



Lebanon Recovery Fund

2025 Annual Progress Report

May 2026

Contributing Partners



Participating UN Organizations



Abbreviations and Acronyms

3RF - Lebanon Reform, Recovery, and Reconstruction Framework
CAS - Central Administration of Statistics
CF - Cooperation Framework
CPD - Consumer Protection Directorate
CSP - Coordinated UN Support to Parliament
DIRC - Data Interpretation and Report Compilation
DG - Director General
FAO - Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FST - Food System Transformation
IDRAC - Institute for Development, Research, Advocacy and Applied Care
ILO - International Labour Organization
IMF - International Monetary Fund
IT - Information Technology
LRF - Lebanon Recovery Fund
LRP - Lebanon Response Plan
MEHE - Ministry of Education and Higher Education
MICS - Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey
MoEW - Ministry of Energy and Water
MoET - Ministry of Economy & Trade
MoI - Ministry of Interior and Municipalities
MoPH - Ministry of Public Health
MoSA - Ministry of Social Affairs
MSME - Micro-, Small and Medium-sized Enterprise
MPTF Office - Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office (Administrative Agent of the LRF)
NSSF - National Social Security Fund
PSEA - Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse
PUNO - Participating UN Organization
RC - Resident Coordinator
SC - Steering Committee
SDG - Sustainable Development Goal
UN - United Nations
UNCT - United Nations Country Team
UNDP - United Nations Development Programme
UNEP - United Nations Environment

Programme
UNESCO - United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNFPA - United Nations Population Fund
UNHCR - United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNIDO - United Nations Industrial Development Organization
UNICEF - United Nations Children's Fund
UNRCO - United Nations Resident Coordinator's Office
UNSDCF - United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework
UNW - UN Women
WEP - Women's Empowerment Principle
WHO - World Health Organization

Contents

- Country Context 4
- 2025 Results 5
- Looking Ahead 6

Country Context

Lebanon entered 2025 caught in a web of compounding crises: the aftermath of the late-2024 military escalation, severe socioeconomic collapse, and a rapidly shifting regional landscape. Together, these forces created a highly volatile environment for the recovery process.

While the November 27, 2024 ceasefire reduced overall combat intensity, peace remained deeply precarious throughout 2025. With continued Israeli military operations north and south of the Litani River, these persistent ceasefire breaches triggered a domino effect halting reconstruction, delaying the safe return of displaced people, and stalling broader recovery programmes. Already vulnerable groups, including women, children, older persons, and migrant domestic workers, bore the brunt of this instability.

Against this unstable backdrop, Lebanon's political trajectory shifted. The election of President Joseph Aoun, followed by the appointment of Prime Minister Nawaf Salam and a new cabinet in early 2025, ended a crippling governance vacuum. The institutional momentum generated by the government's reform agenda remains contingent upon several critical variables, namely the consolidation of security, the cultivation of political consensus, and the timely mobilization of external financing.

The collapse of the Syrian regime in December 2024 sent shockwaves across the border. Lebanon witnessed an inflow of Syrian nationals fleeing seeking safety, stretching already exhausted public services like water, healthcare, and education to their limits. Conversely, a massive reverse migration occurred simultaneously with UNHCR deactivating files of registered refugees due to confirmed or presumed returns to Syria, alongside facilitated repatriations. While this net outflow slightly eased demographic pressures, the rapid back-and-forth movement strained Lebanon's asylum and tracking infrastructure.

Financially, the late-2024 conflict left behind billions of dollars in losses across agriculture, tourism, and trade. By mid-2025, the country showed fragile signs of stabilizing business activity ticked upward and the World Bank projected modest GDP growth. Beneath these initial indicators of recovery, acute structural constraints continue to weigh heavily on the macroeconomic landscape. Youth unemployment is staggering, small businesses are drowning in debt, and a rise toward informal, unregulated labor risking income safety nets.

Furthermore, a significant portion of the population continues to face acute food insecurity, a challenge exacerbated by declining humanitarian funding. The education sector continues to face compounding long-term development risks, as extensive disruptions from the peak of hostilities leave substantial numbers of children excluded from formal schooling.

In this fragile landscape, fragmented aid will fail. Coordinated, highly targeted recovery financing

across UN agencies, international donors, and national authorities is no longer just operational best practice: it is strategically vital to Lebanon's recovery.

2025 Results

The Lebanon Recovery Fund carried no active projects during 2025. The reporting period (1 January to 31 December 2025) constituted a deliberate phase of strategic repositioning, necessitated by the scale and nature of the 2024 conflict and the consequent need to recalibrate the Fund's programmatic focus toward recovery and reconstruction priorities that had not previously existed at this magnitude. Against this backdrop, the LRF delivered three core results.

1. A Structured Joint Programme Pipeline

The Fund completed the development of a pipeline of 12 joint programmes, designed to address the most critical recovery and development deficits resulting from the 2024 escalation. The pipeline covers an interconnected set of thematic areas including economic recovery, private sector development, job creation, construction sector recovery, water and wastewater, social protection, and health, reflecting the multidimensional nature of Lebanon's post-conflict needs and the comparative advantage of the UN system in delivering coherent, cross-sectoral programming.

The joint programme modality was prioritized throughout, consistent with the LRF's foundational architecture and UNSDG guidance on a new generation of joint programmes. By consolidating the comparative advantages of multiple UN organizations around shared objectives, the pipeline is designed to move beyond fragmented, agency-by-agency implementation and deliver catalytic results at the intersection of recovery, stabilization, and early development.

2. Early Resource Mobilization Engagement

The Fund initiated early engagement with donor partners on the emerging portfolio. Initial discussions were held with key bilateral and multilateral partners to present the pipeline, map areas of priority interest, and explore financing modalities in support of a coherent, nationally-owned recovery process. These engagements were conducted in line with the LRF's governance framework, positioning donors as partners from the earliest stage of programme design rather than financiers at the point of implementation.

3. Reinforced Government Ownership and Cooperation Framework Alignment

Each programme in the pipeline was developed with government ownership and Cooperation Framework alignment as non-negotiable design parameters, ensuring that the Fund's emerging portfolio is anchored in national priorities and positioned to complement the broader UN offer on recovery and development.

Looking Ahead

Resource mobilization efforts are ongoing, and structured follow-up with partners will continue into 2026 with the objective of formalizing contribution commitments, aligning donor priorities with the Fund's strategic thematic windows, and ensuring that programming decisions reflect a genuine three-way partnership between the Government of Lebanon, the UN, and contributing donors. The intent is that by the time programmes move into full design and eventual approval by the LRF Steering Committee, the partnership architecture is already established, with needs identified jointly, solutions explored collectively, and national ownership embedded from inception.

The trajectory set in 2025 positions the LRF to emerge in 2026 as an active, well-capitalized instrument for recovery, provided the political and security environment allows for the conditions necessary to advance programming and the national recovery plan is in place to guide UN support and partners' contributions. As a fund administered by the Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office, the LRF benefits from independent, transparent, and accountable fund management that meets the highest fiduciary standards, providing donors with the assurance necessary to commit resources at scale and reinforcing the Fund's credibility as a serious recovery financing instrument. The Fund's pipeline represents a significant opportunity to demonstrate the value of pooled, coherent UN financing in a post-conflict context, strengthening Lebanon's recovery architecture by connecting UN programming with government priorities and donor resources in a way that reduces fragmentation and maximizes impact.

The priority for 2026 will be to convert the pipeline from concept to commitment: completing programme designs, securing donor contributions, establishing the Steering Committee's active oversight role, and launching initial programmes in areas where conditions allow for implementation.

The LRF aims to continue grounding programming in genuine recovery needs, building the partnership architecture early, and insisting on national ownership as a design principle, to deliver recovery results that are smarter, better coordinated, and more sustainable.