

Notebooks by Armadilla scs Onlus

Lebanon: coexistence, conflict and solidarity

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Armadilla is a non-profit organization of social utility committed to international development cooperation, present for over 15 years in the Middle Eastern area. ([www.armadilla.coop](http://www.armadilla.coop))

It also carries out training and information activities on the areas of the global agenda, the defense of human rights and sustainable human development cooperation.

In this context these Notebooks want to contribute to disseminate among the students and the public opinion to which Armadilla addresses, information, critical analysis, possible answers to the priority problems that are faced.

(<http://armadilla.coop/quaderni/>)

Lebanon is a country of 4.5 million inhabitants in an area of just over 10 thousand Km<sup>2</sup>, which has seen in the in recent years, a human tide of over 1.7 million refugees from Syria and other neighboring countries. A country that had already hosted hundreds of Palestinian refugees in the history of the last 60 years, currently there are about 450 thousand.

The situation is very complex, knowing it and comparing statistical data and political choices can be useful to raise awareness on how to deal with extremely important subjects such as reception and immigration.

Unlike what happened in Jordan and Turkey where refugees were settled in welcome camps, in Lebanon the refugees have settled among the local communities, hosted in the homes of relatives or acquaintances or organized in tent camps inside villages.

Local communities, often already characterized by conditions of poverty and scarcity of basic services, are not able to support the further weight of the refugee population which is often as numerous as the local one. The answers that international organizations try to give are insufficient to face the emergency and the gravity of the situation.

The development of a structured Syrian refugee assistance system put in place by a multitude of international organizations did not fail to trigger an understandable recrimination of local communities, where the living conditions are not better than those in which the refugees live.

For this reason, assistance interventions are increasingly considering the inclusion of components direct to the host communities, social cohesion activities and projects to strengthen the Municipalities of local communities that welcome refugees.



# MOST VULNERABLE LOCALITIES IN LEBANON

March 2015



**Inter-Agency  
Coordination  
Lebanon**

Calculation of the Most Vulnerable Localities is based on the following datasets:

**1 - Multi-Deprivation Index (MDI)**

The MDI is a composite index, based on deprivation level scoring of households in five critical dimensions:

- i - Access to Health services;
- ii - Income levels;
- iii - Access to Education services;
- iv - Access to Water and Sanitation services;
- v - Housing conditions;

MDI is from CAS, UNDP and MoSA Living Conditions and Household Budget Survey conducted in 2004.

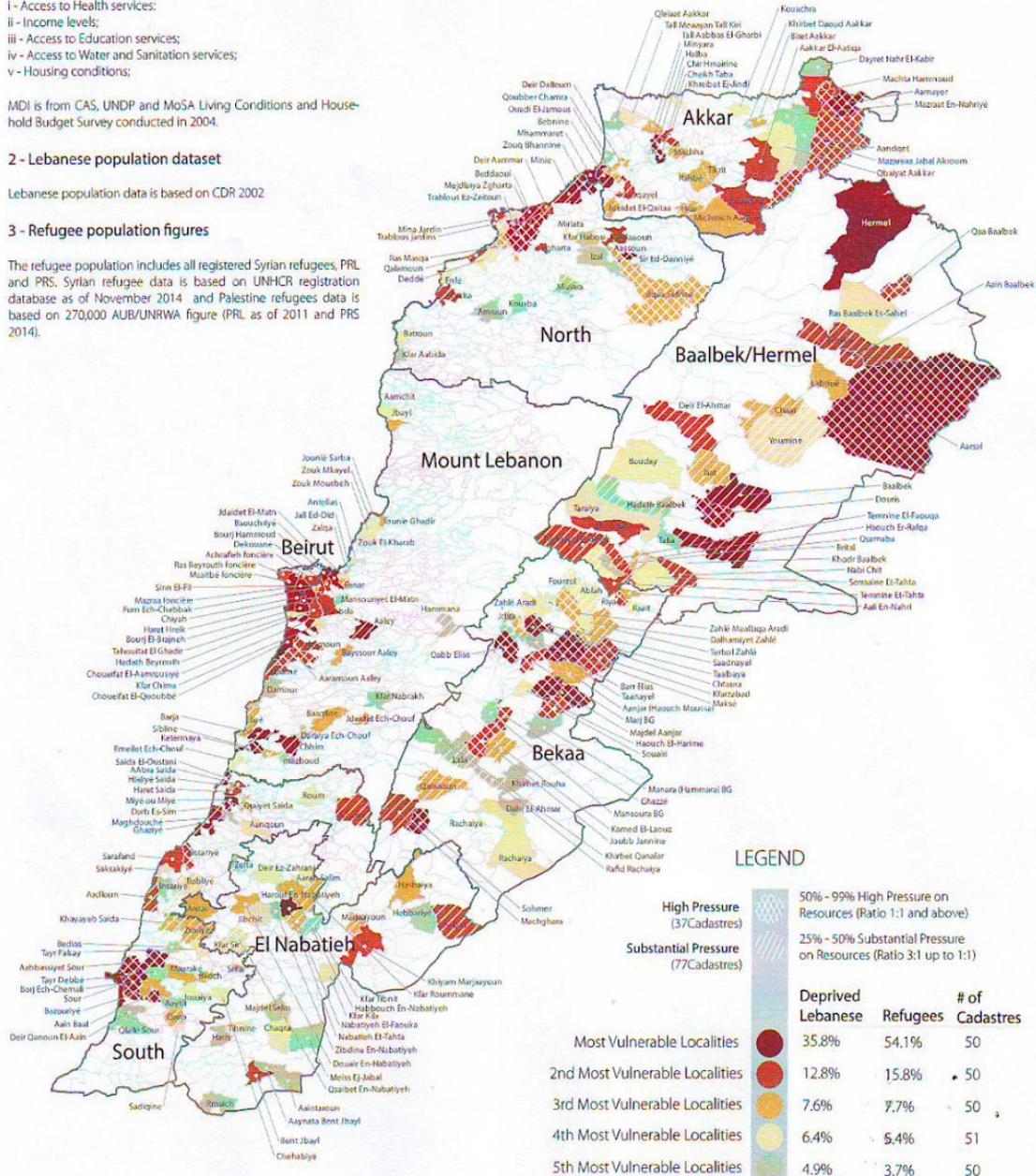
**2 - Lebanese population dataset**

Lebanese population data is based on CDR 2002.

**3 - Refugee population figures**

The refugee population includes all registered Syrian refugees, PRL and PRS. Syrian refugee data is based on UNHCR registration database as of November 2014 and Palestine refugees data is based on 270,000 AUB/UNRWA figure (PRL as of 2011 and PRS 2014).

**251 Most Vulnerable Cadastres**  
87% Refugees  
67% Deprived Lebanese



The Ratio of Refugees to Lebanese, by cadaster, is included to highlight the potential degree of population pressure on services and resources.

The boundaries and names shown on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.  
GIS & Mapping by UNOCHA

## LEBANON

Lebanon is a middle-income country, which covers an area of 10,452 square kilometers, with a population estimated 4.9 million inhabitants. 85% of the population live in cities and half in the capital. The economy is based on the service sector, which contributes 73.4% to the formation of GDP (Source BM); The inflation rate stands at 5.35% (April 2018).

The macroeconomic situation remains very vulnerable: overall, according to the Bank's estimates worldwide, the conflict has doubled the unemployment rate, bringing it to 20%, and may have shrunk the annual growth of national GDP by 2.9%.

The current social indicators are as follows:

Population density: 667.6 per km<sup>2</sup> (2017)

Per capita income: U \$ D 19,500 (2017)

Life expectancy at birth: 77.8 years (2017)

Population growth rate (%): -1.1% (2017)

Human Development Index: 0.763 to 76th place out of 188 evaluated countries (2017 UNDP)

Adult literacy index (% of 15 years and over): 93.9%

Birth rate: 14.3 / 1,000 inhabitants (2017)

Mortality index: 5 / 1,000 inhabitants (2017)

Total fertility rate: 1.72 births per woman (2017)

Annual urban population growth index: - 0.57% (2015-20)

Number of mobile phones per 100 inhabitants: 88.3% (2014)

Number of internet users per 100 inhabitants: 75.9% (2016)

Currently in Lebanon, there are 18 recognized confessions, 4 major religious groups: Christians, Shiites, Sunnis and Druses. The latest official data, certified, date back to the 1932 census, which showed 55% Christians and 45% Muslims, including Shiites, Sunnis and Druses in the same group. Today's estimates reflect a turnaround: 65% of the population is Muslim (35% Shiite, 23% Sunni, 4% Drusis, 3% ishmaelites and Alawites) 35% Christian.

According to the Lebanese Constitution, modified by the agreements of Taëf (1989), which put an end to the civil war which devastated the country between 1975 and 1990, a

confessional distribution of the main state authorities (Christian president, Sunni prime minister and president of the Shia parliament) a distribution of parliamentary seats (halfway between Christians and Muslims).

The current electoral law was passed in June 2017, after months of negotiations between the various forces policies. The law, which replaces that of 1960, provides a proportional system (unlike the majority of 1960), divides the country into 15 districts and maintains the preferential vote at the district level. Issues such as the vote of the diaspora and its representation in the Chamber, the establishment of a female quota or the right to vote of the army were parked for future negotiations. The new law has the support of almost all political forces (CPL, Future Movement, Hezbollah, Amal and Lebanese Forces).

The head of state is the president of the Republic. The president of the republic must be a Christian Maronite and is elected by a simple majority of the members of the National Assembly for a period of six years. The President of the Republic can preside over the Council of Ministers (without the right to vote) and ratify appointments. The parliament of Lebanon, called the National Assembly, consists of a single chamber, which counts 128 seats.

The assembly is divided between Muslims and Christians. The first is 45 percent of the seats, the latter 55 percent. The premiership belongs to the Sunni Muslims, the presidency from the assembly to the Shiites, while the President of the Republic belongs to the Maronite Christians.

On October 31, 2016, General Aoun, leader of the CPL party, was named President of the Republic, occupying a position that had remained vacant for over two years before the inability of political Lebanese parties to reach agreement on it. The appointment of Aoun to president meant the beginning of one new political dynamic in the country, leaving a period of institutional paralysis that has lasted since the former president, Michel Sleiman, ended his term in May 2014.

On Sunday 6 May 2018 parliamentary elections were held in Lebanon, the only ones to be held for almost a decade. The unofficial results released by the local media have given the Shiite party Iranian Hezbollah and its allied political forces.

49.2 percent of those entitled to vote, voted. The turnout was low especially in the capital Beirut and in the north, while it was higher in the southern parts of Lebanon, where Hezbollah enjoys greater consent.

On 24 May 2018 the Lebanese president Michel Aoun conferred on the outgoing and exponent prime minister of the Sunni front Saad Hariri the task of forming the new government. During the consultations with the president, 111 out of 128 Lebanese parliamentarians have supported Hariri's candidacy, according to reports the Lebanese press agency NNA. Now the prime minister must receive confidence from the majority of the parliament.

We are therefore moving towards the confirmation of a coalition which includes all the main parties. The parliamentary block formed by the Free Patriotic Movement of President Michel Aoun, by Amal and Hezbollah has won 67 seats out of 128, while the rivals of the Lebanese Forces (LF) have doubled their seats, going from 8 to 15. Two Shiite parties, Hezbollah and Amal, obtained 26 of the 27 seats reserved for Shi'ites in parliament.

Premier Hariri's party lost a third of the seats, confirming only 21, 12 less compared to 33 of the previous legislature.

The Prime Minister presides over the Council of Ministers and is proposed by the President of the Republic, after the mandatory parliamentary consultations, which will subsequently be approved by the National Assembly. He must be a Sunni Muslim. The current prime minister or president of the Council of Ministers is Saad Hariri, who presided over the government since December 18, 2016.

It is a unicameral parliament (National Assembly) composed of 128 deputies elected by a system majority for a period of 4 years (renewable). The last legislative elections were held on 7 June 2009. In accordance with Article 24 of the Lebanese Constitution, 50% of the deputies must be Muslim and the other half Christian. Another article qualifies the confessional with the region or district, so that in practice it counts not only the total number of votes obtained, but also the distribution of seats attributed to each of the confessions in each electoral district.

In recent years, Lebanon has shown exceptional generosity in hosting its own cities and villages an exceptional number of refugees escaped from Syria. It is about a million two hundred thousand refugees registered by the UNHCR - United Nations Refugee Agency - living in over 1,170 communities throughout Lebanon.

This dramatic increase in population has created a situation of emergency and crisis in public services and infrastructure that were lacking even before the Syrian crisis worsened.

This situation has prompted the international community to recognize the need to increase the cooperation with Lebanon to adequately support the communities hosting the displaced and guaranteeing necessary humanitarian aid.

Since the beginning of the Syrian crisis, hundreds of entities operating in the humanitarian aid field have been activated in support of the Lebanese communities and institutions that have managed the reception and services for the displaced populations.

Reorganizing and expanding basic services has not been and is not a simple operation: to guarantee access to drinking water; provide municipalities with adequate waste collection systems; rehabilitate schools and health centers, making them functional, organizing local markets are just a few examples of priorities addressed.

The total investments in support of these communities amount to 93.3 million dollars a year. Activities that involved 244 municipalities with hundreds of projects to support the local community to meet the basic needs of both refugees and the host population.

The United Nations agencies are conducting a study to evaluate the impact of humanitarian aid on the Lebanese economy.

Over 40,000 families have been beneficiaries in southern Lebanon, of jobs they have completed and upgraded the sewerage system and assured sanitation services in 8 different municipalities.

The waste collection and disposal program benefited over 195,000 families: they were supplied to the local municipalities adequate means of transport, containers for families and compactors.

Important cooperation interventions have been made in the health sector in close cooperation with the Ministry of Public Health (MOPH).

Because of the greater risks created by the arrival of millions of about two million refugees, it has invested in the preventive epidemiological control of communicable diseases: cholera, diarrheal diseases, respiratory, dermatological and sexual.

Particular attention has been given to the potabilization of water by distributing filters, chlorine tablets and sanitary containers and psychological support interventions and treatment of mental illnesses.

National immunization programs were supported and campaigns were guaranteed vaccination: all children under the age of five benefit from immunization at national level against the polio (268.711 Lebanese children were vaccinated in October 2014 alone), measles and rubella.

Regarding the theme of education, in 2014, international partners supported capacity of 2,688 teachers and staff of the schools of the Ministry of Education and reorganized six offices of the ministry to which vehicles and computers have been provided, for a total value of USD 791.684. 105 schools were rehabilitated for a total amount of 3.7 million dollars.

In November 2016, the European Union and Lebanon adopted priorities for the 2016-2020 period partnerships that create a renewed framework for political engagement and strengthened cooperation in sectors such as security and the fight against terrorism, governance and the rule of law, incentives for growth and job opportunities, migration and mobility. These priorities have been agreed in the context of revised European neighborhood policy and the global strategy of the EU foreign policy safety.

The EU external investment plan is an innovative and ambitious plan that encourages investment in partner countries in Africa and in the neighborhood of the Union. It promotes inclusive growth, the creation of jobs, work and sustainable development and addresses some of the root causes of irregular migration. The plan is adapted to the specific needs of

partner countries and is based on the success of the model used in the EU, where the "Juncker plan" has already generated more than € 240 billion in investments.

The plan encourages private investors to contribute to sustainable development in countries outside Europe: more traditional forms of assistance, such as grants, combine a new generation of financial instrument tools, such as guarantees, risk-sharing tools and combinations of grants and loans. It also provides a guarantee mechanism to attract private investment if the proposals eligible for funding meet social needs and the limited public funds are able to attract private capital.

The Lebanese public education system is in trouble, partly because of the refugee crisis. More than 400,000 Syrian refugee children in Lebanon are between 3 and 14 years old. Of this number, it is estimated that almost half do not let him have access to any form of education. This puts them at risk of exploitation, early marriage or potentially to violent extremism.

The EU has committed approximately 246 million euros for education and child protection in Lebanon. In the school year 2016-2017, funds from the Regional Trust Fund of the EU in response to the Syrian crisis have, for example, paid registration fees for registration of 34,177 Syrian children in elementary schools and 15,810 in the acceleration of learning programs. In addition, targeted interventions to hundreds of thousands of vulnerable children and young people addressed to education and vocational training as well psychosocial support and early protection against marriage and child labor.