



Lebanon

Country Fact Sheet 2024

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Table of contents

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For further information on voluntary return and reintegration, please visit the information portal www.ReturningfromGermany.de, or contact your local return and reintegration office.

© IOM July 2024 - Please note that information provided herein may be outdated due to dynamic developments in the country.

- 1. Health Care _____
- 2. Labour Market _____
- 3. Housing _____
- 4. Social Welfare _____
- 5. Education _____
- 6. Children _____
- 7. Contacts _____
- 8. At a Glance _____

1 Health Care

General information on health care

Primary health care services, under the supervision of the Ministry of Public Health or Ministry of Social Affairs, are available to all residents in Lebanon. Primary Health Care centres (PHCs) can be found throughout the country. Services include immunization, maternal and child health care, essential medication, treatment for (non-) communicable diseases, nutrition, etc. The crisis has had a particularly detrimental affect on the healthcare system. Many healthcare professionals, both doctors and nurses, left the country for better opportunities abroad, medications are in short supply, and shortages in electricity impact the provision of care. The COVID-19 pandemic further crippled the sector.

Health insurance

Various private insurance companies are available with varying ranges of coverage. In addition, Lebanon has a National Social Security Fund (NSSF), which is restricted to Lebanese nationals employees of the private sector and their dependents.

Requirements for registration vary according to each provider:

- For private insurance, returnees should directly approach the service provider.
- For the NSSF, the employer will register its employees, and they can register after leaving work within three months. This service called optional social security.

Reimbursement of costs

- Persons registered with the NSSF should pay for medication and will receive a refund (up to 70%) from the NSSF depending on the medication.
- In case of emergency admission, the hospital will handle the administrative process for approval.
- Scheduled hospitalizations require prior approval and are dependent on the hospital's agreements with the Ministry of Public Health.
- Hospitalization (in public hospitals) is free of charge for Lebanese nationals aged 65 and up.

Documents needed for family registration:

Valid ID or passport for each family member; proof of family registry; medical certificate for all family members.

Optional social security:

- Eligibility and requirements - Its eligible for Lebanese employee that left their work during the first three months.
- Cost - 3,240,000 LBP (36 USD) per month
- Required documents - ID, Family registry record, residency certificate, NSSF employment certificate
- Conditions - Same services of the NSSF in hospitals and medications except that do not have pension and family compensation

Medical facilities and doctors

Medical facilities, including PHCs, are available throughout Lebanon and include both private and public hospitals. A (non-exhaustive) list of facilities can be

1 Health Care

found on p. 9. Further information can also be found on the official website of the Ministry of Public Health: www.moph.gov.lb

Admission to medical facilities

Depending on the condition and the medical status of the patient, the following should be presented:

- Doctor's referral note
- Insurance or NSSF card (if available)

Availability and costs of medication

The availability of medication and medical supplies has considerably improved due to the fact that prices have been dollarized after it worsened, due to import difficulties as a result of the currency devaluation. Some patients are forced to stop life-saving treatment. Subsidies on medications have been lifted, leading to soaring prices. The costs of medication are fixed by the Ministry of Public Health which introduced lately a mobile application that aims to link the ministry with the civil society and the patients. It can be downloaded from the following links:

Android: <https://bit.ly/3du0A4c>

iOS: <https://apple.co/3dtUa4X>

Access for returnees

Eligibility and requirements: Everyone can access private insurance. Fees depend on a person's health status and the chosen scheme. The National Social Security Fund is restricted to employees of Lebanese nationality. The Primary Health Care centres under the Ministry of Public Health are accessible to all Lebanese not covered by any scheme. Upon registration with the insurance company and the National Social Security Fund, the returnee will receive a card that will allow them to obtain the benefits of these schemes. Palestinian Refugees in Lebanon (PRL) are not eligible for the National Social Security Fund but can access private insurance. UNRWA has 27 health care centres across the country. The agency covers the costs of primary health care services for all PRL and Palestinian Refugees from Syria and supports other levels of health care.

Registration procedure: Private insurance companies have their nation-wide network of offices. Registration requirements vary between companies and can be found on their respective websites. Most companies will require a medical form to be filled by a physician and in some cases will require additional investigations (depending on the current medical condition at the time of registration).

Required documents: Valid national ID or passport and medical certificate.

2 Labour Market

General information on the labour market

The Lebanese population is estimated at 5.9 million people and has a highly skilled labour force. While job creation levels were already low, unemployment rates have soared in recent years as a result of a prolonged financial-economic crisis that has affected all sectors of the economy and all areas of the country. Unemployment is particularly high among young people with youth unemployment rates currently estimated to reach almost 50%, while a third of the total labour force is currently unemployed, according to the International Labour Organization. The labour market is characterized by a large informal sector that engages many workers. Around 15% of the economically active population is employed in the public sector while the remaining are active in the private sector or are self-employed. The public sector has crippled and many employees are receiving only part of their salaries and the salaries they do earn have lost 90% of value. The minimum wage in Lebanon used to be around LBP 675,000 per month, equaling USD 450, Lebanese Labour Ministry issued a ministerial decree to increase the minimum wages to 18,000,000 LBP Due to currency devaluation, these wages are now worth USD 200.

Finding employment

Jobs are in short supply, especially skilled jobs. As a result, job seekers often apply for jobs they are over-qualified for. Lebanon does not have a developed sector of job placement agencies and only few vacancies are advertised.

Jobs adverts can be found on websites or

apps, as well as in newspapers, including the following:

- www.daleelmadani.org
- <http://lb.waseet.net>
- www.alwaseet.com
- <https://olxliban.com>
- www.bayt.com
- www.jobs.com.lb

Unemployment assistance

The National Employment Office (NEO), which falls under the Ministry of Labour, offers guidance and training to job seekers, undertakes vocational training orientation, seeks to find job opportunities and aims to build the capacity of people with disabilities in order to increase their employability. However, as with other government sectors, it may not currently be able to provide the needed services.

Further education and training

Public as well as private schools are available all over Lebanon, as well as language training centres. The best way to obtain information on registration and fees is to contact the schools and training centers directly.

Vocational Training Centres

There are several vocational training centres in Lebanon, including through private institutions such as Dar Al Aytam or the Makzhoumi Foundation (see section 7 for contact information), and through the NEO. The Makhzoumi foundation also provides micro-credit loans for small business start-ups.

2 Labour Market

Access for returnees

Eligibility and requirements: The Employment Bureau of the National Employment Office aims to match job seekers and employers. It is open to any Lebanese citizen.

Registration procedure: Applicants need to approach the Employment Bureau in person (see section 7 for contact information) to fill out an application. They will be interviewed by an employment officer and receive a registration card. The Employment Bureau will contact applicants when a job opportunity becomes available that matches their competencies.

Required documents: Copy of ID, passport photo, CV



Photo: Unsplash/ Michael Gadek 2019

3 Housing



General information on housing

An estimated 50% of the Lebanese population live in the greater Beirut area. The port explosions of 4 August 2020, damaged and destroyed parts of the city, leaving thousands of people homeless. Reconstruction efforts are still ongoing but slow. Demand for affordable housing far exceeds supply, leading to people spending a disproportionate percentage of their income on housing, having long commutes, sharing accommodation, and/or living in substandard conditions. Lebanon suffers from electricity shortages, with the national grid providing only 8 hours of electricity a day in certain areas. Consequently, people and businesses rely on private generators for electricity, adding significantly to monthly costs, especially with rising

global fuel prices. And green energy solutions have been recently introduced to the market with extremely high demand in all areas of the country, with an average system cost per apartment around 4,500 USD. The country also faces chronic water shortages, made worse by electricity shortages, which are expected to increase further in the future due to growing demand and increasing droughts.

Housing facilities for returnees / social housing

Lebanon does not have a social housing system. Temporary shelters are not commonly available to returnees. Short-term accommodation can be found through various websites or local adverts.

3 Housing

Finding accommodation

There is no public assistance to find accommodation. Flats, houses and apartments are advertised on street billboards, websites, social media (facebook) and newspapers such as:

- www.propertyfinder.com
- www.alwaseet.com
- <https://olxliban.com>

Social grants for housing

Social grants to rent a house are not available.

Buying a house in Lebanon has become unattainable for most people due to the currency devaluation. The Banque de l'habitat, partially state-owned or funded, offers subsidized loans to buyers limited to 50,000 USD with certain conditions. Further information can also be found on their official website at: www.banque-habitat.com.lb. The commercial banks have suspended providing loans in view of the financial crisis. It is not known how long the suspension will continue.

Access for returnees

Temporary housing facilities: Lebanon does not have a social housing system. Temporary shelters are not commonly available to returnees, but may be available to particularly vulnerable individuals, including women at risk of abuse. Such shelters are usually run by NGO's, such as ABAAD, KAFA, or Caritas Lebanon (see contact information under section 7).

Short-term accommodation can be found through various websites or local adverts.

Social housing: Not Available

4 Social Welfare

Social welfare system

Lebanon does not have a comprehensive social welfare system. The National Social Security Fund covers several areas including health care and a pension system but is available only to the private sector, certain types of government employees and the self-employed who subscribe to it.

Various religious and sectarian communities provide a range of social welfare services, incl. poverty relief, food or health services.

The UN, INGOs and NGOs have expanded support to the Lebanese population, while previously mostly assisting the refugee population and host communities.

Access for returnees

Eligibility and requirements: Access to the NSSF is limited to employees whose employers have contributed to the fund or self-employed who have voluntarily contributed. The unemployed cannot enrol. Since many are engaged in the informal sectors of the economy, they are not eligible for the existing schemes. More information on the NSSF can be found at: <https://www.cnss.gov.lb/> Sectarian communities have their own criteria.

Pension system

While a pension system exists in Lebanon for the private sector through professional syndicate pension funds, or through the National Social Security Fund. Civil servants, the armed forces and security services have their own public sector pension schemes. With

the collapse of the banking sector and capital control restrictions, many people do not have access to their pensions and savings.

Costs: Employee contributions differ depending on the scheme. For the public sector and the armed forces it is usually 6% of salary, while the NSSF requires a 8.5% employees' contribution.

Benefits: The NSSF pays a one-off lump sum upon retirement. Other schemes have different instalments.

Access for returnees

Eligibility and requirements: Various pension funds are available depending on the sector one is employed in. Pension schemes are not available to the unemployed, while they are limited to the self-employed based on contributions.

Registration procedure: Registration is done through the employer.

Required documents: Varies from one employer to another.

Vulnerable groups

Palestine Refugees in Lebanon

Palestine Refugees in Lebanon (PRL) can access various services provided by UNRWA, including health care, educational services and social services, as long as they are registered with UNRWA. In addition, Palestine Liberation Organization, supported PRL by providing cash assistance for health issues.

Unaccompanied Minors

For unaccompanied minors returning to

4 Social Welfare

Lebanon, a family tracing and/or assessment should be conducted prior to their return.

Persons with disabilities

The Ministry of Social Affairs (MoSA) provides allowances to people with a disability, provided they meet MoSA's eligibility criteria. Also they have a Aman program for the most Lebanese vulnerable people that provide monthly cash assistance for certain time.

Others

Local NGOs throughout the country provide a range of services, either funded by international NGOs or donors, or the Lebanese government. They can be found in municipality offices throughout Lebanon.



Photo: IOM, 2019

5 Education

General information on education

Education in Lebanon is provided by the public and private sector. Both sectors are administered by the Ministry of Education and Higher Education which has made schooling compulsory for children from the age of 6 to 14 (completion of Middle School). Upon completion of Cycle 3 a Brevet is awarded, needed to enter Secondary School. Upon completion of Secondary School, the Baccalauréat Libanais, or Baccalauréat Technique is awarded, as an entry requirement for higher education. Higher education is provided by technical and vocational institutes, universities and colleges. Most are private except for the Lebanese University.

Educational levels

| | |
|--------------------------|-------|
| Pre-school | 0-3 |
| Kindergarten | 3-6 |
| Primary school cycle 1 | 6-9 |
| Primary school cycle 2 | 9-12 |
| Middle school cycle 3 | 12-15 |
| Secondary school cycle 4 | 15-18 |
| Higher education | 18 > |

Cost, loans, and stipends

Tuition fees for public schools are free for the primary and middle school, and the secondary schools limited to a registration fee of 6,500,000. Tuition fees for private schools vary from LBP 1,500,000 to LBP 15,000,000 in addition to a fee paid is USD ranging between 800 to 3000 USD on yearly basis and are to be covered by parents. Additional fees may include costs of schoolbooks, transportation, uniforms, etc. Some private schools offer financial aid or reduced fees.

Access and requirements to stipends and/or loans for covering tuition

No financial aid is available for tuition fees for public schools. In the case of private schools, applications for financial aid (if available) should be made to the school directly. Like other sectors, the education system is seriously affected by the financial crisis. Teachers are not receiving their full salaries and salaries have plummeted as they are paid in local currency.

Many parents can no longer afford private tuition fees, leading to more children being enrolled in public schools which have a shortage of teachers. Due to the pandemic, schools were closed for a long period of time, disrupting education of many children as remote schooling was complicated by lack of equipment, electricity shortages, internet connectivity disruptions, and other factors.

Approval and verification of foreign diplomas

Diplomas obtained abroad should be verified by the Equivalence Committee of the Lebanese Ministry of Education and Higher Education. It is recommended to have diplomas or certificates legalized by

5 Education

Access for returnees

Registration procedure: Returnees of Lebanese nationality can be enrolled in any school in Lebanon, whether public or private. Palestine Refugees in Lebanon cannot access Lebanese public schools but have access to schools run by UNRWA or private education.

Required documents

- Copy of passport and/or valid ID
- Official transcript of grades for the last 3 years, certified by the Lebanese Embassy and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- Signed Certificate of equivalence for the Ministry of Education and Higher Education
- Entrance exam for academic assessment for certain universities
- Vaccination card



6 children

the Embassy prior to return.

General information

Lebanon ratified the Convention on the Rights of the Child in 1991. While it has adopted policies and laws aimed at protecting children, the country faces high levels of poverty and inequality, which have been made worse by the financial and economic crisis. It is estimated that over 50% of Lebanese households now live below the poverty line, leading to many poor families to resort to negative coping mechanisms, including child labour and child marriage. This leaves children vulnerable to abuse and exploitation, especially those living and working on the streets.

Health

The Ministry of Public Health committed to provide free vaccinations in all Primary Health Care centers (PHC) and dispensaries. Nevertheless, occasional outbreaks of vaccine-preventable diseases do occur, including a measles outbreak in 2018-2019. While Lebanon has been free of polio for many years, immunization levels lag behind the regional average. Routine immunization efforts have been increased by the Government with the support of UNICEF, WHO and UNHCR.

As a result of the crisis, malnutrition rates have substantially increased in recent years, as many families are unable to cover basic needs including food.

Schools

Lebanon has both public and private schools, with private ones generally

considered to provide better quality education than public ones. Private schools may set high entry requirements and high tuition fees, which many Lebanese cannot afford. The Ministry of Education and Higher Education (MEHE) aims to ensure that all children in Lebanon have access to quality education. It has also launched a National Child Protection in Schools policy and has taken steps towards inclusive education to integrate children with disabilities into mainstream schools. Many schools have adopted anti-bullying policies and campaigns in recent years.

Social policy and norms

Gender inequality persists in Lebanon, despite achievements, both in public and private life. The law in Lebanon does not grant equal rights to men and women, and women face numerous social and cultural barriers. In many communities, girls are perceived to be inferior to boys.

As Lebanon does not have a civil code on personal status, such matters are administered by the religious communities, most of which recognize a legal age of marriage below 18. However, Lebanon has committed to eliminate child, early and forced marriage by 2030, in line with the Sustainable Development Goals.

The number of Lebanese children engaged in child labour, has increased significantly in recent years, according to data from the Inter-Agency Coordination group in Lebanon, and is more prevalent in rural areas. The Government is working with UN agencies, including UNICEF, to eliminate the worst forms of child labour and has established a National Plan of

6 children

Action.

Non-governmental actors dealing with children's well-being and rights

A large number of (international) organizations is present in Lebanon that are specialized in child protection, children's well-being and related services. UNICEF works together with the Government and other UN agencies to address a wide range of issues and provides direct assistance to the most vulnerable children.

International NGO's further include Save the Children, War Child, Plan International, and many others.

Himaya is a leading organization in Lebanon specialized in child protection and works to prevent violence and all forms of abuse against children. The organization has locations across Lebanon and operates hotlines in all regions (see section 7 for contact information). A wide range of other NGOs and non-profits exist in Lebanon that work with and for children.



Photo: Unsplash 2020/ Saeed Karimi

7 Contacts

IOM, International Organization for Migration
Nicolas Sursok Street, Ramlet Al Bayda Beirut
+961 1 841 701
iombeirut@iom.int
www.iom.int

Vocational training centers,- Micro-credit loans, health services
Mazraa, Zreik street, Beirut
+961 1 660890
info@makhzoumifoundation.org, www.makhzoumi-foundation.org

Ministry of Economy and Trade
Downtown, Beirut
Hotline: 1739
Info@economy.gov.lb
http://www.economy.gov.lb

UNRWA, United Nations Relief and Works Agency
(for Palestine Refugees in Lebanon)
Bir Hassan, Ghobeiry, Beirut
+961 1 840490
www.unrwa.org

National Employment Office
Melhem Khalaf Street
Adlieh, Beirut
01-616335/6
http://www.neo.gov.lb

ICRC, International Committee of the Red Cross
Sadat street, Hamra, Beirut
+961 1 739297
www.icrc.org

Amel Association International
Abu Chakra Street
Mousseitbeh, Beirut
+961 1 317 293
info@amel.org
www.amel.org

National Employment Office
Serail, Tripoli
06-447440

National Employment Office
Serail, Saida
07-727911

Lebanese Red Cross
Spears Street, Kantari, Beirut
01/ 372802- 3- 4- 5
pr.info@redcross.org.lb
www.redcross.org.lb

General Security Directorate Mathaf, Beirut
1717
www.general-security.gov.lb

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Bvd A. Naccache
Achrafieh, Beirut
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info@hdf.usj.edu.lb
www.hdf.usj.edu.lb

Caritas Lebanon
Dr. Youssef Hajjar Street
Sin El Fil, Beirut
+961 1 499767
info@caritas.org.lb
www.caritas.org.lb

Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Immigrants
Achrafieh, Beirut
+961 333100
www.mfa.gov.lb

Ministry of Public Health
Bir Hassan, Jnah, Beirut
1214 (24/7)
info@moph.gov.lb
www.moph.gov.lb

American University of Beirut
Cairo Street
Hamra, Beirut
+961 1 374374
aubmc@aub.edu.lb
www.aubmc.org

7 Contacts

Clemenceau Medical Center
Clemenceau Street
Hamra, Beirut
+961-1-372888, hotline: 1240
info@cmc.com.lb
www.cmc.com.lb

Dar Al Aytam Al Islamiya
Tariq Jdideh, Beirut
+961 1 654654
marafel@daralaytam.org
www.daralaytam.org

Ministry of Public Health
Bir Hassan, Jnah, Beirut
1214 (24/7)
info@moph.gov.lb
www.moph.gov.lb

National Social Security Fund
Corniche Al Masraa, Beirut
+961 705013
info@cnss.gov.lb
www.cnss.gov.lb

Al-Rassoul Al-Aazam Hospital
Medical facility
Airport Road,
Bourj Al Barajneh, Beirut
01-456456 / 01-452700
info@alrassoul.org
www.alrassoul.org

Ain Wazein Hospital
Medical facility
Aley, Ain Wazein, Chouf, Mt. Lebanon
05-509001-4
AWH@awh.org.lb
www.awh.org.lb

Tatari Hospital
Medical facility
Beshara Al Khoury Street
Baalbeck, Bekaa
08-370799 / 08-371903 / 03-833846

ABAAD
51 Bustani street, Furn Chebbak, Beirut
+961 1 283 820
Safe line: +961 81 78 81 78
Emergencyline: +961 76060602
abaad@abaadmena.org
www.abaadmena.org

Hospital Libanais Geitaoui
Medical facility
Achrafieh, Beirut
+961-1-590000
info@hopital-libanais.com
http://www.hopital-libanais.com/

KAFA
Womens rights and protection
43 Badaro Street, Beydoun bldg
+961-1-392220
24/7 Helpline: 03 018 019
kafa@kafa.org.lb
www.kafa.org.lb

Mission De Vie
Enhancing lives and assisting the elderly, women, and underprivileged youth populations
Antelias, +961 4 412 842 // +961 4 408 088
secretariatgeneral@mission-devie.org

Islamic Hospital
Medical facility
Azmy Street, Tripoli
06-210186 / 06 205 875
info@islamichospital.org
www.islamichospital.org

HELEM
Protection for LGBTIQ
Beirut
Tel.: +961 71 916147
Email: support@helem.net
Internet: www.helem.net

Himaya
Child protection
St. Rita Building, street 58, Fanar
+961-1 395 315
03 414 964
info@himaya.org
www.himaya.org

Maryam and Martha Community
Support for women facing violence or loneliness
Beirut
+961 9 236 962 // +961 9 236 961,
cmm@maryamandmartha.org
www.maryamandmartha.org

7 Contacts

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07-721687, info@hammond-
hospital.com
www.hammondhospital.com

Jabal Amel Hospital
Jal al Baher, Tyre
07-740343 / 07-740198 /
03-280580

**RDFL, Lebanese Democratic
Women's Gathering**
Rayes and Hammond Bldg,
Nahas Street, Zokak el
Blat- Batrakieh, Beirut, +961-1-
370120 / +961 1-370189
beirut@rdflwomen.org, www.
rdflwomen.org

Rayak Hospital
Rayak, Bekaa
08-901300/1/2/3/4/5
administration@rayakhospi-
tal.com
www.rayakhospital.com

8 At a glance

Measures to be undertaken before return

- **Travel Document:** Make sure your TD is valid, if not contact the nearest Lebanese Embassy for advice.
- **Family & Friends:** Make sure you inform your family and/or friends in Lebanon about your return as they will be your most important guide on the current situation. If not possible seek advice from IOM.
- **Legal:** If you fear of any legal issues upon returning to Lebanon, please inform the respective counselling person prior to your return.
- **Birth certificates:** For children born abroad: obtain certified birth certificates, legalized by the Lebanese Embassy.
- **Education:** have diplomas translated into English, certified by relevant authorities and legalized by the Lebanese Embassy.
- **Health:** obtain medical reports from physicians, translated into English if possible.
- **Transportation:** Plan for onward transportation from Beirut airport to your final destination in Lebanon.
- **Accommodation:** Plan for (temporary) accommodation.

Measures to be undertaken immediately upon arrival

- **Register:** Make sure to register with relevant authorities
- **Reintegration:** If you are eligible of any sort of reintegration assistance, you should contact IOM Lebanon the soonest after your arrival. You will be given an appointment and you will receive detailed counseling.
- **Schools:** Enroll your children in schools as soon as possible (if applicable)