

## LEBANON

### 13 country risk(s) have been identified

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- **LABOUR RIGHTS (6)**

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#### **FREEDOM OF ASSOCIATION (2 RISKS)**

Lebanon scores a 4 on the ITUC Global Rights Index (scale 1-5) for freedom of association and workers' rights, which stands for systematic violations of labour rights. The government and/or companies are engaged in serious efforts to crush the collective voice of workers putting fundamental rights under continuous threat.

**Sources:** [ITUC-CSI, ITUC Global Rights Index, 2019](#)

The government has often interfered in trade union affairs, instigating or aggravating conflicts within the trade union movement. Senior politicians have managed to have their nominees placed on the governing body of the Lebanese General Workers Union (CGTL), causing friction within the union when it opposes government policy.

There are approximately 400,000 Palestinian refugees in Lebanon, which accounts for 11% of the Lebanese population. Palestinians are not allowed to form trade unions, as there has to be a reciprocal arrangement with their home state. Previously Palestinian refugees had been severely restricted in the type of work they could obtain, but with the passing of a new law Palestinian refugees were guaranteed the same rights at work as other foreigners.

**Sources:** [ITUC-CSI, Survey of violations of trade union rights - in practice 2012-2015, 2015](#)

#### **DISCRIMINATION & GENDER (2 RISKS)**

Women are discriminated against in law and practice and were inadequately protected against sexual and other violence. Read more about this in the reports of [Amnesty International](#) and [Human Rights Watch](#).

**Sources:** [Amnesty International, Report 2017/2018 - The state of the World's Human Rights, 2018](#), [Human Rights Watch, World Report 2020 - Events of 2019, 2020](#)

This country is one of the 15 lowest scoring countries (out of in total 153) in the field of economic participation and opportunity for women in the Global

Gender Gap Index 2019. Apart from indicators in the field of economic participation and opportunity for women, the Global Gender Gap Index also includes indicators comparing women's health to men's health, access to education and political empowerment.

**Sources:** [World Economic Forum, Global Gender Gap Report, 2020](#)

### **FORCED LABOUR & HUMAN TRAFFICKING (1 RISK)**

Migrant workers in Lebanon face exploitation and abuse. Read more about this in the report of [Human Rights Watch](#).

**Sources:** [Human Rights Watch, World Report 2020 - Events of 2019, 2020](#)

### **CHILD LABOUR (1 RISK)**

Thousands of Syrian children who fled to Lebanon, Jordan, Iraq and Turkey due to the war, are working. They often work in agriculture, the construction sector or in small shops. Almost 60% of the children interviewed by Terre des Hommes indicated that they work more than 7 hours per day, and a third of the children works 7 days per week.

In this way, they try to provide for their families, or are themselves breadwinners. Many are exposed to pesticides, toxic chemicals, heavy loads and exhausting hours.

**Sources:** [The Guardian, Adults before their time, Syria's refugee children toil in the fields of Lebanon, 2015](#), [Terre des Hommes, Because we struggle to survive. Child labour among refugees of the Syrian conflict, 2016](#), [US Department of Labor, 2018 Findings on the Worst Forms of Child Labor, 2019](#), [US Department of State, Trafficking in Persons Report, 2019](#)

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## **• HUMAN RIGHTS & ETHICS (5)**

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### **GOVERNMENT INFLUENCE (3 RISKS)**

This country is marked as a "high risk" country for political risks on the Aon political risk map. This is level 5 on a 1-to-6 scale. Please visit the [website](#) for more detailed information about this country.

**Sources:** [Aon, Political Risk Map, 2020](#)

Lebanon is considered to be "partly free" according to the Freedom House Country List. This means that there is an oppressive regime, with regard to civil liberties.

**Sources:** [Freedom House, Freedom in the World, 2020](#)

Lebanon is ranked 96<sup>th</sup> out of 128 countries in the Rule of Law Index with a score of 0.45 on a scale from 0 (worst possible score) and 1 (best possible score). This means that this country performs poorly in the areas of corruption, openness of government and enforcement of regulations around rights, order, security, civil and criminal law.

**Sources:** [World Justice Project, Rule of Law Index, 2020](#)

## **CONFLICTS & SECURITY (2 RISKS)**

The security situation in Lebanon has deteriorated. There have been battles between Hizbollah and Israel on the Israel-Lebanon border. The tension has increased in Tripoli due to suicide attacks by Al-Qaeda. The army has raided the Roumieh prison. This allowed prisoners, accomplice to the suicide bombing of the suicide attack, communicate with the outside world, because of the chaos.

Clashes with militants in the eastern border of Lebanon, near the village of Ras Baalbek, resulting in deaths and injuries.

**Sources:** [CrisisWatch Database - International Crisis Group, 2015](#)

This country is marked as a “very high” risk country for terrorism attacks on the Aon terrorism risk map. This is level 5 on a 1 to 5 scale.

**Sources:** [Aon, Terrorism risk map, 2020](#)

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## **• FAIR BUSINESS PRACTICES (1)**

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### **CORRUPTION (1 RISK)**

According to the Corruption Perceptions Index, the corruption score of Lebanon is 28, on a scale of 0 (highly corrupt) to 100 (very clean). This means that the risk of corruption in Lebanon is very high.

**Sources:** [Transparency International, Corruption Perceptions Index 2019, 2020](#)

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## **• ENVIRONMENT (1)**

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### **WATER USE & WATER AVAILABILITY (1 RISK)**

Lebanon faces significant freshwater scarcity during a large part of the year.

According to the World Resources Institute, Lebanon suffers from a very high water stress. The water stress score is 4.8 on a scale of 0 (low risk) to 5 (extremely high risk). This means that more than 80% of the total renewable water supply is consumed. Both the agricultural (score 4.8) and the industrial (score 4.8) sector are major contributors in this matter.

**Sources:** [Science Advances, Four billion people facing severe water scarcity, 2016](#), [World Resources Institute, Aqueduct Country Rankings, 2019](#)

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