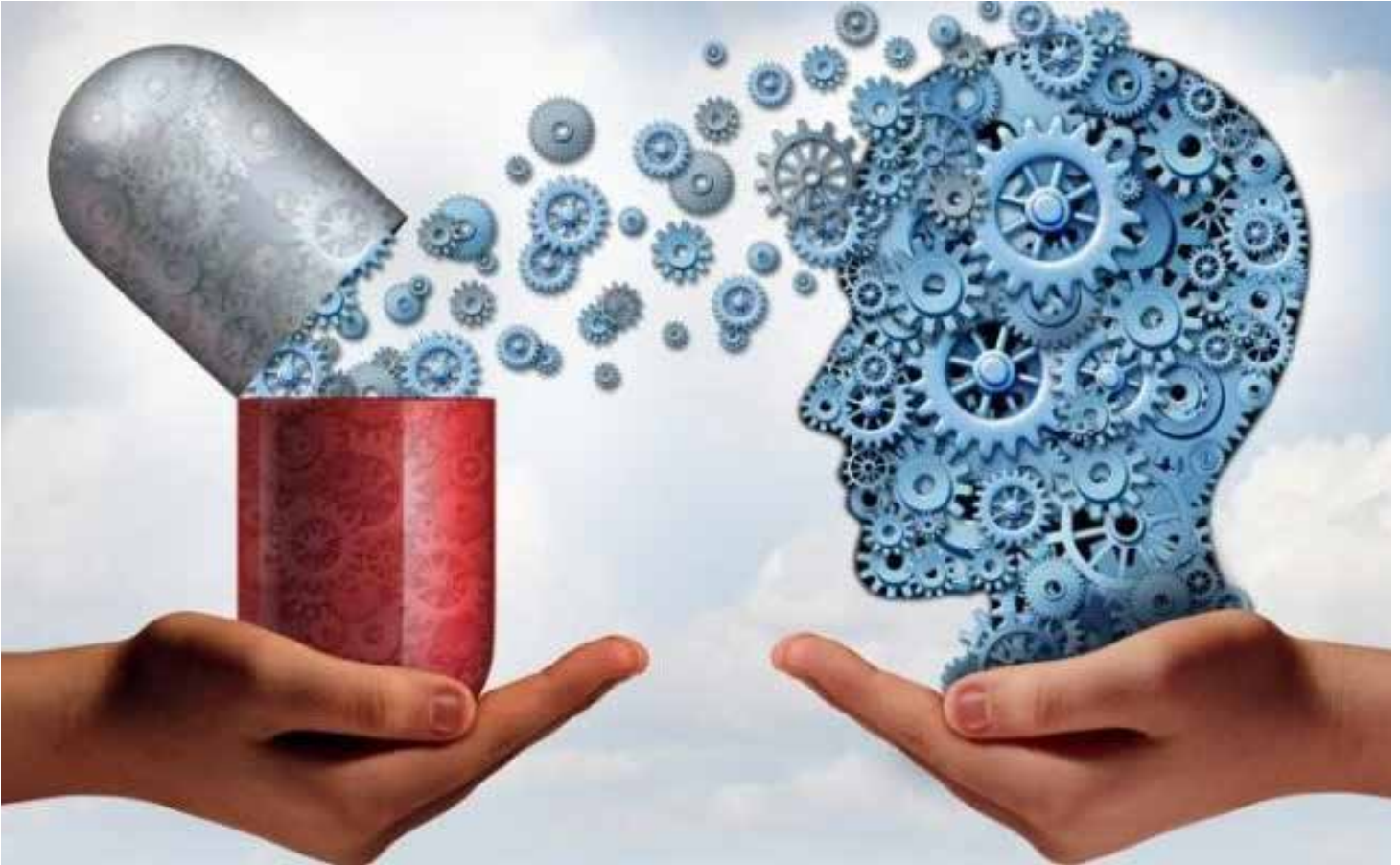
As a pharmacist, he often refuses to dispense excessive prescriptions for sedatives after explaining the severe side effects of these drugs, such as dementia, urinary disorders, and loss of balance. He highlighted a critical issue: The misuse of sedatives with the elderly in Lebanon, indicating a collapse in family values and ethics.

"The elderly suffer from deteriorating basic rights such as economic security and healthcare. In this dire reality, some children resort to using sedatives and sleeping pills to sedate elderly family members to avoid inconvenience, reflecting a decline and shocking neglect of the rights of those weaker than us, who need love, not sedation, leaving them confused or asleep."

Overuse of Sedatives Among Women

In an interview with Information International, Joseph Hawat, President of JAD - Youth Against Drugs (Jeunesse Anti Drogue), confirmed the addiction to sedatives and painkillers, especially among women. Statistics show that the percentage of women in Lebanon consuming sedatives and painkillers is among the highest compared to other countries.

Scandal: Sharp Criticisms from Abu Al-Azayem Hospital in Egypt and Al-Rashid Hospital in Jordan of Medical Practices in Lebanon



Hawat, who sends patients abroad for treatment, explained that foreign hospitals often express shock at the large quantities and types of psychiatric medications prescribed to Lebanese patients. Abu Al-Azayem Hospital in Egypt stated, “Doctors who prescribe these drugs excessively should be imprisoned. Doctor, you are trapping the patient in a vicious cycle of addiction.”

JAD says that pharmaceutical companies, importers, and traders spend generous amounts of money and pay trips for doctors to promote their drugs, contributing to the continuation of these destructive practices.

Legitimized Drugs

A woman whose family brought her to JAD said, “I’m here by mistake.” “I’m not addicted to drugs,” despite taking large amounts of Tramadol based on a medical prescription for years. This shows how easily dependence on prescribed medications can turn into real addiction, with the belief that sedatives are a legalized medication and not a stigma like commonly known drugs, which men turn to more than women.

Are Lebanese Doctors Encouraging Addiction to Sedatives and Nerve Treatments?

In our meeting with Dr. Mohammad Jaber from the Pharmacists Syndicate, when confronted with evidence suggesting that prescriptions for sedatives in Lebanon are sometimes excessive, Jaber responded, “Every patient is a test for their doctor, so doctors make sure to follow recognized global studies.” However, he likened the situation to addiction to antibiotics due to misuse. He acknowledged that doctors should take more time in the treatment process before resorting to prescribing sedatives and nerve treatments because of the risks of addiction.

Whistleblowing: The Only Way to Monitor Prescriptions

According to Dr. Jaber, the problem lies in the limited monitoring in Lebanon, which is restricted to very blatant issues and repeated prescriptions in specific locations.

“In the end, we expect a complaint from a pharmacist or colleagues indicating that there are illogical prescriptions, which then leads to monitoring. This is the only way we can control things, through whistleblowing.”

Risks of Quick Fixes and Sedatives

Dr. Rabih Shamai, head of the National Mental Health Program, says the problem lies in Lebanese people’s ignorance towards topics like mental health and available services in the country. This pushes many to adopt incorrect solutions such as sedatives.

He shares the story of a young man, a story that epitomizes the struggles of many youths: “He graduated from university, but the suffocating economic crisis closed the company where he worked. Suddenly, he found himself unemployed at a time when he dreamed of building his future. He was deeply frustrated; he slept little and rarely left his home, feeling worthless and helpless. His parents were disappointed due to his lack of initiative, unaware that he was suffering from depression.”

Here, we urge families and relatives not to rush to judgments and accusations, but rather to offer the assistance and understanding. In the absence of awareness and support, he turned to a neighbor who provided him with some sedative pills. He finally slept, but he had to constantly increase the dosage until he became addicted.

“Most youths in similar situations do not seek out a psychiatrist, but this young man was among the few who did. He was diagnosed with depression and prescribed appropriate treatment, which consisted of antidepressants rather than commonly misused sedatives.”

“We also had to assist him in gradually quitting the sedatives. He was at risk of drug use.”

Shamai expressed concern about the current system that allows patients to obtain medication from multiple doctors and pharmacies, opening the door to misuse and addiction.

Regarding opioid medications, including Tramal, Shamai emphasized that “Lebanon has made progress in some aspects of control but still lags behind many countries. These drugs are particularly dangerous due to their ease of misuse and have severe side effects and risks.”

“Opioids belong to the heroin and morphine family. They become a substitute for drugs when unavailable, increasing the risk of addiction among users.”

Is the Cost of Mental Health Treatment a Barrier to Recovery?

Some consider mental health treatment a luxury due to its relatively high cost, especially when there are urgent physical health issues requiring medical attention.

Dr. Mohammad Jaber states, “Mental health treatment may be expensive, but in matters of health, we cannot view things in terms of expensive or cheap. We must balance between opting for doctors who may introduce us to a cycle of medications we will pay for throughout our lives and visiting a psychiatrist to understand our condition and seek permanent solutions.”

A Survey Conducted by *Information International* About Sedatives in Lebanon

Information International conducted a telephone poll early in 2024 involving various age and social groups to assess the consumption rates of sedative medications in Lebanon, as well as to monitor the reasons behind this consumption and its resulting effects. This survey represents a first step towards a deeper understanding of how current conditions affect mental health, identifying the need for targeted and effective interventions to improve the quality of life and mental health of citizens.

Survey Results:

- The survey reveals that 96% of respondents believe that the current situation (early 2024) significantly or somewhat negatively impacts individuals' mental health, reflecting a widespread state of continuous stress and anxiety. This opinion is reinforced by 68% of respondents who indicate that daily life pressures lead to increased consumption of sedative pills.
- The survey indicates that 29% of individuals personally know relatives or friends who use these medications, highlighting the societal impact of mental health on drug-related behaviors. Data shows that 10% of respondents self-administer sedative pills (without consulting a specialist), suggesting that over 400,000 Lebanese residents use these medications.

Suggesting that over

400,000 Lebanese residents use these sedative medications (without consulting a specialist)



96%

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mental health



68%

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daily life
pressures lead
to increased
consumption of
sedative pills



71%

of users
taking these
medications
daily
Deanxit
Lexotanil
Xanax and
Seroxat



85%

of users
taking these
medications
based on
medical advice



84%

of users
express a desire
to stop using
sedative pills

- Regarding the types of medications used, Deanxit emerges as the most common drug at 37%, followed by Lexotanil at 13%, Xanax at 10%, and Seroxat at 8%, each with varying percentages.

Notably, 71% of users take these medications daily, in doses ranging from one to two pills, indicating a continuity and potential dependency for some users.

- The data reveals that the vast majority of users, 85%, started taking these medications based on medical advice, while a small percentage, 8%, began using them through friends, especially among the younger population, raising concerns about unregulated use of these drugs.
- Regarding side effects, 92% of users report that the medications provide mental relief, with minimal complaints about fatigue, inability to concentrate, or loss of motivation, at 2% or less.
- Eighty-four percent of participants express a desire to stop using sedative pills, but various barriers prevent some from achieving this goal.

Conclusion:

These findings depict a snapshot of mental health in Lebanon, emphasizing the urgent need for awareness about responsible and regulated use of sedative medications, as well as the necessity for greater psychological support to help citizens cope with life pressures in healthy ways.



Information International Opinion Survey on Sedative Medications

Sample of 500 individuals equally divided between males and females:

- 78% believe that the current situation (war and economic crisis) significantly affects mental health.
- 68% believe this pressure leads to increased use of sedative pills.
- 10% of the sample reported increased use of sedative pills, with a higher percentage among females (13%) than males.
- 71% of the 10% use sedative pills daily, and 29% use them as needed.

Here we present the survey results based on questions directed to a random sample of 500 individuals, comprising 250 females and 250 males.

To what extent do you believe the current situation affects people's mental health?

Response	Number	Percentage
Affects significantly	390	78%
Affects somewhat	91	18%
Does not affect at all	14	3%
Don't know/No response	5	1%
Total	500	100%

The majority of respondents (390 people or 78%) think the current situation affect people's mental health.

Do you think the current pressure leads to an increase in the use of sedative pills among Lebanese people?

Response	Number	Percentage
Yes	341	68%
No	138	28%
Don't know/No response	21	4%
Total	500	100%

68% (341 respondents) confirm the relationship between current pressure and increased sedative pill consumption.

Do any of your family members/friends take sedative pills?

Response	Number	Percentage
Yes	145	29%
No	351	70%
Don't know/No response	4	1%
Total	500	100%

If yes, please specify the medication.

	Number	Percentage
Don't know	64	35%
Xanax	37	20%
Deanxit	26	14%
Lexotanil	23	13%
Cipralext	9	5%
Seroxat	6	3%
Alprox	2	1%
Prozac	2	1%
Benzhexol	1	1%
Cymbalta	1	1%
Duloxetine	1	1%
Effexor	1	1%
Haldol	1	1%
Librax	1	1%
Pazolam	1	1%
Remeron	1	1%
Suboxone	1	1%
Tramal	1	1%
Triptizol	1	1%
Venlax	1	1%
Xelox	1	1%
Zoloft	1	1%
Total	183	100%

Of the respondents who said they knew a family member who took sedatives, 35% said they didn't know the name of the medication. Thirty-seven people, or 20%, said it was Xanax. Another 14% said it was Deanxit, with 13% saying it was Lexotanil.

Do you take sedatives?

	Number	Percentage (females)	Percentage (males)	Total percentage
Yes	48	13%	6%	10%
No	452	87%	94%	90%
I refuse to answer	0	0%	0%	0%
Total	500	100%	100%	100%

It can be noted that the percentage of females who take sedatives (13%) is higher than that of males (6%).

If yes, please specify the medication.

Medication	Number	Percentage
Deanxit	19	37%
Lexotamil	7	13%
Xanax	5	10%
Seroxat	4	8%
Zelax	2	4%
Alprazolam	1	2%
Alprox	1	2%
Apo-Escitalopram	1	2%
Ciprallex	1	2%
Citoles	1	2%
Cymbalta	1	2%
Effexor	1	2%
Hexinal	1	2%
Lyricea	1	2%
Panadol Night	1	2%
Quzal	1	2%
Remeron	1	2%
Trileptal	1	2%
Valium	1	2%
Herbs	1	2%
Total	52	100

Frequency of use:

	Number	Percentage
Daily	37	71%
When needed	15	29%
Total	52	100%

Number of pills taken each time:

	Number	Percentage
Less than 1 pill	9	17%
1 to 2 pills	42	81%
3 to 5 pills	1	2%
Total	52	100%

How did you start taking sedatives?

	Number	Percentage
Through a doctor	41	85%
Through friends	4	8%
Personal decision	3	6%
Total	48	100%

A significant number of people 14% take sedatives without consulting a doctor.



How long ago did you start taking sedatives?

	Number	Percentage
1-6 months	8	17%
6-12 months	7	15%
1-3 years	12	25%
3-5 years	8	17%
5-10 years	4	8%
More than 10 years	9	19%
Total	48	100%

Where do you get these pills?

	Yes	No	Yes (percentage)	No (percentage)
Pharmacy	44	4	92%	8%
Friends	3	45	6%	94%
Dealers	4	44	8%	92%
Other	3	45	6%	94%



Please specify.

	Number	Percentage
From abroad	3	6%
Total	3	6%

How much do you spend monthly on sedatives?

	Number	Percentage
Less than 1 million LBP	25	52%
1-5 million LBP	21	44%
5-10 million LBP	1	2%
More than 10 million LBP	1	2%
Total	48	100%

Do sedatives make you feel

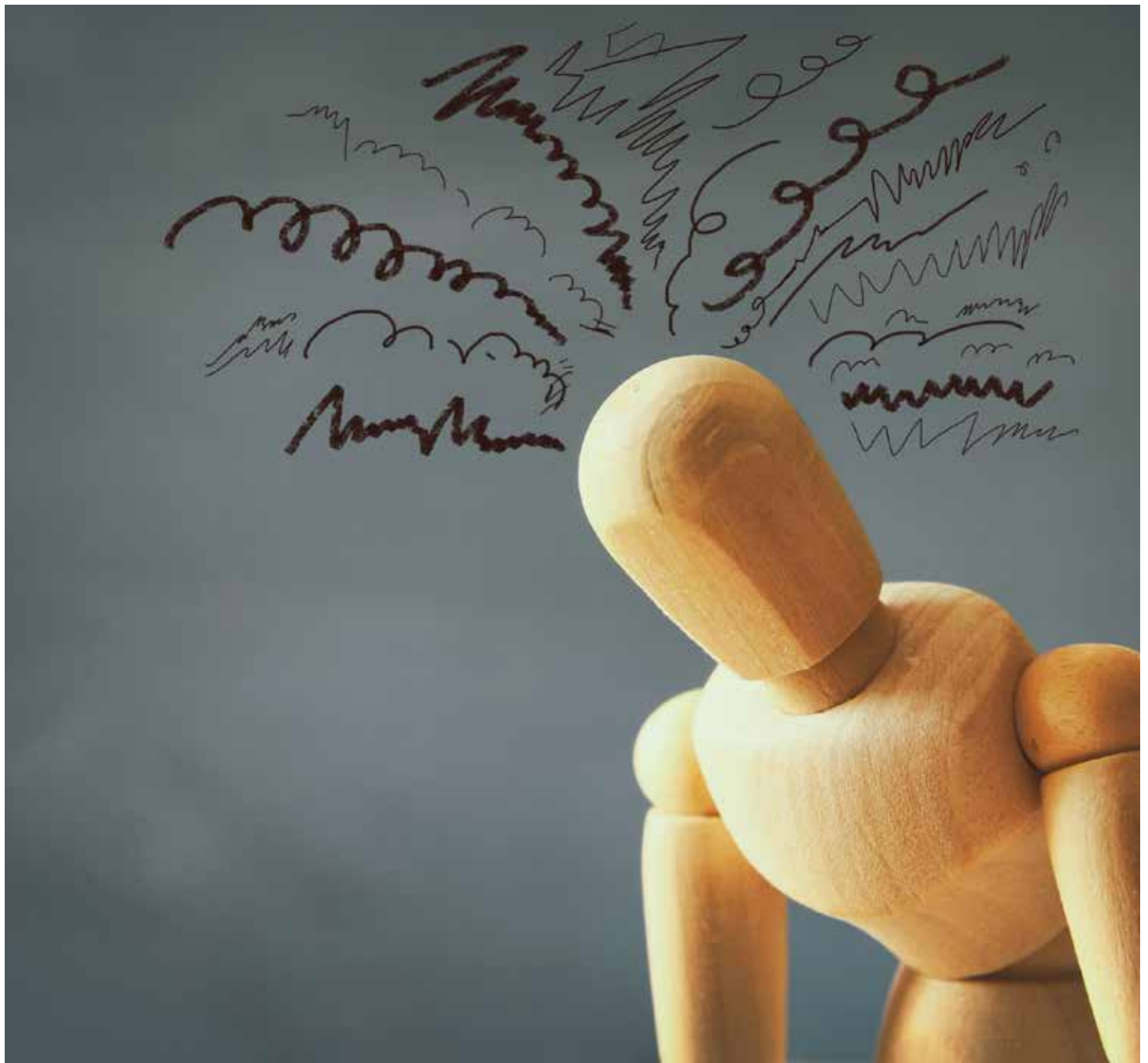
	Yes	No	Yes (percentage)	No (percentage)
Fatigue	1	47	2%	98%
Lonely	0	48	0%	100%
Inability to focus	1	47	2%	98%
Loss of work motivation	1	47	2%	98%
Strong and able	3	45	6%	94%
At peace	44	4	92%	8%
Other	3	45	6%	94%

Please specify:

	Number	Percentage
Feeling of calm, dedication, and mood stability	1	2%
Sleep	1	2%
Inability to sleep	1	2%
Total	3	6%

Do you want to stop using sedative pills?

	Number	Percentage
Yes, but it is difficult with the current circumstances	21	44%
I do, and I'm trying to quit.	19	40%
I do not.	8	17%
Total	48	100%



Public Sector

A COMPREHENSIVE STUDY OF THE 345 SERVICES AND DIRECTORATES IN THE LEBANESE CENTRAL STATE APPARATUS

A MAJORITY OF SERVICES AND DIRECTORATES
LED BY SECOND-CLASS EMPLOYEES
APPOINTED IN VIOLATION OF CONSTITUTION

There are 29 general administrations that constitute the Lebanese central state apparatus. While the constitution does not enforce sectarian and denominational power-sharing, Lebanese custom has imposed in some way a sectarian distribution of jobs. Decree No. 111/1959 outlines the basic organization of the general administrations, and no amendments have been made to it since 2000. Many amendments are required to adapt and keep up with developments in directorates and services. The simplest of these needs is a different organizational structure. The establishment of a human resources service in ministries also remains a challenge to date, despite being an urgent necessity. Also, there should be no mixing in appointments and assignments between second-class and third-class employees, and there should be a reconsideration of the experience factor and the adoption of competitions for appointments for government employees and contractors.

Directorates and Services that Fall Under Ministries

Directorates and services that fall under ministries consist of one or more general directorates. Each general directorate is divided into directorates and services, which are further subdivided into circles and sections. Directorates or services are the basic governmental units within each general directorate. Usually, each service specializes in a fundamental subject within the general directorate. For example, the Ministry of Labor is divided into two main services, while other ministries are divided into eight services or directorates.

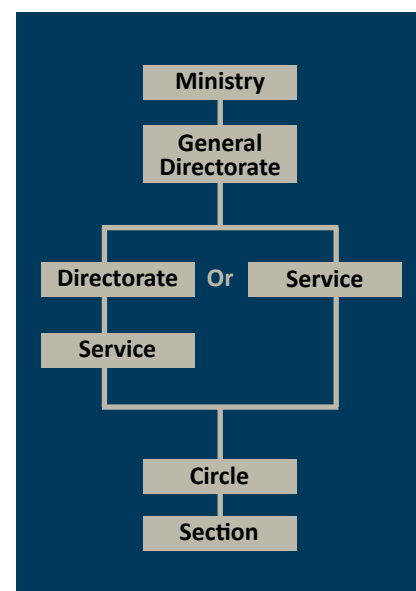
The total number of services and directorates headed by second-class employees in the central state apparatus, i.e., in ministries and state services, is 345 government units.

General directors are considered first category employees. Article 95 of the Constitution, which deals with power-sharing between Muslims and Christians, determines the sectarian distribution of first class employees. Second class employees are not subject to sectarian distribution constitutionally. However, because of Lebanese custom, sectarian distribution still applies to a certain extent.

According to Decree No. 111/1959 and its amendments, the central state apparatus consists of:

- 1- General Directorate of the Presidency of the Republic
- 2- General Directorate of the Presidency of the Council of Ministers
- 3- Ministry of Justice
- 4- Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Expatriates
- 5- Ministry of Interior and Municipalities
- 6- Ministry of Finance
- 7- Ministry of Public Works and Transport
- 8- Ministry of National Defense
- 9- Ministry of Education and Higher Education
- 10- Ministry of Public Health
- 11- Ministry of Economy and Trade
- 12- Ministry of Agriculture
- 13- Ministry of Telecommunications
- 14- Ministry of Labor
- 15- Ministry of Information
- 16- Ministry of Energy and Water
- 17- Ministry of Tourism
- 18- Ministry of Culture
- 19- Ministry of Environment
- 20- Ministry of The Displaced
- 21- Ministry of Youth and Sports
- 22- Ministry of Social Affairs
- 23- Ministry of Industry

If we add to these the Parliament and a number of administrative bodies that do not have financial and administrative independence from the state, the total becomes 21 ministries, to which are added: The Court of Audit, the Civil Service Council, the Supreme Disciplinary Authority, the Central Inspection, and the Central Statistical Office, making the total 29 administrations that constitute the Lebanese central state apparatus.



Defense Ministry Excluded from Organizational Analysis: Understanding Lebanon's Civil Service Structure

It should be noted that the Ministry of Defense is not included in this comprehensive study because the positions within its directorates are held by military officers, who are not classified among the departments and directorates headed by second class employees in the state. However, it is observed that there are a number of second class employees within the Directorate General of Administration in the Ministry of National Defense, regulated by Chapter Four of the National Defense Law under the title "Civilian Employees and Workers" according to Article 101, which states that civilian employees in the permanent, temporary, and contractual positions, as well as workers in the Ministry of National Defense, are subject to the provisions applied to state employees, except in cases where specific regulations for them exist in the laws and systems currently in effect in the Ministry of National Defense.

On the other hand, all of these ministries and administrations include additional positions of the second category, but they are not part of this study because these positions are held by individuals who do not preside over a "governmental administrative unit." Among these positions are consultants, doctors, statisticians, and second-class general inspectors, as

well as second-class employees in foreign missions, such as advisors and others who occupy positions without being heads of the department, service, or administrative unit in which they work.

Therefore, this study is limited to governmental administrative units of the second class in the central state apparatus, excluding independent entities and public institutions that have independent financial accounts separate from the state's account.

These administrations are distributed across the three presidencies: the Presidency of the Republic, the Parliament, and the Council of Ministers, along with various ministries and their general directorates. However, it is worth noting that some general directorates do not include any governmental departments of the second class, such as the Directorate General of Higher Education or the Directorate General of Grains and Sugar Beets, where the first-class general director is followed by a third class department head. This constitutes a structural imbalance in the Lebanese state's organizational hierarchy, and therefore, these general directorates that do not include these units will not be mentioned in the following tables.

Each ministry consists of one or more general directorates, which are divided into directorates and services, and these directorates and services are further divided into departments and sections.

It is worth noting that general directorates, directorates, and services are established, modified, or abolished by law, while departments and sections are established, modified, abolished, and their appointment conditions specified by decrees issued by the Council of Ministers based on the proposal of the concerned minister and after the approval of the Civil Service Council.

In addition, the ministries are organized by decrees issued by the Council of Ministers, which determine the number of departments and sections in each and assign general authorities and how these authorities are distributed among the various general directorates, directorates, departments, and sections.

Thus, all laws and organizational decrees of the Lebanese state ministries and their public administrations that are part of the central state apparatus were reviewed and scrutinized, and the recent amendments were compared and implemented in this study.

Diverse Organizational Structure for Public Administrations

Observations prompting the adoption of a different organizational structure for public administrations include:

1. The lack of development of Legislative Decree 111/1959, which outlines the basic organization of public administrations, despite numerous previous amendments, which ceased in 2000.
2. The absence of a clear definition of the tasks that each employee should perform, although the legislative decree states that it is within the minister's authority to determine these tasks after consulting the Central Inspection Directorate.
3. The regulations in Decree No. 2894/1959 govern the tasks of several services and services in public administrations and the conditions of coordination between their various units, but it has not been updated in 65 years, with only one amendment in 2005 related to reviews and complaints.
4. The confusion between the terms "service" and "directorate", despite the need to agree on a single term. Furthermore, directors and heads of services are both considered second-class employees, but directors are considered of a higher rank within that category.
5. Several ministries are kept as if attached to the Prime Minister's Office, and there's a need to unify the standards between creating ministries by law and through government formation decrees, as some ministries lack specific legal provisions regarding general administrative organization.
6. The proliferation of directorates within general directorates, especially in service-oriented or revenue-collecting ministries, leading to disparities between ministries in terms of the number of services and directorates.
7. The difficulty in establishing a human resources directorate in ministries, possibly due to the central role of the Civil Service Board in this regard.
8. Typically, the head of the service in a ministry should be at least a third-class employee, but in most ministries, the service is headed by a second-class employee according to the respective ministry's organizational decree.
9. Correspondence between directorates often occurs in a hierarchical manner through the general director or unit head rather than directly, although current law allows directors or heads of services within the same ministry to exchange ordinary correspondence directly without intermediaries.

10. Given the diminished role of the state in various aspects, there's a necessity to abolish a significant number of government positions and units that were created due to political patronage.
11. The need to establish an information service or specialized directorate under the office or joint administrative directorate in each ministry.
12. The necessity of appointing new district governors and abolishing positions due to the establishment of the Keserwan-Jbeil governorate, requiring the abolishment of the district governorate in the central judiciary, as per Legislative Decree No. 116/1959 (administrative organization).
13. Several decrees regulating some ministries stipulate the establishment of specific services in each province. Consequently, the creation of a new province entails the establishment of these services and the abolition of services that are not usually present in the governorate.
14. The distinction between technical and administrative positions within the same category warrants attention, especially since both positions are in the same category but differ in salary value. For instance, Law No. 717/1998 distinguishes between administrative and technical positions in the second category, as well as in the third category.
15. Successive governments have failed to publish decrees appointing second-class employees in the Official Gazette.
16. Ministers often assign tasks of second-class employees to other employees when the position is vacant, without considering the ranks of other employees in the relevant service, which is against the law, as Article 34 of Decree No. 111 (Decree No. 2894) stipulates that in the absence of the director or unit head, the immediate superior of the absent employee shall act on their behalf, after the direct supervisor's approval, for any non-discretionary work or personal tasks assigned by law.
17. Ministers resort to assigning employees to head services or directorates, which is contrary to the law because Article 49 of the Civil Servants System states that "Except in cases of appointment, acting, or delegation, any other status of working employees, such as being under the disposal of a minister or administration, except for other cases stipulated by the law, is not considered legal." Therefore, assigning an employee to tasks of the second category is considered illegal, necessitating its annulment if challenged before the Consultative Council, which considered that, assuming the phrase "assignment" in the decision is indeed just an appointment of the employee as an acting head of a service, whereas the second paragraph of Article 44 of the Civil Servants Law states that, "The delegate represents the authority appointing the principal...". Since the position of service head is among the positions of the second category, and Article 11 of the Civil Servants System stipulates that employees of the second category are appointed by decree, this renders the decision, if challenged and issued by the minister, invalid as it is issued by an incompetent authority.
18. In other cases, some ministers resort to transferring employees from one position to another, then assigning them to a position of the second category without consulting the Civil Service Council, while the decision to transfer the employee from one position to another within the same hierarchy and the same administration, requires it to be made under Article 43 of the Civil Servants Law which governs this matter. This article specifies conditions for transfer, including the requirement that transfers must occur after consulting the Civil Service Council.
19. In other instances, another group of ministers assigns multiple employees to the tasks of a single vacant position by distributing the responsibilities of the service head among the employees.
20. Assigning tasks, which is not explicitly provided for by law, defaults to acting appointments where the conditions required for appointment to vacant positions must be met by the acting appointee, except for age and competitive examination requirements. The acting appointment cannot exceed one year, but it can be renewed in the same manner. An employee cannot be appointed to more than one acting position.
21. The law mandates the establishment of a joint administrative directorate in all ministries. When a single ministry includes more than one general directorate under the minister's authority, a joint administrative directorate directly linked to the minister must be established for each ministry with multiple general directorates, according to Article 13 of Law No. 247 issued on 07/08/2000. This administrative directorate is headed by an employee of the second category.
22. The decision must be made either to reinforce or review the unit named "Projects and Programs Service" in several public administrations. The creation of a service for projects and programs and the determination of its staffing in several public administrations was established by Decree No. 17464 issued on September 9, 1964. It is directly linked to the General Director and is responsible for liaising with the Directorate of Studies and Planning in the Ministry of General Design and informing it of the major lines of the administration's technical activities, while the Ministry of General Design has been abolished.

23. Public administrations lack proper statistics and coordination with the Civil Service Council, necessitating the establishment of services or units for human resources in public administrations linked “technically” to the Civil Service Council by connecting these units regarding training, statistics, and employee affairs directly with the Civil Service Council, without any other administrative obstacle, especially regarding technical subordination, which includes all matters related to its work policy in the ministry or directorate, and the administrative subordination remains with the minister or the competent director.
24. Updating organizational structures is not periodically and continuously stipulated in line with the developments that the relevant administrations need to follow.
25. Most heads of services and directors do not implement Decree-Law 111/59, which requires the director or head of the service or circle to submit a report on the activities of their subordinate circles before the end of each year, at the time determined by the Director-General. If these reports are submitted, they are either not taken seriously or are not given any attention by the general directors and ministers.

Appointment Conditions for Second-Class Employees

The Civil Servants Law stipulates that vacant positions in the second category are filled through a selective process by grade one and grade two employees of the third category who have successfully completed a training course at the Institute of Public Administration and whose names have been included in the promotion list. They are classified in the last grade of the category and retain their right to promotion if they are classified with a salary equivalent to their original salary.

The Civil Service Council may exempt employees who have successfully completed a training course in administrative affairs lasting at least six continuous months at one of the institutes of public administration abroad from the mentioned training course requirements. This exemption must be accompanied by the approval of the Council of Ministers.

Vacant technical positions in the second category can also be filled through a competition open to employees of the third category and candidates from outside the staff, subject to approval by the ministry’s regulations or a decision by the Civil Service Council based on the proposal of the relevant administration. All candidates, whether employees or not, must hold university degrees and have experience in the type of work required in the relevant administration.

Employees of the second category are appointed by decree after the approval of the Civil Service Council, and they are not subject to probationary conditions.

Table 1. Total number of services and directorates headed by employees of the second category in the Lebanese central government apparatus.

Ministry/Service	Number
Presidency of the Republic - General Directorate for the Presidency of the Republic	3
Parliament	11
Prime Ministry - General Directorate for the Prime Ministry	7
Constitutional Council	1
Ministry of Justice	5
Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Expatriates	7
Ministry of Interior and Municipalities	30
Ministry of Finance	40
Ministry of Public Works and Transport	36
Ministry of Education and Higher Education	18
Ministry of Public Health	15

Ministry/Service	Number
Ministry of Economy and Trade	12
Ministry of Agriculture	29
Ministry of Telecommunications	23
Ministry of Labor	2
Ministry of Information	8
Ministry of Energy and Water	22
Ministry of Tourism	6
Ministry of Culture	7
Ministry of Environment	7
Ministry of Displaced Persons	5
Ministry of Youth and Sports	5
Ministry of Social Affairs	12
Ministry of Industry	11
Court of Audit	1
Civil Service Council	12
High Discipline Authority	1
Central Inspection	2
Central Statistics Administration	7
Total	345

Source: *Information International*, based on the laws and organizational decrees of the relevant administrations.

Table 2. The names of directorates and services in the general directorates that include administrative units headed by second-class employees. General directorates without such administrative units have not been mentioned.

Administration	Directorate	#	General Directorate /Directorate	Service or Directorate Name	Position
Parliament	General Secretariat of Parliament	1	General Directorate for Parliamentary Affairs	Secretariat Service	Head of Secretariat Service
Parliament	General Secretariat of Parliament	1	General Directorate for Parliamentary Affairs	Public Relations and Media Directorate	Director of Public Relations and Media
Parliament	General Secretariat of Parliament	1	General Directorate for Administrative and Financial Affairs	Administrative Affairs Service	Head of Administrative Affairs Service
Parliament	General Secretariat of Parliament	1	General Directorate for Administrative and Financial Affairs	Financial Affairs Service	Head of Financial Affairs Service
Parliament	General Secretariat of Parliament	1	General Directorate for Sessions and Committees Affairs	Sessions Service	Head of Sessions Service

Administration	Directorate	#	General Directorate /Directorate	Service or Directorate Name	Position
Parliament	General Secretariat of Parliament	1	General Directorate for Sessions and Committees Affairs	Committees Service	Head of Committees Service
Parliament	General Secretariat of Parliament	1	General Directorate for Studies and Research	Studies and Research Directorate	Director of Studies and Research
Parliament	General Secretariat of Parliament	1	General Directorate for Studies and Research	Documentation and Library Service	Head of Documentation and Library Service
Parliament	General Secretariat of Parliament	1	Joint Administration Directorate	Joint Administrative Service	Head of Joint Administrative Service
Parliament	General Secretariat of Parliament	1	General Inspection	Administrative Issues and Employment Service	Head of Administrative Issues and Employment Service
Parliament	General Secretariat of Parliament	1	General Inspection	Inspection Service	Head of Inspection Service
Parliament	Total	11			
Constitutional Council	The Office	1	NA	Documentation Service	Head of the Documentation Service
Constitutional Council	Total	1			
Ministry of Justice	General Directorate of the Ministry of Justice	1	NA	Juvenile Rehabilitation Service	Head of Juvenile Rehabilitation Service
Ministry of Justice	General Directorate of the Ministry of Justice	1	NA	Judges and Employees Affairs Directorate	Director of Judges and Employees Affairs
Ministry of Justice	General Directorate of the Ministry of Justice	1	NA	Documentation Service	Head of Documentation Service
Ministry of Justice	General Directorate of the Ministry of Justice	1	NA	Prisons Directorate	Director of Prisons
Ministry of Justice	General Directorate of the Ministry of Justice	1	NA	Forensic Medicine and Criminal Evidence Service	Head of Forensic Medicine and Criminal Evidence Service
Ministry of Justice	Total	5			
Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Expatriates	Central Administration	1	NA	Documentation Service	Head of the Documentation Service
Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Expatriates	Central Administration	1	NA	Archives Secretariat	Archives Secretary
Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Expatriates	General Directorate for Expatriates	1	NA	Expatriate Attachés Service	Head of Expatriate Attachés Service
Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Expatriates	General Directorate for Expatriates	1	NA	Expatriates and Migration Service	Head of Expatriates and Migration Service
Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Expatriates	General Directorate for Expatriates	1	NA	Properties and Registration Service	Head of Properties and Registration Service
Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Expatriates	General Directorate for Expatriates	1	NA	Public Relations for Expatriate Affairs Service	Head of Public Relations for Expatriate Affairs Service
Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Expatriates	General Directorate for Expatriates	1	NA	Media and Culture Service	Head of Media and Culture Service
Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Expatriates	Total	7			

Administration	Directorate	#	General Directorate /Directorate	Service or Directorate Name	Position
Ministry of Interior and Municipalities	General Directorate of Personal Status	1	NA	Civil Status Service	Head of Civil Status Service
Ministry of Interior and Municipalities	General Directorate of Political and Refugee Affairs	1	NA	Political and Electoral Affairs Service	Head of Political and Electoral Affairs Service
Ministry of Interior and Municipalities	General Directorate of Political and Refugee Affairs	1	Refugee Affairs Directorate	NA	Director of Refugee Affairs
Ministry of Interior and Municipalities	General Directorate of Services and Local Councils	1	NA	Governorates and Local Councils Affairs Service	Head of Governorates and Local Councils Affairs Service
Ministry of Interior and Municipalities	General Directorate of Services and Local Councils	1	NA	Technical Affairs Service	Head of Technical Affairs Service
Ministry of Interior and Municipalities	General Directorate of Services and Local Councils	1	NA	Independent Municipal Fund Service	Head of Independent Municipal Fund Service
Ministry of Interior and Municipalities	Joint Administrative Directorate	1	Joint Administrative Directorate	NA	Director of Joint Administrative Directorate
Ministry of Interior and Municipalities	Joint Administrative Directorate	1	Joint Administrative Directorate	Administrative Affairs Service	Head of Administrative Affairs Service
Ministry of Interior and Municipalities	Joint Administrative Directorate	1	Joint Administrative Directorate	Financial and Legal Affairs Service	Head of Financial and Legal Affairs Service
Ministry of Interior and Municipalities	Joint Administrative Directorate	1	Joint Administrative Directorate	Minister's Secretariat and Mail Service	Head of Minister's Secretariat and Mail Service
Ministry of Interior and Municipalities	South Lebanon Governorate	1	Jezzine District	Jezzine Governate	District Governor's Office of Jezzine
Ministry of Interior and Municipalities	South Lebanon Governorate	1	Tyre District	Tyre Governate	District Governor's Office of Tyre
Ministry of Interior and Municipalities	Nabatiyeh Governorate	1	Marjeyoun District	Marjeyoun Governate	District Governor's Office of Marjeyoun
Ministry of Interior and Municipalities	Nabatiyeh Governorate	1	Bint Jbeil District	Bint Jbeil Governate	District Governor's Office of Bint Jbeil
Ministry of Interior and Municipalities	Nabatiyeh Governorate	1	Hasbaya District	Hasbaya Governate	District Governor's Office of Hasbaya
Ministry of Interior and Municipalities	Mount Lebanon Governorate	1	Matn District	Matn Governate	District Governor's Office of Matn
Ministry of Interior and Municipalities	Mount Lebanon Governorate	1	Shouf District	Shouf Governate	District Governor's Office of Shouf
Ministry of Interior and Municipalities	Mount Lebanon Governorate	1	Aley District	Aley Governate	District Governor's Office of Aley
Ministry of Interior and Municipalities	Keserwan-Jbeil Governorate	1	Keserwan District	Keserwan Governate	District Governor's Office of Keserwan
Ministry of Interior and Municipalities	Keserwan-Jbeil Governorate	1	Jbeil District	Jbeil Governate	District Governor's Office of Jbeil
Ministry of Interior and Municipalities	North Lebanon Governorate	1	Minieh District (NA Donniyeh District)	Minieh Governate (NA Donniyeh Governate)	District Governor's Office of Minieh-Danniyeh
Ministry of Interior and Municipalities	North Lebanon Governorate	1	Zgharta District	Zgharta Governate	District Governor's Office of Zgharta
Ministry of Interior and Municipalities	North Lebanon Governorate	1	Bsharri District	Bsharri Governate	District Governor's Office of Bsharri
Ministry of Interior and Municipalities	North Lebanon Governorate	1	Batroun District	Batroun Governate	District Governor's Office of Batroun
Ministry of Interior and Municipalities	North Lebanon Governorate	1	Koura District	Koura Governate	District Governor's Office of Koura

Administration	Directorate	#	General Directorate /Directorate	Service or Directorate Name	Position
Ministry of Interior and Municipalities	Akkar Governorate	1	Halba District	Halba Governate	District Governor's Office of Halba
Ministry of Interior and Municipalities	Bekaa Governorate	1	Rashaya District	Rashaya Governate	District Governor's Office of Rashaya
Ministry of Interior and Municipalities	Bekaa Governorate	1	West Bekaa District	West Bekaa Governate	District Governor of West Bekaa
Ministry of Interior and Municipalities	Baalbek-Hermel Governorate	1	Baalbek District	Baalbek Governate	District Governor of Baalbek
Ministry of Interior and Municipalities	Baalbek-Hermel Governorate	1	Hermel District	Hermel Governate	District Governor of Hermel
Ministry of Interior and Municipalities	Total	30			
Ministry of Finance	General Directorate of Finance	1	General Directorate of Finance	Administrative Affairs Directorate	Director of Administrative Affairs
Ministry of Finance	General Directorate of Finance	1	General Directorate of Finance	Budget and Expenditure Control Directorate	Director of Budget and Expenditure Control
Ministry of Finance	General Directorate of Finance	1	General Directorate of Finance	Treasury Directorate	Director of the Treasury
Ministry of Finance	General Directorate of Finance	1	General Directorate of Finance	General Accounting Directorate	Director of General Accounting
Ministry of Finance	General Directorate of Finance	1	General Directorate of Finance	Revenue Directorate	Director of Revenue
Ministry of Finance	General Directorate of Finance	1	General Directorate of Finance	Public Debt Directorate	Director of Public Debt
Ministry of Finance	General Directorate of Finance	1	Public Debt Directorate	Public Markets Service	Head of Public Markets Service
Ministry of Finance	General Directorate of Finance	1	Public Debt Directorate	Strategic Planning and Risks Service	Head of Strategic Planning and Risks Service
Ministry of Finance	General Directorate of Finance	1	Public Debt Directorate	Operations Service	Head of Operations Service
Ministry of Finance	General Directorate of Finance	1	General Directorate of Finance	Value Added Tax Directorate	Director of Value Added Tax
Ministry of Finance	General Directorate of Finance	8	General Directorate of Finance	Directorate of Finance Presidency in each governorate (except Beirut Governorate) at the level of the authority	Head of Finance in each governorate (except Beirut Governorate)
Ministry of Finance	National Lottery Directorate	1	National Lottery Directorate	National Lottery Directorate	Director of the National Lottery
Ministry of Finance	Customs Administration	1	Supreme Customs Council	Customs Studies Service	Head of Customs Studies Service
Ministry of Finance	Customs Administration	1	Supreme Customs Council	Council's Office	Head of the Council's Office
Ministry of Finance	Customs Administration	1	Supreme Customs Council	Inspection Service	Head of the Inspection Service
Ministry of Finance	Customs Administration	1	General Customs Directorate	Audit and Anti-Smuggling Service	Head of Audit and Anti-Smuggling Service
Ministry of Finance	Customs Administration	1	General Customs Directorate	Directorate's Office in the General Customs Directorate	Directorate's Office in the General Customs Directorate
Ministry of Finance	Customs Administration	1	General Customs Directorate	Main Security Service	Head of the Main Security Service
Ministry of Finance	Customs Administration	1	General Customs Directorate	Beirut Airport Office	Head of Beirut Airport Office

Administration	Directorate	#	General Directorate /Directorate	Service or Directorate Name	Position
Ministry of Finance	Customs Administration	1	General Customs Directorate	Beirut Port Office	Head of Beirut Port Office
Ministry of Finance	General Directorate of Real Estate Affairs	1	General Directorate of Real Estate Affairs	Documentation Service	Head of Documentation Service
Ministry of Finance	General Directorate of Real Estate Affairs	1	General Directorate of Real Estate Affairs	Survey Service	Head of Survey Service
Ministry of Finance	General Directorate of Real Estate Affairs	1	General Directorate of Real Estate Affairs	State Private Property Directorate	Head of State Private Property Directorate
Ministry of Finance	General Directorate of Real Estate Affairs	9	General Directorate of Real Estate Affairs	Central Real Estate Registrar in each governorate	Central Real Estate Registrar in each governorate
Ministry of Finance	Total	40			
Ministry of Public Works and Transport	Joint Administrative Service	1	Joint Administrative Service	Accounting Service	Head of Accounting Service
Ministry of Public Works and Transport	Joint Administrative Service	1	Joint Administrative Service	Legal Affairs Service	Head of Legal Affairs Service
Ministry of Public Works and Transport	Joint Administrative Service	1	Joint Administrative Service	Joint Administrative Directorate	Director of Joint Administrative Directorate
Ministry of Public Works and Transport	General Directorate of Roads and Buildings	1	Roads Directorate	Roads Directorate	Director of Roads Directorate
Ministry of Public Works and Transport	General Directorate of Roads and Buildings	1	Roads Directorate	Construction Service in Roads Directorate	Head of Construction Service in Roads Directorate
Ministry of Public Works and Transport	General Directorate of Roads and Buildings	1	Roads Directorate	Design and Programs Service in Roads Directorate	Head of Design and Programs Service in Roads Directorate
Ministry of Public Works and Transport	General Directorate of Roads and Buildings	1	Roads Directorate	Studies Service in Roads Directorate	Head of Studies Service in Roads Directorate
Ministry of Public Works and Transport	General Directorate of Roads and Buildings	1	Buildings Directorate	Buildings Directorate	Director of Buildings Directorate
Ministry of Public Works and Transport	General Directorate of Roads and Buildings	1	Roads Directorate	Studies Service in Buildings Directorate	Head of Studies Service in Buildings Directorate
Ministry of Public Works and Transport	General Directorate of Roads and Buildings	1	Roads Directorate	Implementation Service in Buildings Directorate	Head of Implementation Service in Buildings Directorate
Ministry of Public Works and Transport	General Directorate of Roads and Buildings	1	Regional Directorates in General Directorate of Roads and Buildings	Regional Directorate in General Directorate of Roads and Buildings in Mount Lebanon	Director of Regional Directorate in General Directorate of Roads and Buildings in Mount Lebanon
Ministry of Public Works and Transport	General Directorate of Roads and Buildings	1	Regional Directorates in General Directorate of Roads and Buildings	Regional Directorate in General Directorate of Roads and Buildings in North Lebanon	Director of Regional Directorate in General Directorate of Roads and Buildings in North Lebanon
Ministry of Public Works and Transport	General Directorate of Roads and Buildings	1	Regional Directorates in General Directorate of Roads and Buildings	Regional Directorate in General Directorate of Roads and Buildings in South Lebanon	Director of Regional Directorate in General Directorate of Roads and Buildings in South Lebanon
Ministry of Public Works and Transport	General Directorate of Roads and Buildings	1	Regional Directorates in General Directorate of Roads and Buildings	Regional Directorate in General Directorate of Roads and Buildings in Bekaa	Director of Regional Directorate in General Directorate of Roads and Buildings in Bekaa
Ministry of Public Works and Transport	General Directorate of Civil Organization	1	General Directorate of Civil Organization	Documentation Service	Head of Documentation Service
Ministry of Public Works and Transport	General Directorate of Civil Organization	1	General Directorate of Civil Organization	Urban Planning Studies Service	Head of Urban Planning Studies Service

Administration	Directorate	#	General Directorate /Directorate	Service or Directorate Name	Position
Ministry of Public Works and Transport	General Directorate of Civil Organization	1	General Directorate of Civil Organization	Municipal Projects Service	Head of Municipal Projects Service
Ministry of Public Works and Transport	General Directorate of Land and Maritime Transport	1	General Directorate of Land and Maritime Transport	Documentation Service	Head of Documentation Service
Ministry of Public Works and Transport	General Directorate of Land and Maritime Transport	1	General Directorate of Land and Maritime Transport	Land Transport Service	Head of Land Transport Service
Ministry of Public Works and Transport	General Directorate of Land and Maritime Transport	1	General Directorate of Land and Maritime Transport	Maritime Transport Service	Head of Maritime Transport Service
Ministry of Public Works and Transport	General Directorate of Land and Maritime Transport	1	General Directorate of Land and Maritime Transport	Maritime Public Properties Service	Head of Maritime Public Properties Service
Ministry of Public Works and Transport	General Directorate of Land and Maritime Transport	1	General Directorate of Land and Maritime Transport	Maritime Preparation and Training Service	Head of Maritime Preparation and Training Service
Ministry of Public Works and Transport	General Directorate of Civil Aviation	1	NA	Directorate	Director
Ministry of Public Works and Transport	General Directorate of Civil Aviation	1	NA	Aviation Transport Service	Head of Aviation Transport Service
Ministry of Public Works and Transport	General Directorate of Civil Aviation	1	NA	Research and Studies Service	Head of Research and Studies Service
Ministry of Public Works and Transport	General Directorate of Civil Aviation	1	NA	Aviation Safety Service	Head of Aviation Safety Service
Ministry of Public Works and Transport	General Directorate of Civil Aviation	1	NA	Meteorology Service	Head of Meteorology Service
Ministry of Public Works and Transport	General Directorate of Civil Aviation	1	Technical Investment Directorate	NA	Technical Investment Director
Ministry of Public Works and Transport	General Directorate of Civil Aviation	1	Technical Investment Directorate	Telecommunications Service	Head of Telecommunications Service
Ministry of Public Works and Transport	General Directorate of Civil Aviation	1	Technical Investment Directorate	Air Navigation Services Service	Head of Air Navigation Services Service
Ministry of Public Works and Transport	General Directorate of Civil Aviation	1	Technical Investment Directorate	Technical Equipment Service	Head of Technical Equipment Service
Ministry of Public Works and Transport	General Directorate of Civil Aviation	1	Technical Investment Directorate	Device Maintenance Service	Head of Device Maintenance Service
Ministry of Public Works and Transport	General Directorate of Civil Aviation	1	Airports Directorate	NA	Airports Director
Ministry of Public Works and Transport	General Directorate of Civil Aviation	1	Airports Directorate	Beirut International Airport Presidency	Beirut International Airport Presidency
Ministry of Public Works and Transport	General Directorate of Civil Aviation	1	Airports Directorate	Airports Studies Service	Head of Airports Studies Service
Ministry of Public Works and Transport	Total	36			
Ministry of Defense	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Ministry of Education and Higher Education	General Directorate of National Education	1	NA	Documentation	Head of Documentation
Ministry of Education and Higher Education	General Directorate of National Education	1	Directorate of Primary Education	NA	Director of Primary Education
Ministry of Education and Higher Education	General Directorate of National Education	1	Directorate of Secondary Education	NA	Director of Secondary Education

Administration	Directorate	#	General Directorate /Directorate	Service or Directorate Name	Position
Ministry of Education and Higher Education	General Directorate of National Education	1	NA	Special Education Service	Head of Special Education Service
Ministry of Education and Higher Education	General Directorate of National Education	1	NA	Cultural and Fine Arts Affairs Service	Head of Cultural and Fine Arts Affairs Service
Ministry of Education and Higher Education	General Directorate of National Education	1	Educational Regions	Beirut and Suburbs Educational Region	Head of Beirut and Suburbs Educational Region
Ministry of Education and Higher Education	General Directorate of National Education	1	Educational Regions	Mount Lebanon Educational Region (excluding Beirut suburbs)	Head of Mount Lebanon Educational Region
Ministry of Education and Higher Education	General Directorate of National Education	1	Educational Regions	Northern Lebanon Educational Region	Head of Northern Lebanon Educational Region
Ministry of Education and Higher Education	General Directorate of National Education	1	Educational Regions	Southern Lebanon Educational Region	Head of Southern Lebanon Educational Region
Ministry of Education and Higher Education	General Directorate of National Education	1	Educational Regions	Bekaa Educational Region	Head of Bekaa Educational Region
Ministry of Education and Higher Education	General Directorate of National Education	1	Educational Regions	Akkar Educational Region	Head of Akkar Educational Region
Ministry of Education and Higher Education	General Directorate of Vocational and Technical Education	1	NA	Administration and Execution Unit	Head of Administration and Execution Unit
Ministry of Education and Higher Education	General Directorate of Vocational and Technical Education	1	NA	Technical Service	Head of Technical Service
Ministry of Education and Higher Education	General Directorate of Vocational and Technical Education	1	NA	Accounting and Auditing Unit	Head of Accounting and Auditing Unit
Ministry of Education and Higher Education	General Directorate of Vocational and Technical Education	1	NA	Vocational Rehabilitation Service	Head of Vocational Rehabilitation Service
Ministry of Education and Higher Education	General Directorate of Vocational and Technical Education	1	NA	Monitoring and Examinations Unit	Head of Monitoring and Examinations Unit
Ministry of Education and Higher Education	Joint Administrative Unit	1	NA	Joint Administrative Unit	Head of Joint Administrative Unit
Ministry of Education and Higher Education	Total	18			
Ministry of Public Health	General Directorate of Health	1	General Directorate of Health	Documentation	Head of Documentation
Ministry of Public Health	General Directorate of Health	1	General Directorate of Health	General Health Service in South Lebanon	Head of General Health Service in South Lebanon
Ministry of Public Health	General Directorate of Health	1	General Directorate of Health	General Health Service in Mount Lebanon	Head of General Health Service in Mount Lebanon
Ministry of Public Health	General Directorate of Health	1	General Directorate of Health	General Health Service in Bekaa	Head of General Health Service in Bekaa
Ministry of Public Health	General Directorate of Health	1	General Directorate of Health	General Health Service in North Lebanon	Head of General Health Service in North Lebanon
Ministry of Public Health	General Directorate of Health	1	General Directorate of Health	General Health Service in Nabatieh	Head of General Health Service in Nabatieh
Ministry of Public Health	General Directorate of Health	1	General Directorate of Health	Health Protection Directorate	Director of Health Protection
Ministry of Public Health	General Directorate of Health	1	General Directorate of Health	Preventive Medicine Service within Health Protection Directorate	Head of Preventive Medicine Service

Administration	Directorate	#	General Directorate /Directorate	Service or Directorate Name	Position
Ministry of Public Health	General Directorate of Health	1	General Directorate of Health	Social Health Service within Health Protection Directorate	Head of Social Health Service
Ministry of Public Health	General Directorate of Health	1	General Directorate of Health	Occupational Diseases and Occupational Medicine Service within Health Protection Directorate	Head of Occupational Diseases and Occupational Medicine Service
Ministry of Public Health	General Directorate of Health	1	General Directorate of Health	Health Engineering Service within Health Protection Directorate	Head of Health Engineering Service
Ministry of Public Health	General Directorate of Health	1	General Directorate of Health	Medical Care Directorate	Director of Medical Care
Ministry of Public Health	General Directorate of Health	1	General Directorate of Health	Pharmacy Service within Medical Care Directorate	Head of Pharmacy Service
Ministry of Public Health	General Directorate of Health	1	General Directorate of Health	Hospitals, Clinics, and Medical Professions Service within Medical Care Directorate	Head of Hospitals, Clinics, and Medical Professions Service
Ministry of Public Health	General Directorate of Health	1	General Directorate of Health	Central Laboratory Directorate for Public Health	Director of Central Laboratory for Public Health
Ministry of Public Health	Total	15			
Ministry of Economy and Trade	General Directorate of Economy	1	General Directorate of Economy	Documentation	Head of Documentation
Ministry of Economy and Trade	General Directorate of Economy	1	General Directorate of Economy	Trade Service	Head of Trade Service
Ministry of Economy and Trade	General Directorate of Economy	1	General Directorate of Economy	Consumer Protection Directorate	Director of Consumer Protection
Ministry of Economy and Trade	General Directorate of Economy	1	General Directorate of Economy	Companies Affairs Service	Head of Companies Affairs Service
Ministry of Economy and Trade	General Directorate of Economy	1	General Directorate of Economy	Israel Boycott Office (Service)	Head of Israel Boycott Office (Service)
Ministry of Economy and Trade	General Directorate of Economy	1	General Directorate of Economy	Economy and Trade Service in South Lebanon	Head of Economy and Trade Service in South Lebanon
Ministry of Economy and Trade	General Directorate of Economy	1	General Directorate of Economy	Economy and Trade Service in Nabatieh	Head of Economy and Trade Service in Nabatieh
Ministry of Economy and Trade	General Directorate of Economy	1	General Directorate of Economy	Economy and Trade Service in Bekaa	Head of Economy and Trade Service in Bekaa
Ministry of Economy and Trade	General Directorate of Economy	1	General Directorate of Economy	Economy and Trade Service in North Lebanon	Head of Economy and Trade Service in North Lebanon
Ministry of Economy and Trade	General Directorate of Economy	1	General Directorate of Economy	Control Service in Consumer Protection Directorate	Head of Control Service in Consumer Protection Directorate
Ministry of Economy and Trade	General Directorate of Economy	1	General Directorate of Economy	Studies and Awareness Service in Consumer Protection Directorate	Studies and Awareness Service in Consumer Protection Directorate
Ministry of Economy and Trade	General Directorate of Economy	1	General Directorate of Economy	Intellectual Property Protection Service	Head of Intellectual Property Protection Service
Ministry of Economy and Trade	Total	12			
Ministry of Agriculture	General Directorate of Agriculture	1	General Directorate of Agriculture	Documentation	Head of Documentation
Ministry of Agriculture	General Directorate of Agriculture	1	General Directorate of Agriculture	Studies and Coordination Directorate	Director of Studies and Coordination
Ministry of Agriculture	General Directorate of Agriculture	1	General Directorate of Agriculture	Agricultural Wealth Directorate	Director of Agricultural Wealth

Administration	Directorate	#	General Directorate /Directorate	Service or Directorate Name	Position
Ministry of Agriculture	General Directorate of Agriculture	1	General Directorate of Agriculture	Animal Wealth Directorate	Director of Animal Wealth
Ministry of Agriculture	General Directorate of Agriculture	1	General Directorate of Agriculture	Rural Development and Natural Resources Directorate	Director of Rural Development and Natural Resources
Ministry of Agriculture	General Directorate of Agriculture	1	General Directorate of Agriculture	Statistics and Economic Studies Service	Head of Statistics and Economic Studies Service
Ministry of Agriculture	General Directorate of Agriculture	1	General Directorate of Agriculture	Planning and Documentation Service	Head of Planning and Documentation Service
Ministry of Agriculture	General Directorate of Agriculture	1	General Directorate of Agriculture	Development Programs and Projects Service	Head of Development Programs and Projects Service
Ministry of Agriculture	General Directorate of Agriculture	1	General Directorate of Agriculture	Education and Guidance Service	Head of Education and Guidance Service
Ministry of Agriculture	General Directorate of Agriculture	1	General Directorate of Agriculture	Plant Protection Service in Agricultural Wealth Directorate	Head of Plant Protection Service
Ministry of Agriculture	General Directorate of Agriculture	1	General Directorate of Agriculture	Horticulture and Field Crops Service in Agricultural Wealth Directorate	Head of Horticulture and Field Crops Service
Ministry of Agriculture	General Directorate of Agriculture	1	General Directorate of Agriculture	Plant Economy and Marketing Service in Agricultural Wealth Directorate	Head of Plant Economy and Marketing Service
Ministry of Agriculture	General Directorate of Agriculture	1	General Directorate of Agriculture	Export, Import, and Veterinary Quarantine Control Service in Animal Wealth Directorate	Head of Export, Import, and Veterinary Quarantine Control Service
Ministry of Agriculture	General Directorate of Agriculture	1	General Directorate of Agriculture	Packaging and Cooling Service in Agricultural Wealth Directorate	Head of Packaging and Cooling Service
Ministry of Agriculture	General Directorate of Agriculture	1	General Directorate of Agriculture	Animal Production and Breeding Service in Animal Wealth Directorate	Head of Animal Production and Breeding Service
Ministry of Agriculture	General Directorate of Agriculture	1	General Directorate of Agriculture	Animal Health Service in Animal Wealth Directorate	Head of Animal Health Service
Ministry of Agriculture	General Directorate of Agriculture	1	General Directorate of Agriculture	Agricultural Economy, Manufacturing, and Marketing Service in Animal Wealth Directorate	Head of Agricultural Economy, Manufacturing, and Marketing Service
Ministry of Agriculture	General Directorate of Agriculture	1	General Directorate of Agriculture	Export, Import, and Veterinary Health Quarantine Control Service in Animal Wealth Directorate	Head of Export, Import, and Veterinary Health Quarantine Control Service
Ministry of Agriculture	General Directorate of Agriculture	1	General Directorate of Agriculture	Agricultural Industries Service in Rural Development and Natural Resources Directorate	Head of Agricultural Industries Service
Ministry of Agriculture	General Directorate of Agriculture	1	General Directorate of Agriculture	Rural Engineering Service in Rural Development and Natural Resources Directorate	Head of Rural Engineering Service
Ministry of Agriculture	General Directorate of Agriculture	1	General Directorate of Agriculture	Forestry and Natural Resources Service in Rural Development and Natural Resources Directorate	Head of Forestry and Natural Resources Service
Ministry of Agriculture	General Directorate of Agriculture	1	General Directorate of Agriculture	Regional Agricultural Service in Mount Lebanon Governorate	Head of Regional Agricultural Service
Ministry of Agriculture	General Directorate of Agriculture	1	General Directorate of Agriculture	Regional Agricultural Service in North Lebanon Governorate	Head of Regional Agricultural Service in North Lebanon
Ministry of Agriculture	General Directorate of Agriculture	1	General Directorate of Agriculture	Regional Agricultural Service in South Lebanon Governorate	Head of Regional Agricultural Service in South Lebanon

Administration	Directorate	#	General Directorate /Directorate	Service or Directorate Name	Position
Ministry of Agriculture	General Directorate of Agriculture	1	General Directorate of Agriculture	Regional Agricultural Service in Nabatieh Governorate	Head of Regional Agricultural Service in Nabatieh
Ministry of Agriculture	General Directorate of Cooperatives	1	General Directorate of Cooperatives	Documentation	Head of Documentation
Ministry of Agriculture	General Directorate of Cooperatives	1	General Directorate of Cooperatives	Economic Affairs and Monitoring Service	Head of Economic Affairs and Monitoring Service
Ministry of Agriculture	General Directorate of Cooperatives	1	General Directorate of Cooperatives	Technical Training and Cooperative Relations Service	Head of Technical Training and Cooperative Relations Service
Ministry of Agriculture	Total	29			
Ministry of Telecommunications	General Directorate of Postal Services	1	General Directorate of Postal Services	Postal Service	Head of Postal Service
Ministry of Telecommunications	General Directorate of Postal Services	1	General Directorate of Postal Services	Financial Affairs Service	Head of Financial Affairs Service
Ministry of Telecommunications	General Directorate of Postal Services	1	General Directorate of Postal Services	Postal Regions Service	Head of Postal Regions Service
Ministry of Telecommunications	General Directorate of Postal Services	1	General Directorate of Postal Services	Technical Affairs Service	Head of Technical Affairs Service
Ministry of Telecommunications	General Directorate of Wireline and Wireless Communications Construction and Equipment	1	Directorate of Construction and Equipment	NA	Director of Construction and Equipment
Ministry of Telecommunications	General Directorate of Wireline and Wireless Communications Construction and Equipment	1	Directorate of Construction and Equipment	Buildings Service	Head of Buildings Service
Ministry of Telecommunications	General Directorate of Wireline and Wireless Communications Construction and Equipment	1	Directorate of Construction and Equipment	Equipment Service	Head of Equipment Service
Ministry of Telecommunications	General Directorate of Wireline and Wireless Communications Construction and Equipment	1	Directorate of Construction and Equipment	Generators and Thermal Energy Service	Head of Generators and Thermal Energy Service
Ministry of Telecommunications	General Directorate of Wireline and Wireless Communications Construction and Equipment	1	Directorate of Networks and Communications Construction and Equipment	NA	Director of Networks and Communications Construction and Equipment
Ministry of Telecommunications	General Directorate of Wireline and Wireless Communications Construction and Equipment	1	Directorate of Networks and Communications Construction and Equipment	Network Studies Service	Head of Network Studies Service
Ministry of Telecommunications	General Directorate of Wireline and Wireless Communications Construction and Equipment	1	Directorate of Networks and Communications Construction and Equipment	Network Implementation Service	Head of Network Implementation Service
Ministry of Telecommunications	General Directorate of Wireline and Wireless Communications Construction and Equipment	1	Directorate of Networks and Communications Construction and Equipment	Communication Lessons Service	Head of Communication Lessons Service

Administration	Directorate	#	General Directorate /Directorate	Service or Directorate Name	Position
Ministry of Telecommunications	General Directorate of Wireline and Wireless Communications Construction and Equipment	1	Directorate of Networks and Communications Construction and Equipment	Communication Implementation Service	Head of Communication Implementation Service
Ministry of Telecommunications	General Directorate of Wireline and Wireless Communications Investment and Maintenance	1	Investment Directorate	NA	Director of Investment
Ministry of Telecommunications	General Directorate of Wireline and Wireless Communications Investment and Maintenance	1	Investment Directorate	Domestic Investment Service	Head of Domestic Investment Service
Ministry of Telecommunications	General Directorate of Wireline and Wireless Communications Investment and Maintenance	1	Investment Directorate	International Investment Service	Head of International Investment Service
Ministry of Telecommunications	General Directorate of Wireline and Wireless Communications Investment and Maintenance	1	Investment Directorate	Financial Affairs Service	Head of Financial Affairs Service
Ministry of Telecommunications	General Directorate of Wireline and Wireless Communications Investment and Maintenance	1	Maintenance Directorate	NA	Director of Maintenance
Ministry of Telecommunications	General Directorate of Wireline and Wireless Communications Investment and Maintenance	1	Maintenance Directorate	Central Maintenance Service	Head of Central Maintenance Service
Ministry of Telecommunications	General Directorate of Wireline and Wireless Communications Investment and Maintenance	1	Maintenance Directorate	International Communications Maintenance Service	Head of International Communications Maintenance Service
Ministry of Telecommunications	General Directorate of Wireline and Wireless Communications Investment and Maintenance	1	Maintenance Directorate	Warehouses and Workshops Service	Head of Warehouses and Workshops Service
Ministry of Telecommunications	Joint Administrative Unit in the Ministry of Communications	1	NA	Joint Administrative Unit in the Ministry of Communications	Head of Joint Administrative Unit in the Ministry of Communications
Ministry of Telecommunications	General Inspectorate in the Ministry of Communications	1	General Inspectorate in the Ministry of Communications	NA	General Inspector in the Ministry of Communications
Ministry of Telecommunications	Total	23			
Ministry of Labor	General Directorate of Labor	1	General Directorate of Labor	Labor and Professional Relations Service	Head of Labor and Professional Relations Service
Ministry of Labor	General Directorate of Labor	1	General Directorate of Labor	Workforce Service	Head of Workforce Service
Ministry of Labor	Total	2			

Administration	Directorate	#	General Directorate /Directorate	Service or Directorate Name	Position
Ministry of Information	General Directorate of Information	1	General Directorate of Information	Documentation Service	Head of Documentation Service
Ministry of Information	General Directorate of Information	1	General Directorate of Information	Radio Directorate	Director of Radio
Ministry of Information	General Directorate of Information	1	General Directorate of Information	Press and Legal Affairs Service	Head of Press and Legal Affairs Service
Ministry of Information	General Directorate of Information	1	General Directorate of Information	Publishing Service	Head of Publishing Service
Ministry of Information	General Directorate of Information	1	General Directorate of Information	National News Agency Directorate	Director of National News Agency
Ministry of Information	General Directorate of Information	1	National News Agency Directorate	Lebanese Studies and Publications Service	Director of Lebanese Studies and Publications
Ministry of Information	General Directorate of Information	1	Radio Directorate	Radio Production and Programs Service	Head of Radio Production and Programs Service
Ministry of Information	General Directorate of Information	1	Radio Directorate	Technical Service	Head of Technical Service
Ministry of Information	Total	8			
Ministry of Energy and Water	General Directorate of Water and Electricity Resources	1	General Directorate of Water and Electricity Resources	Documentation Service	Documentation Service Head
Ministry of Energy and Water	General Directorate of Water and Electricity Resources	1	General Directorate of Water and Electricity Resources	Design Service	Head of Design Service
Ministry of Energy and Water	General Directorate of Water and Electricity Resources	1	Technical Studies Directorate	NA	Director of Technical Studies Directorate
Ministry of Energy and Water	General Directorate of Water and Electricity Resources	1	Technical Studies Directorate	Property Rights and Water Service	Head of Property Rights and Water Service
Ministry of Energy and Water	General Directorate of Water and Electricity Resources	1	Technical Studies Directorate	Groundwater and Geology Service	Head of Groundwater and Geology Service
Ministry of Energy and Water	General Directorate of Water and Electricity Resources	1	Technical Studies Directorate	Research and Technical Facilities Service	Head of Research and Technical Facilities Service
Ministry of Energy and Water	General Directorate of Water and Electricity Resources	1	Water Directorate	NA	Director of Water Directorate
Ministry of Energy and Water	General Directorate of Water and Electricity Resources	1	Water Directorate	Irrigation Projects Service	Head of Irrigation Projects Service
Ministry of Energy and Water	General Directorate of Water and Electricity Resources	1	Water Directorate	Studies Service	Head of Studies Service
Ministry of Energy and Water	General Directorate of Water and Electricity Resources	1	Water Directorate	Water Implementation Service	Head of Water Implementation Service
Ministry of Energy and Water	General Directorate of Water and Electricity Resources	1	Water Directorate	Electrical Installation Service	Head of Electrical Installation Service
Ministry of Energy and Water	General Directorate of Water and Electricity Resources	1	Water Directorate	Correctional Affairs Service	Head of Correctional Affairs Service

Administration	Directorate	#	General Directorate /Directorate	Service or Directorate Name	Position
Ministry of Energy and Water	General Directorate of Investment	1	Investment Directorate	NA	Investment Directorate Office
Ministry of Energy and Water	General Directorate of Investment	1	Concession Monitoring Directorate	Administrative and Financial Monitoring Service	Head of Administrative and Financial Monitoring Service
Ministry of Energy and Water	General Directorate of Investment	1	Concession Monitoring Directorate	Technical Monitoring Service	Head of Technical Monitoring Service
Ministry of Energy and Water	General Directorate of Investment	1	Supervisory Directorate	NA	Supervisor
Ministry of Energy and Water	General Directorate of Investment	1	Supervisory Directorate	Water Supervision Service	Head of Water Supervision Service
Ministry of Energy and Water	General Directorate of Investment	1	Supervisory Directorate	Electrical Supervision Service	Head of Electrical Supervision Service
Ministry of Energy and Water	General Directorate of Oil	1	General Directorate of Oil	Documentation Service	Head of Documentation Service
Ministry of Energy and Water	General Directorate of Oil	1	General Directorate of Oil	Economic and Financial Affairs Service	Head of Economic and Financial Affairs Service
Ministry of Energy and Water	General Directorate of Oil	1	General Directorate of Oil	Technical Affairs Service	Head of Technical Affairs Service
Ministry of Energy and Water	General Directorate of Oil	1	General Directorate of Oil	Technical Service	Head of Technical
Ministry of Energy and Water	Total	22			
Ministry of Tourism	General Directorate of Tourism	1	NA	Documentation Service	Head of Documentation Service
Ministry of Tourism	General Directorate of Tourism	1	NA	Tourism Development Service	Head of Tourism Development Service
Ministry of Tourism	General Directorate of Tourism	1	NA	Research, Studies, and Documentation Service	Head of Research, Studies, and Documentation Service
Ministry of Tourism	General Directorate of Tourism	1	NA	Tourism Control Service	Head of Tourism Control Service
Ministry of Tourism	General Directorate of Tourism	1	NA	Tourism Preparation Service	Head of Tourism Preparation Service
Ministry of Tourism	General Directorate of Tourism	1	NA	Tourism Investment Service	Head of Tourism Investment Service
Ministry of Tourism	Total	6			
Ministry of Culture	General Directorate of Cultural Affairs	1	General Directorate of Cultural Affairs	Arts and Literature Directorate	Director of Arts and Literature Directorate
Ministry of Culture	General Directorate of Cultural Affairs	1	General Directorate of Cultural Affairs	Cultural Industries and Knowledge Economy Directorate	Director of Cultural Industries and Knowledge Economy Directorate
Ministry of Culture	General Directorate of Cultural Affairs	1	General Directorate of Cultural Affairs	Cooperation and National Coordination Directorate	Director of Cooperation and National Coordination Directorate
Ministry of Culture	Joint Administrative Service	1	NA	Joint Administrative Service	Head of Joint Administrative Service
Ministry of Culture	General Directorate of Antiquities	1	General Directorate of Antiquities	Built Heritage and Archeological Facilities Directorate	Director of Built Heritage and Archeological Facilities Directorate
Ministry of Culture	General Directorate of Antiquities	1	General Directorate of Antiquities	Archeological Excavations Directorate	Director of Archeological Excavations Directorate

Administration	Directorate	#	General Directorate /Directorate	Service or Directorate Name	Position
Ministry of Culture	General Directorate of Antiquities	1	General Directorate of Antiquities	Movable Cultural Properties Directorate	Director of Movable Cultural Properties Directorate
Ministry of Culture	Total	7			
Ministry of Environment	General Directorate of Environment	1	NA	Documentation Service	Head of Documentation Service
Ministry of Environment	General Directorate of Environment	1	NA	Environmental Guidance Service	Head of Environmental Guidance Service
Ministry of Environment	General Directorate of Environment	1	NA	Residential Environment Service	Head of Residential Environment Service
Ministry of Environment	General Directorate of Environment	1	NA	Natural Resources Service	Head of Natural Resources Service
Ministry of Environment	General Directorate of Environment	1	NA	Environmental Technology Service	Head of Environmental Technology Service
Ministry of Environment	General Directorate of Environment	1	NA	Planning and Programming Service	Head of Planning and Programming Service
Ministry of Environment	General Directorate of Environment	1	NA	Regional Circles and Environmental Control Service	Head of Regional Circles and Environmental Control Service
Ministry of Environment	Total	7			
Ministry of the Displaced	General Directorate of Displaced	1	NA	Documentation Service	Head of Documentation Service
Ministry of the Displaced	General Directorate of Displaced	1	NA	Statistics and Planning Service	Head of Statistics and Planning Service
Ministry of the Displaced	General Directorate of Displaced	1	NA	Technical Affairs Service	Head of Technical Affairs Service
Ministry of the Displaced	General Directorate of Displaced	1	NA	Aid and Loans Service	Head of Aid and Loans Service
Ministry of the Displaced	General Directorate of Displaced	1	NA	Inspection and Warehouses Service	Head of Inspection and Warehouses Service
Ministry of the Displaced	Total	5			
Ministry of Youth and Sports	General Directorate of Youth and Sports	1	NA	Documentation Service	Head of Documentation Service
Ministry of Youth and Sports	General Directorate of Youth and Sports	1	NA	Sports Service	Head of Sports Service
Ministry of Youth and Sports	General Directorate of Youth and Sports	1	NA	Youth Service	Head of Youth Service
Ministry of Youth and Sports	General Directorate of Youth and Sports	1	NA	Sports Medicine and Health Counseling Service	Head of Sports Medicine and Health Counseling Service
Ministry of Youth and Sports	General Directorate of Youth and Sports	1	NA	Planning and Information Service	Head of Planning and Information Service
Ministry of Youth and Sports	Total	5			
Ministry of Social Affairs	General Directorate of Social Affairs	1	NA	Documentation Service	Head of Documentation Service
Ministry of Social Affairs	General Directorate of Social Affairs	1	NA	Planning and Research Service	Head of Planning and Research Service
Ministry of Social Affairs	General Directorate of Social Affairs	1	NA	Accounting Service	Head of Accounting Service
Ministry of Social Affairs	General Directorate of Social Affairs	1	NA	Development Services Service	Head of Development Services Service

Administration	Directorate	#	General Directorate /Directorate	Service or Directorate Name	Position
Ministry of Social Affairs	General Directorate of Social Affairs	1	NA	Social Services Directorate	Director of Social Services Directorate
Ministry of Social Affairs	General Directorate of Social Affairs	1	NA	Directorate of Social Services	Head of Special Needs Affairs Service
Ministry of Social Affairs	General Directorate of Social Affairs	1	NA	Directorate of Social Services	Head of Social Care Service
Ministry of Social Affairs	General Directorate of Social Affairs	1	NA	Directorate of Social Services	Head of Associations and Civil Societies Service
Ministry of Social Affairs	General Directorate of Social Affairs	1	NA	Social Development Directorate	Director of Social Development Directorate
Ministry of Social Affairs	General Directorate of Social Affairs	1	NA	Directorate of Social Services	Head of Family Affairs Service
Ministry of Social Affairs	General Directorate of Social Affairs	1	NA	Social Development Directorate	Head of Social Development Service
Ministry of Social Affairs	Total	12			
Ministry of Industry	General Directorate of Industry	1	NA	Documentation Service	Head of Documentation Service
Ministry of Industry	General Directorate of Industry	1	NA	Economic Studies and Industrial Development Service	Head of Economic Studies and Industrial Development Service
Ministry of Industry	General Directorate of Industry	1	NA	Technical Affairs and Industrial Services Service	Head of Technical Affairs and Industrial Services Service
Ministry of Industry	General Directorate of Industry	1	NA	Industrial Information Service	Head of Industrial Information Service
Ministry of Industry	General Directorate of Industry	1	NA	Industrial Licenses Service	Head of Industrial Licenses Service
Ministry of Industry	General Directorate of Industry	1	NA	Regional Industry Service (North)	Head of Regional Industry Service (North)
Ministry of Industry	General Directorate of Industry	1	NA	Regional Industry Service (South)	Head of Regional Industry Service (South)
Ministry of Industry	General Directorate of Industry	1	NA	Regional Industry Service (Akkar)	Head of Regional Industry Service (Akkar)
Ministry of Industry	General Directorate of Industry	1	NA	Regional Industry Service (Baalbek-Hermel)	Head of Regional Industry Service (Baalbek-Hermel)
Ministry of Industry	General Directorate of Industry	1	NA	Regional Industry Service (Beqaa)	Head of Regional Industry Service (Beqaa)
Ministry of Industry	General Directorate of Industry	1	NA	Regional Industry Service (Nabatieh)	Head of Regional Industry Service (Nabatieh)
Ministry of Industry	Total	11			
Presidential Office	General Directorate of the Presidency	1	NA	Economic, Social, and Educational Affairs Directorate in the Budget, Financial, Economic, Social, and Educational Affairs Branch of the General Directorate of the Presidency	Director of Economic, Social, and Educational Affairs
Presidential Office	General Directorate of the Presidency	1	NA	General Budget and Financial Affairs Directorate in the Budget, Financial, Economic, Social, and Educational Affairs Branch of the General Directorate of the Presidency	Director of General Budget and Financial Affairs
Presidential Office	General Directorate of the Presidency	1	NA	Documentation Service	Head of Documentation Service
Presidential Office	Total	3			

Administration	Directorate	#	General Directorate /Directorate	Service or Directorate Name	Position
Prime Minister's Office	General Directorate of the Prime Minister's Office	1	NA	Special Secretary's Office for the Prime Minister in the Ceremonies and Public Relations General Branch of the General Directorate of the Prime Minister's Office	Head of Special Secretary's Office for the Prime Minister
Prime Minister's Office	General Directorate of the Prime Minister's Office	1	NA	General Affairs Directorate in the Ministerial Affairs Branch of the General Directorate of the Prime Minister's Office	Head of Cabinet Affairs
Prime Minister's Office	General Directorate of the Prime Minister's Office	1	NA	General Affairs Directorate in the Ministerial Affairs Branch of the General Directorate of the Prime Minister's Office	Head of Joint Affairs with the Parliament
Prime Minister's Office	General Directorate of the Prime Minister's Office	1	NA	General Affairs Directorate in the Ministerial Affairs Branch of the General Directorate of the Prime Minister's Office	Head of Decision Implementation Monitoring
Prime Minister's Office	General Directorate of the Prime Minister's Office	1	NA	Central Archives and National Documents Directorate in the General Directorate of the Prime Minister's Office	Archivist (Director Rank) in the Central Archives and National Documents Directorate
Prime Minister's Office	General Directorate of the Prime Minister's Office	1	NA	Documentation Service	Head of Documentation Service
Prime Minister's Office	General Directorate of the Prime Minister's Office	1	NA	Official Gazette Service	Head of Official Gazette Service
Prime Minister's Office	Total	7			
Court of Accounts	Court of Accounts	1	NA	Documentation Service	Head of Documentation Service
Court of Accounts	Total	1	NA		
Civil Service Council	Civil Service Council	1	NA	Joint Administrative Directorate	Director of Joint Administrative Directorate
Civil Service Council	Civil Service Council	1	NA	Monitoring and Studies Directorate	Director of Monitoring and Studies Directorate
Civil Service Council	Civil Service Council	1	NA	Administrative Service	Head of Administrative Service
Civil Service Council	Civil Service Council	1	NA	Information Service	Head of Information Service
Civil Service Council	Civil Service Council	1	NA	Financial Service	Head of Financial Service
Civil Service Council	Civil Service Council	1	NA	Monitoring Service	Head of Monitoring Service
Civil Service Council	Civil Service Council	1	NA	Studies Service	Head of Studies Service
Civil Service Council	Civil Service Council	1	NA	Job Classification and Salary Determination Service	Head of Job Classification and Salary Determination Service
Civil Service Council	Civil Service Council	1	NA	Personal Files Service	Head of Personal Files Service
Civil Service Council	Civil Service Council	1	NA	Directorate of Research and Guidance	Head of Directorate of Research and Guidance
Civil Service Council	Total	12			
Higher Disciplinary Council	Higher Disciplinary Committee	1	NA	Higher Disciplinary Committee	Secretary of the Higher Disciplinary Committee
Higher Disciplinary Council	Total	1			

Administration	Directorate	#	General Directorate /Directorate	Service or Directorate Name	Position
Central Inspection	Central Inspection	1	NA	Central Inspection	Secretary of the Central Inspection
Central Inspection	Central Inspection	1	NA	Documentation Service	Head of Documentation Service
Central Inspection	Total	2			
Central Statistics	Central Statistics	1	NA	Documentation Service	Head of Documentation Service
Central Statistics	Central Statistics	1	NA	Production Sections Statistics Service	Head of Production Sections Statistics Service
Central Statistics	Central Statistics	1	NA	Household and Social Sector Statistics Service	Head of Household and Social Sector Statistics Service
Central Statistics	Central Statistics	1	NA	Field Operations and Regional Statistics Service	Head of Field Operations and Regional Statistics Service
Central Statistics	Central Statistics	1	NA	Central Automation Service	Head of Central Automation Service
Central Statistics	Central Statistics	1	NA	Coordination and National Accounting Service	Head of Coordination and National Accounting Service
Central Statistics	Central Statistics	1	NA	Documentation, Publication, and Printing Service	Head of Documentation, Publication, and Printing Service
Central Statistics	Total	7			

Source: Information International, based on the laws and organizational decrees of the relevant administrations.



CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS IN LEBANON

105 NEW SOCIETIES IN 6 MONTHS A 50% DECLINE IN 2024

The first six months of 2024 (up to the end of June 2024) saw the establishment of 105 new CSOs compared to 203 associations in the same period last year, a decrease of 98 organizations, or 48.3%.

The distribution by months is shown in Table 1, with June witnessing the establishment of 21 associations compared to 52 associations in June 2023.

Table 1: Establishment of Associations by Month (2023-2024)

Month	Number of New CSOs 2024	Number of New CSOs 2023
January	18	42
February	8	29
March	17	35
April	14	28
May	27	17
June	21	52
Total	105	203

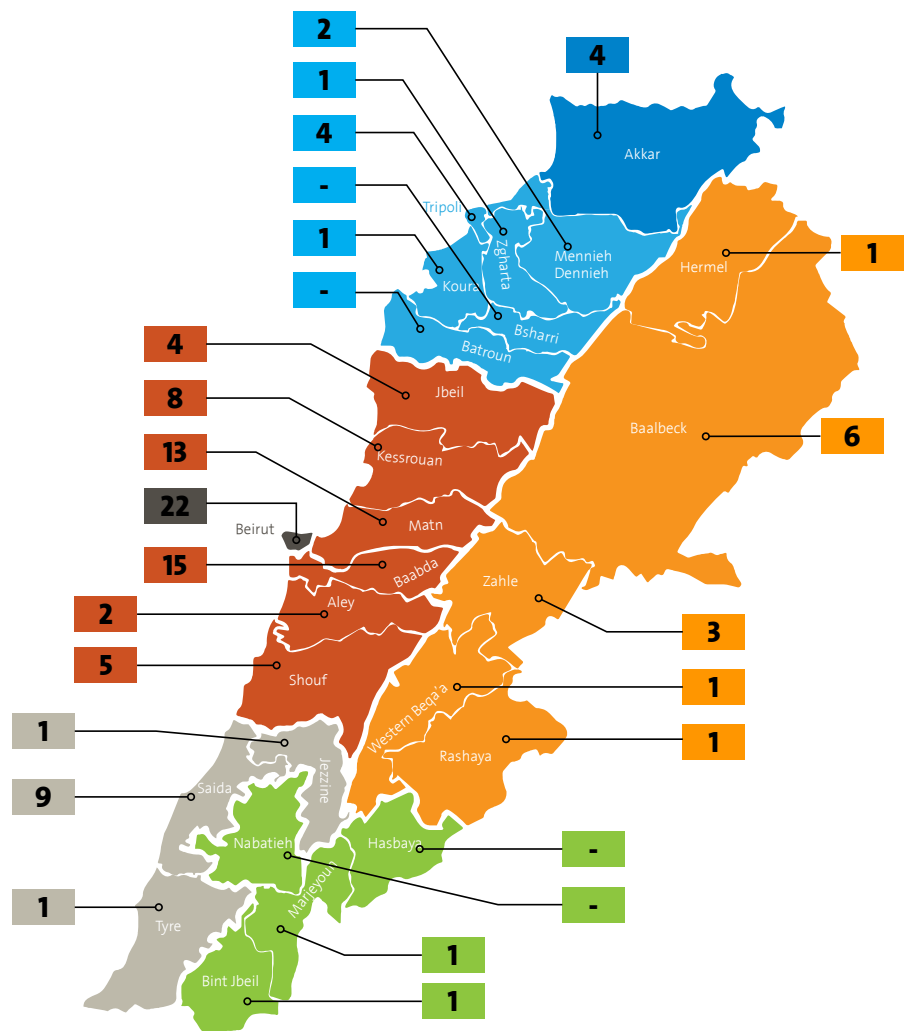
Source: *Information International* based on data from the Lebanese Official Gazette.

Distribution of CSOs by Location

The associations were distributed according to their primary headquarters across several regions, with Beirut ranking first with the establishment of 22 CSOs, as shown in Table 2.

Table 2: Distribution of CSOs by Districts According to Their Primary Headquarters (January – June 2024)

District	Number of Associations
Beirut	22
Baabda	15
Metn	13
Sidon	9
Keserwan	8
Baalbek	6
Chouf	5
Tripoli	4
Jbeil	4
Akkar	4
Zahle	3
Aley	2
Minieh-Danniyeh	2
Rachaya	1
Zgharta	1
Bint Jbeil	1
Jezzine	1
West Bekaa	1
Koura	1
Tyre	1
Hermel	1
Total	105



Source: *Information International* based on data from the Lebanese Official Gazette.

POPULATION GROWTH IN LEBANON 2023

HIGH IN RURAL AREAS, LOW IN CITIES IS LEBANON AGING?



Lebanese demographics are a complex and problematic issue because they are based on counting Lebanese citizens according to their sects and denominations, rather than their citizenship. For this reason, no official population census has been conducted since 1932, to avoid revealing the true numbers, despite the agreement among Lebanese communities to share political and administrative positions equally, regardless of numbers. Population figures are typically inferred from school enrollment or voter numbers. However, there are errors, such as duplicate entries for married women as well as the entries for deceased individuals who haven't reached 100 years since their date of birth.

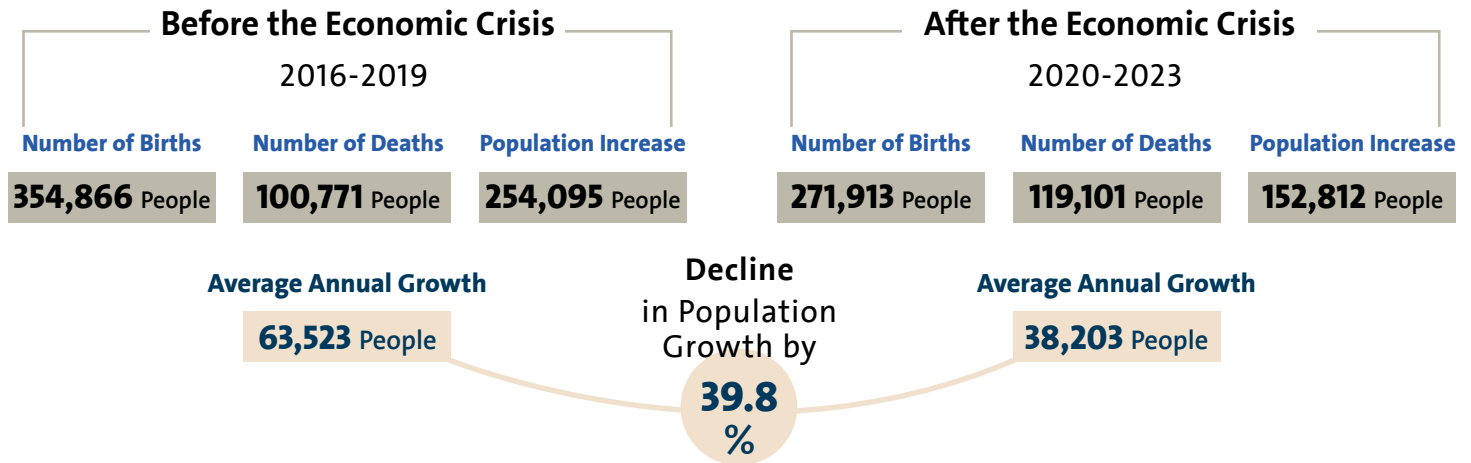
A review of birth and death rates by district in 2023 reveals that population growth was minimal or nearly nonexistent in predominantly Christian districts and high in predominantly Muslim districts, indicating a continued and growing “demographic imbalance” based on sectarian criteria.



Population Growth Before and After the Economic Crisis

From 2016 to 2019, there were 354,866 births and 100,771 deaths, resulting in a population increase of 254,095 people, with an average annual growth of 63,523 people.

These figures changed after the 2019 Lebanese economic crisis and in the following years (2020-2023), as the number of births decreased to 271,913 while deaths rose to 119,101, resulting in a population increase of 152,812 people, with an average annual growth of 38,203 people. A comparison of pre-crisis and post-crisis figures shows a decline in population growth by 39.8%.



The Situation in 2023

In 2023, the number of births reached 66,866, including 34,264 males and 32,602 females, compared to 26,284 deaths, including 14,087 males and 12,197 females, resulting in an increase of 40,582 people, distributed between 20,177 males and 20,405 females. These numbers and their gender distribution are consistent with previous years, where male births outnumber female births, and male deaths outnumber female deaths. For that reason, the increase in the number of females is 1.13% higher than that of males.

District-wise Reality

Birth and death rates vary by district, the lowest population increase was recorded in the Metn district, with only 11 people, followed by Keserwan with 69 people, and Bsharri with 87 people. The highest increase was in Akkar, with 7,678 people, followed by Baalbek-Hermel with 6,381 people, and Sour (Tyre) with 3,146 people.

Table. Population Growth in Lebanon by Districts and Sects in 2023

District	Number of Births	Number of Deaths	Population Increase	Estimated Registered Population	Increasing Rate %
Akkar	9,591	1,913	7,678	491,576	1.56
Minieh-Danniyeh	3,283	752	2,531	194,198	1.3
Baalbek-Hermel	8,488	2,107	6,381	529,330	1.2
West Beqa'	1,945	597	1,348	138,784	0.97

District	Number of Births	Number of Deaths	Population Increase	Estimated Registered Population	Increasing Rate %
Sour (Tyre)	4,328	1,182	3,146	331,505	0.94
Bint Jbeil	3,203	946	2,257	257,153	0.87
Nabatiyeh	3,299	987	2,312	262,640	0.86
Tripoli	4,658	1,551	3,107	396,455	0.78
Saida (Sidon)	3,659	1,351	2,308	298,196	0.77
Marje'youn	2,000	734	1,266	186,047	0.68
Zahle	3,223	1,316	1,907	277,085	0.68
Hasbaya	768	364	404	60,200	0.67
Rachaya	714	270	444	68,374	0.6
Zgharta	891	448	443	106,900	0.41
Koura	719	410	309	81,610	0.37
Chouf	2,470	1,364	1,106	299,706	0.37
Beirut	5,291	3,282	2,009	609,025	0.33
Jbeil (Byblos)	1,049	705	344	111,804	0.3
Baabda	1,890	1,308	582	236,837	0.24
Aley	1,393	1,099	294	175,290	0.16
Jezzine	636	513	123	81,623	0.15
Batroun	599	483	116	81,155	0.14
Bsharri	397	310	87	66,236	0.13
Keserwan	941	872	69	125,240	0.055
Metn	1,431	1,420	11	238,073	0.0046
Total	66,866	26,284	40,582	5,705,042	0.71%

Source: *Information International*, based on figures by the Directorate General of Civil Status.

High Rates in Some Districts, Low Rates in Others

It is necessary to point out that the rate of increase is considered high or “stable” in the following areas:

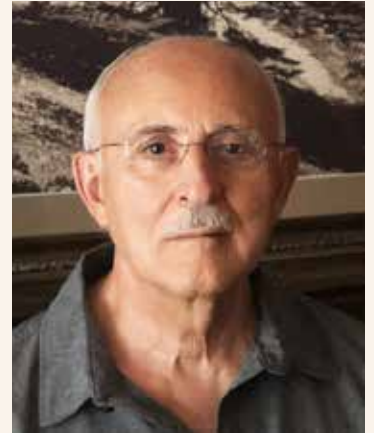
Akkar district (1.56%), which came first in the increase rates, followed by Miniyeh-Danniyeh district (1.3%), then Baalbek-Hermel district (1.2%), followed by Western Bekaa (0.97%). Meanwhile, the lowest population growth rate was in Metn district (0.0046%), followed by Keserwan (0.55%) and Bsharri (0.13%).

In countries that plan for the future, population growth is determined after conducting a comprehensive and detailed population survey, where sectarianism is not the focus. This is essential for establishing a plan that will propose solutions any potential population growth problems in the country.

FATHERLAND (1)

MISS FATIMA HUSSEIN

By Dr. Hanna Saadah



The Tripoli Schools

In Tripoli, Lebanon, the American Evangelical Schools recline in the Muslim centers of town, surrounded by resounding minarets that five times a day, call the faithful to prayer. Established by Presbyterian Missionaries in 1873 when the area was under Ottoman rule, they remain the beacon for English-teaching schools in North Lebanon.

I entered the school's kindergarten at age four and in 1963, at the age of seventeen, graduated from their high school. The classes were an amiable mélange of the two monotheisms, but we all went to chapel every morning, sat side-by-side in the pews, joyously chanted together the daily hymns, and listened to the sermons and bible stories with eager ears. The schools closed their gates on Muslim and Christian holidays and we enjoyed double vacation times. Christmas, the Prophet's birthday, Easter, Al-Adha, Lent, and Ramadan were all observed by everyone. On Christian holidays, *our grateful* Muslim friends visited our homes and we reciprocated on their holidays. At Christmas, we all sang Christmas carols to the sonorous sounds of the magnificent organ, whose fingers reached all the way to the ceiling arches, which framed the chapel's dome.

At the end of third grade, the boys had to leave the Tripoli Girls School branch and

were transferred to the branch upon the hill known as the Tripoli Boys School. At that time, the American Evangelical Schools were not integrated beyond the third grade, but that segregation, of course, did not apply to teachers. My favorite teacher during those formative years was our English literature teacher, Miss Fatima Hussein, *a Muslimah* from the heart of Tripoli. A graduate of the American University of Beirut—another American missionary beacon of learning established in 1866—she introduced us to the literary giants of Western culture and inseminated in us the love of classical reading and creative writing. By graduation, we were all in love with Shakespeare, Coleridge, Byron, Keats, Dickenson, Frost, Cummings, Whitman, Elliot, Thoreau, Emerson, and so many others. Also by graduation, my seventeen classmates and I were all desperately in love with Miss Fatima Hussein, who was thirty-seven at the time.

To my eyes, my thoughts, and to my heart, Miss Fatima Hussein embodied the apotheosis of womanhood. She was a magnificent soul condensed into breathtaking beauty with deep-blue eyes, night-black hair, a brilliant mind, a ballerina figure, and a spirit that embraced the entire humanity. Perhaps, among my classmates, I was the one who was the most helplessly smitten with Miss Hussein. It mattered not that she was twenty years older, that we belonged to different monotheisms, that she was well established in a

promising career, and that I was an adolescent without skills or resources. All I felt at that time was an irresistible yearning to cling to her even if that meant that I would have to keep repeating my senior year forever. With that inconsolable state of mind—when our open-air graduation ceremony ended—I approached her with tear-filled eyes and said, “Miss, Hussein.”

“Yes, Mr. class poet,” she quipped.

“Will you wait for me?” I whispered with a hoarse voice, parched with dreadful strain.

“Wait for you? Why? Where? What for?” She asked with embarrassment as she wiped off my shameless tears.

“I’ll become a doctor in eight years and then I’ll come back for you.”

She smiled with a pain worse than mine, wiped off my tears again, pulled me to her chest, and whispered in my ear, “When you become a doctor, come visit me. I would be an old woman then and might need your medical help.”

After spending eight years at the American University of Beirut, I did become a doctor, but instead of going back to Tripoli to visit Miss Hussein, I went to America to specialize. Five years later, when I had finished my specializations, I was thirty years old and that year was the fateful 1975. I sold my furniture, bought my Pan Am ticket, and was preparing to return to Lebanon when my father called:

“I hear that you are coming back?”

“I have a job offer at the AUB. I start on July first.”

“You can’t come back, Son. We’re about to suffer a civil war that might last twenty years. Lebanon is no longer safe. The Lebanon you grew up in is gone and won’t return. As much as I’d love for you to come home, I think that you should stay in America until things settle down.”

“Stay in America? Stay for how long?”

“Until it is safe to return.”

“And how long would that be?”

“Only God knows, Son. Stay where you are and pray for us who are stuck here and cannot leave.”

The Civil War

Later that year, the civil war broke out and sweet little Lebanon was transformed into a bloody battlefield. It became difficult to communicate because the telephone lines were heavily damaged and the mail service was suspended. In my isolation, I obsessively listened to the news, hoping to understand the daily developments of the socio-political conflicts that were disfiguring my fatherland. But, as the media tailor what they feature to what the public likes to hear, essential details were regularly omitted and happenings were often flaunted out of context, all of which added to my confusion. Occasionally, a visitor from Lebanon would call or mail me a letter entrusted to him by my parents. I felt that I was living in exile, away from my beloved homeland, subsisting entirely on rumors and a few crumbs of facts.

Some nights, I unwittingly kindled my insomnia by wondering about my Tripoli Boys School upon the hill with window-framed views of the Mediterranean Sea, views I soaked in day after day from fourth grade until graduation. I pondered the whereabouts of my classmates, my teachers, and my ardent teen-age love, Miss Fatima Hussein, who had become the alphabet of my thoughts. In my isolation, I convinced myself that if I would imagine good things, then bad things could not happen. But being so far away and so out of touch, I found it harder to conjure good scenes. As the weeks hissed across my mind, I began to see happenings in either red or black. The snow-white mountains, the green

valleys, and the ancient blue sea, being neither red nor black, tantalized my imagination and began to pull away like a frightened kitten who would not let me hold her long enough to feel her purr against my chest.

A few days before Christmas, one sunless Sunday afternoon, two of my Lebanese friends showed up, uninvited, at my door. My heart sank when I looked at their faces. In their eyes they held all the shades between black and red, between gloom and fear, and between grief and finality. I did not dare ask nor did they dare speak. We just sat in ominous silence, examining the sundry inanimate objects about the room.

"The fighting has gotten very fierce in Beirut," said Samir.

"Snipers are at every building top and they shoot at anything that moves," said Sami.

I knew that they did not drop in just to talk about the civil war but I did not dare force the issue by asking them certain pointed questions such as, 'What happened or what did you come here to tell me?' I wanted to postpone my knowing as long as I could and so did they. The silence groaned awkwardly as the minutes ticked. Samir cleared his throat as if he were about to say something but then he didn't. Sami coughed, sniffled, and then let out a deep sigh. I began to feel breathless under the suffocating tension.

"We heard that there was an explosion next to the lighthouse, close to your Beirut home," said Samir.

"Rumor has it that your brother, Nadir, has been injured," mumbled Sami.

Still, I did not want to ask even though I knew that they had come to tell me something and that they would not be able to hold back their words too much longer. Red and black visions of Nadir, my middle brother, tormented my eyes.

He turned twenty-eight on the 10th of December and I couldn't call him to say happy birthday.

"We heard it was a bad injury," said Samir.

"They said that he might not make it," said Sami.

"They have him at the AUB," said Samir.

I looked at their quivering faces and felt sorry for them. They came to tell me something and neither of them was able to say it. To lessen their burden, I interjected, "When did it happen?"

"On his birthday," came their answers in unison.

"Did my father call you and ask you to come tell me?"

"He called us from the Egyptian embassy. They let him use their wireless."

"He was killed by a sniper, wasn't he? Killed on his birthday," I nervously blurted as if talking to myself.

Their silence was their confession. After that, nothing else was said and they soon excused themselves, leaving me to my red imagination and black grief. It was only when my father was able to fly to London that he and I were able to talk at length. He told me about the funeral, my mother's inconsolable grief, and how he was planning to send my little sister and younger brother to study abroad as soon as it became feasible.

"I don't want what happened to Nadir to happen to them," were his last words to me before he said good-bye.



HAITOURA: THE VILLAGE WITH THE CLEANEST AIR IN LEBANON

Haitoura is a small village in Lebanon known for its beautiful nature and air that is said to cure respiratory diseases.

Etymology

Anis Freiha mentions in his book “Names of Lebanese Cities and Villages and Their Meanings” that Haitoura (IPA: /ħaytˤūra/, Arabic: حيطورة) is a Syriac word meaning Mountain Clan or Mountain District. It could also be a distortion of the word Hatura, which means Carder or Quilter, perhaps because its inhabitants in the past worked as quilters.

Location

The village of Haitoura is located in the Jezzine district at an altitude of 1,060 meters above sea level and covers an area of 218 hectares. It is 72 km south of the capital Beirut and can be reached via the Beirut-Saida-Roum-Aazour-Haitoura road.

Population and Housing

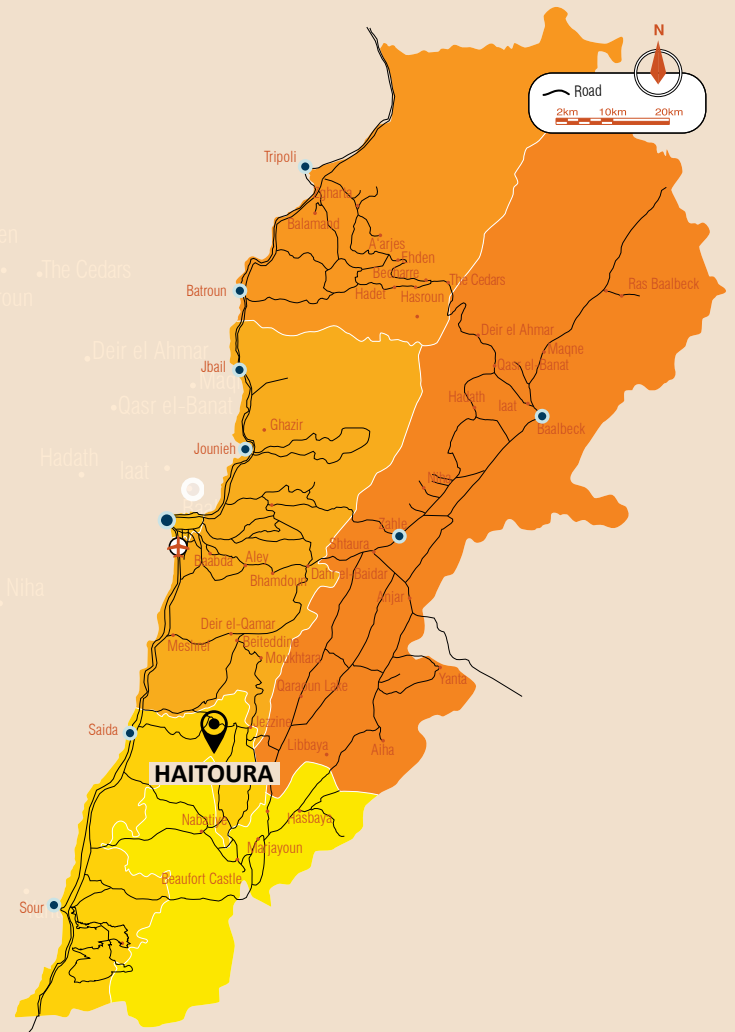
The number of registered residents in the village is estimated at around 1,250 people, belonging to the Maronite sect, and the number of houses is 150.

Voters

The number of eligible voters in the 2000 elections reached 722, with 204 actually voting. In the 2009 elections, the number rose to 810 voters, with 409 casting their votes. In the most recent 2022 elections, the number of eligible voters reached 938, with 378 voting.

The voters are distributed according to the largest families as follows:

- Saeed: 95 voters
- Lattouf: 88 voters
- Rashed: 68 voters
- Marai: 57 voters
- Rizk: 45 voters
- Ammar: 43 voters
- Habib: 43 voters
- Shahin: 40 voters
- Tannous: 38 voters
- Assaf: 34 voters
- Khoury: 33 voters
- Mas'oud: 32 voters
- Sa'd: 30 voters
- Salim: 28 voters
- Ya'coub: 25 voters
- Yussef: 22 voters
- Abou Nassar: 22 voters
- Along with other smaller families.



Local Authorities

The village has a municipal council consisting of 9 members, as well as a “mukhtar” and a village council.

Economic Life

The villagers rely on agriculture, public and private sector jobs, and freelance professions. They also rent out their homes during the summer season.

Village Problems

Being located at an altitude of 1,060 meters makes it a cold area during winter, leading its residents to leave and making it uninhabited during this season.

THE AL-FATAS

MUSLIMS WHO CONVERTED TO CHRISTIANITY

The Al-Fatas are a Lebanese family. Although small in number, some members adhere to Islam while others adhere to Christianity.

Origin

The Al-Fatas trace their roots to Arab tribes that contributed to the conquests of Egypt, the Levant, and the Maghreb. They are of Muslim origin. However, for unknown reasons, one of the family's ancestors converted to Christianity and moved from Beirut to Kfarshima. For this reason, members of the family who live in Beirut are Muslims, while those who live in Kfarshima and Beit Shabab are Christians.

Population

The estimated number of Al-Fata family members is around 767, distributed according to region and sect as follows:

Roman Catholics - 349 members distributed as:

- Kfarshima: 320 members
- Tahwitat Al-Nahr: 22 members
- Achrafieh: 7 members

Sunnis - 329 members distributed as:

- Achrafieh: 172 members
- Minieh: 150 members
- Bashoura: 7 members

Maronites - 89 members distributed as:

- Lower Beit Al-Tahta: 84 members
- Bikfaya: 5 members

KAYFA ABSARAT JĀMI'AT AL-BALAMAND AN-NŪR?

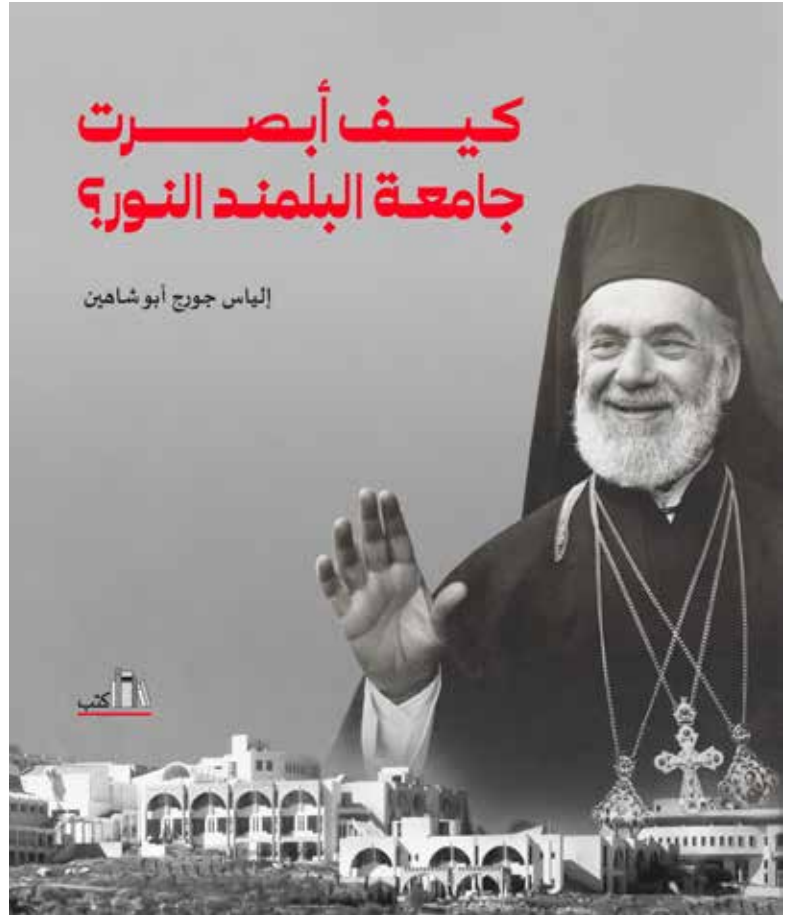
A new book titled *Kayfa Absarat Jāmi'at Al-Balamand An-Nūr?* (How the University of Balamand Came to Be?) by engineer Elias Abu Shaheen has been recently published by Kutub Publishing House. The book spans 440 pages in large format, featuring colored photos.

The book documents the early stages of the idea to establish a university in the North of Lebanon, specifically on the grounds of the Balamand Monastery in the Koura district, from the 1980s to the laying of the first cornerstone, and the challenges and obstacles faced along this journey, alongside moments that inspired hope.

The story begins with the author's encounter with the then-Patriarch of Antioch and All the East for the Orthodox, Ignatius IV, who proposed the idea of building a school to save the people of the North from the hardship of sending their children to the capital, Beirut, for education, especially during the difficult and dangerous times of the Lebanese Civil War. The Patriarch then suggested building the first Orthodox university on a global scale, with the goal of providing higher education to students at an affordable cost.

The book chronicles the journey from the first cornerstone to the construction of several buildings, each named after the donors or the individuals they chose, leading up to the academic beginnings and the first graduation ceremony on the grounds of the Balamand Hill, followed by successive graduations and scientific progress.

Elias Abu Shaheen and his wife, Helen Haddad Abu Shaheen, invested significant effort and money in founding the University of Balamand, a truth that must remain in our collective memory. This book serves as a documentation of that legacy.



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Al-Borj Building, 4th Floor Martyr's Square, Commercial Center

Beirut - Lebanon, P.O.BOX: 11-4353 Beirut, Lebanon

Tel: (961-1) 983008/9 Fax: (961-1) 980630

Web: www.kutubltd.com

E-mail: sales@kutubltd.com