



Lebanon Country Report: Children & Security

The Roméo Dallaire Child Soldiers Initiative

Updated as of 31 January 2017

www.childsoldiers.org

info@childsoldiers.org



TABLE OF CONTENTS

| | |
|---|-----------|
| I. Background | 4 |
| Map of Lebanon | 4 |
| Impact of Conflict on Children..... | 5 |
| II. Security Situation | 7 |
| 1. Context | 7 |
| 2. State, Non-State and International Actors | 10 |
| a) State Actors | 10 |
| Lebanese Army | 10 |
| Hizbollah..... | 11 |
| b) Non-State Actors | 12 |
| Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) | 12 |
| Jabhat al-Nusra / Jabhat Fateh al-Sham | 14 |
| Fatah al-Islam..... | 15 |
| c) International Actors | 15 |
| UNIFIL | 15 |
| The United States (US)..... | 16 |
| Israel | 16 |
| Palestinian Territories | 17 |
| Syria..... | 18 |
| III. Child Protection Concerns | 19 |
| 1. Recruitment and Use of Children | 19 |
| 2. Trafficking and Child Labour | 20 |
| 3. Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV) | 22 |
| 4. Education | 23 |
| 5. Access to Healthcare..... | 24 |
| Annex I: List of Abbreviations | 26 |
| Annex II: Key Facts | 27 |
| Lebanon in a Snapshot..... | 27 |
| Relevant UN Security Council Resolutions | 28 |
| Child Protection Legislation..... | 29 |



Annex III: Timeline of Notable Events31

Annex IV: Recommended Reading34

I. BACKGROUND

Map of Lebanon¹



¹ Central Intelligence Agency, 'Lebanon', available <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook.html> accessed 30 January 2017.



Impact of Conflict on Children

The 1975-1990 civil war in Lebanon and the violence that followed widely impacted children. Even many years after the conflict which ended with the October 1989 Taif Agreement, children continue to live in the shadow of a country with fragile institutions and a deeply divided domestic political situation.

Since the beginning of the Syrian civil war (2011), Lebanon has been heavily affected from security, social and economic standpoints by spill-over effects. The Syrian crisis has greatly affected the Lebanese economy and demographics and has resulted in a deepening of political instability and insecurity. Children have been killed or maimed by suicide bombs in major cities or by explosive remnants of war, particularly in southern Lebanon.² In 2015 and 2016, children were affected by volatility and intensified clashes in the Bekaa Governorate which lies along the largest border crossing with Syria³ and intensified clashes in the Ein-el-Hillweh Palestinian refugee camp.⁴ Children living close to the Syrian border are particularly vulnerable to injury and death. In 2014, six children were killed by a Syrian Air Force strike and one 15 year old boy was executed by al-Nusra armed elements in Arsal, a town lying close to the Syrian border.⁵ Children have also been killed or injured by gunshot or stray bullets during Hizbollah mourning ceremonies⁶ and during armed clashes in urban areas.⁷ In 2013, children were greatly impacted by the significant increase in violence as a result of explosions inside Lebanon and along its borders, cross-border shelling, sectarian armed clashes and sniper fire.⁸

Children in Lebanon are also recruited by local and foreign armed groups taking part in the current Syrian conflict. This includes boys between 15 and 17 years of age who were sent to Syria.⁹ Girls are also reportedly

² United Nations Security Council, 'Children and Armed Conflict: report of the Secretary-General', UN Doc. S/2016/360 (20 April 2016) ('2016 SG Children and Armed Conflict Report'), paras. 80, 83.

³ 2016 SG Children and Armed Conflict Report, paras. 80, 84. See also UNOCHA, 'Lebanon: Bekaa and Baalbek/Hermel Governorates Profile (May 2016)' (12 May 2016), available http://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/10052016_Bekaa%20and%20Baalbek-Hermel%20Profile.pdf accessed 25 January 2017.

⁴ 2016 SG Children in Armed Conflict Report, paras 80, 84.

⁵ United Nations Security Council, 'Children and Armed Conflict: report of the Secretary-General', UN Doc. S/2015/409 (5 June 2015) ('2015 SG Children and Armed Conflict Report'), para. 113.

⁶ 2016 SG Children and Armed Conflict Report, para. 83.

⁷ 2015 SG Children and Armed Conflict Report, para. 113.

⁸ United Nations Security Council, 'Children and Armed Conflict: report of the Secretary-General', UN Doc. S/2014/339 (15 May 2014) ('2014 SG Children and Armed Conflict Report'), paras. 86, 88.

⁹ 2016 SG Children and Armed Conflict Report, para 81.



being used by Palestinian armed factions active in Lebanon, as well as other armed groups within Lebanon for support roles.

Lebanon hosts more than one million Syrian refugees, which makes one in four people in Lebanon a refugee.¹⁰ The Government of Lebanon estimates the true number of Syrian refugees to be around 1.5 million.¹¹ Since Lebanon is not a signatory to the 1951 United Nations (UN) Refugee Convention, displaced persons lacking legal status risk detention for illegal presence in the country¹² or have difficulty accessing basic social services including healthcare and education.¹³ In this respect, an estimated 70 per cent of Syrians in Lebanon now lack legal residency.¹⁴ The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees also reports that 70,000 Syrian refugee children have been born in Lebanon since the beginning of the conflict,¹⁵ with an estimated 70 per cent of them lacking official birth certificates.¹⁶

In addition, Lebanon is host to refugee children from the Palestinian Territories, Iraq, Ethiopia and Sudan. In 2015, the Lebanese government took measures to suspend registration of refugees, leading to an increase in child labour due to lack of legal status and subsequent ability to access social services, including school and healthcare.¹⁷ In 2016, Lebanese authorities continued to impose entry regulations for Syrians, effectively barring many asylum seekers from entering Lebanon.¹⁸ Lebanon is also home to stateless

¹⁰ 3RP, 'Syria Regional Refugee Response' (30 September 2016), available <http://data.unhcr.org/syrianrefugees/country.php?id=122> accessed 25 January 2017 ('3RP Syrian Refugee Data').

¹¹ Human Rights Watch, 'World Report 2017: Events of 2016' (2017) ('2017 Human Rights Watch Report'), p. 399.

¹² Human Rights Watch, 'Lebanon: Events of 2016' (2016), available <https://www.hrw.org/world-report/2017/country-chapters/lebanon> accessed 25 January 2017 ('2016 Human Rights Watch World Report: Lebanon'); Human Rights Watch, 'Lebanon: Events of 2015', available <https://www.hrw.org/world-report/2016/country-chapters/lebanon> accessed 25 January 2017 ('2015 Human Rights Watch World Report: Lebanon').

¹³ 2017 Human Rights Watch Report, p. 399.

¹⁴ 2017 Human Rights Watch Report, p. 395.

¹⁵ John Davison, 'Syrian War creates child refugees and child soldiers: report' (Reuters, 14 March 2016), available <http://www.reuters.com/article/us-mideast-crisis-syria-children-idUSKCN0WG0R0> accessed 25 January 2017.

¹⁶ UNOCHA, Government of Lebanon, UNHCR, 'Lebanon Crisis Response Plan 2015-2016: Year Two' (12 January 2016), available http://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/20151223_LCRP_ENG_22Dec2015-full%20version%29_s.pdf accessed 25 January 2017 ('Lebanon Crisis Response Plan'), pp. 91-92.

¹⁷ Human Rights Watch, "'I Just Wanted to be Treated like a Person': How Lebanon's Residency Rules Facilitate Abuse of Syrian Refugees' (12 January 2016), available <http://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/lebanon0116web.pdf> accessed 25 January 2017, p. 2.

¹⁸ 2017 Human Rights Watch Report, p. 1. In January 2016, Lebanese authorities sent hundreds of Syrians traveling through Beirut airport back to Syria without assessing their risk of harm upon their return to their war-torn country. This violates Lebanon's international obligations. (See Human Rights Watch, 'Lebanon: Stop Forcible Returns to



persons, including children.¹⁹ Refugee and stateless children in Lebanon are extremely vulnerable to child labour, sex trafficking, child marriage, and recruitment and use in armed conflict.

Refugee children face challenges in accessing medical services and education with medical facilities under attack and schools often used as shelters or by armed groups.²⁰ Incidents of armed violence also affect the delivery of humanitarian assistance to affected populations.

The mental health of refugee children is affected. Many have suffered from Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) as a result of conflict.²¹ Disrupted education, malnutrition, exploitation, and the many other consequences of violent conflict will leave a lasting impact on the refugee children of Lebanon.

II. SECURITY SITUATION

1. Context

Lebanon is a small country bordering Syria, Israel, and the Mediterranean Sea. Since its independence from France in 1943, it has had a unique political system based on religious faiths (the Lebanese Consociationalism). In reality, religious communities govern the country according to a complex power-sharing mechanism, with high-ranking offices reserved for members of specific religious groups. The President of the Republic must be a Maronite Christian, the Prime Minister a Sunni Muslim, the Speaker of the Parliament a Shi'a Muslim, the Deputy Prime Minister and the Deputy Speaker of Parliament Eastern Orthodox.²²

Since 1948, and due to its geographical location, Lebanon has been no stranger to regional conflicts in the Middle East, in particular the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and the civil war in Syria, both of which have

Syria' (11 January 2016), available <https://www.hrw.org/news/2016/01/11/lebanon-stop-forcible-returns-syria> accessed 25 January 2017).

¹⁹ See UNHCR, 'Lebanon - Statelessness Update: August 2014' (15 October 2014), available at <http://data2.unhcr.org/en/documents/details/42206>, accessed on 25 January 2017.

²⁰ 2016 SG Children and Armed Conflict Report, para. 84.

²¹ Delan Devakumar et al, 'Child Health in Syria: recognising the lasting effects of warfare on health' (3 November 2015), available https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4630938/pdf/13031_2015_Article_61.pdf accessed 25 January 2017 ('Devakumar et al'), p. 2.

²² Imad Harb, 'Lebanon's Confessionalism: Problems and Prospects' (United States Institute of Peace, 30 March 2006), available <http://www.usip.org/publications/lebanons-confessionalism-problems-and-prospects> accessed 25 January 2017.



resulted in an influx of refugees into the country. In 1975, the multi-sectarian/multi-religious nature of Lebanese society, together with a combination of national and regional factors, led to the outbreak of a 15-year civil war, which caused Lebanon's complex relationship with its neighbours to intensify.²³ During this time, parts of Lebanon were occupied; first by Syria in 1976 (withdrawing in 2005) and later by Israel, which occupied Lebanon until 2000. The domestic situation remained relatively calm until the mid-2000s, when tensions escalated due to events such as the assassination of former Prime Minister, Rafik Hariri (14 February 2005), and the resulting withdrawal of Syrian troops from Lebanon (April 2005). Then, in July 2006, a war between the Shia *party-cum-militia* Hizbollah and Israel erupted. This war, which lasted around 34 days, took place on Lebanese territory, as well as in Northern Israel and the Golan Heights, and resulted in heavy casualties.²⁴ Casualties numbered between 1,100 - 1,300 Lebanese and over 160 Israelis (including 44 civilians). In addition, hundreds of thousands of people were displaced both in Lebanon and Northern Israel.

During the Arab Spring, political demonstrations and rallies occurred across various countries in the Middle East and North Africa, eventually reaching Syria in spring 2011.²⁵ These protests escalated into an internal conflict which displaced millions of Syrians in the Middle East and towards Central and Western Europe. Many fled across the border to Lebanon, with more than one million registered Syrian refugees today.²⁶ The spill-over from the Syrian civil war has found its way into Lebanon, with fighting occurring primarily along the border with Syria, but also in major cities such as Tripoli and the capital, Beirut.²⁷ In 2013 and 2014, a number of devastating bombings left hundreds dead and wounded. These attacks were largely attributed to

²³ Charmaine Seitz, 'Country Profile of Lebanon, A review of the Implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child' (Save the Children Sweden, August 2011), available <https://resourcecentre.savethechildren.net/sites/default/files/documents/5417.pdf> accessed 25 January 2017 ('Save the Children Sweden: Country Profile of Lebanon'), p. 14.

²⁴ Save the Children Sweden: Country Profile of Lebanon, pp. 15-16.

²⁵ Cornell University Library, 'Arab Spring: A Research & Study Guide, Syria: Syria', available <http://guides.library.cornell.edu/c.php?g=31688&p=200753> accessed 25 January 2017.

²⁶ 3RP Syrian Refugee Data; See also UNICEF Lebanon Country Office, 'Written Contribution for Child Rights for UPR documentation of Lebanon' (March 2015), available http://www.upr-info.org/sites/default/files/document/lebanon/session_23_-_november_2015/unicef_-_lco_upr23_lbn_e_main.pdf accessed 25 January 2017, para. 2.

²⁷ 2016 SG Children and Armed Conflict Report, para. 80. See also BBC, 'Lebanon Profile – Timeline' (10 August 2016), available <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-14649284>, accessed 25 January 2017. See also Samya Kullab, 'Syria War Fuels Sectarian Tension in Lebanon' (Al-Jazeera, 2 November 2014), available <http://www.aljazeera.com/news/middleeast/2014/10/syria-war-fuels-sectarian-tension-lebanon-2014102963054535228.html>, accessed 25 January 2017.



Sunni militant groups in retaliation for Hizbollah's intensified military backing of the Assad regime.²⁸ The fighting in proximity of the Lebanese border has mainly been between the Syrian Army supported by Hizbollah's military wing on one side, and militia linked to the al-Nusra Front and other anti-Assad groups on the other.²⁹ Against this background, escalation in Syria has certainly increased religious and political polarisation across the entire region.

Religious and sectarian strife paralysed Lebanon in 2013 and 2014, with multiple attacks against Hizbollah residential areas in Southern Beirut, incidents in Arsal, and political assassinations which continued to be a legacy of the civil war. Violence in Tripoli was mainly centred on the neighbourhood of Jabal Mohsen and Bab al-Tabbaneh, where sectarian fighting resulted in multiple casualties, including children.³⁰ In 2014, North Lebanon and the Bekaa Valley experienced multiple shelling from Syria, and military clashes occurred in Arsal between the Lebanese Army and Syria-based militants.³¹ Towards the end of 2014, the Lebanese Government began to implement measures to restrict movement of Syrians in Lebanon and to curb the flow of refugees.³² This has increased the vulnerability of refugees as many have difficulty gaining legal status in Lebanon.³³ The ongoing conflict in surrounding Syria and the high numbers of refugees, in particular those who are unregistered and unable to enter the labour market, continue to destabilise the region.

A report issued by the UN Secretary-General in June 2015 confirmed an increase in 'identification of children associated with armed groups' in Lebanon.³⁴ More specifically, armed factions in refugee camps were recruiting children as young as 14 years old. This was a repeated concern in 2016.³⁵ Additionally,

²⁸ Julien Banes-Dacey, 'The War Next Door: Syria and the erosion of stability in Lebanon, Jordan and Turkey' (4 July 2016), available http://www.ecfr.eu/page/-/ECFR_182_-_THE_WAR_NEXT_DOOR_-_SYRIA_AND_THE_EROSION_OF_STABILITY_IN_JORDAN_LEBANON_AND_TURKEY.pdf accessed 25 January 2017, p. 3.

²⁹ Al-Jazeera, 'Fighting rages along Syria's Lebanon border' (10 May 2015), available <http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2015/05/150510132901453.html> accessed 25 January 2017.

³⁰ Human Rights Watch, 'World Report 2015: Lebanon – Events of 2014' (2015), available <https://www.hrw.org/world-report/2015/country-chapters/lebanon> accessed 25 January 2017 ('2015 Human Rights Watch World Report: Lebanon').

³¹ 2015 Human Rights Watch World Report: Lebanon.

³² 2015 Human Rights Watch World Report: Lebanon.

³³ Human Rights Watch, 'Lebanon: Pledge Action on Rights' (29 October 2015), available <https://www.hrw.org/news/2015/10/29/lebanon-pledge-action-rights> accessed 25 January 2017.

³⁴ 2015 SG Children and Armed Conflict Report, para. 115.

³⁵ 2016 SG Children and Armed Conflict Report, para. 81; 2015 SG Children and Armed Conflict Report, para. 112.



children may be recruited to assist in or carry out terrorist attacks. For example, the Lebanese Army has reportedly arrested 25 juvenile boys in anti-terrorism raids.³⁶

2. State, Non-State and International Actors

a) State Actors

Lebanese Army

The Lebanese Armed Forces (LAF) are the official army of Lebanon. Despite deep divisions within the country, the army is ‘multi-confessional’ and neutral,³⁷ its primary role being to serve as a neutral arbiter guaranteeing security and stability. Even during the turbulent times of the civil war, the army managed to retain its impartial image.³⁸ The LAF receive its mandate from the National Defence Law,³⁹ which assigns three missions to the Army: defence, security and development.⁴⁰ Since 1978, the Lebanese Army has been assisted by the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) under several mandates on the Southern border.⁴¹ UNIFIL’s role in Lebanon will be examined below.

In February 2005, the assassination of the Prime Minister, Rafik Hariri, sent shockwaves throughout Lebanon and resulted in massive protests. Crucially, the LAF were ordered to quell the uprising, but the orders were defied. The manifestation grew to become the largest peaceful demonstration in the Middle East at the time,⁴² and brought about the implementation of Security Council Resolution 1559 which mandated ‘the disbanding and disarmament of all [...] militias in the country’. Syrian troops, present since the time of

³⁶ 2015 SG Children and Armed Conflict Report, para. 112.

³⁷ John Knudsen, ‘Lebanese Armed Forces: A United Army for a Divided Country?’ (CMI Insight, November 2014), available <https://www.cmi.no/publications/file/5284-lebanese-armed-forces.pdf> accessed 25 January 2017 (‘CMI Lebanese Armed Forces’), p. 1.

³⁸ CMI Lebanese Armed Forces, pp. 1-2.

³⁹ Decree Number 102 (Lebanon) 16/09/1983.

⁴⁰ The Lebanese Army, ‘The Mission of the Lebanese Army’, available <http://www.lebarmy.gov.lb/en/content/mission-lebanese-army>, accessed 25 January 2017.

⁴¹ United Nations, ‘UNIFIL: United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon’, available <http://www.un.org/en/peacekeeping/missions/unifil/>, accessed 25 January 2017.

⁴² CMI Lebanese Armed Forces, p. 3.



the civil war, withdrew from Lebanon.⁴³ Since then, the Lebanese Army has had an increased role. The security situation is highly likely to remain volatile throughout 2017.

The Lebanese Government also reportedly detains children under military jurisdiction for charges related to national security.⁴⁴ The UN noted that 15 boys between the ages of 14 and 17 were being detained at the end of 2015.⁴⁵

Hizbollah⁴⁶

Hizbollah, representing the Shia bloc of the Lebanese society, emerged on the scene in response to the 1982 Israeli invasion of Lebanon as a military and political group formed primarily of Shiite Muslims.⁴⁷ One of their primary goals has been to drive Israel from Lebanon and form a Shi'a Islamic state on the territory. Hizbollah has been involved in armed conflict since the Lebanese Civil War (c. 1975-1990), during the Israeli withdrawal (2000), the 33-day war with Israel (2006), in recent military clashes between Syrian militants and the Lebanese military (2014-2015), and now allegedly in Iraq against the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL).⁴⁸ While Hizbollah is listed as a terrorist organisation by a number of countries, Hizbollah has maintained a powerful role in Lebanese politics and has also provided welfare services.⁴⁹ Lebanese members of Hizbollah made up four of the five individuals indicted by the Special Tribunal for Lebanon for the killing of former Lebanese Prime Minister, Rafik Hariri.⁵⁰

⁴³ United Nations Press, 'Syria's Withdrawal From Lebanon "Historic Day" For Middle East, Special Envoy Terje Roed-Larsen Tells Security Council' (29 April 2005), available <http://www.un.org/press/en/2005/sc8372.doc.htm>, accessed 25 January 2017.

⁴⁴ 2016 SG Children and Armed Conflict Report, para. 82.

⁴⁵ 2016 SG Children and Armed Conflict Report, para. 82.

⁴⁶ Also spelled Hezbollah, Hizbullah, Hezbullah.

⁴⁷ Augustus Richard Norton, 'Hezbollah: A Short History' (Princeton University Press, 4 May 2014), p. 34.

⁴⁸ 2017 Human Rights Watch Report, p. 346.

⁴⁹ Haytham Mouzahem, 'What challenges await Lebanon's new government?' (Al-Monitor, 29 December 2016), available <http://www.al-monitor.com/pulse/originals/2016/12/lebanon-hariri-aoun-government-statement-elections.html> accessed 25 January 2017. See also Phillip Manyok, 'State within a State: How Hezbollah Programs are Challenging The Lebanese Government Legitimacy' (PCDN, 11 January 2013), available <https://pcdnetwork.org/blogs/state-within-a-state-how-hezbollah-programs-are-challenging-the-lebanese-government-legitimacy/> accessed 25 January 2017.

⁵⁰ Special Tribunal for Lebanon, 'The Cases', available <http://www.stl-tsl.org/en/the-cases>, accessed 25 January 2017.



The group has been known to use children as active combatants in previous conflicts.⁵¹ Hezbollah's leader, Hassan Nasrallah, has publicly confirmed the group's support for the Assad Regime in Syria as well as Hezbollah's involvement in fighting the anti-Assad and Sunni Islamist rebel groups in Syria.⁵² Hezbollah continues to openly fight alongside Syrian regime forces in the Syrian conflict. Hezbollah is said to recruit young men for the purpose of 'terrorist attacks, smuggling weapons and explosives, stirring up sedition and incitement to chaos and violence'.⁵³ Hezbollah has also sent forces into Iraq in the fight against ISIL.⁵⁴

Children are alleged to be within Hezbollah's ranks though numbers are unknown. For instance, in 2015 Hezbollah reportedly mourned the loss of a 15-year-old who was killed while on 'jihadist duty' in Syria.⁵⁵

b) Non-State Actors

Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL)

ISIL is considered an off-shoot of al-Qaeda and is known for its particularly brutal methods.⁵⁶ While Hezbollah has sent fighters to Syria to back the Assad government, since 2014 ISIL has demonstrated that it has capabilities to conduct military operations on Lebanon's borders and terrorist attacks inside Lebanon through the use of sleeper cells and supporters.⁵⁷ The violence spread deeper into Lebanon when ISIL

⁵¹ Sarah Leah Whitson, 'Hezbollah Needs to Answer' (Human Rights Watch, 5 October 2006), available <https://www.hrw.org/news/2006/10/05/hezbollah-needs-answer> accessed 25 January 2017; Coalition to Stop the Use of Child Soldiers, 'Lebanon: The vulnerability of children to involvement in armed conflict' (October 2007), available http://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/A3FEA4062788DA6C8525736A00656809-Full_Report.pdf accessed 25 January 2017 ('Vulnerability of children to involvement in armed conflict'), p. 2. See also Graham Smith, 'Inside the Hezbollah "theme park" where children are taught the glory of martyrdom' (Daily Mail, 15 August 2012), available <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2188770/Inside-Hezbollah-theme-park-children-taught-glory-martyrdom.html> accessed 25 January 2017.

⁵² Ian Black, 'Hezbollah is helping Assad fight Syria uprising, says Hassan Nasrallah' (The Guardian, 30 April 2013), available <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2013/apr/30/hezbollah-syria-uprising-nasrallah> accessed 25 January 2017.

⁵³ BBC, 'Gulf states declare Lebanon's Hezbollah terrorist group' (2 March 2016), available <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-35706761> accessed 25 January 2017.

⁵⁴ 2017 Human Rights Watch Report, p. 346.

⁵⁵ The Tower, 'Lebanese Harshly Criticize Hezbollah For Deaths of Child Soldiers in Syria' (30 April 2015), available <http://www.thetower.org/1970-lebanese-harshly-criticize-hezbollah-for-deaths-of-child-soldiers-in-syria/> accessed 25 January 2017.

⁵⁶ Richard Allen Greene and Nick Thompson, 'ISIS: Everything you need to know' (CNN, 11 August 2016), available <http://edition.cnn.com/2015/01/14/world/isis-everything-you-need-to-know/> accessed 25 January 2017.

⁵⁷ Lt.Col Fady Dergham, 'The Spread Of Isis Into Lebanon: A Strategic Response To Counter The Threat' (April 2016), available <https://www.lebarmy.gov.lb/en/content/spread-isis-lebanon-strategic-response-counter-threat>



claimed responsibility for twin suicide bombings in Beirut which targeted the Shia-majority district of Burj al-Barajneh on 12 November 2015, killing 43 people and wounding 239 others.⁵⁸ While ISIL partially controls actual territory of Iraq and Syria, the spread of ISIL into Lebanon concerns spreading of its ideology, forming sleeper cells, and gaining supporters.⁵⁹

ISIL is listed by the UN Secretary-General for its recruitment and use of children.⁶⁰ It has reportedly recruited and trained children as young as six and has extensively used young people in both support and combat roles, including suicide bombing missions.⁶¹ It actively recruits in areas under its control, with members of the group entering schools and mosques to provide weapons and jihadist indoctrination training, often under the guise of education.⁶² ISIL has reportedly set up ‘cub camps’ to train and indoctrinate children for combat roles, including suicide bombings.⁶³

accessed 25 January 2017 (‘The Spread of Isis Into Lebanon’). See also Al-Jazeera, ‘Lebanese Army hits Syrian fighters in Aرسال’ (August 2014), available http://www.aljazeera.com/news/middleeast/2014/08/lebanon-army-advances-syrians-arsal-20148471732276107.html?utm=from_old_mobile accessed 25 January 2017. See also Reuters, ‘Lebanese army says it foils planned attacks by Islamic State’ (30 June 2016), available <http://www.reuters.com/article/us-mideast-crisis-lebanon-idUSKCN0ZG15U>, accessed 25 January 2017.

⁵⁸ US Department of State, ‘Lebanon Travel Warning’ (29 July 2016), available <https://travel.state.gov/content/passports/en/alertswarnings/lebanon-travel-warning.html> accessed 25 January 2017.

⁵⁹ The Spread of Isis Into Lebanon.

⁶⁰ 2016 SG Children and Armed Conflict Report, para. 150, Annex I.

⁶¹ UN Security Council, ‘Report of the Secretary-General on children and armed conflict in Iraq’, UN Doc. S/2015/852 (9 November 2015) (‘2015 SG Children and Armed Conflict in Iraq Report’), para. 33; United Nations Human Rights Council, ‘Report of the Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Syrian Arab Republic’, UN Doc. A/HRC/30/48 (13 August 2015), para. 75.

⁶² Rule of Terror, para. 60.

⁶³ United Nations Human Rights Council, ‘Report of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on the Human Rights Situation in Iraq in the Light of Abuses Committed by the so-Called Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant and Associated Groups’, UN Doc. A/HRC/28/18 (13 March 2015), para. 46. See also United Nations Human Rights Council, ‘Report of the Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Syrian Arab Republic’, UN Doc. A/HRC/28/69 (5 February 2015) para. 70; United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq and Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, ‘Report on the Protection of Civilians in Armed Conflict in Iraq: 6 July - 10 September 2014’ (26 September 2014), available http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Countries/IQ/UNAMI_OHCHR_POC_Report_FINAL_6July_10September2014.pdf accessed 25 January 2017, pp. 17–18.



Jabhat al-Nusra / Jabhat Fateh al-Sham

Jabhat al-Nusra was formed in 2012 in Iraq as a faction of al-Qaeda in the region. Presently, it is an active Syrian jihadist cell, fighting against President Assad.⁶⁴ When the founder of al-Qaeda in Iraq, Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, announced the formation of ISIL through a merger of the two groups, al-Nusra rejected this and instead confirmed its allegiance to al-Qaeda.⁶⁵ In July 2016, the group severed its links with al-Qaeda and re-branded itself as Jabhat Fateh al-Sham, possibly as means of becoming involved in the political process in Syria.⁶⁶ The group has been actively trying to expand its control in the northwest of Syria.⁶⁷

In 2014, al-Nusra, in collaboration with ISIL, released a video threatening the execution of hostage Lebanese soldiers if Hizbollah did not withdraw from Syria.⁶⁸ The group was among those involved in the clashes in Aarsal, alongside ISIL, in 2014. Second only to ISIL, it attracts many foreign fighters.⁶⁹ It is listed by the UN Secretary-General for its recruitment and use of children⁷⁰ and has actively recruited children through schools and education programmes, targeting children as young as 14.⁷¹ Children attend training camps alongside adults, and are then used in military operations.⁷² Their ‘Mobilize’ campaign has reportedly resulted in a spike in recruits as of November 2016.⁷³

⁶⁴ Stanford University, ‘Mapping Militant Organizations: Jabhat Fatah al-Sham, available <https://web.stanford.edu/group/mappingmilitants/cgi-bin/groups/view/493> accessed 25 January 2017 (‘Mapping Militant Organizations’).

⁶⁵ Mapping Militant Organizations.

⁶⁶ BBC, ‘Syria War: Who are Jabhat Fateh al-Sham?’ (1 August 2016), available <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-36924000> accessed 25 January 2017.

⁶⁷ Yezid Sayigh, ‘Ceasefire in Syria: Turkish Policy sets Syria on a new path’ (BBC, 30 December 2016), available <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-38473702> accessed 23 January 2017, (‘BBC, Turkish Policy sets Syria on a new path’).

⁶⁸ Mapping Militant Organizations.

⁶⁹ Mapping Militant Organizations.

⁷⁰ See 2016 SG Children and Armed Conflict Report, Annex I.

⁷¹ August 2016 COI Report, para. 117. See also HRW: *Maybe We Live and Maybe We Die*, p. 2.

⁷² HRW: *Maybe We Live and Maybe We Die*, pp. 25–26.

⁷³ Sarah Sheikh Ali, ‘Nusra’s “Mobilize” Campaign to Recruit Children’ (Atlantic Council, 1 November 2016), available <http://www.atlanticcouncil.org/blogs/syriasource/nusra-s-mobilize-campaign-to-recruit-children>, accessed 25 January 2017.



Fatah al-Islam

Fatah al-Islam is a radical Sunni Islamist group formed in Palestinian refugee camps in Lebanon. The group's leaders said Fatah al-Islam has two main aims: reform of the Palestinian refugee community in Lebanon in line with Islamic Sharia law, and confronting Israel.⁷⁴

Fatah al-Islam engaged in combat with the Lebanese army in a Palestinian refugee camp in 2007. Most of its members have either been captured or killed.

c) International Actors

UNIFIL

In 1978, in the wake of Israeli invasions of Lebanon⁷⁵, UNIFIL was established by the UN Security Council. Deployed in Southern Lebanon, with headquarters in Naqoura,⁷⁶ its original mandate was to confirm Israeli withdrawal, restore international peace and security, and assist the Lebanese Government in restoring effective authority in the area.⁷⁷ With further conflict and attacks from Israel in the 1980s, UNIFIL's functions were primarily to provide humanitarian assistance. After Israel finally withdrew in 2000, UNIFIL had a smaller role in Lebanon, until the summer of 2006 when fresh conflict broke out between Hizbollah and Israel. In the wake of this conflict, UNIFIL's mandate was extended to include supporting the LAF, 'monitoring the cessation of hostilities' and helping to 'ensure humanitarian access to civilian population and the voluntary and safe return of displaced persons'.⁷⁸ Currently, UNIFIL has around 10,000 troops drawn from 38 countries.⁷⁹

⁷⁴ BBC, 'Profile: Fatah al-Islam' (15 August 2010), available <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-10979788> accessed 25 January 2017.

⁷⁵ United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon, 'UNIFIL Background', available <http://www.un.org/en/peacekeeping/missions/unifil/background.shtml> accessed 25 January 2017.

⁷⁶ United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon, 'FAQs', available <http://unifil.unmissions.org/faqs> accessed 25 January 2017 ('UNIFIL FAQs').

⁷⁷ United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon, 'UNIFIL mandate', available <http://www.un.org/en/peacekeeping/missions/unifil/mandate.shtml> accessed 25 January 2017.

⁷⁸ UNIFIL FAQs.

⁷⁹ UNIFIL FAQs.



The United States (US)

The US 'seeks to maintain its traditionally close ties with Lebanon'.⁸⁰ To that end, it has had a considerable degree of involvement in the various conflicts which plagued Lebanon in the second half of the twentieth century and beyond. In 1958, the US deployed Marines to assist in the first civil war, marking 'the first overt US military intervention in the region'.⁸¹ During hostilities in the 1980s, the US again contributed its 2nd U.S. Marine Amphibious Unit to the Multinational Force in Lebanon, as well as diplomatic efforts to broker peace in the area.⁸² After the 2006 war, the US has provided economic assistance to help with relief, recovery, rebuilding and security.⁸³

Israel

For most of the existence of the modern Israeli state, there has been considerable tension and conflict between Israel and Lebanon. Since many Palestinian refugees live in Lebanon and have done so since 1948, some operations carried out by the Palestinian Liberation Organisation against Israel have been coordinated from Lebanon. In March 1978, Israeli forces invaded the Southern area of Lebanon.⁸⁴ Various UN Security Council Resolutions called for Israeli withdrawal and established UNIFIL to help ensure peace along the border. Israeli attacks continued in the subsequent decades, aiming to respond to pro-Palestinian guerrilla attacks. Notably, in 1996 Israel launched 'Operation Grapes of Wrath' in which it attempted to destroy Hizbollah.⁸⁵ During the operation, Israeli pilots carried out 600 air raids with fixed-wing aircraft and helicopters, and artillery units fired some 25,000 shells into Lebanese territory. Some 154 civilians were

⁸⁰ US Department of State, 'U.S. Relations with Lebanon' (4 November 2013), available <https://www.state.gov/r/pa/ei/bgn/35833.htm> accessed 25 January 2017 ('US Relations with Lebanon').

⁸¹ Alasdair Soussi, 'Legacy of US' 1958 Lebanon Invasion' (Al-Jazeera, 15 July 2013), available <http://www.aljazeera.com/indepth/features/2013/07/201371411160525538.html> accessed 25 January 2017.

⁸² US Department of State Office of the Historian, 'The Reagan Administration and Lebanon, 1981-1984', available <https://history.state.gov/milestones/1981-1988/lebanon> accessed 25 January 2017.

⁸³ US Relations with Lebanon.

⁸⁴ BBC, 'World: Middle East History of Israel's role in Lebanon' (1 April 1998), available http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/middle_east/72493.stm accessed 25 January 2017.

⁸⁵ BBC, 'On this Day: 11 April', available http://news.bbc.co.uk/onthisday/hi/dates/stories/april/11/newsid_4828000/4828386.stm accessed 25 January 2017.



killed in Lebanon, and another 351 injured.⁸⁶ Finally, in 2000 Israel withdrew its troops from Southern Lebanon.⁸⁷

In 2006, however, tensions were high again between Israel and Hizbollah, and they engaged in an armed conflict that lasted 34 days, leaving 1,191 dead.⁸⁸ Thereafter, a fire exchange along the border in 2010, which was the most serious clash between the two countries since the war of 2006,⁸⁹ signalled that the conflict between the two countries was far from over. In February 2016, Israel accused Lebanon of violating UN Security Council Resolution 1701 (2006), which calls for a disarmament of all armed groups including Hizbollah.⁹⁰ The Israeli ambassador to the UN claimed that the border with Lebanon is ‘constantly breached’.⁹¹ Alarming, the ongoing rhetoric is one of threats and intimidation.⁹²

Palestinian Territories

Lebanese support to the Palestinian cause dates back to 1948, when Lebanon provided support to the neighbouring Arab countries in their conflict against Israel. As a result of the 1948 Arab-Israeli war, about 100,000 Palestinians fled to Lebanon. In 1959, the Lebanese Government and the Palestinian Liberation Organisation (PLO) signed an agreement which gave the PLO control over Palestinian refugee camps located in Lebanon.⁹³ Nowadays, Lebanon continues to host 400,000 Palestinian refugees distributed in various refugee camps.⁹⁴

⁸⁶ Human Rights Watch, ‘Israel/Lebanon – “Operation Grapes of Wrath”: The Civilian Victims’ (September 1997), available <https://www.hrw.org/reports/1997/isrleb/Isrleb.htm> accessed 14 January 2017.

⁸⁷ BBC, ‘Q&A: Leaving Lebanon’ (23 May 2000), available http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/middle_east/636594.stm accessed 25 January 2017.

⁸⁸ Al-Jazeera, ‘Survivors of the Summer War’ (8 August 2007), available <http://www.aljazeera.com/programmes/general/2007/07/200852519022313933.html> accessed 25 January 2017.

⁸⁹ Harriet Sherwood, ‘Tree that sparked deadly border clash on Israeli side, says UN’ (The Guardian, 4 August 2010), available <http://www.theguardian.com/world/2010/aug/04/lebanon-israel-tree-border-clash> accessed 25 January 2017.

⁹⁰ Danielle Ziri, ‘Israel: Lebanon violated UNSC resolution calls to disarm Hezbollah more than 2,000 times’ (The Jerusalem Post, 29 February 2016), available <http://www.jpost.com/Israel-News/Politics-And-Diplomacy/Israel-Lebanon-violated-UNSC-resolution-calls-to-disarm-Hezbollah-more-than-2000-times-446399> accessed 25 January 2017.

⁹¹ Shlomo Cesana et al., ‘Israeli envoy to UN: Border with Lebanon is constantly breached’ (Israel Hayom, 28 February 2016), available http://www.israelhayom.com/site/newsletter_article.php?id=32059 accessed 25 January 2017.

⁹² Robert Fisk, ‘The relationship between Israel and Lebanon is deteriorating again – and it’s civilians who will suffer’ (The Independent, 23 June 2016), available <http://www.independent.co.uk/voices/the-relationship-between-israel-and-lebanon-is-deteriorating-again-and-its-civilians-who-will-suffer-a7097191.html> accessed 25 January 2017.

⁹³ Save the Children Sweden: Country Profile of Lebanon, pp. 15-16.

⁹⁴ Jaber Suleiman, ‘Marginalised Community: The Case of Palestinian Refugees in Lebanon’ (Development Research Centre on Migration, Globalisation and Poverty, April 2006), available



During the civil war, PLO militia staged attacks against Israel originating from Lebanese soil. The PLO attacks eventually led to an Israeli ground invasion of Lebanon in 1982. The PLO control over the camps was then dismantled.⁹⁵ In September 1982, following the assassination of President-elect Bashir Gemayel's (14 September 1982), subsequent fierce fighting erupted between his Lebanese Forces (LF)/Phalange Party militia and the PLO, and a number of massacres against the Palestinian population were committed in several refugee camps (Sabra and Shatila remains the most notorious massacre of Palestinians committed by LF militia in Beirut).

At present, Palestinian refugees continue to account for a sizeable portion of Lebanon's population. Indeed, by 2015, nearly 455,000 Palestinian refugees were registered in Lebanon. This population is primarily distributed between the 12 recognised Palestinian refugee camps and 42 gatherings across Lebanon. Palestinians in Lebanon continue to be unable to integrate due to strict laws that impede employment, home-ownership and education.⁹⁶

Syria

While there were no formal diplomatic relations between Lebanon and Syria until 2008,⁹⁷ there has been much interaction between the two countries since both gained independence. Notably, in 1976, Syrian troops were deployed in Lebanon during the Lebanese civil war, where they remained for 29 years until April 2005 in the aftermath of President Hariri's assassination (14 February 2005) and the so-called Cedar Revolution. In 1991, the two countries took a step towards formal diplomatic relations by concluding the 'Treaty of Brotherhood, Cooperation and Coordination'⁹⁸ which endeavoured to achieve cooperation and coordination in various areas of state affairs.

<https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/57a08c4be5274a31e0001112/JaberEdited.pdf> accessed 25 January 2017, pp. 4-6.

⁹⁵ Save the Children Sweden: Country Profile of Lebanon, p. 16.

⁹⁶ Al Jazeera, 'Life in the Shadows: Palestinians in Lebanon' (13 April 2016), available <http://www.aljazeera.com/programmes/aljazeeraworld/2016/04/life-shadows-palestinians-lebanon-160413082953447.html> accessed 25 January 2017.

⁹⁷ Ian Black, 'Syria and Lebanon to Establish Diplomatic Relations' (The Guardian, 14 October 2008), available <http://www.theguardian.com/world/2008/oct/14/syria-lebanon> accessed 25 January 2017.

⁹⁸ Treaty of Brotherhood, 'Cooperation and Coordination between the Syrian Arab Republic and the Lebanese Republic' (Adopted 22 May 1991).



In 2005, the assassination of Prime Minister Hariri gave rise to tensions, with suspicions that Syria had some involvement in the events.⁹⁹ This suspicion remains and Syrian association with the plot has been further brought to light in the trial that is currently taking place at the Special Tribunal for Lebanon, based in The Hague.¹⁰⁰ Recent years have done little to strengthen ties between the two countries, with Hizbollah actively supporting the Assad regime and the violence continuing to spill over into Lebanon.¹⁰¹ At the same time, Lebanon continues to host vast numbers of Syrian refugees under a heavy economic strain.¹⁰²

III. CHILD PROTECTION CONCERNS

1. Recruitment and Use of Children

The use of child soldiers by militia in Lebanon has been documented and reported since the 1975 civil war.¹⁰³ A study commissioned by the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) in 1990 found that an estimated one per cent of Lebanese children had taken part in combat.¹⁰⁴ Prior to 1994, Hizbollah also claimed responsibility for attacks carried out by minors.¹⁰⁵ Boys and girls under the age of 18 were trained in combat by the PLO in Palestinian refugee camps. In 2007, it was identified that some children were receiving military training and some were involved in armed groups such as Hizbollah.¹⁰⁶

The current destabilisation of Lebanese society brought on by the Syrian conflict has reignited concern over the recruitment of children in Lebanon. Today, children as young as 14 are being recruited by local and

⁹⁹ David Commins & David W. Lesch, 'Historical Dictionary of Syria' (3rd ed., Scarecrow Press, 2014), p. 151.

¹⁰⁰ Robert Fisk, 'Rafiq Hariri tribunal: Was the former Lebanon PM's assassination the work of Syria's President Assad?' (The Independent, 13 May 2015), available <http://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/middle-east/rafiq-hariri-tribunal-was-the-former-lebanon-pms-assassination-the-work-of-syrias-president-assad-10245381.html> accessed 25 January 2017.

¹⁰¹ Al-Jazeera, 'How exposed is Lebanon to Syrian War?' (14 November 2015), available <http://www.aljazeera.com/programmes/insidestory/2015/11/exposed-lebanon-syrian-war-151113190838940.html> accessed 25 January 2017.

¹⁰² The World Bank, 'Lebanon: Overview' (1 October 2016), available <http://www.worldbank.org/en/country/lebanon/overview> accessed 25 January 2017.

¹⁰³ Vulnerability of children to involvement in armed conflict, p. 2.

¹⁰⁴ Child Soldiers International, 'Child Soldiers Global Report 2001 – Lebanon' (2001), available <http://www.refworld.org/docid/498805e91c.html> accessed 25 January 2017.

¹⁰⁵ Coalition to Stop the Use of Child Soldiers, 'Child Soldiers: Global Report 2004' (2004), available <https://www.child-soldiers.org/Shop/global-report-2004-1> accessed 25 January 2017, p. 308.

¹⁰⁶ Vulnerability of children to involvement in armed conflict p. 5.



foreign groups, primarily through foreign factions connected to Palestine and Syria.¹⁰⁷ In 2015, the majority of cases verified by the UN were attributed to the Nusra Front.¹⁰⁸ The use and recruitment is, however, not limited to the Nusra Front, with reports of recruitment and use by Hizbollah, Palestinian armed factions, and other groups within Lebanon.¹⁰⁹

In 2016, the Lebanese Government signed a workplan to prevent and respond to the association of children in armed groups. In this respect, it should be noted that Lebanon has not ratified the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict which it signed in 2002.

2. Trafficking and Child Labour

Lebanon is a source, destination and transit country for human trafficking. It is a transit point for Eastern European women and children subjected to sex trafficking in other Middle Eastern countries.¹¹⁰

Syrian refugees in Lebanon are increasingly vulnerable to trafficking due to restrictions on residency and legal work permits.¹¹¹ Child labour is prevalent in Lebanon and has been exacerbated by the recent influx of refugees from Syria.¹¹² There has been a sharp increase in the worst form of child labour among refugee children.¹¹³ Children are often paid very low wages and work for long hours in conditions not suitable for their physical and mental development or skill levels.¹¹⁴ Some have been injured, attacked, and arrested.¹¹⁵ Incidents of Syrian children forced into street begging, and of Syrian girls being forced into prostitution and sex trafficking, have increased, facilitated by male pimps, husbands, and boyfriends, and through child

¹⁰⁷ 2016 SG Children and Armed Conflict Report, paras. 81-82; 2015 SG Children and Armed Conflict Report, para. 112.

¹⁰⁸ 2016 SG Children and Armed Conflict Report, para. 81.

¹⁰⁹ 2016 SG Children and Armed Conflict Report, para. 81.

¹¹⁰ United States Department of State, 'Trafficking in Persons Report 2016' (June 2016) ('2016 TIP Report'), p. 240.

¹¹¹ 2016 TIP Report, p. 241.

¹¹² International Labor Organization, 'Lebanon: Child Labour', available <http://www.ilo.org/beirut/areasofwork/child-labour/lang--en/index.htm> accessed 25 January 2017.

¹¹³ 2017 Human Rights Watch Report, p. 57.

¹¹⁴ Human Rights Watch, "'I just wanted to be treated like a person': How Lebanon's Residency Rules Facilitate Abuse of Syrian Refugees' (12 January 2016), available https://www.hrw.org/sites/default/files/report_pdf/lebanon0116web.pdf accessed 25 January 2017, p. 25.

¹¹⁵ 2017 Human Rights Watch Report, p. 57.



marriage.¹¹⁶ In 2016, a sex trafficking ring in Beirut exploiting primarily Syrian women and girls was uncovered. Most of the women and girls were recruited from Syria under the guise of work but later subjected to commercial sexual exploitation and mental, physical, sexual abuse, and forced abortions.¹¹⁷ The instances of forced begging have also increased among Syrian children, some of whom are forced or coerced to engage in criminal activity. In 2015, a study counted 1,510 children living or working on the streets of Lebanon, most of them begging. 73 per cent of them originated from Syria.¹¹⁸ Lebanese girls are also subjected to sex trafficking but to a much lesser extent.¹¹⁹

It is not only Syrian women and girls who are being recruited by local and foreign traffickers for what are seemingly legitimate employment opportunities in Lebanon but who are subsequently subjected to forced prostitution.¹²⁰ Bangladeshi women, for instance, reportedly arrive in Lebanon through recruitment agencies and are subsequently sold and transported to Syria and subjected to forced labour and sex trafficking.¹²¹ Some women enter Lebanon to work in the adult entertainment industry through Lebanon's so-called *artiste* visa programme, which sustains a significant commercial sex industry and is said to enable sex trafficking.¹²² The majority of women who enter Lebanon through this programme come from Eastern Europe, North Africa, and Dominican Republic. Although some 75 Syrian women were rescued from two brothels by security forces in March 2016,¹²³ the lack of a coordinated government response to sex trafficking continues to put women and girls at risk.¹²⁴ Moreover, women and girls from South and Southeast Asia as well as East and West Africa are particularly vulnerable to domestic servitude.¹²⁵

¹¹⁶ 2017 Human Rights Watch Report, p. 398; 2016 TIP Report, pp. 240-241; United States Department of State, 'Trafficking in Persons Report 2015' (July 2015) ('2015 TIP Report'), p. 218.

¹¹⁷ 2016 TIP Report, p. 241.

¹¹⁸ International Labor Organization, 'Children living and working on the streets in Lebanon: Profile and magnitude' (February 2015), available http://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---arabstates/---ro-beirut/documents/publication/wcms_344799.pdf accessed 25 January 2017, p. 13.

¹¹⁹ 2016 TIP Report, p. 241.

¹²⁰ See, for example, 2016 TIP Report, pp. 110, 240.

¹²¹ 2016 TIP Report, p. 88.

¹²² 2016 TIP Report, p. 240.

¹²³ 2017 Human Rights Watch Report, p. 398.

¹²⁴ 2017 Human Rights Watch Report, p. 398.

¹²⁵ 2016 TIP Report, p. 240.



Some 250,000 migrant domestic workers from Sri Lanka, Ethiopia, the Philippines, Nepal, and Bangladesh are excluded from labour law protections and restrictive immigration rules place them at risk of exploitation and abuse.¹²⁶

While Lebanon has adopted an anti-trafficking law, effective enforcement and support for survivors is needed.¹²⁷ Many judicial officials are reportedly not aware of Lebanon's anti-human trafficking law, nor do they know how to apply it correctly.¹²⁸ Victim protection procedures have also not been properly implemented, leaving victims vulnerable to detention for crimes committed as a direct result of being trafficked.¹²⁹ Child victims have also been deported as a result of being subjected to trafficking.¹³⁰

3. Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV)

Data shows that displaced women and children in Lebanon are at an increased risk of sexual and gender-based violence. For instance, in 2015, 87 per cent of reported incidents took place after arrival in Lebanon.¹³¹ Notably, one in four of SGBV survivors are under the age of 18.¹³² The most common cases involve physical violence, sexual violence and forced marriage. Some factors contributing to the increase in violence among the displaced communities are financial strain, the lack of accommodation and overcrowding, and the shift of gender roles within the family.¹³³ Women, girls and boys seeking refuge in Lebanon are subjected to sexual harassment and violence in unsafe rental arrangements, makeshift shelters, and abandoned buildings.¹³⁴ Child marriage has increased four-fold among out-of-school Syrian refugee girls in Lebanon.¹³⁵ Families reportedly arrange child marriages for adolescent girls as a means of survival or to avoid sexual

¹²⁶ 2017 Human Rights Watch World Report, p. 397.

¹²⁷ Human Rights Watch, 'Lebanon: Syrian Women at Risk of Sex Trafficking' (28 July 2016), available <https://www.hrw.org/news/2016/07/28/lebanon-syrian-women-risk-sex-trafficking> accessed 25 January 2017.

¹²⁸ 2016 TIP Report, p. 241; 2015 TIP Report, p. 219.

¹²⁹ 2016 TIP Report, p. 241; 2015 TIP Report, p. 219.

¹³⁰ 2016 TIP Report, p. 241.

¹³¹ Lebanon Crisis Response Plan, p. 92.

¹³² UNHCR Lebanon, 'Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV) Update' (September 2014), available <http://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/3-SGBVUNHCRMonthlyUpdate-September2014.pdf> accessed 25 January 2017.

¹³³ Lebanon Crisis Response Plan, p. 93.

¹³⁴ UNICEF, 'UNICEF Lebanon: Syria Crisis' (16 May 2014), available https://www.unicef.org/lebanon/Programme_Factsheet.pdf accessed 25 January 2017 ('UNICEF Lebanon Syria Crisis'), p. 1.

¹³⁵ 2017 Human Rights Watch Report, p. 57.



harassment in the community.¹³⁶ What has been called ‘survival sex’ is ‘increasing amongst women and girls from Syria in their desperation to generate an income in Lebanon’.¹³⁷ Social stigma, fear of retaliation and cost are deterrents to reporting and seeking assistance in cases of SGBV.¹³⁸

Boys and men are also exposed to sexual violence. UNICEF, however, reports that ‘no study has been conducted yet to grasp the complexity of this phenomenon’.¹³⁹

Notably, protection measures and court reforms for domestic violence were adopted in 2014 which failed to criminalise marital rape.¹⁴⁰

Persons suspected of same-sex conduct have been arrested in government raids, with a number of victims tortured and subject to anal examinations.¹⁴¹ Syrian LGBTQ refugees are also reportedly forced into prostitution.¹⁴²

4. Education

Education in Lebanon has been impacted by conflict. In 2015, six UN schools were damaged during armed violence and four UN schools were being used by armed elements.¹⁴³ Schools are also being used as shelters, resulting in many thousands of children being denied access to education.¹⁴⁴ For instance, 97 schools were used as shelters in 2014 as a result of violence in Tripoli and surrounding areas, depriving at least 20,000 students of education.¹⁴⁵

Refugee children and adolescents have difficulty accessing education in Lebanon. During the 2015-2016 school year, approximately 250,000 school-age Syrian children were out of school, mainly due to families’ inability to pay for transport, school directors imposing arbitrary enrolment requirements, and lack of

¹³⁶ UNICEF Lebanon Syria Crisis, p. 1

¹³⁷ UNICEF Lebanon Syria Crisis, p. 1.

¹³⁸ Lebanon Crisis Response Plan, p. 93.

¹³⁹ UNICEF, ‘Lebanon – Gender-Based Violence: Main forms of violence’, available https://www.unicef.org/lebanon/emergency_8401.html accessed 25 January 2017.

¹⁴⁰ 2017 Human Rights Watch Report, p. 398.

¹⁴¹ 2017 Human Rights Watch Report, p. 398.

¹⁴² 2016 TIP Report, p. 241.

¹⁴³ 2016 SG Children in Armed Conflict Report, para. 84.

¹⁴⁴ 2015 SG Children and Armed Conflict Report, para. 114.

¹⁴⁵ 2015 SG Children and Armed Conflict Report, para. 114.



language support (the education system in Lebanon is primarily French and English).¹⁴⁶ Secondary-school children face obstacles in accessing education, with only five per cent of Syrians aged 15-18 enrolled in secondary schools in 2016.¹⁴⁷ Refugee students often flee conflict without bringing a 9th grade transcript which is required to enrol in secondary school.

Residency regulations also impact the enrolment of children.¹⁴⁸ Children turning 15, for instance, are required to pay the prohibitive sum of \$200 in order to renew their residency.¹⁴⁹ Many children who have fled violence also do not possess the required passport or identification card. Furthermore, financial strains have reportedly resulted in five to eight per cent of families withdrawing children from school and enlisting them in income-generating activities.¹⁵⁰ While Lebanon adopted a plan to enrol Syrian children in formal education,¹⁵¹ the plan does not cover upper year grades.¹⁵² The European Union (EU) is the largest donor to the Syrian crisis with funding directed at access to education for Syrian refugees in Lebanon.¹⁵³

5. Access to Healthcare

Healthcare facilities have been damaged by crossfire in Lebanon. In 2015, the UN reported damage to two medical facilities as a result of violence which erupted between armed factions in the Ein el-Hillweh refugee camp.¹⁵⁴

Lebanon's health services are 'strained to unparalleled levels' as a result of the Syrian refugee crisis.¹⁵⁵ Syrian children as well as stateless children in Lebanon face numerous challenges in accessing health care.

¹⁴⁶ Nisreen Jaafar and Lisa Abou Khaled, '200,000 Syrian refugee children to get free schooling in Lebanon' (UNHCR, 2 October 2015), available <http://www.unhcr.org/560e96b56.html> accessed 25 January 2017.

¹⁴⁷ 2017 Human Rights Watch Report, p. 51.

¹⁴⁸ Human Rights Watch, "'Growing Up Without an Education': Barriers to Education for Syrian Refugee Children in Lebanon' (July 2016), available <https://www.hrw.org/report/2016/07/19/growing-without-education/barriers-education-syrian-refugee-children-lebanon> accessed 25 January 2017 ('Growing Up Without an Education').

¹⁴⁹ 2017 Human Rights Watch Report, p. 55.

¹⁵⁰ Lebanon Crisis Response Plan, p. 92.

¹⁵¹ Growing Up Without an Education.

¹⁵² 2017 Human Rights Watch Report, p. 55.

¹⁵³ 2017 Human Rights Watch Report, p. 281.

¹⁵⁴ 2016 SG Children and Armed Conflict Report, para. 84.

¹⁵⁵ World Health Organization, 'WHO Donor Snapshot – Lebanon: July – September 2014' (2014), available http://www.who.int/hac/donorinfo/who_donor_snapshot_lebanon_english_oct14.pdf accessed 25 January 2017 ('WHO 2014 Donor Snapshot'), p. 2.



Many Syrian refugee children in Lebanon have missed vital routine vaccinations.¹⁵⁶ Efforts, however, have been made to improve vaccination coverage, including the introduction of compulsory vaccination of all children under five entering Lebanon to address polio in the region.¹⁵⁷ The malnutrition status of Syrian children in refugee camps is considered to be poor, with a Global Acute Malnutrition rate of between five and ten per cent.¹⁵⁸

Further, the mental health of Syrian children in Lebanon, both within and outside the refugee camps, has been impacted, with an unusually high prevalence of PTSD among children in Lebanon.¹⁵⁹ Displaced children reportedly experience symptoms of deep distress and fear, including sleep disturbances, crying and screaming, bed-wetting, nightmares, clinginess and withdrawal.¹⁶⁰

¹⁵⁶ WHO 2014 Donor Snapshot, p. 1.

¹⁵⁷ World Health Organization, 'Lebanon: Maternal and Child health', available <http://www.emro.who.int/lbn/programmes/maternal-and-child-health.html> accessed 25 January 2017.

¹⁵⁸ Devakumar et al, p. 2.

¹⁵⁹ Devakumar et al, p. 2.

¹⁶⁰ Lebanon Crisis Response Plan, p. 63.



ANNEX I: LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

| | |
|--------|---|
| EU | European Union |
| ISIL | Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant |
| LAF | Lebanese Armed Forces |
| PLO | Palestinian Liberation Organisation |
| PTSD | Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder |
| SGBV | Sexual and Gender-Based Violence |
| UN | United Nations |
| UNIFIL | United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon |
| UNICEF | United Nations Children's Fund |
| US | United States |

ANNEX II: KEY FACTS¹⁶¹

Lebanon in a Snapshot

| | |
|---------------------------|---|
| Geography | <p>Climate: Mediterranean: mild to cool, wet winters with hot, dry summers; heavy snow in the mountains during winter.</p> <p>Terrain: narrow coastal plain; El Beqaa (Bekaa Valley) separates Lebanon and Anti-Lebanon Mountains</p> <p>Border countries: Israel, Syria.</p> <p>Coastline: borders Mediterranean Sea</p> |
| People | <p>Population: 6,237,738 (July 2016 est.)</p> <p>Median age: 29.9 (2016 est.)</p> <p>Languages: Arabic (official), French, English, Armenian</p> <p>Ethnic groups: Arab 95%, Armenian 4%, other 1%.</p> <p>Religions: Muslim 54% (27% Sunni, 27% Shia), Christian 40.5% (21% Maronite Catholic, 8%, Greek Orthodox, 5% Greek Catholic, 6.5% other Christian)</p> |
| Economy | <p>Capital: Beirut</p> <p>Major urban areas: Beirut (1,916,100), Ra's Bayrut (1,251,739), Tripoli (229,398), Sidon (163,554), Tyre (135,204), Nabatiye et Tahta (120,000)¹⁶²</p> <p>GDP: \$51.82 billion (2015 est.)</p> <p>GDP per capita: \$18,500 (2016 est.)</p> <p>GDP by sector: Agriculture 5.7%, Industry 25%, Services 69.4% (2016 est.)</p> |
| Children and youth | <p>Population under age of 25: 41.38%</p> <p>Unemployment (ages 15-24): 20.7% (2014 est.)</p> <p>Child labour (ages 5-14): n/a</p> <p>Legal age of conscription: 17 (18 for non-commissioned personnel and officers).</p> |

¹⁶¹ Devakumar et al, p. 2.

¹⁶² World Atlas, 'Lebanon Facts', available <http://www.worldatlas.com/webimage/countrys/asia/lebanon/lbfacts.htm> accessed 25 January 2017.



Relevant UN Security Council Resolutions

Lebanon Specific Resolutions¹⁶³

UNIFIL - Resolutions 2236 (21 August 2015); first established by resolution 426 (19 March 1978). There have been various resolutions in between which all extend, amend or add to UNIFIL's mandate)

STL - Resolutions 1757 (30 May 2007); 1664 (29 March 2006)

UN International Independent Investigation Commission (UNIIC) - Resolutions 1748 (28 March 2007); 1686 (15 June 2006); 1644 (15 December 2005); 1595 (7 April 2005)

Syria/Lebanon Relations - Resolutions 1680 (17 May 2006); 1636 (31 October 2005)

Lebanon (urging withdrawal of foreign forces) - Resolution 1559 (2 September 2004)

Lebanon/Israel Relations - Resolutions 520 (17 September 1982); 509 (6 June 1982); 425 (19 March 1978)

Military Observers in Beirut - Resolution 516 (1 August 1982)

Other Relevant Resolutions

Terrorism - Resolutions 2253 (17 December 2015); 2199 (12 February 2015); 2170, (15 August 2014).

The Middle East - Resolution 2229 (29 June 2015).

Children and Armed Conflict - Resolutions 2225 (18 June 2015); resolutions released periodically, first resolution on this thematic area: 1261 (30 August 1999).

¹⁶³ Only relevant resolutions are noted here. For a full list of resolutions on Lebanon, and links to the text of all resolutions in this section please see: Security Council Report, 'UN Documents for Lebanon: Security Council Resolutions', available http://www.securitycouncilreport.org/un-documents/search.php?ctype=Lebanon&rtype=Security%20Council%20Resolutions&cbtype=lebanon&search=%22Security%20Council%20Resolutions%22%20AND%20%22Lebanon%22&__mode=tag&IncludeBlogs=10&limit=15&page=3 accessed 25 January 2017. See also UNSCOL, 'Security Council Resolutions on Lebanon', available <http://unscol.unmissions.org/Default.aspx?tabid=9481&language=en-US> accessed 25 January 2017.



Lebanese Child Protection Legislation¹⁶⁴

| | |
|-----------------|---|
| National | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Constitution: Chapter II – Rights, generally, but see article 10¹⁶⁵• Labour Code (23 September 1946) arts. 15, 21-25.¹⁶⁶• Law No. 422 (6 June 2002) on the protection of juveniles in conflict with the law or at risk• Law No. 220 (2000) on the rights of persons with disabilities• Law No. 686 (1998) Free and Compulsory education• Decree No. 700 s(25 May 1999) Prohibiting hiring of juveniles under 16, or under 17 in hazardous jobs.• Decree No. 340 The Penal Code (1943)• Law No. 164 Punishment for the Crime of Trafficking in Persons (2011) |
|-----------------|---|

¹⁶⁴ See Child Rights International Network, ‘Lebanon: National Laws’ (19 December 2012), available <https://www.crin.org/en/library/publications/lebanon-national-laws> accessed 25 January 2017.

¹⁶⁵ The Lebanese Constitution promulgated on May 23, 1926 with its amendments from 1955.

¹⁶⁶ Lebanese Code of Labour (23 September 1946).

| | |
|----------------------|--|
| International | <p>Relevant Treaties and Optional Protocols which have been ratified by Lebanon</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Convention on the Rights of the Child (ratified 1991)¹⁶⁷ ▪ Optional Protocol to the CRC on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography (ratified 2004)¹⁶⁸ ▪ Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (acceded 2000)¹⁶⁹ ▪ Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (ratified 2005)¹⁷⁰ ▪ International Labour Organization Convention No. 182 (1999) concerning the Prohibition and Immediate Action for the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour (ratified 2001)¹⁷¹ <p>Relevant Treaties or Optional Protocols which have NOT been Ratified by Lebanon</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (adopted 1998)¹⁷² ▪ 1951 Convention relating to the status of Refugees and the 1967 Protocol¹⁷³ ▪ Second Optional Protocol to the ICCPR aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (1989)¹⁷⁴ ▪ Optional Protocol to the Convention of the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict (adopted 2000)¹⁷⁵ (signed but not ratified) ▪ Optional Protocol to the Convention of the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure (adopted 2012)¹⁷⁶ ▪ International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of all Migrant Workers and Members of their Families (adopted 2003)¹⁷⁷ |
|----------------------|--|

¹⁶⁷ United Nations Office of the High Commissioner, ‘View the ratification status by country or by treaty’, available http://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/TreatyBodyExternal/Treaty.aspx accessed 25 January 2017 (‘View UN ratification status’).

¹⁶⁸ View UN ratification status.

¹⁶⁹ View UN ratification status.

¹⁷⁰ OHCHR, ‘Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime’ (15 November 2000). Ratification Status available <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/ProfessionalInterest/Pages/ProtocolTraffickingInPersons.aspx> accessed 25 January 2017.

¹⁷¹ International Labour Organization, ‘Ratifications of C182 – Worst Forms of Child Labour’, available http://www.ilo.org/dyn/normlex/en/f?p=NORMLEXPUB:11300:0::NO::P11300_INSTRUMENT_ID:312327, accessed 25 January 2017.

¹⁷² Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (adopted 17 July 1998, entered into force 1 July 2002).

¹⁷³ UNCHR, ‘States Parties to the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and the 1961 Protocol’ (April 2015), available <http://www.unhcr.org/3b73b0d63.html> accessed 25 January 2017.



ANNEX III: TIMELINE OF NOTABLE EVENTS¹⁷⁸

1943

November: Lebanon achieves independence.

1944

January: France transfers power; commencement of modern independent state of Lebanon.

1958

May: Assassination of Al Telegraf's editor; riots which turn into civil war.

July - October: Civil war; assistance from US marines, upon request of Camille Chamoun, President of Lebanon.

1975

April: Start of civil war.

1982

June: Israeli invasion of Lebanon in the aftermath of attempted assassination of Israeli ambassador to UK.

1990

October: Formal end of civil war.

¹⁷⁴ Second Optional Protocol to the ICCPR aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (adopted 15 December 1989, entered into force 11 July 1991), see list of country ratifications here: <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/ProfessionalInterest/Pages/2ndOPCCPR.aspx>.

¹⁷⁵ Optional Protocol to the Convention of the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict (adopted 25 May 2000, entry into force 12 February 2002) see list of country ratifications here: <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/ProfessionalInterest/Pages/OPACCRC.aspx>.

¹⁷⁶ Optional Protocol to the Convention of the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure (adopted 19 December 2011, entry into force 14 April 2014).

¹⁷⁷ International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of all Migrant Workers and Members of their Families (adopted 18 December 1990, entry into force 1 July 2003).

¹⁷⁸ BBC, 'Lebanon Profile' (29 April 2015), available <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-middle-east-14649284>, accessed 25 January 2017; United States Army, 'The Lebanon Operation' (15 July - 25 October 1958), available <http://www.history.army.mil/documents/AbnOps/TABD.htm> accessed 25 January 2017; War Museum, 'Beirut 1958', available <http://www.coldwar.org/articles/50s/root58.asp>; Kareem Shaheen, 'Isis claims responsibility as suicide bombers kill dozens in Beirut' (The Guardian, 12 November 2015), available <http://www.theguardian.com/world/2015/nov/12/beirut-bombings-kill-at-least-20-lebanon> accessed 25 January 2017; Colin Freeman, 'Police smash huge Hizbollah cocaine ring "raising funds for war in Syria"' (The Telegraph, 2 February 2016), available <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/middleeast/lebanon/12135925/Police-smash-huge-Hizbollah-cocaine-ring-raising-funds-for-war-in-Syria.html> accessed 25 January 2017; Al-Jazeera, 'Kuwait, Qatar join GCC allies in Lebanon travel warning' (24 February 2016), available <http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2016/02/kuwait-joins-gulf-allies-banning-travel-lebanon-160224161730185.html> accessed 25 January 2017.



1996

April: Operation Grapes of Wrath - Israeli bombing of Hizbollah bases in southern Lebanon. Israeli-Lebanon monitoring group set up.

2000

May: Israeli withdrawal of troops.

2004

September: UN Security Council Resolution, S/RES/1559, demands foreign troops (especially Syrian) leave Lebanon.

2005

February: Assassination of former Prime Minister Rafik Hariri in Beirut. Anti-Syrian movement grows.

September: Four charged over Hariri assassination.

2006

July & August: Israeli attacks; high civilian casualties; 34-day war; UN peacekeeping troops deployed.

2007

May -September: Siege of Palestinian refugee camp.

May: UN Security Council Resolution S/RES/1757 establishes the Special Tribunal for Lebanon.

2008

October: Diplomatic relations established with Syria.

2011

January: Collapse of government following resignation of Hizbollah and allied ministers.

2012

Summer - end of year: Spill-over of Syrian conflict: clashes in Tripoli and Beirut.

October: Car bomb kills Wissam al-Hassan (Lebanon's security chief).

December: Fighting in Tripoli.

2013

March: Rockets fired into Lebanon by Syria in response to militants crossing the border to fight Syria.

June - August: Further clashes and deaths as Hizbollah and Syrian rebels clash.

July: Hizbollah's military wing is listed by the EU as a terrorist organisation.

August: Deadly attacks in mosques in Tripoli.



September: Refugee crisis; at least 700,000 Syrian refugees in Lebanon

November: Suicide bombings at Iranian embassy: 22 killed.

December: Hassan Lakkis (senior Hizbollah figure) shot dead; Mohamad Chatah (former minister) killed by car bomb. Both incidents in the Beirut area.

2014

April: More than one million Syrian refugees in Lebanon.

May: End of President Suleiman's term.

August: Syrian rebels attempt to take over Aarsal. 30 soldiers and police taken captive.

2015

January: In an attempt to curb the flow of Syrian refugees, restrictions on Syrians coming into Lebanon take effect.

January: Israeli airstrikes on Syrian side of Golan. This sparks clashes on the border between Israel and Lebanon.

January: Double suicide bombers kill nine and injure over 30 people at a coffee shop in Tripoli. Nusra Front claims responsibility.

November: Double suicide bombs in Beirut kill 43 and injure 239. ISIL claims responsibility in the media.

2016

February: Hizbollah cocaine ring busted by police in France, allegedly raising money for those fighting in Syria. Saudi prime minister halts aid to Lebanon; several Arab countries issue travel warnings to their citizens, urging them to leave or avoid travel to Lebanon.

June: Suicide bombings allegedly by Syrian nationals rock Al-Qaa.



ANNEX IV: RECOMMENDED READING

Augustus Richard Norton, 'Hezbollah: A Short History' (Princeton University Press, 4 May 2014).

Charmaine Seitz, 'Country Profile of Lebanon, A review of the Implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child' (Save the Children Sweden, August 2011).

Coalition to Stop the Use of Child Soldiers, 'Lebanon: The vulnerability of children to involvement in armed conflict' (October 2007).

Delan Devakumar et al., 'Child Health in Syria: recognising the lasting effects of warfare on health' (3 November 2015).

DLA Piper, 'Access to Justice for Children: Lebanon', (Child Rights International Network, 2014)..

Edgar O'Ballance, 'Civil War in Lebanon 1975-1992', (Palgrave Macmillan, 1998).

Human Rights Watch, "'Growing Up Without an Education": Barriers to Education for Syrian Refugee Children in Lebanon' (July 2016).

Human Rights Watch, "'I Just Wanted to be Treated like a Person": How Lebanon's Residency Rules Facilitate Abuse of Syrian Refugees' (12 January 2016).

Human Rights Watch, "'Maybe We Live and Maybe We Die'", (2014).

Human Rights Watch, 'Why They Died: Civilian Casualties in Lebanon during the 2006 War', (September 2007).

Human Rights Watch, 'World Report 2017: Events of 2016' (2017).

International Crisis Group, 'Lebanon's Hizbollah Turns Eastwards to Syria' (27 May 2014).

International Crisis Group, 'Arsal in the Crosshairs: The Predicament of a Small Lebanese Border Town' (23 February 2016).

International Labor Organization, 'Children living and working on the streets in Lebanon: Profile and magnitude' (February 2015).

John Knudsen, 'Lebanese Armed Forces: A United Army for a Divided Country?' (CMI Insight, November 2014).



Lt.Col Fady Dergham, ‘The Spread Of Isis Into Lebanon: A Strategic Response To Counter The Threat’ (April 2016).

UNICEF, ‘Joint Nutrition Assessment: Syrian Refugees in Lebanon’, (February 2014).

UNHCR Lebanon, ‘Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV) Update’ (September 2014).

United States Department of Labor, ‘2014 Findings on the Worst Forms of Child Labor’ (30 September 2015).

United Nations Human Rights Council, ‘Report of the Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Syrian Arab Republic’, UN Doc. A/HRC/28/69 (5 February 2015).

United Nations Human Rights Council. ‘Report of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on the Human Rights Situation in Iraq in the Light of Abuses Committed by the so-Called Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant and Associated Groups’, UN Doc. A/HRC/28/18 (13 March 2015).

United Nations Security Council. ‘Children and Armed Conflict: report of the Secretary-General’, UN Doc. S/2016/360 (20 April 2016).

United Nations Security Council. ‘Children and Armed Conflict: report of the Secretary-General’, UN Doc. S/2015/409 (5 June 2015).

United Nations Security Council, ‘Children and Armed Conflict: report of the Secretary-General’, UN Doc. S/2014/339 (15 May 2014).

United States Department of State, ‘Trafficking in Persons Report 2016’ (June 2016).

United States Department of State, ‘Trafficking in Persons Report 2015’ (July 2015).

UNOCHA, Government of Lebanon, UNHCR. ‘Lebanon Crisis Response Plan 2015-2016: Year Two’ (12 January 2016).