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# LEBANON 2025 YEAR IN REVIEW

## THE LITANI AND ISRAEL'S LONG WAR ON LEBANON

CITIES, TOWNS, REGISTERED POPULATION,  
AND SECTARIAN DISTRIBUTION



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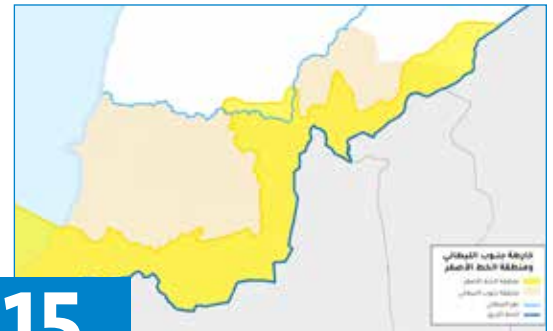
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## Lebanon's Wars, Why?(1)

By Jawad N. Adra



This article was published in *The Monthly* editorial, issue no. 55- January 2007

"This is not the Lebanon that I know," said my colleague. "Why are 'they' doing this to 'us'?" she continued. An honest, spontaneous yet "benign" remark, echoing Bush's famous why "they" hate "us", speech. We seem to have this image of ourselves (individuals and nations), that we hold true, where only "good" is within "us" and evil is from "them."

Lebanon is today on the edge of an abyss. However, this is not something new. Since 1943, Lebanon has been witnessing crises and wars, not to mention those of the nineteenth century. The main problem lies in the system that we have developed either by consent, force, inaptness, or by all these combined. In fact, our political and socio-economic system strives on crises.

The question is that of legitimacy and authority or the lack of them. A citizen believes that his country's political and economic affairs are not his concern due to the absence of the state, so he delegates a politician, "Za'im" who, for the same reason, is only concerned with protecting his position and political inheritance, so he entrusts technocrats of weak political roots with daily government work and foreign powers with managing the country's key national affairs. The 1975-1990 civil war was not about Palestinians and their weapons. Today, the dispute is not between the "March 14 and the March 8 Forces," or about "freedom, sovereignty and independence" versus "armed resistance." It is about power sharing in a system that lives on generating fear amongst confessions. Human resources are depleted, forced to emigrate or even assassinated. Moreover, the country's financial resources are also squandered by either corruption or destruction. It seems that the system cannot function without an "enforcer", who is always an external force(s).

Those who are called "Zua'ama" or "Emirs of confessions" are not only the victims of this vicious circle, but also its creators, along with their followers and other citizens. It is impossible to get out of this infernal circle unless we agree on the need to identify the defects of our system and join efforts to resolve them. Two steps are required for this purpose: Reconciliation and objectivity.

The process of reconciliation was halted by a general amnesty law drafted by those who participated in the war. It is not acceptable to forget about the long 1975-1990 civil war, which is perhaps still ongoing, as if it never occurred. The subsequent, as well as the organized looting of the state perpetrated under the slogans of "reconstruction" and the "state of law and institutions" as a reward to Zua'ama does not provide for stability.

Understanding one's history as factually as possible and reporting current pertinent facts is another prerequisite not only to achieve reconciliation but to plan for the future. It is time to understand that, in the end, everyone loses. Leaders who seek and live by power are either assassinated or go into oblivion and the people are always the ultimate victims. We hope that Information International, through its monthly magazine and other publications, would contribute to reviving the Lebanese people's memory, and present them with facts and figures in order for history not to repeat itself.

(1) A new book entitled "Lebanon's Wars, Why?" will be soon published by the Social and Cultural Development Association (INMA) in cooperation with Information International within the Bee Series for civic education.

# Special Report



# LEBANON 2025 YEAR IN REVIEW

The year 2025 saw a number of positive economic and financial indicators compared with 2024, largely due to two main factors:

- First, the end of the presidential vacuum, which had lasted for around two years and two months, following the election of General Joseph Aoun as President of Lebanon and the formation of a new government that began working to address the country's economic and financial crisis.
- Second, the end of the war that Lebanon had experienced since October 2023, which caused widespread destruction, displacement, and a sharp slowdown in economic activity.



Among the most notable indicators recorded in 2025 compared with 2024 were the following:

## Banque du Liban Foreign Assets Reach Nearly USD 12 Billion

Banque du Liban's foreign currency reserves rose to USD 11.89 billion by the end of 2025, an increase of USD 1.76 billion, or 17.3%, compared with the previous year.

The reserves had already begun recovering noticeably since August 2023, following the end of former central bank governor Riad Salameh's term, when reserves stood at USD 8.57 billion. This represents a cumulative increase of USD 3.22 billion.

By comparison, before the financial collapse in late 2019, the reserves had stood at USD 37.27 billion.

## Beirut Airport Traffic Surpasses 7 Million Passengers

Passenger traffic at Beirut–Rafic Hariri International Airport recorded a significant increase in 2025, reaching 7,010,580 passengers compared with 5,624,402 in 2024, an increase of 1,386,178 passengers, or 24.6%.

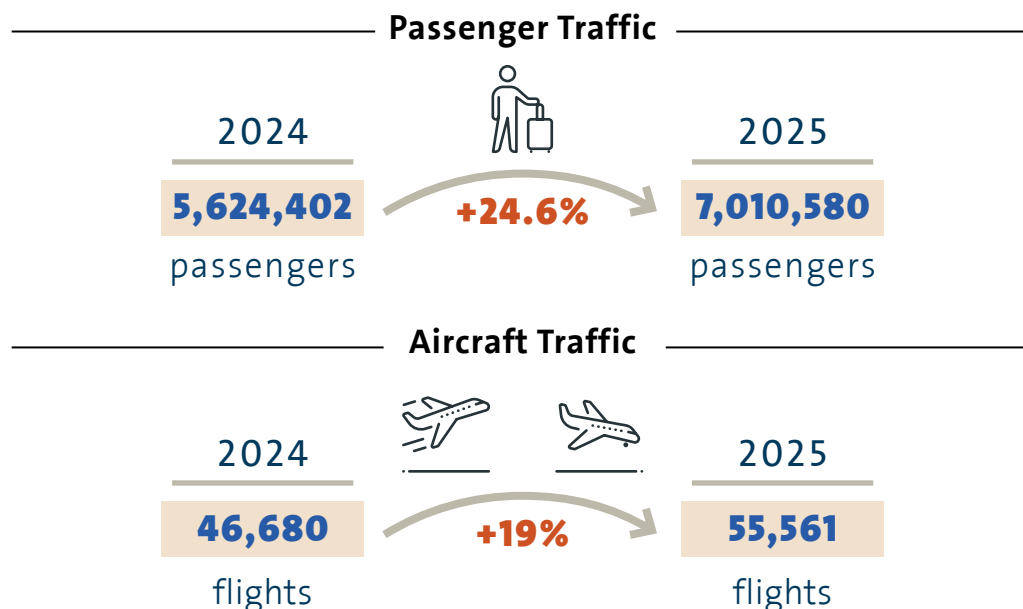
The recovery is considered a natural consequence of the end of the war Lebanon experienced in 2024.

Traffic was distributed as follows:

Category	2024	2025	Increase / Decrease
Arrivals	2,762,698	3,591,674	30%
Departures	2,858,202	3,417,016	19.6%
Transit	3,502	1,890	-46%
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,624,402</b>	<b>7,010,580</b>	<b>24.6%</b>
Number of Flights	46,680	55,561	19%

Source: Beirut–Rafic Hariri International Airport.

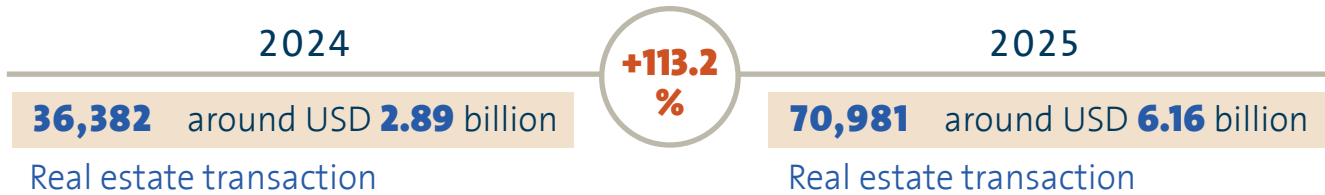
August recorded the highest monthly traffic, with nearly 930,000 passengers, including 397,000 arrivals and 532,000 departures. Passenger traffic during the four summer months, from June through September, reached nearly 3 million travelers.



## Real Estate Sales Reach USD 6.1 Billion

Real estate activity improved significantly during 2025, with 70,981 transactions worth LBP 551 trillion, equivalent to roughly USD 6.16 billion. By comparison, 2024 recorded 36,382 transactions worth LBP 259 trillion, or around USD 2.89 billion.

Part of this increase was due to the reopening of land registry offices in Mount Lebanon after months of disruption, which led to the processing of a backlog of transactions carried over from 2024.



## Sales of New Cars Reach 13,000 Vehicles

A total of 13,379 new cars were sold in 2025, compared with 8,226 in 2024, an increase of 5,153 vehicles, or 62.6%.

Despite the improvement, sales remained below pre-crisis levels, as 21,991 new vehicles were sold in 2019.



## Currency in Circulation Reaches LBP 65 Trillion

The volume of Lebanese pound banknotes in circulation reached LBP 64.7 trillion by the end of 2025, up 11.4% from around LBP 58 trillion in 2024.



## Insurance Premiums Reach USD 1.3 Billion

Total insurance premiums written in 2025 reached approximately USD 1.312 billion, compared with USD 1.134 billion in 2024, an increase of 15.7%.

The breakdown by sector was as follows:

- Health insurance: USD 664 million (50.4%)
- Transport insurance: USD 279 million (21.3%)
- Property insurance: USD 259 million (19.8%)
- Life insurance: USD 110 million (8.4%)



## Trade Deficit Widens to USD 17.4 Billion

Lebanon's trade deficit widened significantly in 2025, reaching USD 17.4 billion compared with USD 14.2 billion in 2024. The increase was driven by a rise in imports, which climbed to USD 21 billion, up by USD 4.1 billion year-on-year. Exports also increased by USD 932 million.

	2024	2025
Imports	USD 16.902 billion	USD 21.076 billion
Exports	USD 2.707 billion	USD 3.639 billion
<b>Deficit</b>	<b>USD -14.195 billion</b>	<b>USD -17.436 billion</b>

Source: Lebanese Customs.

## Main Import Partners

### China

**2.472**

USD billion

### Switzerland

**1.968**

USD billion

### United Arab Emirates

**1.701**

USD billion

### Greece

**1.490**

USD billion

### Egypt

**1.342**

USD billion

### Italy

**1.195**

USD billion

### Turkey

**1.170**

USD billion

### Saudi Arabia

**1.143**

USD billion

## Main Export Partners

### Switzerland

**784**

USD million

### United Arab Emirates

**552**

USD million

### Syria

**170**

USD million

### Egypt

**168**

USD million

### Iraq

**152**

USD million

### United States

**145**

USD million

### Turkey

**132**

USD million

## Licensed Construction Area Reaches 9.1 Million Square Meters

According to the Orders of Engineers in Beirut and Tripoli, the total area covered by construction permits reached approximately 9.1 million square meters in 2025, compared with 6.1 million square meters in 2024, an increase of 3 million square meters, or 50.8%.

Mount Lebanon recorded the largest share of licensed construction area at 3.5 million square meters, while Beirut recorded the lowest at 385,000 square meters.



Month	Area (m <sup>2</sup> )
January	501,395
February	821,178
March	402,644
April	612,573
May	769,492
June	676,872
July	821,024
August	701,694
September	810,955
October	929,030
November	821,206
December	725,026
<b>Total</b>	<b>9,178,859</b>

Source: Order of Engineers and Architects of Beirut.

## Demographic Indicators: Rise in Marriages, Divorces, and Deaths

Demographic indicators recorded noticeable increases in 2025 compared with 2024, as shown in the table below:

	2024	2025	Numerical Increase	Percentage Increase
Marriages	25,628	32,852	7,224	28.2%
Divorces	6,894	8,823	1,929	25%
Births	65,209	70,986	5,777	8.8%
Deaths	26,715	33,952	7,237	27%
<b>Population Growth</b>	<b>38,494</b>	<b>37,034</b>	—	—

Source: Ministry of Interior and Municipalities

## Number of Registered Voters Up by 43,000

The number of registered voters in 2025 reached 4,093,663, compared with 4,050,659 in 2024, an increase of 43,004 voters, or 1.06%.



## Decline in Non-Fresh Check Transactions

The value of non-fresh checks traded in 2025 fell to USD 1.408 billion, compared with USD 2.176 billion in 2024.

The decline reflects continued distrust in such checks, whose actual market value remains well below their nominal value.

The distribution of these checks was as follows:

	2024	2025
Number of checks in Lebanese pounds	169,000	103,000
Value of checks in Lebanese pounds	LBP 78.511 trillion	LBP 62.801 trillion
Number of checks in US dollars	16,000	12,000
Value of checks in US dollars	USD 1.299 billion	USD 706 million

Source: Association of Banks in Lebanon

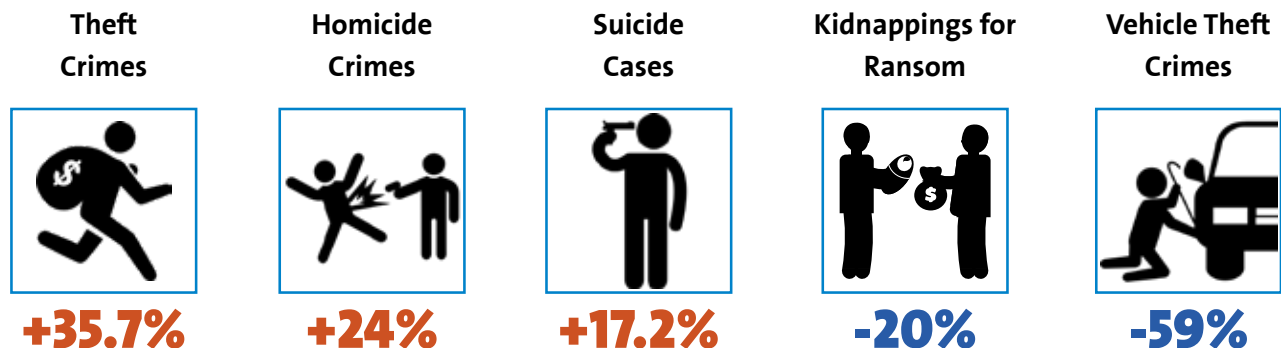
## Beirut Stock Exchange

Trading activity on the Beirut Stock Exchange recorded an increase in the number of traded shares but a decline in total value traded.

The number of traded shares rose from 12.6 million to 38.5 million shares, an increase of 205.6%, while the total value traded fell from USD 535.8 million to USD 367.06 million, a decline of 31.3%.

## Security Indicators 2025: Alarming Figures

Most security indicators recorded alarming and dangerous figures in 2025, reaching some of the highest levels observed over the past decade, particularly in comparison with 2024, as shown in the table below.



### The following indicators increased:

- Homicide crimes increased by 24%.
- Theft crimes increased by 35.7%.
- Suicide cases increased by 17.2%.
- Road accidents increased by 36%.
- Fatalities resulting from road accidents increased by 17.6%.
- Injuries resulting from road accidents increased by 44.4%.

### The following indicators declined:

- The net number of stolen vehicles decreased significantly by 59%.
- Kidnappings for ransom decreased by 20%. However, many of these incidents were not reported to the security forces and were instead resolved directly between the victims' families and the kidnappers. Therefore, the actual figures may not be fully accurate.

**Table: Security Indicators — Comparative Figures for 2024–2025**

	2024	2025	Rate of Increase or Decrease	Rate of Increase
Homicide Crimes	153	190	+ 37	+ 24%
Theft Crimes	2,782	3,776	+ 994	+ 35.7%
Suicide Cases	128	150	+ 22	+ 17.2%
Road Accidents	2,365	3,217	+ 852	+ 36%
Number of Fatalities Resulting from Road Accidents	442	520	+ 78	+ 17.6%
Number of Injuries Resulting from Road Accidents	2,655	3,833	+ 1,178	+ 44.4%
Net Number of Stolen Vehicles	585	240	- 345	- 59%
Kidnappings for Ransom	40	32	- 8	- 20%

Source: Prepared by *Information International* based on the Security Magazine issued by the General Directorate of the Internal Security Forces.

## Inflation: 14.8%

Inflation stood at 14.8% in 2025, down from 45.24% in 2024.

Cumulative inflation since the beginning of the crisis in 2020 has now reached 692.3%, compared with just 2.9% in 2019.

## Emigration: 65,000 People

The number of emigrants and outbound travelers in 2025 reached 65,263 people, compared with 172,720 in 2024.

The cumulative total since the beginning of the economic crisis in 2020 has reached 574,248 people.

## Balance of Payments: USD 3.3 Billion Surplus

Lebanon's balance of payments recorded a surplus of USD 3.289 billion in 2025, compared with a surplus of USD 1.503 billion in 2024, an increase of USD 1.786 billion, or 119%.



## Gold Reserves Reach USD 40 Billion

Lebanon holds substantial gold reserves amounting to approximately 9.36 million ounces of gold bullion.

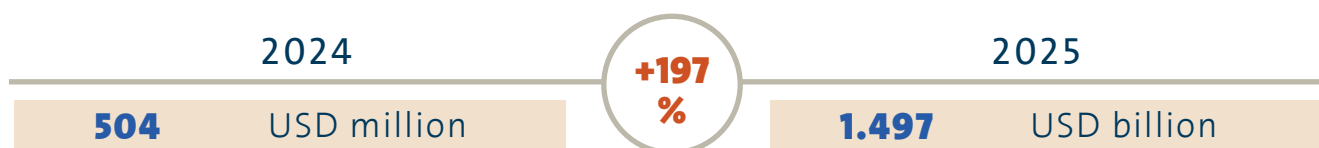
Following the rise in global gold prices in 2025, the value of Lebanon's gold reserves climbed to USD 40.3 billion, compared with USD 24.1 billion at the end of 2024, an increase of 67.2%.



## Fresh Check Transactions Reach USD 1.497 Billion

Following the adoption of fresh banking accounts in both Lebanese pounds and US dollars, check transactions regained a relatively acceptable role within the banking sector.

The value of fresh checks rose to approximately USD 1.497 billion in 2025, compared with USD 504 million in 2024, an increase of 197%, as shown in the following table:



	2024	2025	Percentage Increase
Number of checks in Lebanese pounds	9,768	26,739	173%
Value of checks in Lebanese pounds	LBP 18.112 trillion	LBP 45.079 trillion	149%
Number of checks in US dollars	22,846	75,155	229%
Value of checks in US dollars	USD 302 million	USD 993.1 million	229%

Source: Association of Banks in Lebanon

## Public Debt: USD 8.8 Billion in Real Value

Lebanon's gross public debt stood at... USD 44.762 billion at the end of 2025, compared with USD 45.814 billion in 2024. However, its effective market value is estimated at no more than USD 8.8 billion.

The debt was distributed as follows:

- Treasury bills denominated in Lebanese pounds fell to LBP 47.847 trillion... by the end of 2025, compared with LBP 67.165 trillion at the end of 2024. This decline was mainly due to the Ministry of Finance halting the issuance of treasury bills beginning in December 2024.

- Foreign currency treasury bonds totaled USD 41.573 billion, compared with USD 41.337 billion in 2024.

## Bank Deposits: USD 88 Billion

Total bank deposits stood at the equivalent of USD 88 billion in 2025, compared with USD 89.2 billion in 2024, a decline of 1.3%.

The decrease was driven by a 1.82% drop in foreign currency deposits, despite a 28% increase in Lebanese pound deposits.

The breakdown was as follows:



	2024	2025	Increase / Decrease
Lebanese pound deposits	LBP 119.471 trillion	LBP 153.161 trillion	+28.2%
Foreign currency deposits	USD 87.9 billion	USD 86.3 billion	-1.82%

Source: Banque du Liban.

## Bank Lending Falls to USD 5.2 Billion

Bank lending to the private sector continued to decline in 2025.

Foreign currency loans extended by banks to the private sector fell to USD 5.08 billion at the end of 2025, compared with USD 5.30 billion in 2024.

Loans denominated in Lebanese pounds also declined to LBP 10.422 trillion, compared with LBP 11.580 trillion in 2024.



## 2025 State Budget: Zero Deficit

The government approved Decree No. 56 dated March 11, 2025, the draft budget law for the year 2025. The government submitted the draft budget law within the legal deadline, but it was not approved by the Parliament by Decree No. 14076 dated October 4, 2024, with a zero deficit, as the government balanced expenditures with revenues.

- Revenues amounted to 445,214 million Lebanese pounds (4.97 billion US dollars).
- Expenditures amounted to 445,214 million Lebanese pounds (4.97 billion US dollars).

However, these figures remain largely theoretical, as no comprehensive data has yet been published regarding actual revenue collection and public spending during 2025. As a result, it remains unclear whether the budget truly recorded a zero deficit, a larger deficit, or even a surplus.

## 2024 Budget Figures Show USD 36.1 Million Surplus

After the Ministry of Finance had stopped publishing revenue and expenditure figures at the end of 2021, it later released the 2024 fiscal data, which showed the following:

- Actual revenues: LBP 348.233 trillion, equivalent to USD 3.89 billion
- Actual expenditures: LBP 345 trillion, equivalent to USD 3.85 billion
- Actual surplus: LBP 3.233 trillion, equivalent to USD 36.1 million

## Banking Sector and Workforce: 635 Branches and 12,591 Employees

The financial and economic crisis dealt a severe blow to Lebanon's banking sector, significantly reducing both the size of branch networks and the number of employees.

	2019	2024	2025	Decline 2019–2025
Number of branches	1,058	636	635	-40%
Number of employees	24,886	13,426	12,591	-49.4%

Source: Association of Banks in Lebanon

## Parliament

The Parliament of Lebanon held several sessions during 2025, including:

- A session on 9 January 2025 to elect Joseph Aoun as President of the Republic.
- A session on 26 February to grant confidence to the government of Prime Minister Nawaf Salam.
- A session on 17 July to debate the government's performance, after which it received the confidence of 69 MPs.
- Six legislative sessions during which 40 laws were passed.

## Election of the President and Formation of the Government

At the beginning of 2025, on 9 January, Army Commander General Joseph Aoun was elected President of the Republic with 99 votes in the second round of voting.

His election brought an end to the presidential vacuum that had persisted since the end of former president Michel Aoun's term on 31 October 2022, a vacancy that lasted approximately two years, two months, and ten days.

On 13 January, Nawaf Salam was designated prime minister with the support of 85 MPs. He formed the government on 8 February, and it won parliament's confidence on 26 February by a vote of 95 in favor, 12 against, with four abstentions.

During 2025, the government held 49 cabinet sessions, including 22 at the Baabda Palace chaired by President Joseph Aoun and 23 at the Grand Serail chaired by Prime Minister Nawaf Salam.

The cabinet approved a total of 2,250 decrees during the year.

## Number of Tourists Visiting Lebanon Reaches 1.6 Million

The number of tourists entering Lebanon in 2025 reached 1.6 million visitors, according to unofficial estimates, compared with 1.13 million tourists in 2024.

## Public Sector

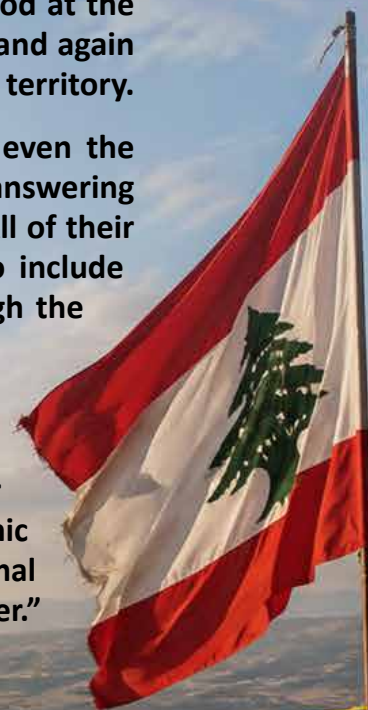
# THE LITANI AND ISRAEL'S LONG WAR ON LEBANON

### Cities, Towns, Registered Population, and Sectarian Distribution

Since the very conception of the “State of Israel,” the Litani River has stood at the heart of Israeli ambitions and military strategy, its name resurfacing time and again throughout decades of invasions, wars, and aggressions against Lebanese territory.

In fact, this even predates the establishment of the Israeli entity, and even the Lebanese state itself. Theodor Herzl tasked a group of researchers with answering two questions: Where will we drink from? And where will we cultivate? All of their research led to the conclusion that the future Jewish “state” needed to include Mount Hermon, on both its Lebanese and Syrian sides, extending through the Litani River and reaching Lake Tiberias.

This was confirmed by Herbert Samuel at the Versailles Peace Conference in 1919. Samuel, the first British High Commissioner in Palestine, and a staunch Zionist, declared: “Mount Hermon is the true source of water for Palestine, and it cannot be separated from it without destroying its economic life. Therefore, it must come entirely under our control, and an international agreement must also be reached to secure the waters south of the Litani River.”



## Where does the term “south of the Litani River” come from?

In 1919, Chaim Weizmann, who later became the first president of the “State” of Israel, wrote a letter to British Prime Minister Lloyd George. “The entire economic future of Palestine depends on its water resources for irrigation and electricity. These water resources are drawn primarily from the slopes of Mount Hermon, and from the Jordan and Litani rivers. We therefore consider it necessary that Palestine’s northern border include the Litani Valley.”

In an official memorandum submitted by the World Zionist Organization, in cooperation with the British Foreign Office, to the Supreme Council of the Paris Peace Conference in February 1919 under the title “Statement of the World Zionist Organization Regarding Palestine,” the Zionist movement presented its official territorial demands for the desired borders of Zionist colonial expansion in Palestine as follows:

“The borders of Palestine should generally follow the lines described below: beginning in the north at a point on the Mediterranean coast near the city of Sidon, then following the watershed of the Lebanon mountain range until reaching the Qaraoun Bridge, then proceeding to al-Bireh, following the line separating the Qaraoun Valley basin from Wadi al-Taym, then continuing southward along the divide between the eastern and western slopes of Mount Hermon until near Beit Jann, then turning eastward along the northern watershed of the Mughnieh River until approaching the Hejaz Railway to its west... On the east, it would be bounded by a line running parallel and west of the Hejaz Railway until reaching the Gulf of Aqaba... On the south, by borders to be agreed upon with the Egyptian government... And on the west, by the Mediterranean Sea.”

At a later stage, beginning in 1948, the name “Litani” started to be used as a region with military and security objectives. Numerous attacks and wars were fought around it, culminating in the first invasion attempt into Lebanon in 1978 under the title “Operation Litani” or “Operation Wisdom Stone,” followed later by the term “Operation Peace for Galilee,” which was also connected to securing the area south of the Litani. This continued up to the 2024 war, during which Israel considered its primary mission to be securing the territory south of the Litani River.

In addition to the issue of diverting and stealing Lebanese river waters, Israel came to regard that region, whose depth between the river’s course and the internationally recognized Blue Line ranges from 28 kilometers at its widest point in the central sector to 6 kilometers at its narrowest point in the far eastern sector, as a military zone intended to protect the northern border from direct missiles and short-range rockets, as well as from drones capable of reaching all areas of northern occupied Palestine. This military operational zone inside Lebanese territory is estimated at around 900 square kilometers, nearly 8.6% of Lebanon’s total area.

Today, Israel has introduced a new line and designation not far from the Litani, under the name “the Yellow Line.” The aim is to impose a new security and geographic reality by creating a buffer zone extending between 1.2 and 12 kilometers north of the internationally recognized Blue Line. This would effectively separate dozens of border villages and towns from their surroundings and transform them into depopulated, lifeless zones covering up to 500 square kilometers.

The Israeli claim is that these proposed lines are intended to protect cities and towns in northern occupied Palestine. The proposed Yellow Line also encompasses a large area of Lebanon’s waters adjacent to the coast of Tyre, in addition to the presumed location of the Qana oil field and part of the fishing grounds relied upon by southern Lebanese fishermen and their families.

Information International herein publishes these facts and figures because of their implications and their potential to reshape the course of ongoing conflicts in terms of regional geography, population distribution, and demographic composition affected by these lines, which have long stood at the center of the conflict between Lebanon and Israel.

South Litani region

around **900** KM<sup>2</sup>

“Yellow Line” area

around **500** KM<sup>2</sup>

## Cities and Towns Located South of the Litani River

Number of Cities & Towns

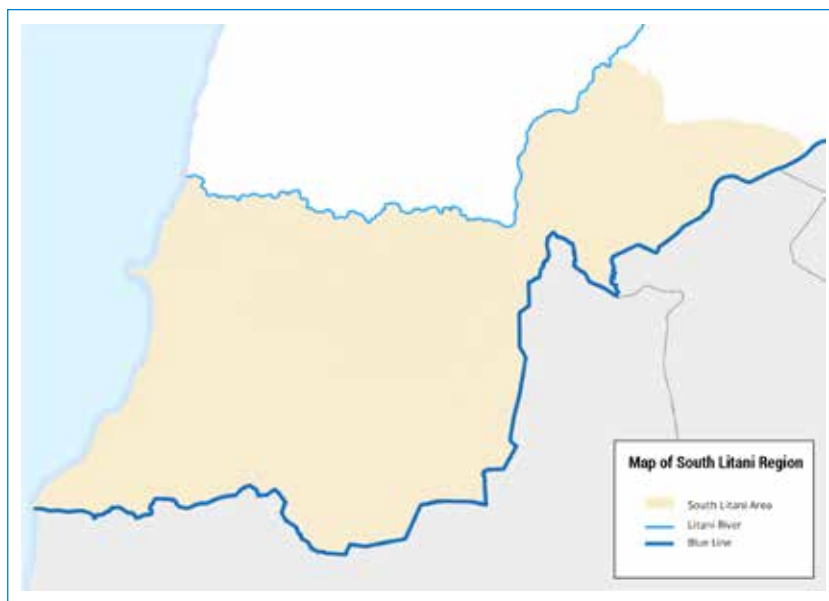
**172**

Estimated Number of Residents

**255,000**

Estimated Number of registered voters

2025-2026: **566,346**



District	Village Name	Shia	Sunni	Druze	Maronite	Greek Orthodox	Greek Catholic	Protestant	Armenian Orthodox/Catholic	Other Christian	Registered Population
Tyre	Bazouriyeh	98%	2%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10,147
	Berghliyyeh	5%	95%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5,537
	Al-Boustan	2%	98%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3,015
	Al-Buss and Al-Rshadiyyeh	8%	7%	-	1%	-	-	1%	83%	-	2,263
	Al-Bayyad	99%	1%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,688
	Al-Jibbain	99%	1%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3,159
	Al-Hallousiyyeh	98%	2%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4,304
	Al-Hmairi	99%	1%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,397
	Al-Hniyyeh	92%	8%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,256
	Al-Sammaiyyeh	99%	1%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,840
	Al-Shaaitiyyeh	99%	1%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4,473
	Al-Shehabiyyeh	99%	1%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	11,705
	Al-Dheira	3%	97%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,616
	Al-Abbasiyyeh	98%	2%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10,341
	Al-Olailah	98%	2%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6,910
	AL-Mansouri	99%	1%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5,081
	Naqoura	90%	10%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5,209
	Batoulay	99%	1%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3,134
	Barish	99%	1%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5,598
	Bafly	97%	3%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3,967
Bathtiyat	98%	2%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	558	
Bedyas	98%	2%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,407	

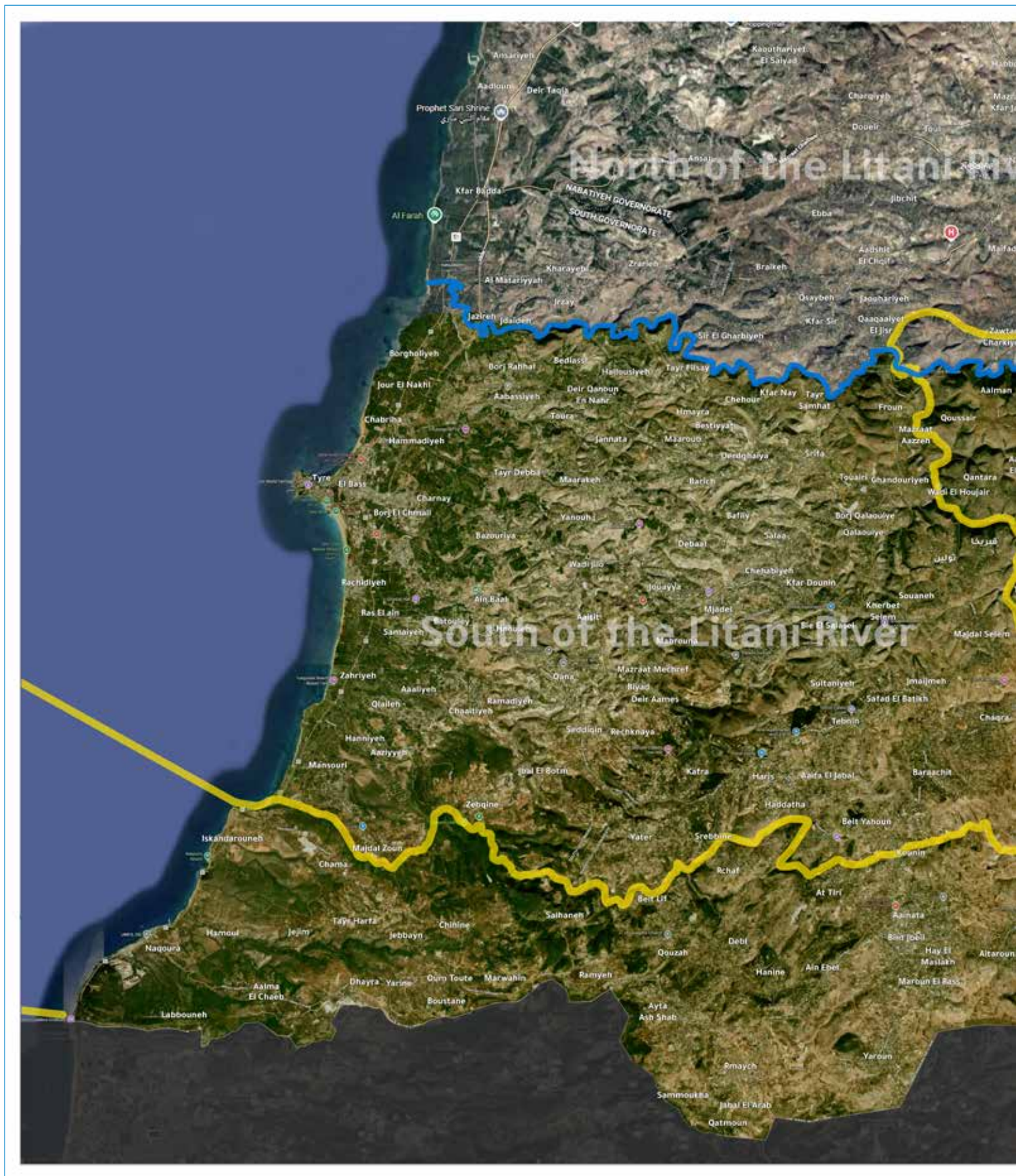


District	Village Name	Shia	Sunni	Druze	Maronite	Greek Orthodox	Greek Catholic	Protestant	Armenian Orthodox/Catholic	Other Christian	Registered Population
Tyre	Wadi Jilo	99%	1%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1507
	Yarine	4%	96%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5067
	Yanouh	99%	1%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2266
	Zalloutiyyeh	96%	4%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	301
	Hanaway	99%	1%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4486
	Deir Qanoun Ras al-Ain	99%	1%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5083
	Deir Kifa	98%	2%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4604
	Malkiyyeh	99%	1%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	792
	Bathtiyat	98%	2%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	558
	Arzoun	97%	3%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1039
	Al-Basatine	88%	11%	-	-	-	1%	-	-	-	6320
	Al-Knaiseh	99%	1%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	810
	Naffakhiyyeh	32%	-	-	7%	2%	59%	-	-	-	441
	Ein Abou Abdallah	100%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	56
Ein al-Zarqa	-	100%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	25	
Bint Jbeil	Sultaniyyeh	98%	2%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3787
	Al-Tiri	98%	2%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5780
	Borj Qalaway	98%	2%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2012
	Baraachite	93%	1%	-	1%	-	5%	-	-	-	12393
	Bint Jbeil	98%	2%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	45738
	Beit Lif	98%	2%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8059
	Beit Yahoune	98%	2%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3911
	Tebnine	90%	3%	-	1%	-	6%	-	-	-	13203
	Jmajmeh	98%	2%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2801
	Haris	99%	1%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	11522
	Hanine	98%	2%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3645
	Haddatha	98%	2%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	7996
	Kherbet Selem (Bir al-Sanasel)	98%	2%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10,251
	Debel	-	-	-	92%	1%	4%	2%	1%	-	5,611
	Ramieh	97%	3%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4,322
	Rshaf	98%	2%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4,948
	Rmeish	-	-	-	93%	2%	4%	-	-	1%	11,333
	Shaqra	99%	1%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	15,066
	Sarbine	99%	1%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,268
Safad al-Battikh	68%	2%	-	6%	1%	23%	-	-	-	2,392	



District	Village Name	Shia	Sunni	Druze	Maronite	Greek Orthodox	Greek Catholic	Protestant	Armenian Orthodox/Catholic	Other Christian	Registered Population
Marjaayoun	<b>Odaiseh</b>	98%	2%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	<b>8,959</b>
	<b>Alman</b>	90%	-	-	10%	-	-	-	-	-	<b>108</b>
	<b>Ein Arab</b>	-	100%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	<b>1,557</b>
	<b>Abrikha</b>	99%	1%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	<b>6,224</b>
	<b>Antara</b>	98%	2%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	<b>4,696</b>
	<b>Kfarkela</b>	98%	2%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	<b>13,041</b>
	<b>Majdal Selem</b>	98%	2%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	<b>10,480</b>
	<b>Mhaibib</b>	98%	2%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	<b>1,460</b>
	<b>Markaba</b>	99%	1%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	<b>13,592</b>
	<b>Al-Khiam</b>	92%	2%	-	2%	2%	1%	1%	-	-	<b>35,095</b>
	<b>Mais al-Jabal</b>	99%	1%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	<b>24,941</b>
	<b>Blat</b>	87%	4%	-	1%	4%	3%	1%	-	-	<b>5,053</b>
<b>Al-Jdaideh Marjaayoun</b>	6%	21%	-	10%	38%	19%	4%	1%	1%	<b>12,764</b>	
Hasbayya	<b>Abou Amha</b>	1%	-	-	23%	69%	5%	1%	-	1%	<b>392</b>
	<b>Al-Dallafa</b>	97%	3%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	<b>857</b>
	<b>Al-Fraidis</b>	-	1%	91%	-	8%	-	-	-	-	<b>1,148</b>
	<b>AL-Mari</b>	-	4%	85%	2%	8%	1%	-	-	-	<b>1,962</b>
	<b>Al-Majidiyyeh</b>	-	100%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	<b>207</b>
	<b>Kfar Hamam</b>	6%	94%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	<b>3,019</b>
	<b>Kfarshouba</b>	4%	96%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	<b>10,737</b>
	<b>Shebaa</b>	4%	94%	-	-	2%	-	-	-	-	<b>27,880</b>
	<b>Khalwat</b>	-	-	100%	-	-	-	-	-	-	<b>2,684</b>
	<b>Kfair</b>	-	-	52%	3%	40%	4%	1%	-	-	<b>4,613</b>
	<b>Habbariyyeh</b>	4%	96%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	<b>5,591</b>
	<b>Borghoz</b>	-	-	100%	-	-	-	-	-	-	<b>409</b>
	<b>Hasbayya</b>	1%	11%	71%	3%	9%	4%	1%	-	-	<b>15,719</b>
	<b>Rashaya al-Fokhar</b>	1%	-	-	14%	49%	25%	9%	1%	1%	<b>3,326</b>
	<b>Shwaya</b>	1%	-	97%	-	2%	-	-	-	-	<b>3,373</b>
	<b>Ein Jarfa</b>	-	-	100%	-	-	-	-	-	-	<b>1,996</b>
	<b>Ein Enya</b>	-	1%	92%	-	7%	-	-	-	-	<b>3,632</b>
	<b>Kawkaba</b>	-	1%	-	88%	4%	5%	1%	-	1%	<b>2,677</b>
<b>Marj al-Zhhour</b>	-	99%	-	-	1%	-	-	-	-	<b>2,324</b>	
<b>Mimas</b>	-	-	85%	1%	12%	2%	-	-	-	<b>3,312</b>	

## Cities and Towns Located South of the Litani River and within the Yellow Line Area





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**Southern Litani River Area Map**  
 Cities and Towns Located South of the River  
 and within the Yellow Line Area

- Litani River
- Yellow Line



© Google Maps 2026



District	Village Name	Shia	Sunni	Druze	Maronite	Greek Orthodox	Greek Catholic	Protestant	Armenian Orthodox/Catholic	Other Christian	Registered Population
Bint Jbeil	Aitaroun	99%	1%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	21,974
	Ein Ebel	-	-	-	80%	2%	16%	1%	-	1%	9,004
	Ainata	98%	2%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	12,623
	Qawzah	2%	1%	-	92%	2%	2%	-	-	1%	1,553
	Kawnine	98%	2%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	9,643
	Maroun al-Raas	99%	1%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10,172
	Yaroun	79%	1%	-	2%	-	18%	-	-	-	9,668
Marjaayoun	Al-Taybe	98%	2%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	17,383
	Blida	99%	1%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	12,091
	Bani Hayyan	99%	1%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3,145
	Hula	99%	1%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	13,129
	Deir Siryan	99%	1%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,887
	Dier Mimas	1%	1%	-	12%	40%	29%	8%	-	9%	5,153
	Rub thalathin	97%	3%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4,898
	Tallousa	99%	1%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3,994
	Adchit Al-Qusair	99%	1%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,645
	Odaisseh	98%	2%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8,959
	Alman	90%	-	-	10%	-	-	-	-	-	108
	Ein Arab	-	100%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,557
	Antara	98%	2%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4,696
	Kfarkela	98%	2%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	13,041
	Mohaibib	98%	2%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,460
	Markaba	99%	1%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	13,592
Khiyam	92%	2%	-	2%	2%	1%	1%	-	-	35,095	
Mais el-Jabal	99%	1%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	24,941	
Hasbayya	Kfarshouba	4%	96%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10,737
	Shebaa	4%	94%	-	-	2%	-	-	-	-	27,880

### Cadastral areas with no residents:

**Within the Tyre District:** Yachouh, Iskandarouna, Al-Azziyeh, Umm al-Tout, Jouwar al-Nakhl, Hammoul, Ras al-Ain, Twayri, Labouneh.

**Within the Bint Jbeil District:** Mazraat Ezzeah, Wadi al-Hujair, Al-Samoukha (one of the farms adjacent to and administratively affiliated with the town of Rmeish).

**Within the Marjaayoun District:** Mazraat Dmiyat, Maysat.

**Within the Hasbayya District:** Al-Khraibeh, Halta, Dhayrajat, Mazraat Bastara.

**Note:** The 3 villages in Nabatieh are within the yellow line but are not included in the South Litani region.

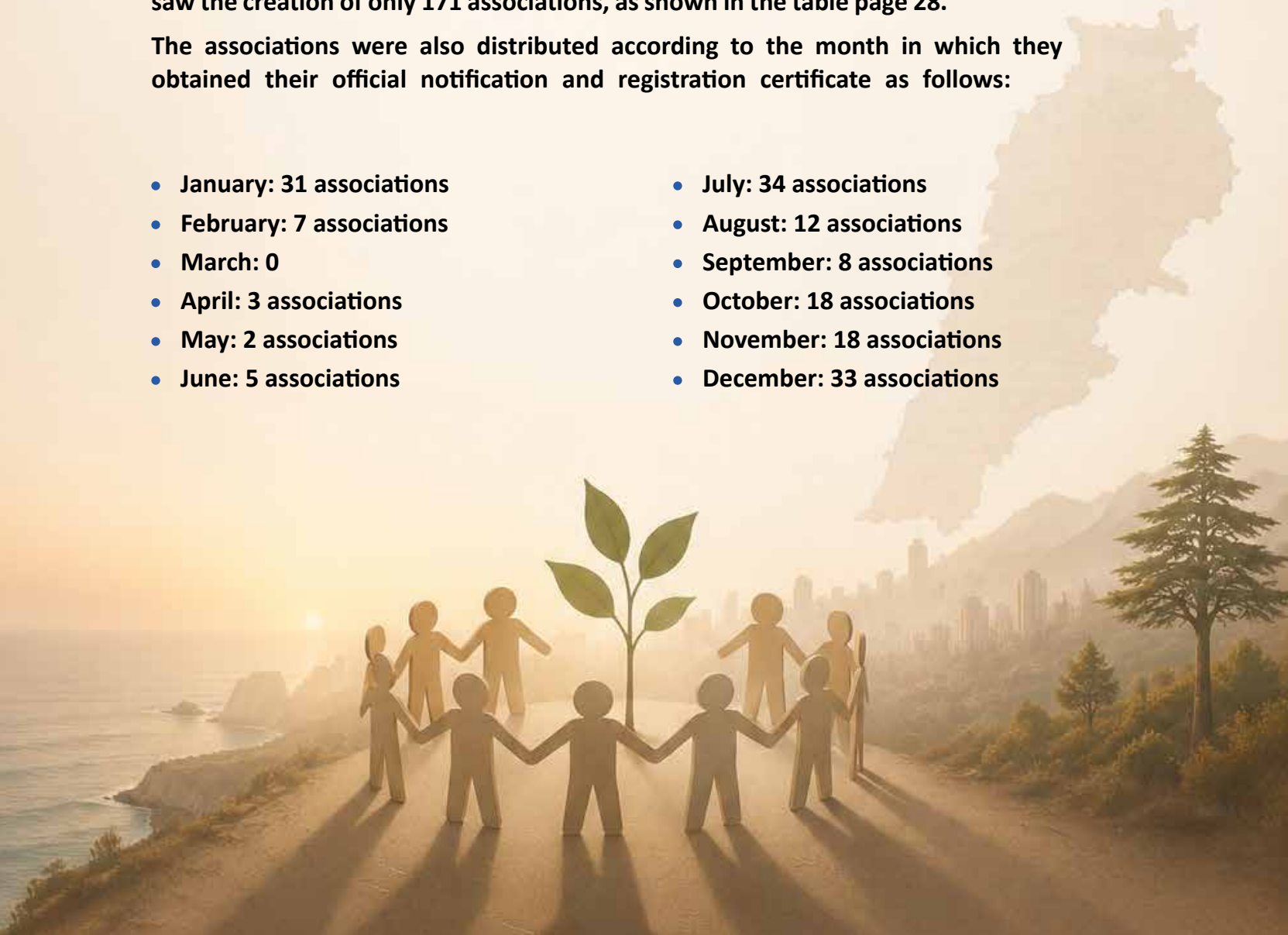
## NEW NGOs IN 2025

# 171 ASSOCIATIONS: A SIGNIFICANT DROP FROM PREVIOUS YEARS

Unlike previous years, which witnessed a surge in the establishment of NGOs, 2025 saw the creation of only 171 associations, as shown in the table page 28.

The associations were also distributed according to the month in which they obtained their official notification and registration certificate as follows:

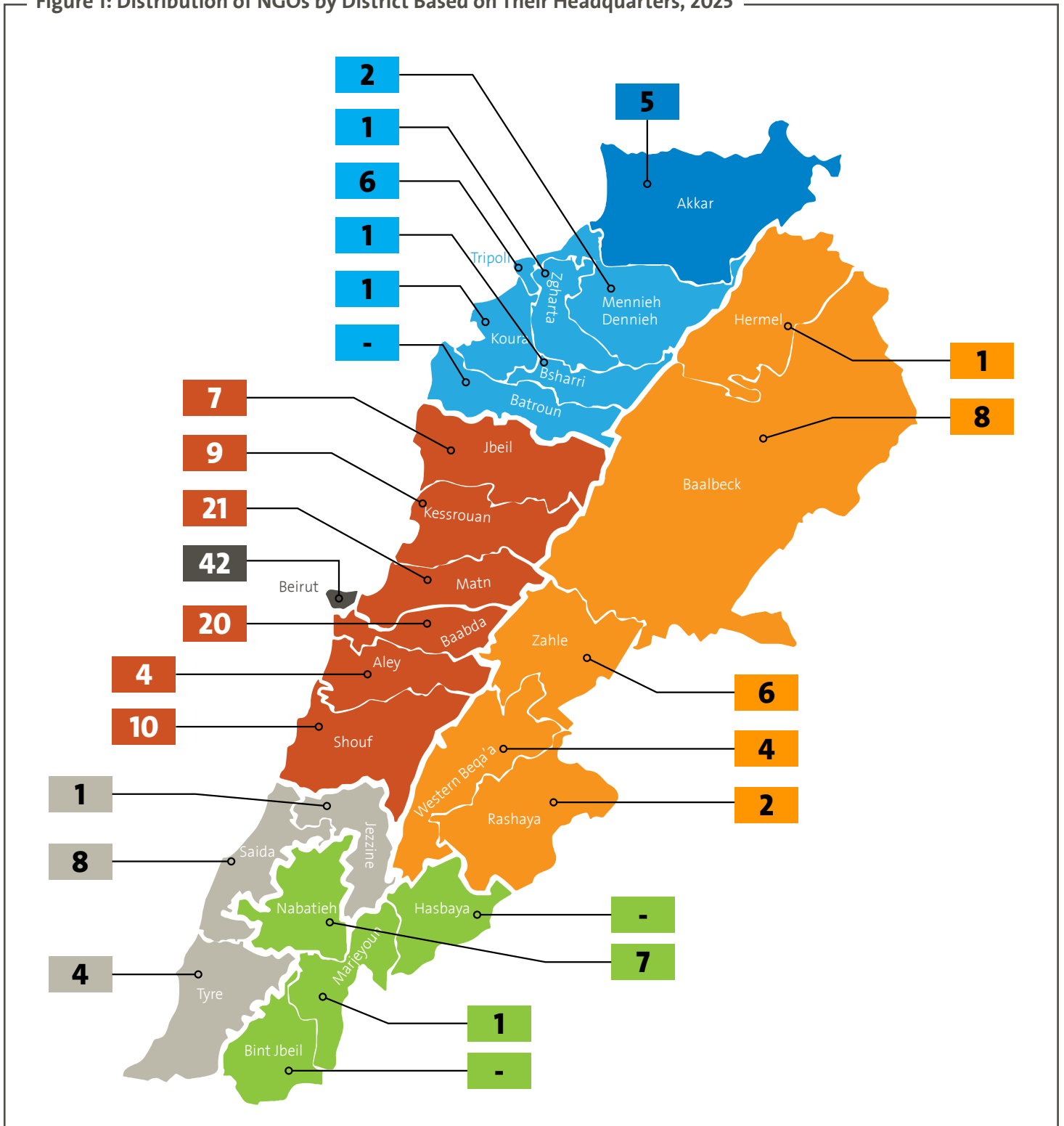
- January: 31 associations
- February: 7 associations
- March: 0
- April: 3 associations
- May: 2 associations
- June: 5 associations
- July: 34 associations
- August: 12 associations
- September: 8 associations
- October: 18 associations
- November: 18 associations
- December: 33 associations



# Distribution of NGOs by District

The 171 NGOs established in 2025 were distributed across Lebanese districts according to the association headquarters specified in the official registration statement, as illustrated in Figure 1 below. The highest number was recorded in Beirut (42 associations), followed by Metn (21 associations), and then Baabda (20 associations).

Figure 1: Distribution of NGOs by District Based on Their Headquarters, 2025



No.	Association Name	Notification & Registration No./Date	Application Submission Date	Headquarters	Objectives
1	<b>Seniors Club Association</b>	No. 12 dated 2 Jan 2025	18 Jul 2024	Zouk Mosbeh, Keserwan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Working to care for the elderly</li> <li>- Establishing a center for elderly care</li> <li>- Carrying out various social activities</li> </ul>
2	<b>Mary Charitable Association for Social Development</b>	No. 13 dated 7 Jan 2025	9 May 2023	Hammana, Baabda	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Developing social initiatives in Bmariam</li> <li>- Supporting poor individuals and families</li> <li>- Empowering women</li> </ul>
3	<b>Byelbaelna El Farah</b>	No. 14 dated 7 Jan 2025	17 Sep 2024	Bsalim, Metn	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Pursuing educational, welfare, social, health, environmental, developmental, and agricultural goals</li> </ul>
4	<b>Cultural and Social Forum in Jurd Aley and Surrounding Areas</b>	No. 30 dated 20 Jan 2025	14 Dec 2024	Aley	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Supporting and contributing to the development of villages and towns</li> <li>- Preparing studies and research</li> <li>- Organizing meetings with youth</li> </ul>
5	<b>Bayt Zaman</b>	No. 41 dated 13 Jan 2025	28 Apr 2022	Aanout, Chouf	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Promoting the village of Aanout and the region in terms of history and archaeology</li> <li>- Holding art exhibitions</li> <li>- Organizing seminars and training courses aimed at developing local capacities</li> </ul>
6	<b>Ghinwa Charity</b>	No. 55 dated 13 Jan 2025	2 Aug 2023	Nabatieh	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Raising the social, cultural, and health standards of the needy and poor</li> <li>- Providing school and university scholarships</li> <li>- Organizing activities</li> </ul>
7	<b>Sira w Masira</b>	No. 57 dated 13 Jan 2025	11 May 2023	Zouk Mosbeh, Keserwan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Caring for the poor, orphans, and people with special needs</li> <li>- Contributing to raising cultural awareness through lectures</li> <li>- Contributing to improving healthcare through establishing and managing clinics and health centers</li> </ul>
8	<b>ROAA</b>	No. 66 dated 14 Jan 2025	7 Feb 2024	Haret Saïda, Sidon	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Strengthening the cultural and social role</li> <li>- Addressing psychological matters</li> <li>- Conducting training courses on the employment and use of artificial intelligence in various fields of work</li> </ul>
9	<b>Eddami B2 Society</b>	No. 69 dated 14 Jan 2025	8 Nov 2021	Beirut	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Creating appropriate means of coordination and communication to preserve the values and heritage of scouting</li> </ul>
10	<b>Ecotopia</b>	No. 67 dated 14 Jan 2025	22 Jun 2022	Ansar, Nabatieh	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Focusing on petroleum energy</li> <li>- Promoting environmentally conscious behavior among members of society</li> <li>- Contributing to supporting the agricultural sector</li> </ul>
11	<b>TAMAS</b>	No. 71 dated 14 Jan 2025	10 May 2023	Aley	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Raising awareness about the marginalization of children</li> <li>- Warning against returning to crime after release from detention</li> </ul>
12	<b>Qal'at al-'Ata'</b>	No. 72 dated 14 Jan 2025	6 May 2019	Baakline, Chouf	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Providing financial, food, health, and service assistance to the elderly and meeting their needs</li> </ul>

No.	Association Name	Notification & Registration No./Date	Application Submission Date	Headquarters	Objectives
13	<b>Global Visionary Minds</b>	No. 91 dated 16 Jan 2025	24 Apr 2024	Baalchmay, Baabda	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Providing a safe environment for children and women exposed to various forms of violence</li> <li>- Advocating for the rights of children and women</li> </ul>
14	<b>Association of Multiple Sclerosis Patients in Lebanon</b>	No. 95 dated 16 Jan 2025	17 Jul 2023	Tripoli	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Working to secure health, social, and livelihood assistance</li> <li>- Working to enhance the individual income of people affected by multiple sclerosis in Lebanon</li> </ul>
15	<b>Hamilco for Tourism Development</b>	No. 99 dated 17 Jan 2025	28 Aug 2024	Byblos	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Promoting Lebanon as a tourist destination on all levels</li> <li>- Contributing alongside the relevant authorities in Lebanon to revitalizing tourism</li> </ul>
16	<b>Care for Multiple Sclerosis Patients Association</b>	No. 101 dated 17 Jan 2025	5 Jan 2021	Ras El Ain, Baalbek	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Providing comprehensive care for multiple sclerosis patients</li> <li>- Offering psychological rehabilitation for these patients</li> </ul>
17	<b>Beirut Forward</b>	No. 126 dated 20 Jan 2025	23 Dec 2022	Beirut	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Developing the human being as a supreme value</li> <li>- Building conflict and problem-solving skills through peaceful and effective methods</li> </ul>
18	<b>Property Owners Association in Tilal al-Assal, Kfardebian</b>	No. 68 dated 14 Jan 2025	6 Jun 2018	Sin El Fil, Metn	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Supporting and assisting municipalities in the Tilal al-Assal area</li> <li>- Supporting all efforts aimed at improving and developing the Tilal al-Assal area</li> </ul>
19	<b>Heya Hiya</b>	No. 92 dated 16 Jan 2025	20 Jun 2022	Beirut	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Providing assistance to women, particularly in the health sector</li> <li>- Organizing exhibitions</li> </ul>
20	<b>Steps Towards Development</b>	No. 93 dated 16 Jan 2025	6 Mar 2023	Baysour, Aley	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Seeking to empower youth by creating economic initiatives for development and peace</li> <li>- Promoting a culture of dialogue</li> </ul>
21	<b>Photo Lab</b>	No. 129 dated 20 Jan 2025	19 Sep 2023	Ghadir, Keserwan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Working to improve educational standards through literacy courses</li> <li>- Assisting farmers - Caring for the environment</li> </ul>
22	<b>Inmaa Baldati</b>	No. 134 dated 20 Jan 2025	16 Jul 2024	Rimat, Jezzine	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Socially contributing to improving conditions in rural towns</li> <li>- Building bridges between resident Lebanon and the Lebanese diaspora</li> <li>- Promoting a culture of equality before the law</li> </ul>
23	<b>Al Harqous</b>	No. 139 dated 20 Jan 2025	28 Dec 2022	Harouf, Nabatieh	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Strengthening bonds of solidarity and affection among all family members</li> <li>- Working to improve the conditions of individuals and those in need</li> </ul>
24	<b>Kee-ping Hope</b>	No. 140 dated 23 Jan 2025	25 Jul 2024	Ain Saadeh, Metn	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Developing children skilled in table tennis</li> </ul>

No.	Association Name	Notification & Registration No./Date	Application Submission Date	Headquarters	Objectives
25	<b>SAN-AID</b>	No. 162 dated 28 Jan 2025	10 Oct 2023	Hazmieh, Baabda	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Providing free healthcare</li> <li>- Working to transport patients within Lebanon and abroad</li> </ul>
26	<b>Al Hamad Family Association</b>	No. 163 dated 28 Jan 2025	19 Mar 2024	Beirut	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Strengthening family ties</li> <li>- Providing social assistance to poor families</li> </ul>
27	<b>Kun Fares</b>	No. 172 dated 29 Jan 2025	21 Aug 2023	Ana, Western Beqaa	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Protecting citizens' freedoms and rights as stipulated in the Constitution</li> <li>- Monitoring and developing laws governing social affairs</li> </ul>
28	<b>Italia Naminti</b>	No. 182 dated 30 Jan 2025	20 Nov 2023	Beirut	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Creating channels of communication between the Italian-Lebanese community</li> <li>- Encouraging and strengthening cultural exchange and knowledge between the two countries</li> </ul>
29	<b>Cancer Patients Support Fund</b>	No. 206 dated 3 Feb 2025	31 Jul 2024	Achrafieh, Beirut	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Providing financial and psychological support, particularly to cancer patients</li> <li>- Raising awareness about cancer</li> </ul>
30	<b>FARIZA FOUNDATION</b>	No. 180 dated 29 Jan 2025	17 Nov 2020	Sahel Aalma, Keserwan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Assisting the most vulnerable individuals and families</li> <li>- Conducting awareness campaigns and recreational activities</li> <li>- Organizing vocational and handicraft training courses</li> </ul>
31	<b>Al Hassan Social Renaissance Association</b>	No. 209 dated 3 Feb 2025	2 Jul 2024	Tripoli	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Establishing a public library and publishing house</li> <li>- Assisting low-income individuals</li> <li>- Promoting cultural, social, and national awareness</li> </ul>
32	<b>Organization for the Rehabilitation of the Environment and Humanity</b>	No. 212 dated 4 Feb 2025	14 Jan 2024	Aley	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Raising awareness about humanity's responsibility to preserve the Earth</li> <li>- Launching projects that contribute to achieving food security</li> </ul>
33	<b>IMC-2025</b>	No. 213 dated 4 Feb 2025	3 Apr 2024	Gharzouz, Byblos	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Raising developmental standards with economic and social impact</li> <li>- Conducting vocational training courses</li> <li>- Empowering girls and women</li> </ul>
34	<b>Brain Storm</b>	No. 221 dated 6 Feb 2025	1 Jul 2024	Beirut	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Supporting various industrial and commercial companies</li> <li>- Enabling individuals to realize innovative ideas</li> <li>- Raising awareness about recycling</li> </ul>
35	<b>Yuan Courage and Joy</b>	No. 222 dated 6 Feb 2025	14 Jun 2024	Deir Tamich, Metn	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Working to empower families and address family disintegration</li> <li>- Contributing to assisting poor families</li> <li>- Providing school tuition support</li> </ul>

No.	Association Name	Notification & Registration No./Date	Application Submission Date	Headquarters	Objectives
36	<b>Cultural Association for Rural and Environmental Narratives – RIF</b>	No. 194 dated 31 Jan 2025	12 Sep 2025	Sin El Fil, Metn	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Using art, media, documentation, and information technology to promote rural and environmental narratives</li> <li>- Contributing to the production of knowledge and new innovations in preserving and defending cultural heritage and natural resources</li> </ul>
37	<b>Civilizational and Intellectual Center for Dialogue</b>	No. 228 dated 3 Feb 2025	19 Nov 2021	Bazourieh, Tyre	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Promoting an ethical upbringing based on tolerance and spiritual values</li> <li>- Contributing to charitable and humanitarian work</li> <li>- Raising health standards</li> </ul>
38	<b>One Heart for Development</b>	No. 508 dated 16 Apr 2025	14 Jan 2025	Baalbek	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Organizing medical lectures and seminars</li> <li>- Providing social, health, vocational, educational, and academic assistance across various fields</li> </ul>
39	<b>Electoral Platform</b>	No. 516 dated 16 Apr 2025	3 Apr 2024	Hadath, Baalbek	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Ensuring democratic elections</li> <li>- Promoting electoral knowledge, awareness, and culture</li> <li>- Providing administrative and developmental consultations and expertise</li> </ul>
40	<b>Dr. Ali Haidar Association for Charitable Works</b>	No. 526 dated 22 Apr 2025	19 Aug 2022	Douris, Baalbek	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Assisting all patients financially and morally</li> <li>- Providing medical supplies, including medications and other necessities</li> </ul>
41	<b>Al Sham'a Family Association</b>	No. 722 dated 27 May 2025	18 Jul 2024	Barja, Chouf	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Strengthening kinship and family ties among family members</li> <li>- Supporting youth potential and initiatives</li> <li>- Coordinating with government bodies and municipalities</li> </ul>
42	<b>We Believe in Lebanon</b>	No. 732 dated 27 May 2025	25 Oct 2022	Ghosta, Keserwan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Establishing healthcare centers as needed</li> <li>- Raising awareness and promoting health culture</li> <li>- Engaging youth in volunteer work</li> </ul>
43	<b>Friends and Association for the Preservation of General Charles de Gaulle's Heritage in Lebanon</b>	No. 799 dated 3 Jun 2025	9 Dec 2024	Beirut	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Conducting the necessary research to identify and document General de Gaulle's activities in Lebanon</li> <li>- Supporting the Charles de Gaulle Institute to be established between the French Embassy in Lebanon and ESA Business School</li> </ul>
44	<b>Youth Gathering of Maasser Beit El Din</b>	No. 811 dated 5 Jun 2025	20 Jun 2023	Maasser Beit El Din	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Providing humanitarian assistance</li> <li>- Organizing social and cultural gatherings, celebrations, and exhibitions</li> </ul>
45	<b>ALPPI</b>	No. 817 dated 11 Jun 2025	3 Apr 2024	Jal El Dib, Metn	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Caring for patients with primary immunodeficiency</li> </ul>
46	<b>Sayyed Ali Al Hussein Charitable Social Association</b>	No. 831 dated 16 Jun 2025	24 Oct 2023	Adliyah, Beirut	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Establishing, developing, studying, and implementing social and health projects and programs</li> <li>- Providing assistance to those in need</li> </ul>

No.	Association Name	Notification & Registration No./Date	Application Submission Date	Headquarters	Objectives
47	<b>Therese Khalaf Charitable Association</b>	No. 834 dated 7 Jun 2025	8 Jan 2025	Achrafieh, Beirut	- Establishing and managing clinics and social care centers throughout Lebanese territory
48	<b>JE Nicolas Shakhtoura</b>	No. 877 dated 2 Jul 2025	26 Jul 2023	Atchaneh, Metn	- Preserving the memory of Nicolas Joseph Shakhtoura through care for historical buildings - Equipping and managing hospitals
49	<b>WING WOMAN LEBANON</b>	No. 878 dated 2 Jul 2025	20 Mar 2024	Badaro, Beirut	- Working to improve economic conditions - Promoting waste sorting practices - Working to protect and enhance health
50	<b>Sada Insan for Development</b>	No. 882 dated 3 Jul 2025	14 Sep 2020	Sidon	- Strengthening social cohesion through empowering individuals - Contributing to the elimination of all forms of violence
51	<b>Bilad Al Shamal Aid</b>	No. 883 dated 3 Jul 2025	20 Jun 2023	Sidon	- Protecting and caring for orphans and children - Providing financial assistance to outstanding students
52	<b>Azerbaijani Friendship Association</b>	No. 884 dated 3 Jul 2025	17 Mar 2023	Haret Hreik, Baabda	- Strengthening brotherly ties between the Lebanese and Azerbaijani peoples - Organizing seminars for learning the Azerbaijani language
53	<b>Aman Al Oumr Foundation</b>	No. 902 dated 8 Jul 2025	26 Mar 2024	Roueiss, Baabda	- Providing medical assistance to patients with critical conditions - Establishing charitable clinics
54	<b>Union of Associations of Western Beqaa and Rashaya</b>	No. 952 dated 9 Jul 2025	13 Mar 2024	Marj, Western Beqaa	- Strengthening women's role in social life and empowering them - Raising cultural and educational standards through the establishment of vocational and educational training centers
55	<b>Al Wijd</b>	No. 913 dated 9 Jul 2025	18 Mar 2024	Doura, Akkar	- Enhancing and developing human capacities intellectually, morally, economically, and socially, while creating a clean and healthy environment
56	<b>Association of Heads of Health Professions in Lebanon</b>	No. 914 dated 9 Jul 2025	19 Dec 2024	Achrafieh, Beirut	- Working to unite all workers in the health and medical sectors and unify their voice - Seeking to develop medical laws and regulations through the relevant authorities
57	<b>Al Aoun Family and Relatives Social Charitable Association in Aishiyeh</b>	No. 915 dated 10 Jul 2025	25 Sep 2020	Mansourieh, Metn	- Focusing on charitable, social, cultural, and humanitarian affairs
58	<b>Lebanon R.I.S.E</b>	No. 916 dated 10 Jul 2025	15 Jan 2025	Kfarmashoun, Byblos	- Working to stimulate investment and promote sustainability - Organizing vocational courses to develop professions needed in the labor market
59	<b>SKY for Development and Environment</b>	No. 917 dated 10 Jul 2025	20 Jul 2022	Taybeh, Marjayoun	- Addressing social issues with the aim of advancing society - Strengthening the role of mothers and children

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60	<b>LA GARDE</b>	No. 930 dated 14 Jul 2025	2 Feb 2023	Hazmieh, Baabda	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Following up on prison and prisoner issues</li> <li>- Providing support to needy families</li> <li>- Offering educational, rehabilitation, and reintegration courses</li> </ul>
61	<b>Ard Al Ataa Association</b>	No. 942 dated 19 Jul 2025	11 Nov 2024	Sibline, Chouf	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Protecting and caring for children from violence and abuse</li> <li>- Reducing gender-based violence</li> </ul>
62	<b>M.E.R</b>	No. 956 dated 16 Jul 2025	25 Aug 2023	Fanar, Metn	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Providing care centers for juveniles and children</li> <li>- Organizing exhibitions</li> <li>- Supporting juveniles in conflict with the law</li> </ul>
63	<b>SOLIDAYS</b>	No. 968 dated 22 Jul 2025	4 Jan 2024	Baskinta, Metn	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Assisting needy families in Baskinta and surrounding areas</li> <li>- Working to develop and improve vital sectors in Baskinta</li> </ul>
64	<b>Samih Hassoun and Sons</b>	No. 980 dated 23 Jul 2025	13 Jul 2023	Abi Samra, Tripoli	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Holding literacy, sewing, and handicraft workshops</li> <li>- Providing health and medical assistance, including medicines</li> </ul>
65	<b>Shams Satia for Development</b>	No. 981 dated 24 Jul 2025	19 Sep 2024	Downtown Beirut, Beirut	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Working to raise cultural and educational standards and hold seminars</li> <li>- Contributing to enhancing public awareness of rights and duties</li> </ul>
66	<b>Researchers for a Sustainable Society (RSS)</b>	No. 982 dated 24 Jul 2025	1 Sep 2022	Jnah, Baabda	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Conducting studies and research in various fields</li> <li>- Carrying out charitable and humanitarian activities</li> </ul>
67	<b>The Beating Heart of Aqabeh</b>	No. 983 dated 24 Jul 2025	23 May 2024	Aqabeh, Rashaya	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Contributing to voluntary cultural development</li> <li>- Strengthening the role of women</li> <li>- Guiding and mentoring youth</li> </ul>
68	<b>Mashat Damaa</b>	No. 984 dated 24 Jul 2025	3 Mar 2024	Mazraa, Beirut	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Contributing to the empowerment of individuals and society</li> <li>- Improving health standards</li> </ul>
69	<b>Nahleh Bil Alb</b>	No. 986 dated 24 Jul 2025	1 Feb 2024	Nahleh, Baalbek	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Eliminating and alleviating poverty and deprivation</li> <li>- Establishing healthcare projects</li> </ul>
70	<b>Sports Hall of Fame</b>	No. 987 dated 24 Jul 2025	8 Aug 2022	Beit Mery, Metn	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Preserving sports heritage and memory</li> <li>- Honoring outstanding sportswomen and sportsmen</li> <li>- Promoting sports culture</li> </ul>
71	<b>F Square Association (Volunteer Vision)</b>	No. 988 dated 25 Jul 2025	5 Jun 2024	Mazraa, Beirut	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Developing the mindset and character of volunteers</li> <li>- Strengthening teamwork among volunteers</li> </ul>
72	<b>Se Baal Association</b>	No. 991 dated 25 Jul 2025	4 Feb 2025	Sebaal, Zgharta	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Organizing festivals and activities for children</li> <li>- Helping develop vocational skills</li> </ul>

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73	<b>International Union of Arab Intellectuals</b>	No. 1001 dated 28 Jul 2025	19 Jan 2024	Dekermane, Sidon	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Supporting, assisting, and sponsoring Arab intellectuals and creatives</li> <li>- Promoting cultural awareness</li> <li>- Organizing seminars and conferences</li> </ul>
74	<b>The Nun</b>	No. 1002 dated 28 Jul 2025	24 Jun 2022	Aamchit, Byblos	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Raising the social standards of the needy and the sick financially and morally</li> <li>- Providing healthcare for the poor</li> <li>- Offering scholarships</li> </ul>
75	<b>Evelyne Fouad Akkad – Bayt Al Fouad</b>	No. 1003 dated 29 Jul 2025	3 Apr 2023	Achrafieh, Beirut	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Developing individuals culturally through occupational therapy</li> <li>- Caring for the elderly and disabled</li> <li>- Holding seminars and lectures</li> </ul>
76	<b>B. THE BEST – Zibdine</b>	No. 1004 dated 29 Jul 2025	12 Aug 2022	Zibdine, Nabatieh	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Helping improve human capacities and potential in all their forms</li> <li>- Developing human abilities to build an advanced and distinguished humane society</li> </ul>
77	<b>Rayhana Hearts</b>	No. 989 dated 25 Jul 2025	28 Nov 2023	Bourj El Barajneh, Baabda	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Providing humanitarian healthcare services</li> <li>- Working and contributing to the development of intellectual skills</li> </ul>
78	<b>Maouna Wa Riaya for Development</b>	No. 995 dated 25 Jul 2025	6 Jul 2023	Bar Elias, Beqaa	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Preparing developmental and renaissance-oriented programs in all fields</li> <li>- Organizing research circles and media, journalistic, and statistical cooperation</li> </ul>
79	<b>Jean Saab Foundation</b>	No. 1005 dated 29 Jul 2025	15 Dec 2023	Ballouneh, Keserwan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Preserving the memory of Jean Saab and issuing an annual award in his name</li> <li>- Contributing to the empowerment of women</li> </ul>
80	<b>Atf Wa Insaf</b>	No. 1013 dated 29 Jul 2025	15 Jan 2024	Dekwaneh, Metn	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Raising awareness in social and cultural fields</li> <li>- Assisting the poor and needy</li> <li>- Organizing literacy courses</li> </ul>
81	<b>IN POWER TO SUPPORT</b>	No. 1022 dated 31 Jul 2025	5 Apr 2024	Ras Beirut, Beirut	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Providing support to families of children with learning difficulties</li> <li>- Raising awareness and supporting adaptation skills</li> </ul>
82	<b>President Shukri al-Quwatli Foundation</b>	No. 1024 dated 1 Aug 2025	14 Jan 2024	Msaitbeh, Beirut	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Collecting the intellectual and political legacy of President Shukri al-Quwatli and organizing seminars about him</li> </ul>
83	<b>Nahna Mia Libani</b>	No. 1029 dated 5 Aug 2025	15 Jun 2025	Achrafieh, Beirut	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Organizing cultural activities and encouraging environmental awareness studies and research, as well as good citizenship</li> </ul>
84	<b>Jamiyyatuna</b>	No. 1045 dated 6 Aug 2025	19 Dec 2023	Achrafieh, Beirut	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Providing charitable and humanitarian services to those in need</li> <li>- Providing technical assistance for home repairs</li> </ul>
85	<b>Tallet Mar Elias Al Fawwar Association for Social Development</b>	No. 1046 dated 6 Aug 2025	20 Feb 2022	Fawwar, Sidon	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Relief for the needy and provision of humanitarian aid</li> <li>- Sponsoring orphans and the poor and providing assistance</li> </ul>

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86	<b>RISE ABOVE BULLYING</b>	No. 1065 dated 11 Aug 2025	5 Jul 2024	Jabal Mohsen, Tripoli	- Raising awareness about the dangers and various forms of bullying - Supporting victims of bullying and providing assistance
87	<b>Yasma</b>	No. 1083 dated 14 Aug 2025	6 Mar 2023	Abbasiyeh, Tyre	- Working in the fields of culture, civil rights, and political life - Establishing a center for the care and protection of women and children
88	<b>LBP / LEBANON</b>	No. 1084 dated 14 Aug 2025	15 Dec 2021	Ain Saadeh, Metn	- Raising educational standards through providing school and university scholarships - Assisting youth
89	<b>Al Bahr Al Mutawassit for Reform and Development</b>	No. 1069 dated 12 Aug 2025	15 Dec 2022	Halate, Byblos	- Raising educational standards - Raising cultural standards - Raising social standards and assisting the poor
90	<b>PARTNERS FOR GOOD</b>	No. 1098 dated 21 Aug 2025	14 Aug 2023	Achrafieh, Beirut	- Sustainable development - Humanitarian assistance - Financial inclusion and institutional support
91	<b>Association for the Revival of the Piccadilly Theatre</b>	No. 1123 dated 22 Aug 2025	18 Jan 2025	Beirut	- Restoring and rehabilitating the Piccadilly Theatre - Supporting artists
92	<b>Red Line Party (Political Association), founded by MP Waddah Sadek</b>	No. 1126 dated 26 Aug 2025	11 Oct 2022	Gemmayzeh, Beirut	- Lebanon as a homeland of security, peace, and human well-being - Lebanon as a platform for modernity and development
93	<b>Central Council of Iraqi and Arab Tribal Sheikhs in Lebanon</b>	No. 1127 dated 26 Aug 2025	19 Aug 2022	Bar Elias, Zahle	- Focusing on social and economic affairs and integration with the state - Establishing public libraries - Establishing orphanages and homes for the poor
94	<b>Tawfiq Y. Mouawad Foundation</b>	No. 1151 dated 1 Sep 2025	1 Jul 2024	Downtown Beirut, Beirut	- Working to provide food and housing for the needy and deprived - Supporting outstanding individuals - Providing social and healthcare services
95	<b>Help a Child</b>	No. 1163 dated 2 Sep 2025	10 Feb 2023	Al Maaredd, Tripoli	- Providing safe and stimulating environments for children - Promoting healthy physical development for children
96	<b>Sovereignty and Democratic Integrity Movement (Political Association), founded by Major General Ashraf Rifi</b>	No. 1214 dated 10 Sep 2025	27 Dec 2018	Achrafieh, Beirut	- Working to build a homeland on sound and stable foundations - Working toward a strong state
97	<b>Al Aila Awalan</b>	No. 1225 dated 25 Sep 2025	18 Jun 2024	Achrafieh, Beirut	- Caring for the Lebanese family - Raising awareness among Lebanese families to preserve heritage - Establishing a comprehensive health center

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98	<b>Khayr Al Mawasim Association</b>	No. 1234 dated 15 Sep 2025	16 Oct 2024	Abadiyeh, Baabda	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Empowering women</li> <li>- Producing food supplies and preserved goods</li> <li>- Handicrafts and artisanal work</li> </ul>
99	<b>Qrayyat Development Association</b>	No. 1254 dated 18 Sep 2025	12 Dec 2024	Qrayyat, Akkar	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Developing the scientific, practical, and social capacities of youth</li> <li>- Providing assistance to those in need and working to improve their conditions</li> </ul>
100	<b>Razzaq Charitable Association for Cooperation and Solidarity</b>	No. 1255 dated 18 Sep 2025	4 Apr 2023	Mishmish, Akkar	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Raising university, academic, and professional standards</li> <li>- Strengthening communication between expatriates and residents</li> </ul>
101	<b>Francophone Press Gathering in Lebanon</b>	No. 1326 dated 23 Sep 2025	8 May 2024	Hadira, Metn	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Organizing seminars and conferences</li> <li>- Promoting Francophone culture</li> <li>- Media focus on the Francophone diaspora</li> </ul>
102	<b>Celiac Patients Association in Lebanon</b>	No. 1380 dated 6 Oct 2025	16 Nov 2023	Btshay, Baabda	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Raising awareness about celiac disease, its causes, and symptoms</li> <li>- Organizing educational seminars</li> </ul>
103	<b>Dar Al Salihin</b>	No. 1378 dated 3 Oct 2025	12 Apr 2023	Tripoli	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Establishing educational, health, and social institutions</li> <li>- Providing healthcare assistance</li> </ul>
104	<b>Lebanese Purebred Horse Association</b>	No. 1382 dated 6 Oct 2025	16 May 2025	Kfardebsh, Baalbek	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Encouraging the breeding of Arabian horses in Lebanon</li> <li>- Supporting horse racing events</li> <li>- Enhancing and upgrading stable facilities and services</li> </ul>
105	<b>Father Nicolas Kluiters Association</b>	No. 1383 dated 7 Oct 2025	26 Aug 2024	Sehayleh, Keserwan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Supporting vulnerable and disadvantaged groups</li> <li>- Caring for outstanding and talented individuals</li> <li>- Supporting employment and job opportunities</li> </ul>
106	<b>Humanitarian Association for Support and Development</b>	No. 1409 dated 10 Oct 2025	8 Apr 2025	Ras Beirut, Beirut	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Focusing on educational and health affairs</li> <li>- Encouraging agricultural investment</li> </ul>
107	<b>Rural Development Association of Bqakafra</b>	No. 1414 dated 13 Oct 2025	10 May 2022	Bqakafra, Bsharri	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Developing the village on all levels</li> <li>- Revitalizing tourism activity</li> <li>- Supporting agriculture</li> <li>- Seeking to implement environmental programs</li> </ul>
108	<b>Jamaledine Rashid Jumblatt Association for Culture and Higher Education</b>	No. 1416 dated 13 Oct 2025	24 May 2024	Braamiyeh, Sidon	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Cultural development in Lebanon</li> <li>- Establishing and managing the Rashid Daoud Jumblatt Museum in Braamiyeh</li> <li>- Providing university scholarships for needy students</li> </ul>
109	<b>Abadiyeh Youth Gathering Club</b>	No. 1417 dated 13 Oct 2025	4 Jul 2025	Abadiyeh, Baabda	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Promoting family values as the foundation of society</li> <li>- Working to improve the living standards of needy families and people with special needs</li> </ul>

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110	<b>Minieh Mukhtars Association</b>	No. 1428 dated 14 Oct 2025	5 Jul 2022	Minieh, Minieh-Danniyeh	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Working to unify the efforts of mukhtars in the service of the public good</li> <li>- Raising the professional level of mukhtars on all fronts</li> <li>- Working to establish a branch in Tripoli for the Cooperation Fund for Mukhtars in North Lebanon</li> </ul>
111	<b>MAN FOUNDATION</b>	No. 1433 dated 15 Oct 2025	12 Apr 2023	Medawar, Beirut	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Providing school scholarships in the field of engineering</li> <li>- Funding environmental and engineering projects</li> <li>- Funding housing projects for low-income groups</li> </ul>
112	<b>Mesk for Charitable Works</b>	No. 1415 dated 13 Oct 2025	20 Jun 2024	Baassir, Chouf	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Relief for the needy and deprived</li> <li>- Raising educational standards through scholarships for those in need</li> <li>- Improving healthcare standards for needy patients</li> <li>- Caring for orphans</li> <li>- Enhancing the social and humanitarian conditions of those in need</li> </ul>
113	<b>Zahle Association for Empowerment and Development</b>	No. 1436 dated 16 Oct 2025	11 Dec 2024	Zahle	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Empowering youth through training programs</li> <li>- Promoting health awareness</li> <li>- Providing humanitarian support to those in need</li> <li>- Empowering women and strengthening their social participation</li> </ul>
114	<b>THE WELL BEING ASSOCIATION</b>	No. 1437 dated 16 Oct 2025	16 Jun 2022	Mazraa, Beirut	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Raising awareness among individuals and those in need</li> <li>- Providing support and training for all types of needs</li> <li>- Providing care facilities for those in need</li> </ul>
115	<b>Development Association of Bsaba and Surroundings</b>	No. 1459 dated 17 Oct 2025	11 Jul 2023	Bsaba, Baabda	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Assisting the poor and elderly</li> <li>- Providing social services</li> <li>- Establishing a health clinic</li> <li>- Rehabilitating agricultural lands</li> </ul>
116	<b>ATHAR</b>	No. 1469 dated 17 Oct 2025	15 Jul 2025	Mazraa, Beirut	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Assisting children and providing education</li> <li>- Assisting families</li> <li>- Cooperation and coordination between local and international organizations</li> </ul>
117	<b>People, Life, Giving</b>	No. 1472 dated 17 Oct 2025	11 Jun 2024	Beit Mellat, Akkar	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Providing immediate relief</li> <li>- Improving public health</li> <li>- Promoting education</li> <li>- Combating poverty</li> <li>- Providing food and water</li> </ul>
118	<b>BHC</b>	No. 1473 dated 21 Oct 2025	14 Oct 2024	Ras El Nabeh, Beirut	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Child and maternal care</li> <li>- Raising educational standards through assistance and educational scholarships for those in need</li> </ul>

No.	Association Name	Notification & Registration No./Date	Application Submission Date	Headquarters	Objectives
119	<b>Abou Al Hassan Foundation for Supporting Education</b>	No. 1502 dated 23 Oct 2025	8 May 2024	Btekhnay, Baabda	- Providing support for educational attainment through full or partial coverage of school and university tuition fees
120	<b>Talal Salman Foundation for Memory and the Future</b>	No. 1603 dated 11 Nov 2025	6 May 2025	Ras Beirut, Beirut	- Highlighting the journalistic, intellectual, and cultural legacy left by Talal Salman - Organizing and launching the Talal Salman Prize
121	<b>Barakat Al Karim Association</b>	No. 1510 dated 27 Oct 2025	20 Nov 2024	Basta Tahta, Beirut	- Empowering the most vulnerable groups to become agents of change in local communities - Seeking to meet the needs of marginalized communities - Empowering women and youth
122	<b>Minieh Horse Riders Association</b>	No. 1512 dated 27 Oct 2025	21 Jan 2025	Minieh, Minieh-Danniyeh	- Encouraging the breeding of Arabian horses in Lebanon - Organizing festivals and exhibitions highlighting the Arabian horse
123	<b>National Alliance (Political Association)</b>	No. 1604 dated 11 Nov 2025	4 Mar 2021	Achrafieh, Beirut	- Creating a democratic society in which sovereignty truly belongs to the people and the rule of law - Working toward the revival of the Lebanese state - Respecting public freedoms
124	<b>Lala Charitable Development Association</b>	No. 1583 dated 7 Nov 2025	17 May 2023	Lala, Western Beqaa	- Raising educational standards through spreading culture and knowledge - Improving healthcare and awareness through establishing health centers - Carrying out projects that serve the town
125	<b>Al Shouman Charitable Association</b>	No. 1584 dated 7 Nov 2025	17 Jul 2025	Zefta, Nabatieh	- Strengthening ties of affection and solidarity among family members - Extending support and assistance in times of need, education, and bereavement
126	<b>Leb Care Association</b>	No. 1588 dated 10 Nov 2025	26 Oct 2022	Zouk Mikael, Keserwan	- Developing individuals and society in general - Working to strengthen and develop the family in various fields - Supporting and addressing children's needs
127	<b>Rafik Hariri National Path Association (Political Association)</b>	No. 1589 dated 10 Nov 2025	6 Dec 2024	Beirut Central District, Beirut	- Founder Sheikh Bahaa Hariri seeks to stand alongside all segments of Lebanese society - Upholding the Taif Agreement - Working to achieve social development - Supporting the health sector and others
128	<b>Beirut Women's Gathering</b>	No. 1591 dated 10 Nov 2025	23 Aug 2023	Rmeil, Beirut	- Contributing to sustainable development in Beirut - Encouraging personal initiatives for the public good - Encouraging and promoting tourism

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129	<b>Diwan Beirut Cultural and Charitable Sanctuary Association</b>	No. 1592 dated 10 Nov 2025	13 Jan 2025	Verdun, Beirut	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Communicating with intellectuals, scholars, and fine arts practitioners</li> <li>- Revitalizing cultural and heritage activities and spreading historical awareness</li> <li>- Organizing exhibitions and cultural activities</li> </ul>
130	<b>Jathwat Al Risala</b>	No. 1629 dated 13 Nov 2025	7 Mar 2025	Mazboud, Chouf	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Contributing to cultural, volunteer, and social development while respecting religious, national, and civilizational values</li> <li>- Establishing centers affiliated with the association</li> <li>- Organizing seminars and conferences</li> </ul>
131	<b>Comprehensive Home Healthcare Association</b>	No. 1654 dated 18 Nov 2025	29 Nov 2022	Mazraa, Beirut	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Providing integrated home healthcare services</li> <li>- Addressing social needs by helping secure healthy food, clothing, and heating</li> </ul>
132	<b>UNIGLOBE</b>	No. 1690 dated 25 Nov 2025	6 Feb 2024	Riyahq, Zahle	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Developing Lebanese national identity and belonging</li> <li>- Strengthening social solidarity, especially among youth, in support of social cohesion</li> </ul>
133	<b>Al Afiya Al Mustadama</b>	No. 1707 dated 27 Nov 2025	17 Oct 2022	Broummana, Metn	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Promoting and strengthening well-being for individuals and families on the social, health, emotional, mental, environmental, professional, and economic levels</li> </ul>
134	<b>Al Rafiq</b>	No. 1708 dated 27 Nov 2025	4 May 2023	Bourj Hammoud, Metn	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Seeking to serve people and society</li> <li>- Establishing development projects</li> <li>- Providing social services to those in need</li> </ul>
135	<b>Volunteer Marathon</b>	No. 1768 dated 4 Dec 2025	15 Feb 2024	Blat, Byblos	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Spreading a culture of community volunteering among different groups</li> <li>- Organizing volunteer activities inside and outside Lebanon</li> </ul>
136	<b>Green Leaders</b>	No. 1773 dated 5 Dec 2025	20 Oct 2023	Ras Beirut, Beirut	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Promoting environmental awareness and education on environmental issues</li> <li>- Conducting research and studies to understand sustainability challenges</li> <li>- Reducing pollution</li> </ul>
137	<b>Darb Al Shams Charitable Association</b>	No. 1692 dated 25 Nov 2025	20 Sep 2024	Qasr, Hermel	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Working to improve and develop citizens' academic, cultural, tourism, artistic, and economic capacities</li> <li>- Supporting children</li> <li>- Supporting people with special needs</li> </ul>
138	<b>HRPC UNION ZAHLE</b>	No. 1693 dated 25 Nov 2025	2 Jul 2024	Zahle	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Working to develop the tourism sector</li> <li>- Establishing a sustainable development strategy</li> <li>- Launching a promotional campaign for the city</li> <li>- Organizing activities to attract tourists to Zahle</li> </ul>

No.	Association Name	Notification & Registration No./Date	Application Submission Date	Headquarters	Objectives
139	LEAP	No. 1729 dated 3 Nov 2025	1 Sep 2024	Majdal Anjar, Zahle	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Providing academic support for students with learning difficulties</li> <li>- Organizing vocational courses for those unable to continue academic studies</li> </ul>
140	Association of Public Health Faculty Alumni at Al Hikma University	No. 1767 dated 4 Dec 2025	5 Aug 2021	Furn El Chebbak, Baabda	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Creating a lifelong alumni community</li> <li>- Developing alumni programs and providing financial support</li> </ul>
141	Arabic Language Academy in Beirut	No. 1826 dated 12 Dec 2025	19 Sep 2025	Chiyah, Baabda	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Preserving the integrity of the Arabic language</li> <li>- Limiting the use of colloquial dialects</li> <li>- Advancing translation to and from Arabic</li> </ul>
142	Sons of Jabal Al Tayoun	No. 1828 dated 12 Dec 2025	28 Jan 2025	Deir Qanoun Al Nahr, Tyre	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Implementing projects aimed at promoting sustainable development within communities</li> <li>- Empowering women</li> <li>- Empowering youth</li> </ul>
143	CSA	No. 1830 dated 15 Dec 2025	8 Nov 2022	Nabatieh Tahta, Nabatieh	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Working to protect children's interests</li> <li>- Working to ensure that children enjoy their rights</li> </ul>
144	Shireen Foundation for Development and Cultural Innovation	No. 1832 dated 15 Dec 2025	7 Dec 2022	Sidon	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Promoting the concept of cultural protection</li> <li>- Creating a fertile local environment</li> <li>- Promoting and developing heritage products</li> </ul>
145	Hermes Light	No. 1833 dated 15 Dec 2025	8 Nov 2018	Qalaa, Baabda	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Caring for and assisting the poor, needy, and orphans</li> <li>- Raising the social standard of impoverished people</li> <li>- Promoting tree planting</li> </ul>
146	Shahrour Al Khair Humanitarian Initiative	No. 1835 dated 15 Dec 2025	14 Mar 2023	Biaqout, Metn	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Contributing to the assistance of the poor, needy, and sick financially, morally, medically, and health-wise</li> <li>- Working to provide medication</li> <li>- Providing scholarships for students</li> </ul>
147	Khayr Al Quloub	No. 1834 dated 15 Dec 2025	1 Mar 2024	Daher Al Ahmar, Rashaya	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Providing free medicine to those in need</li> <li>- Conducting medical campaigns and distributing medicine free of charge</li> </ul>
148	Association of Retired Engineers in North Lebanon	No. 1842 dated 16 Dec 2025	8 Jul 2025	Amioun, Koura	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Strengthening cooperation among engineers in pursuit of common goals</li> <li>- Coordinating with the Engineers Syndicate in North Lebanon</li> <li>- Working to assist engineers</li> </ul>
149	Dr. Reda Saadeh Foundation for Intellectual and Social Development	No. 1843 dated 16 Dec 2025	20 May 2025	Arabsalim, Nabatieh	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Awarding the Reda Saadeh Prize for Excellence in the Arabic Language</li> <li>- Supporting scientific research, artificial intelligence, and social service</li> </ul>
150	Farmers' Markets Gathering in Lebanon	No. 1848 dated 17 Dec 2025	3 Jul 2024	Achrafieh, Beirut	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Establishing, organizing, and managing farmers' markets in order to create a direct link between producers and consumers</li> </ul>

No.	Association Name	Notification & Registration No./Date	Application Submission Date	Headquarters	Objectives
151	<b>Ain Al Haffeh Association for the Development of Apple Cultivation in Lebanon</b>	No. 1849 dated 17 Dec 2025	9 May 2025	Dekwaneh, Metn	- Rehabilitating, developing, and expanding apple cultivation in Lebanon - Establishing model farms in villages
152	<b>Qudra Association for Research and Development</b>	No. 1862 dated 17 Dec 2025	26 Oct 2023	Chiyah, Baabda	- Supporting those engaged in scientific specialization and academic research - Establishing scientific research institutions
153	<b>Al Ashi Family and Relatives Association in Lebanon</b>	No. 1864 dated 17 Dec 2025	9 Apr 2025	Beirut	- Strengthening and developing family ties on the social and cultural levels - Assisting needy family members
154	<b>Dunia Sama Association</b>	No. 1865 dated 17 Dec 2025	24 Mar 2025	Chiyah, Baabda	- Working to assist those in need through health and medical services and aid - Raising educational standards through establishing institutes and schools
155	<b>Northern Beqaa Development Council</b>	No. 1920 dated 29 Dec 2025	21 Jan 2017	Deir El Ahmar, Baalbek	- Training and assisting Lebanese citizens in the Northern Beqaa - Establishing a development observatory to formulate integrated projects
156	<b>House of Law</b>	No. 1863 dated 17 Dec 2025	24 Jun 2024	Achrafieh, Beirut	- Established to create a leading center for research and studies aimed at advancing the legal profession - Providing judges, lawyers, academics, and other professionals with the resources they need
157	<b>AUTIMED</b>	No. 1892 dated 22 Dec 2025	26 Jun 2023	Zouk Mikael, Keserwan	- Supporting families of children with autism - Establishing schools and institutes and assisting needy students in completing their studies - Contributing to the provision of primary healthcare for those in need
158	<b>BLUE PRINTS</b>	No. 1893 dated 22 Dec 2025	16 Oct 2020	Antelias, Metn	- Promoting social volunteerism among children, youth, women, and marginalized groups - Empowering and training marginalized youth and women in practical skills
159	<b>Byblos Cultural and Social Forum</b>	No. 1894 dated 22 Dec 2025	3 Jul 2024	Byblos, Byblos District	- Establishing public relations with cultural and social circles and institutions - Supporting social and cultural work
160	<b>Al Insan Huwa Al Ghaya</b>	No. 1894 dated 22 Dec 2025	7 Nov 2023	Bater, Chouf	- Working to spread culture, social awareness, and the spirit of cooperation - Organizing seminars, lectures, and conferences
161	<b>Cadmus Forum</b>	No. 1898 dated 22 Dec 2025	6 Jul 2023	Borghliyah, Tyre	- Contributing to the provision of public services in the cultural, social, health, educational, and infrastructure sectors - Supporting productive sectors - Seeking to establish medical and healthcare centers

No.	Association Name	Notification & Registration No./Date	Application Submission Date	Headquarters	Objectives
162	<b>WAX FOR ALL</b>	No. 1899 dated 22 Dec 2025	15 Apr 2025	Jdeideh, Metn	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Contributing to the provision of dedicated infrastructure facilitating mobility for people with special needs</li> <li>- Raising awareness among citizens about the rights of people with special needs</li> </ul>
163	<b>Abshir</b>	No. 1900 dated 29 Dec 2025	6 Oct 2023	Taalabaya, Zahle	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Working to raise the educational and cultural level of all family members</li> <li>- Providing services that reach all segments of society</li> </ul>
164	<b>Maisoun Association for ALS Awareness</b>	No. 1901 dated 22 Dec 2025	9 Aug 2024	Chiyah, Baabda	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Supporting people suffering from chronic diseases, especially ALS</li> <li>- Raising awareness in society about chronic and rare diseases, especially ALS</li> </ul>
165	<b>Human Touches</b>	No. 1906 dated 22 Dec 2025	11 Jun 2024	Sidon	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Caring for people with disabilities, orphans, and those in need through the provision of food, clothing, and shelter</li> <li>- Addressing harmful social issues</li> <li>- Carrying out activities related to childcare and motherhood</li> </ul>
166	<b>Friend of Culture (AMJC)</b>	No. 1866 dated 18 Dec 2025	7 Sep 2023	Barja, Chouf	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Advocating for the rights of humans, children, and women</li> <li>- Supporting educational programs in schools</li> <li>- Supporting public libraries</li> </ul>
167	<b>Al Elliyeh</b>	No. 1897 dated 22 Dec 2025	27 May 2024	Jbaa, Chouf	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Encouraging labor and supporting women in the Jbaa area of Chouf District</li> <li>- Promoting organic agriculture</li> </ul>
168	<b>Northern Beqaa Development Council</b>	No. 1920 dated 20 Dec 2025	21 Jan 2017	Deir El Ahmar, Baalbek	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Training and supporting Lebanese citizens in the Northern Beqaa region</li> <li>- Establishing a development observatory to formulate integrated projects</li> <li>- Training teachers in various schools</li> </ul>
169	<b>Ibda Bi Fikra</b>	No. 1967 dated 30 Dec 2025	1 Aug 2023	Khaybet El Jindi, Akkar	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Caring for people with special needs</li> <li>- Preserving water and environmental resources</li> <li>- Providing job opportunities</li> </ul>
170	<b>Ain Zebdeh Social Civic Forum</b>	No. 1968 dated 30 Dec 2025	18 Jul 2024	Ain Zebdeh, Western Beqaa	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Supporting the educational sector</li> <li>- Supporting the healthcare sector</li> <li>- Supporting the industrial sector</li> <li>- Supporting the agricultural sector</li> </ul>
171	<b>Nasiru Maan</b>	No. 171 dated 29 Jan 2025	27 Mar 2021	Khenshara, Metn	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Caring for all children, including children with special needs</li> <li>- Emphasizing the organization of vocational and rehabilitation courses for those in need</li> </ul>

## Public Sector

# THE MINIMUM COST OF LIVING FOR A FAMILY IN LEBANON

## USD 1,157 PER MONTH: 271% HIGHER THAN THE MINIMUM WAGE

The US-Israel war on Iran, which began in the early hours of 28 February 2026, triggered an unprecedented surge in oil and fuel prices, pushing up transportation and insurance costs and driving a broader increase in the prices of goods, food products, consumer items, and basic services, particularly water and electricity.



Countries around the world were affected by these price increases to varying degrees depending on their economic conditions. Lebanon has been among the hardest hit, as it imports all of its fuel needs at a cost of roughly USD 4.5 billion annually, in addition to more than 85% of its consumer and food needs. This has led to a significant rise in the cost of living.

The minimum monthly cost of living for a Lebanese family of four is now estimated at between USD 890 and USD 1,426, with an average of USD 1,157 per month, as shown in the table below. At the beginning of this year, the figure stood at USD 898, meaning that living costs have increased by USD 259 per month, or 28.8%.

Meanwhile, the official minimum wage remains at LBP 28 million, equivalent to around USD 312, which is 271% below the minimum amount required to cover basic living expenses.

**Table Showing the Minimum Cost of Living for a Lebanese Family Based on Lower and Upper Estimates.**

Expenses	Minimum Monthly Cost (USD)	Maximum Monthly Cost (USD)
Rent	300	600
State water fees	17.8	17.8
Drinking water	15	40
State electricity (200 kWh/month estimate)	45	45
Private generator fees	100	200
Food and household essentials, including cooking gas	300	350
Transportation	52 (2 tanks of gasoline) <sup>1</sup>	103 (4 tanks of gasoline)
Clothing and footwear	30	40
Public education	20	20
Phone bill	10	10
<b>Total</b>	<b>888.9</b>	<b>1,425.8</b>

Source: *Information International*.

**Notes:**

- 1- The current estimate does not include healthcare and hospitalization costs, nor heating expenses, despite the fact that heating is essential in mountainous regions. Including these costs would push living expenses significantly higher.
- 2- If the family owns its home or lives rent-free, rental costs are deducted from the total cost of living.
- 3- Fuel prices were calculated based on the official price schedule issued on Tuesday, 24 March 2026: LBP 115,700 per liter of gasoline, LBP 109,700 per liter of diesel, and LBP 102,200 per liter of household LPG.

# Maritime Straits

by Hani Shouaib

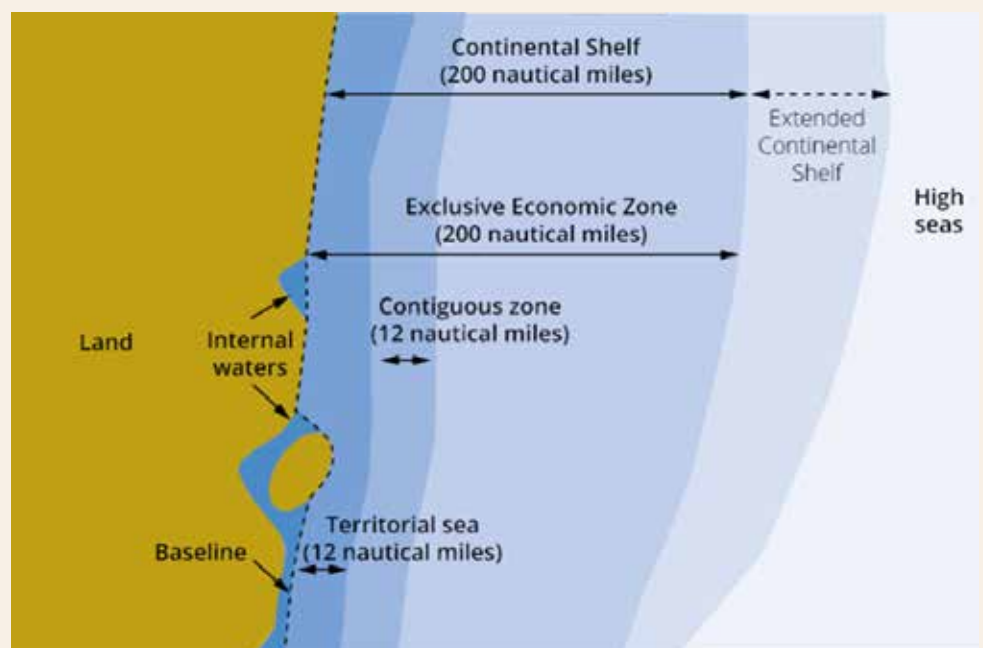
## Legal Framework

Maritime Straits are regulated under Part III of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) of 1982. This convention provides a comprehensive framework for use of the world's oceans encompassing resource management and navigation. The UNCLOS categorizes waterways into various zones which are foundational in determining ownership rights of the world's choke points.

Baselines determine the starting point for measuring maritime zones, in most cases beginning at the low water mark which is the water line at low tide. Any bodies of water inland of this baseline are considered internal waters, and the states to which they belong exercise full sovereignty. Principles of international law such as freedom of navigation do not apply here.

Moving further into the ocean, the territorial sea extends 12 nautical miles from the baseline, and remains under state jurisdiction, however foreign vessels have the right to navigate through the principle of innocent passage. In innocent passage, foreign ships can pass through territorial seas provided that transit is continuous and expeditious, with the exception of assisting others in distress. Passage is not considered innocent if it threatens sovereignty in any capacity ranging from fishing, to research, to military activity of any kind, etc. The coastal state may designate specific sea lanes for use by transiting ships, especially in the case of tankers, nuclear powered ships, and those carrying dangerous material.

The contiguous zone exists a further 12 nautical miles beyond the territorial sea, and here the state can enforce certain laws relating to customs, taxation, immigration, and pollution. Beyond this zone are the exclusive economic zone and the high seas which do not apply in the case of most choke points.



## Key Canals and Straits of the World

Canals differ from straits in the fact that they are man made. Canals are internal waters under the full control of the countries they are situated in, and are subject to tolls. The most important of these are the Suez Canal and the Panama Canal which bypass the need for ships to travel around Africa and South America respectively.

### The Suez Canal

The Suez Canal accounts for about 15% of global trade including 30% of all container traffic, handling over USD \$1 trillion worth of goods per year and generating billions in revenue.

- This number peaked at \$10 billion in 2023 but dropped as low as \$4 billion in 2024 following Yemen's blockade of the Red Sea.
- Prior to shipping disruptions, the Suez Canal accounted for about 2-3% of Egypt's GDP. Compared to sailing around the Cape of Good Hope, the Suez Canal can save roughly seven to ten days of sailing, reducing traversal distances by around 9,000km depending on the specific route.

- Historically, the Suez was a focal point in the Arab-Israeli wars of the 20th Century, with numerous Egyptian blockades against Israel taking place during this timeframe.



Suez Canal vs Cape of Good Hope Route Comparison

## The Panama Canal

The Panama Canal is smaller in comparison, accounting for roughly 5% of global trade.

- 70% of its cargo either originates from or is destined for the United States, making it an especially important link between the Eastern United States and Asia.
- The Panama Canal generates nearly \$6 billion in revenue yearly, about half of which reaches the country's treasury accounting for roughly 20% of the government's annual income.
- The Panama Canal is even more efficient than the Suez, reducing traversals between the East and West coasts of the United States by up to 13,000km.
- In the event of a direct U.S.-China conflict, the Panama Canal would be key pressure point.



Visualization of Panama Canal Routes

## The Kiel Canal

The Kiel Canal bypasses the Danish Straits and connects the North and Baltic seas through Germany.

- Because the ships that traverse this canal are usually smaller than those of the Suez and Panama, it holds the title of being the world's busiest artificial waterway handling 25,000 to 30,000 ships annually.
- In contrast to Egypt and Panama, Germany is not dependent on income generated from the Canal. The Kiel is not profitable and only generates about \$500 million in revenue per year.
- It is still considered economically valuable as it directly employs 700 workers to manage daily operations in addition to a further 3,000 jobs in the region.

Straits are the natural counterparts to man-made canals and are most commonly located in territorial seas bordered by separate countries. Strait traversal is usually considered innocent passage under UNCLOS and is not subject to tolls.

## The Turkish Straits

The Turkish Straits of the Bosphorus and Dardanelles are two of the only major straits located in internal waters as they separate European and Asian Turkiye.

- These straits connect the Black Sea to the Mediterranean via the Aegean, providing crucial ocean access to Bulgaria, Romania, Ukraine, Georgia, and southern Russia.

- The Turkish Straits are unique in the fact that they are not governed by the UNCLOS but by the 1936 Montreux Convention Regarding the Regime of the Straits.
- Under this agreement, Turkiye maintains the authority to close the straits to ships during war or when under threat. In times of peace, merchant vessels retain full freedom of passage while warships are subject to limitations including max tonnage, a maximum duration of three weeks per ship, and aircraft carrier restrictions. In 2022, Turkiye exercised this power by closing the strait to warships in an effort to maintain Black Sea security and limit escalation between Russia and Ukraine.
- While the Turkish Straits do not have traditional tolls, they still charge service fees which amount to just over \$200 million per year. Turkiye is currently in the process of building the Istanbul Canal to reduce traffic and circumvent the Montreux Convention and begin charging tolls.
- Since Denmark, Sweden, and Germany are all signatories of UNCLOS, the strait must remain open which enables Russian oil tankers to export oil to Asia and circumvent sanctions.
- The English Channel's Dover Strait is the world's busiest shipping lane, managed by the United Kingdom and France.
- Following UNCLOS protocol, the countries do not claim ownership of the strait and all vessels have free right of passage.
- This strait links the English channel to the North Sea and is about 33km at its narrowest.

### The Strait of Malacca

The Strait of Malacca is the world's busiest shipping lane, connecting the Indian and Pacific Oceans in Southeast Asia, traveling past Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, and Thailand. 25% of the world's trade goods pass through this strait on nearly 100,000 vessels annually.

- While the Strait of Hormuz is the biggest oil chokepoint in the world in terms of export, the Strait of Malacca is the busiest by volume, transporting the bulk of China, Japan, and South Korea's oil.
- Because of its geography, the Strait of Malacca is an international waterway and the rules of innocent passage apply.
- Like the Panama Canal, this strait would be a significant point of contention in the event of a direct Chinese-American conflict.
- China's Belt and Road initiative is a mitigating factor for this overreliance and strategic weak point.
  - The Power of Siberia 2 pipeline is a planned pipeline commissioned in 2019 to eventually facilitate the transport of up to 38 billion cubic meters of Russian natural gas per year to China across a distance of nearly 4,000 kilometers.
  - The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor connects Xinjiang to Pakistan's Gwadar port through highways, railways, and pipelines to bypass Malacca and provide direct Arabian sea import access for oil and other goods.

### The Strait of Gibraltar

The Strait of Gibraltar has a vital role in global shipping in connecting the Atlantic Ocean to the Mediterranean and beyond.

- The strait lies in Spanish and Moroccan territorial waters, leaving these two countries in charge of managing its traffic.
- The United Kingdom maintains a military position spanning about three nautical miles in the strait due to its control of the Rock of Gibraltar.
- There are no tolls or fees associated with passing through the strait, consistent with the principle of innocent passage.
- Gibraltar sees immense traffic, with about 60,000 vessels transiting every year.

### The Danish Straits

The Danish Straits situated north of the Kiel Canal are another major waterway, connecting the North and Baltic Seas.

- These straits are extremely important to northern European countries and especially Russian oil exports.

## Past and Present Conflicts

In times of peace, straits and canals are core logistical foundations of the global economy. Because of this dependency, conflicts in proximity to choke points have the potential to create global recessions and catalyze significant geopolitical upheaval in short periods of time.

### The Tiran Straits

The Tiran Straits separate Egypt's Sinai and Western Saudi Arabia and connect Israel to the Red Sea. This chokepoint has been a point of contention since the creation of Israel alongside the Suez Canal.

- In 1956 Gamal Abdel Nasser nationalized the Suez Canal and closed it off to Israel alongside the Tiran Straits.
- This culminated in the second Arab-Israeli War which resulted in a ceasefire that granted Egypt control of the Suez but allowed Israel use of Tiran.
- Egypt blockaded Tiran once again in May 1967, in large part after receiving false reports from the Soviet Union that Israel was posturing to invade Syria, but also to further pan-Arabism and assert military dominance. Israel reopened the Straits after capturing Sharm El Sheikh in June of the same year.
- More recently, Yemen's Red Sea blockade in response to Israel's genocide in Gaza has led to the bankruptcy and permanent closure of the Israeli Red Sea port of Eilat.

### The Bab al Mandab Strait

The Bab al Mandab Strait is situated between Yemen and the Horn of Africa and links the Indian Ocean to the Mediterranean via the Red Sea.

- In response to the Israeli Genocide in Gaza, Yemen's Ansar Allah implemented a blockade on the strait, targeting ships headed to Israel in particular. This resulted in the bankruptcy of the Israeli port of Eilat and a significant decrease in overall shipping volume.
- In 2023 the Suez Canal saw a record 26,000 vessels transit, while in 2024 this number had dropped to about 13,000 as many ships chose to go around the Cape of Good Hope instead. Operation Prosperity Guardian led by the United States and aided by a

coalition of over 20 countries attempted to open the strait by force and were unable to do so.

### The Kerch Strait

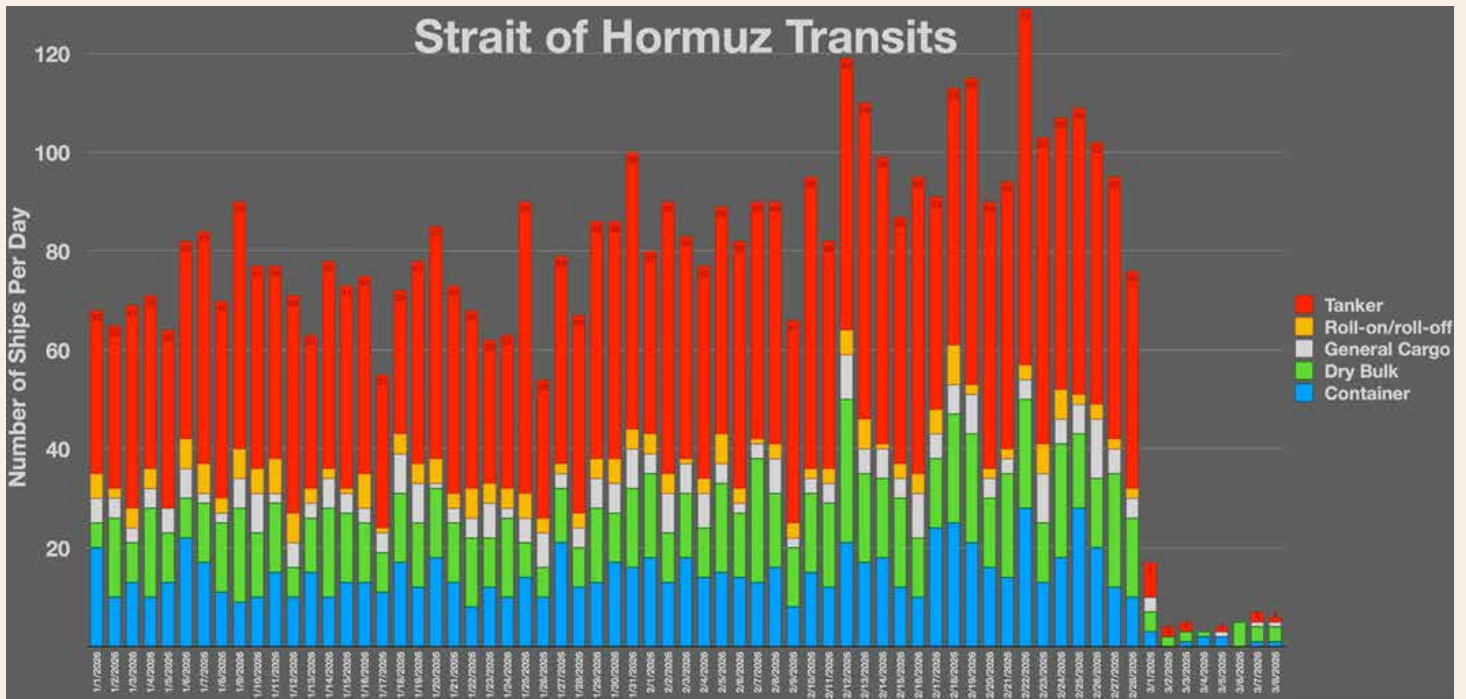
The Kerch Strait is a relatively minor strait separating the Sea of Azov and the Black Sea. In 2003, a dispute over Tuzla Island led to Russia and Ukraine agreeing to designate the strait as joint internal waters, granting freedom of navigation to both. Since the 2014 annexation of Crimea, Russia has maintained de facto control over Kerch.

- In 2018, Russia built a bridge over the strait connecting Crimea to the Russian Taman Peninsula. In the same year, increased tensions as a result of the construction and the seizure of a Russian fishing boat culminated in the Kerch Strait incident.
- On November 28, three Ukrainian Naval vessels and a tugboat attempted to travel from Odessa to the port of Mariupol in the Azov Sea. Russia ordered these ships to turn back once they reached the proximity of the Kerch Strait, and when refused, Russia attempted to intercept the ships. The ships were able to successfully bypass this interception after two Russian ships collided, however, Russia blocked the entrance to the Sea of Azov with a cargo ship. When the ships eventually turned back, Russia intercepted them in international waters and captured 24 crew members who were later released as part of a prisoner exchange in November 2019.

### The Strait of Hormuz

The Strait of Hormuz is a crucial chokepoint separating the Persian Gulf and the Arabian Sea, bordered by Iran to its north, and Oman's Musandam peninsula to its south. Oil rich countries in the strait such as Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Bahrain, the United Arab Emirates, and Iraq are completely landlocked with the exception of the Persian Gulf.

- These countries alongside Iran and Eastern Saudi Arabia (where the majority of the country's oil reserves are found) export 20 million barrels of oil per day via the strait, accounting for nearly 30% of the world's oil trade. Oil tankers use shipping lanes that are 3 km wide and separated by a 3 km buffer zone, and with a depth ranging from 60 to 100m



and a width as narrow as 33km.

- The Strait of Hormuz has become one of the focuses of the American-Israeli War on Iran due to Iran’s decision to revoke access to countries it considers hostile. The current conflict highlights the importance of key chokepoints for the global economy, seeing as oil prices have reached their highest point since the 2008 financial crisis in a trend that will only continue to get worse.
- In addition to the logistical crisis, the conditions in Hormuz have rewritten the rules of modern military engagement for countries in proximity to key chokepoints. Iran’s ability to control access to the strait has evened the playing field in Iran’s favor, allowing it to exert significant pressure on its Gulf neighbors and the global economy using minimal resources.

### Repudiation of International Law

The current American-Israeli War on Iran highlights the weaknesses of international law in the governance of key waterways in times of conflict. Since neither party has ratified UNCLOS, Iran, the United States, and Israel are not bound by its rules. Because of this, Iran is instead bound by the 1958 Convention on the Law of the Sea also known as UNCLOS I. This convention did not set universal limits for territorial seas which led to future amendments such as UNCLOS II and III, with the latter being much more comprehensive.

Because of this, international lawyer Reza Nasri argues that the right of passage through territorial seas is not unlimited but instead conditioned on innocent passage which is violated by the United States and its allies. Nasri makes the point that “the right of self-defense permits proportionate measures to prevent such an exploitation.” With that being said, UNCLOS and general maritime norms prohibit the total restriction of international straits even in times of conflict.

Iran has not formally declared a blockade of the strait but has instead implemented a system where countries must seek permission before transiting while blocking access for American and Israeli ships and those allied with them. As of April 4, at least 28 ships have been targeted, with one Emirati tugboat sinking and many more ships being damaged. As a result, movement in the strait is extremely limited with daily traffic dropping from roughly 100 per day to low single digits.

### Strait of Hormuz Transits

According to Oxford Public International Law, innocent passage of warships usually relates to peacetime and its application in armed conflict only applies in certain situations such as “passage of belligerent ships through neutral territorial sea.” On March 4 of 2026 the United States sank the Iranian Navy frigate *IRIS Dena* in the Indian Ocean. The ship was returning to Iran from India following a diplomatic naval exercise which hosted 19 ships

and 45 contingents from 65 navies including the United States. Just after 5 in the morning, *IRIS Dena* was struck by a torpedo launched by an American submarine 19 nautical miles off the coast of Sri Lanka without warning. The ship sank within just a few minutes resulting in the killing of at least 87 with a further 61 remaining missing. 32 survived and were taken to Sri Lanka for treatment.

While the strike itself was not technically a war crime, Article 18 of the Second Geneva Convention which the United States Senate ratified in 1955 states that “After each engagement, Parties to the conflict shall, without delay, take all possible measures to search for and collect the shipwrecked, wounded and sick, to protect them against pillage and ill-treatment, to ensure their adequate care, and to search for the dead and prevent their being despoiled.” There is no evidence that any attempt to help was made, and even with plausible deniability stemming from the fact that the aggressor was a submarine and exempt from standard rescue procedures, it made no effort to notify local authorities to render assistance. Instead, Sri Lankan authorities were alerted of the incident by the ship itself which had sunk below the surface by the time they arrived.

Legally, both sides in this conflict are operating in grey areas as it relates to the maritime front. The United States’ targeting of the *IRIS Dena* is unethical considering the ship was returning from a diplomatic mission where the United States was also a participant, and its lack of an attempt to render aid constitutes a war crime. Iran’s de-facto control of Hormuz is not an outright blockade but nonetheless infringes on innocent passage.

The legal discussions surrounding Iran’s actions in Hormuz are largely irrelevant and do little more than justify a war that is itself a violation of international law. The initial strikes that killed Iranian leader Ali Khamenei and many of his family members and fellow officials is a flagrant violation of international law. International Law Lecturer and Lawyer Yusra Suedi argues that a killing like this should be evaluated under three criteria:

1. Use of force or when countries can attack
2. Rules of warfare or how wars must be fought
3. Human rights law and protections against unlawful killing

- Under use of force, Suedi argues that striking Iran without authorization of the U.N. security council is unlawful and self defense only applies if the U.S. is under direct attack from Iran. This was not the case.
- Under rules of warfare, the strike was unlawful as it targeted civilians and caused excessive harm to them. Even if the strike on Khamenei were justified, there is no legal excuse for the targeting of an elementary school in the town of Minab which killed over 165 people with the majority being children.
- Under international human rights law the strike violates Article 6 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights which states that “No one shall be arbitrarily deprived of his life.” The only exception is if killing is necessary to save lives under immediate threat, with no other options available, and in a proportionate manner where the damage inflicted does not exceed the existing threat. While some may argue that Khamenei was responsible for the murder of upwards of 30,000 protestors, these numbers are unconfirmed and exaggerated in order to manufacture internal revolt and internationally isolate the government. Even taking this claim at face value, the political apparatus led by Khamenei has not been meaningfully weakened by his death, rendering this argument irrelevant.

## Deterrence and the Realities of War

Looking at violations of international law as it relates to the closure of the Strait of Hormuz is reductive and serves to equate the actions of the initiator of this war with the response of the weaker state that is under attack. The conduct of the United States and Israel throughout this conflict and the genocide in Gaza have unequivocally demonstrated that international law is no longer a factor in decision making or deterrence.

Diplomatic engagement has been made futile as evidenced by the recurring pattern of Iranian negotiators being targeted while in active talks with the United States. Furthermore, the United States’ negotiating goals are less concerned with finding a tenable compromise for both parties but instead seek to assert total American demands. This is evidenced by the recent breakdown of negotiations and the comments of Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi who posted the following on X:



Due to the stakes involved, the United States likely believes that Iran's negotiations from a position of power are driving this reluctance to capitulate, and that a better deal can be made further down the line if the pressure is dialed up. The April 13 implementation of a military blockade on all traffic to and from Iranian ports is an attempt to turn Iran's bargaining chip against it. Iran knows that giving excessive concessions will lead to an even worse situation down the line regardless of the current losses it must absorb at this moment.

A bilateral blockade will continue to hurt American interests much more than Iranian interests as the Gulf Monarchies' lifeline to the outside world remains severed. The longer a blockade remains in place, the more likely it is that these nations face economic collapse or are forced to negotiate their own transit deals with Iran to ensure survival. It is also entirely possible that Yemen's Ansar Allah will implement a counter blockade of America's counter blockade, supported by Saudi Arabia pressuring the U.S. to rethink its decision amid worries of a Bab al Mandab closure.

American posturing has shown Iran and other victims of unilateral imperialist aggression that protection from its intervention will only succeed if it comes at a cost that is steep enough to provide deterrence. Yemen demonstrated this through its blockade of the

Red Sea which ended in a favorable ceasefire despite an indiscriminate bombing campaign by the American-led coalition against it. On the other hand, Venezuela capitulated to American demands and has effectively forfeited its oil reserves as a consequence. Iran has realized that all options besides war have proven futile and it has no choice but to try to establish deterrence that is strong enough to prevent further attacks against its sovereignty.

Seeing as the norms of international law appear to be obsolete in practice, maritime chokepoints and other linchpins of the global economy will become key targets in conflicts to come as weaker states seek to establish sufficient deterrence. The blockades of Hormuz and Bab al Mandab have been the first of their kind amidst the post-Gaza collapse of international norms but they will not be the last. If American foreign policy continues its current doctrine of unilateral aggression and direct intervention in the Global South, future targets will continue to shift their tactics and exploit the United States' position as the current leader of the global economy.



# NEVER AGAIN

## SONGS THAT DREW LINES

### NEW EXHIBITION IN NABU MUSEUM

Music and words hold a profound power to unify and heal. It can give voice to the voiceless and provide a common language when words fail. Yet, in times of conflict, music can also create boundaries. It can be used to mark territory and define the «other,» turning the airwaves into a battlefield as contested as the streets themselves.

By April 13, 1975, and in the years preceding it, a discord was already stirring that remains etched into the collective memory. From that era forward, melodies became part of the architecture of the conflict.

This exhibition brings together a selection of these sounds in a side by side observation. By archiving these fragments, we can witness how the soundscape shifted from vague imagery to the high decibel roar of ideological anthems. Each lyric is presented as a dismembered voice, a brief snippet of a larger history, refocusing the listener's attention on the raw expressions of pain, hope, and anger.

These recordings are preserved here so that we may never forget the weight they carried. We look back to ensure that this history is never repeated and to protect the peace of our future.



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