



Lebanon Overview May 2017

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Glossary

AOG	Armed Opposition Group
IED	Improvised Explosive Device
IS	Islamic State
LAF	Lebanese Armed Forces
SOP	Security Operating Procedure
UNIFIL	United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon
UNDSS	United Nations Department of Safety & Security
TFTC	Terrorist Financing and Targeting Centre

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Locations	Risk Level	Comment	Forecast
Beirut, Mount Lebanon (ML) & South Lebanon north of Litani River	Low	<i>In addition to the regular criminal & traffic threats faced in any major city, Beirut has the threats related to the religious & ethnic divides that define Lebanon. The situation can change quickly & there is the proliferation of small arms to fuel conflict. However, there are usually strong indicators prior to a major breakdown.</i>	<i>The creation of a new government is progressing quickly & to forecasts. Despite the Shia block, including Hezbollah, gaining more power, there are no indicators this will cause a confrontation between the political groups.</i>
Beirut Neighborhoods Haret Hraik & Borjal Brajne, Tripoli, Zahle, Baalbek, South Lebanon south of Litani River	Moderate	<i>The neighborhoods in Beirut are prominently Shia & dominated by Hezbollah. South of the Litani River is controlled by Hezbollah & requires permits to visit. Zahle & Baalbek have high level of crime. Tripoli has extremist elements & frequent crime.</i>	<i>Hezbollah will continue to be a de-facto régime within Lebanon & is actively targeted by Sunni extremists & Israel. There are no indicators to suggest the security situation in Tripoli, Zahle & Baalbek will change.</i>
5km from all borders, north of Baalbeck, north of Tripoli, Borjal Brajne & Ain el Helweh Palestinian Camps	High	<i>Border areas in the north & north of Baalbek have very high levels of crime including kidnap & illegal drug production. The north east was occupied by extremist groups for several years until 2017. The southern border with Israel is volatile. Palestinian camps are unpredictable & Ain el Helwah is particularly violent.</i>	<i>The situation in the north east has improved, & is expected to remain stable, possibly dropping to moderate. All border areas are expected to remain high risk especially the border with Israel.</i>

1. Domestic News

PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS

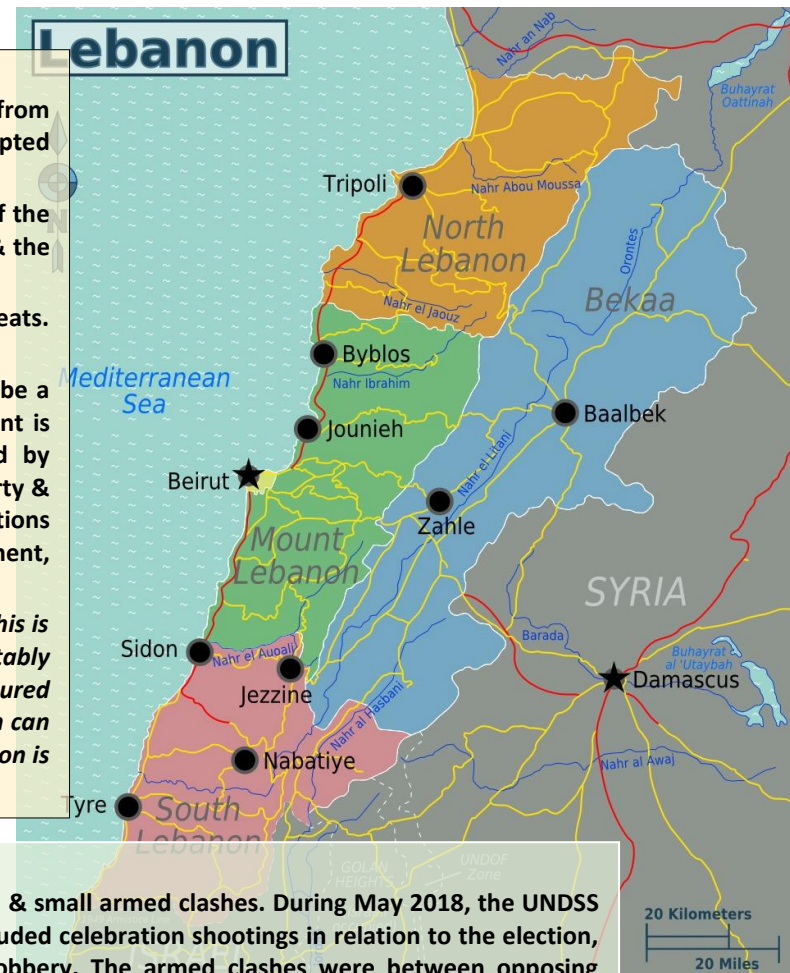
Lebanon's parliamentary election took place on 6 May 2018, the first in nine years. 917 candidates from multiple parties competed for Lebanon's 128-seat national assembly. A new electoral system was adopted that used a proportional representation. However, voter turnout was low, only 49.2 percent.

Hezbollah & its Shia party allies, notably the Amal party, made the most gains & won about a third of the seats in the new parliament. When combined with their Christian ally, the Free Patriotic Movement & the former party of the President, they have 70 seats & a majority in the parliament.

The Sunni opposition, notably the Future Movement & the party of the Prime Minister, lost 15 seats. However, the Future Movement is still the largest single political party with 20 seats.

The Government is formed in accordance with a sectarian power-sharing system, the Speaker must be a Shia Muslim, the president a Maronite Christian, & the prime minister a Sunni Muslim. The President is currently Michel Aoun, & Presidential elections are scheduled for 2022. The Speaker is elected by Parliament & on 23 May, parliamentarians overwhelmingly re-elected Nabih Berri of the Shia Amal party & ally to Hezbollah. Two days later the Prime Minister was selected by the President, following consultations with the main parliamentary alliances. & the existing Prime Minister, Saad Hariri of the Future Movement, is reselected.

Comment: The perception generated in the west is that Hezbollah had a sweeping victory in Lebanon, this is not the case. Hezbollah is only the fourth largest party, it must have alliances with other parties, notably Amal & the Free Patriotic Movement, to ensure it dominates the parliament. Whilst allegiance is assured from the Amal, it is not on every issue with the Christian Free Patriotic Movement. However, Hezbollah can be confident there will not be a parliamentary move to have its weapons removed, & its political position is strengthened with the selection of a pro-Hezbollah politician as the Deputy Speaker.



CRIME AND CIVIL UNREST

Lebanon continues to be a violent country with weekly shootings & small armed clashes. During May 2018, the UNDSS recorded 25 shootings & 3 small arms clashes. The shootings included celebration shootings in relation to the election, murder, family & personal disputes, military raids & armed robbery. The armed clashes were between opposing political supporters in Beirut, in Mieh Wu Mieh Palestinian refugee camp near Saida when clashes broke out between the Fatah & a local family, and on 22 May, 7 soldiers were injured when armed assailants in Tripoli city stormed a labour ministry office.

Protests are also a regular occurrence with 21 recorded by the UNDSS in May. Protests can be in the form of organised demonstrations usually in downtown Beirut & peaceful, & road blocks which can turn violent. In the south on 15 May, Palestinians commemorating Nakba Day (the 1948 Palestinian exodus) attempted to reach the UN Blue line separating Israel & Lebanon but were stopped by police.

Comment: The UNDSS Daily Security Information Reports, that are the source for the above figures, most probably under-reports the number of criminal incidents in Lebanon. The high level of shooting incidents is due to the proliferation of small arms in Lebanon & the gun culture that is part of Lebanon's society.

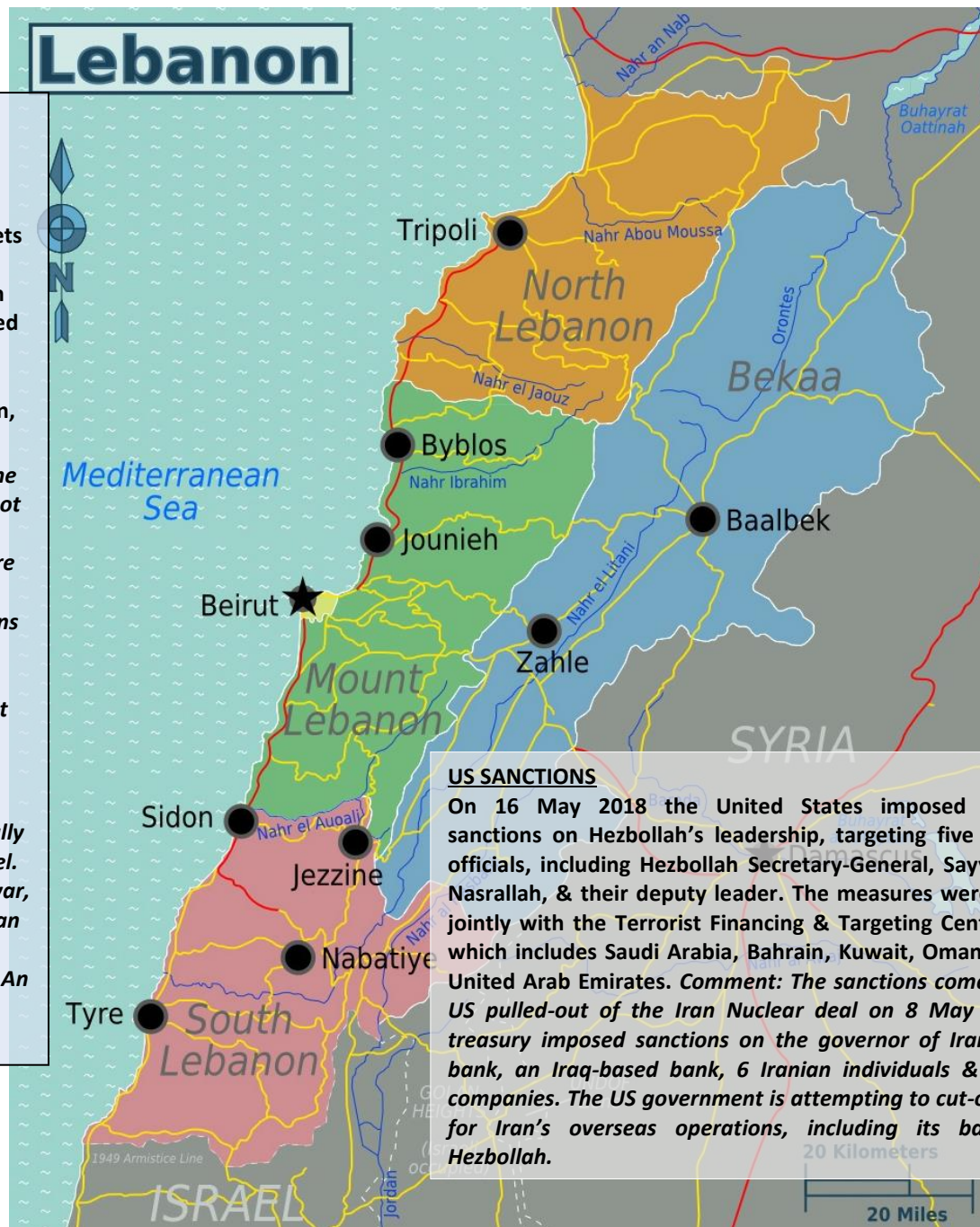
2. Foreign Involvement

ISRAELI MILITARY ACTIVITIES

During May, there were more than 13 incidents where Israel infringed on Lebanon's airspace & land. Most were Israeli military aircraft using Lebanon's airspace to launch missile attacks on Iranian & Iranian Militia, including Hezbollah, targets in Syria; notably on 10 May when Israel hit 35 such targets. However, in early May an Israeli surveillance drone crashed in Lebanon, & on 2 May it was reported the Israeli army abducted a Lebanese shepherd close to the border. Additionally, in the Iranian attack on Israel on 9 May, when 20 rockets were fired towards the Golan Heights, 5 of the rockets landed in Lebanon, but caused little damage.

Comment: Lebanese airspace offers a safe area from where the Israeli airforce can launch attacks into Syria – Lebanon does not have the necessary anti-aircraft weapons to shoot down an Israeli plane & should the Syrians shoot down an aircraft, there is more chance of recovering the pilot in Lebanon, than Syria. The abduction of the shepherd is not unusual; Lebanese citizens have been abducted in the past by the Israeli forces, probably for getting too close to the border. They are usually released shortly after. Also, the Israeli surveillance drone incident is not unusual, several have crashed in the past.

The growing conflict between Iran & Israel presents a real threat to Lebanon, especially when combined with the perception that Hezbollah now controls Lebanon both politically & militarily. This perception is particularly encouraged in Israel. Whilst it is assessed unlikely that Iran & Israel will not go to war, it is likely there will be further clashes & the concern is that Iran will fight a proxy war through Hezbollah. This could lead to Israeli ground incursions into Syria & possibly south Lebanon. An indicator will be the Israeli government pushing the narrative that Hezbollah runs Lebanon.



US SANCTIONS

On 16 May 2018 the United States imposed additional sanctions on Hezbollah's leadership, targeting five of its top officials, including Hezbollah Secretary-General, Sayyed Hasan Nasrallah, & their deputy leader. The measures were imposed jointly with the Terrorist Financing & Targeting Centre (TFTC), which includes Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, & United Arab Emirates. *Comment: The sanctions come after the US pulled-out of the Iran Nuclear deal on 8 May & the US treasury imposed sanctions on the governor of Iran's central bank, an Iraq-based bank, 6 Iranian individuals & 3 Iranian companies. The US government is attempting to cut-off funding for Iran's overseas operations, including its backing for Hezbollah.*

3. UN Humanitarian Objectives & Situation at a Glance

Source: Lebanon Crisis Response Plan 2017 – 2020 https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/LCRP2018_EN_Full_180122.pdf











STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

 Ensure protection of vulnerable populations	 Provide immediate assistance to vulnerable populations
 Support service provision through national systems	 Reinforce Lebanon's economic, social and environmental stability

2018 PLANNING FIGURES

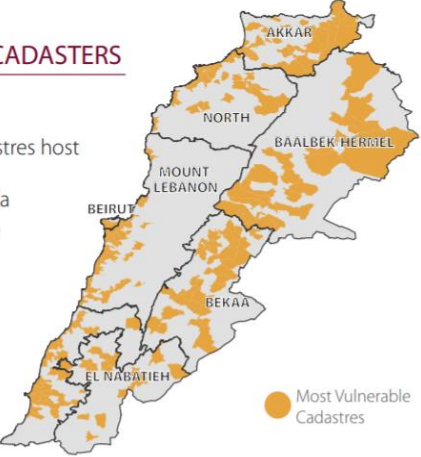
-  **5.9 million** Estimated population living in Lebanon
-  **3.3 million** People in Need
-  **2.8 million** People Targeted
-  **1.5 million** Displaced Syrians
-  **1.5 million** Vulnerable Lebanese
-  **257,460 PRL**
34,000 PRS
-  **\$2.68 billion** Funding required
-  **123** Appealing UN and NGO Partners

2018 TARGET & REQUIREMENT BY SECTOR

PEOPLE TARGETED	SECTORS	REQUIREMENTS (US\$)
2,236,299	 Social Stability	109.9m
1,890,000	 Protection	171.6m
1,579,000	 Water	250m
1,564,800	 Health	290.2m
1,354,000	 Basic Assistance	542.3m
1,119,172	 Energy	99.2m
920,821	 Food Security & Agriculture	507.6m
711,893	 Shelter	137.3m
457,682	 Education	367m
60,663	 Livelihoods	207.9m

MOST VULNERABLE CADASTERS

251 Most Vulnerable Cadastres host
87% Displaced from Syria
67% Deprived Lebanese



● Most Vulnerable Cadastres

