LEBANON
Southern Neighbourhood

Key milestones

APRIL 2006
The EU-Lebanon Association Agreement entered into force

NOVEMBER 2016
Adoption of the EU-Lebanon Partnership Priorities for 2016-2020 and Compact to address the consequences of the Syrian crisis

DECEMBER 2020
Adoption of the Reform, Recovery and Reconstruction Framework (3RF) together with UN and World Bank

MAY 2024
Adoption of €1 billion EU funding until 2027

EU-Lebanon Partnership priorities*
- Security and Counter-terrorism
- Governance and Rule of Law
- Migration and Mobility
- Fostering Growth and Job opportunities

Trade & investment
The EU is Lebanon's first trading partner, accounting for 28.4% of its total trade in goods in 2022, 32% of its imports and 12.4% of its export. In 2023, EU-Lebanon two-way trade in goods amounted to €6.1 billion

Mobility
Around 4,198 Lebanese students, professors and university staff travelled to Europe and 2,185 European counterparts travelled to Lebanon between 2015 and 2023

EU funding
The Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument (NDICI) is the main instrument for the EU's cooperation and development with Lebanon for the period 2021-2027. From 2021 to 2025, overall assistance to the country amounts to €1.1 billion:
- The EU bilateral allocation amounted to €293 million in support of good governance and reforms, inclusive and resilient economy, and green and sustainable recovery.
- In response to the Syrian crisis, EU support to Lebanon amounted to €752.5 million it aims to ensure access to basic services: education, health, water and sanitation and social protection benefiting all vulnerable populations in Lebanon.
- Due to the impact of Russia's war against Ukraine, the EU allocated €25 million to Lebanon in 2022 via the EU Food and Resilience Facility to reduce socio-economic insecurity of the most vulnerable segment of the population.
- Lebanon benefits from support through the European Peace Facility (€6 million in 2023).
- Lebanon also benefits from other EU thematic programmes and instruments, such as the Human Rights and Democracy instrument, with €6.95 million and the Support to Civil Society and Local Authorities programme, with €2 million for the period 2021-2024.
- Regarding Palestine refugees, the EU contributes to the central budget of the UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) and support projects in Lebanon.

EU response to challenges & crises
- Since 2011, EU support to Lebanon amounts to more than €3.5 billion.
- After the 4 August 2020 Beirut Port Blast, the EU has developed with the UN and World Bank the Reform, Recovery and Reconstruction Framework (3RF) that bridges the immediate humanitarian assistance with medium-term recovery and reconstruction and is contributing to its implementation.
- Lebanon is the neighbouring country most affected by the Israel-Hamas war. In the southern part of the country 98,750 people are displaced and face economic losses and damage of infrastructure and environment. In this context, the EU is adapting its ongoing support and ensures, for instance, the continuity of health services for the populations affected.

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*in force until new Partnership Priorities are adopted

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