

# Lebanon

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During escalations in hostilities in 2024 and 2025, as many as 150 attacks on schools and universities were recorded, as well as the military use of schools by armed groups and foreign military.

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## Context

The Lebanon - Israel conflict escalated in September 2024 until a conditional and temporary ceasefire agreement was reached on November 27, 2024, although attacks continued after the ceasefire.<sup>1</sup> The conflict was the deadliest period in Lebanon since 2006, with over 4,000 people reported killed, including more than 310 children, according to the UN.<sup>2</sup> More than 1,500 children were injured.<sup>3</sup> Human Rights Watch documented violations of the laws of war and war crimes committed by the Israeli military in 2024.<sup>4</sup> The UN verified 669 grave violations against 628 children in 2024, a 545 percent increase compared to 2023, which was the sharpest increase globally.<sup>5</sup> More than 14,000 airstrikes and shelling incidents were reported in Lebanon during the conflict, with extensive damage to civilian infrastructure and disruption of public services.<sup>6</sup> Numerous ceasefire violations were reported between the ceasefire in 2024 and the end of 2025, according to the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, with Israeli attacks killing at least 100 civilians.<sup>7</sup>

As of December 2024, the UN estimated that 3.7 million people were in need of humanitarian assistance, including 1.3 million children.<sup>8</sup> According to the UN, significant security and sustainability challenges persisted, with lack of ability to meet basic needs such as food and water, the risks of unexploded ordinances, and restricted access to the southernmost parts of the country imposed by the Israeli armed forces.<sup>9</sup> In January 2025, nearly one third of children in Lebanon faced crisis levels of hunger.<sup>10</sup>

As of December 2024, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) reported approximately 178,817 people internally displaced due to the conflict.<sup>11</sup> While many displaced people returned home after the ceasefire agreement, as of October 2025, more than 64,000 people remained displaced, according to IOM.<sup>12</sup> As of 2024, Lebanon hosted approximately 1.5 million Syrian refugees, 50 percent of them children, according to UNHCR.<sup>13</sup> Following a change in government in Syria on December 8, 2024, 437,586 Syrians had crossed back into Syria from or via Lebanon by late 2025, while 112,089 Syrians had arrived in Lebanon.<sup>14</sup>

The education sector faced consistent disruptions during the reporting period. Almost all schools closed during the escalation, impacting up to 1.5 million children who lost approximately 40 days of school.<sup>15</sup> Seventy-seven percent of public schools became nonfunc-

tional, some due to their location within conflict zones, and approximately 679 educational facilities because they were used as shelters.<sup>16</sup> The start of the 2024-2025 school year was delayed by several weeks, disrupting education for more than one million students. Classes in public schools resumed on November 4, 2024 for the morning shift serving mainly Lebanese children, but were subject to frequent operational interruptions due to the hostilities. The start of the afternoon shift, mainly serving refugee children, was further delayed until January 7, 2025. During this period, 352 schools offered entirely online learning and 534 offered in-person classes.<sup>17</sup>

Lebanon was not profiled in *Education under Attack 2024* so no comparison can be made with the previous reporting period.

## Attacks on schools

GCPEA identified at least 149 attacks on schools during the reporting period.

During the conflict in 2024, the UN attributed one attack on a school to the Israeli forces.<sup>18</sup> By the end of January 2025, 140 schools, including Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) centers, had been either completely destroyed or sustained significant damage in heavily bombarded areas, with 60 schools destroyed altogether, as reported by the Government of Lebanon.<sup>19</sup> Separately, GCPEA identified eight reports of attacks on schools, most of which specified the use of explosive weapons.<sup>20</sup> For example:

- On January 22, 2024, airstrikes damaged a public school in Marjayoun, Nabatieh governorate, as reported by the UN.<sup>21</sup>
- On May 23, 2024, in Nabatieh governorate, several students from the Lycee de Shoukine public school were injured, and some hospitalized, when the vehicle carrying them to school suffered the impact of an airstrike, as reported by local media *L'Orient Today*.<sup>22</sup>
- As reported by the UN on September 25, 2024, two UNRWA schools sustained damages as a result of nearby airstrikes: one in Beqaa governorate and one in South governorate.<sup>23</sup>
- On October 9, 2024, a nearby airstrike heavily damaged an educational center in Kfar Joz, Nabatieh governorate, as reported by the UN. The attack forced the center to close and interrupted access to education and psychological support for over 400 children.<sup>24</sup>

GCPEA identified at least nine attacks on schools in 2025.<sup>25</sup> For example:

- On February 17, 2025, a drone allegedly dropped bombs near a local school in Kfar Chouba town, Nabatieh governorate, during a ceasefire, as reported by ACLED and local media.<sup>26</sup>
- On March 28, 2025, near Khiyam town, Nabatieh governorate, artillery fire allegedly caused a fire at a public school, as reported by ACLED and local media.<sup>27</sup>

- On June 5, 2025, in a southern suburb of Beirut, airstrikes allegedly caused significant damage to a school for students with disabilities, causing significant damage, as reported by the UN.<sup>28</sup>
- On September 11, 2025, near Aita al-Shaab town, Nabatieh governorate, a school for students with special needs was allegedly demolished, as reported by ACLED and local media.<sup>29</sup>

## Military use of schools and universities

GCPEA identified at least nine cases of military use during the reporting period.

GCPEA identified at least nine cases of military use in 2024.<sup>30</sup> Related to incidents of military use detailed below, Human Rights Watch found evidence that the Israeli forces appear to have intentionally destroyed school property, acts that may amount to war crimes.<sup>31</sup>

- The UN reported that four schools run by the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) were closed and used for military purposes in 2024, and that they remained occupied in June 2025.<sup>32</sup>
- As reported by Human Rights Watch, Israeli forces occupied Naqoura Intermediate Public School in Naqoura, southern Lebanon, and used the school to house soldiers, including in the weeks following the ceasefire between Hezbollah and Israel.<sup>33</sup> The school served 300 students.
- Human Rights Watch also reported that Israeli forces occupied Yarine Intermediate Public School in Yarine village, southern Lebanon, for an unspecified period between October 2024 and January 2025.<sup>34</sup> Investigators discovered weapons at the school, although it was not possible to establish whether the school had been used to store weapons by Hezbollah or other armed groups or if the Israeli military had confiscated and subsequently stored the weapons at the school. The school sustained external damage, likely as a result of armed clashes nearby.
- The Israeli military occupied three schools in Aita al-Shaab and Ramieh, Nabatieh governorate, and in Tayr Harfa, southern Lebanon, between October and November 2024, according to Human Rights Watch; the schools sustained internal damage when they were used as bases, and external damage as a result of armed clashes.<sup>35</sup>

At the time of writing, no other cases of the military use of schools or universities were identified in 2025.

## Attacks on higher education

GCPEA identified at least three attacks on higher education in the 2024-2025 reporting period.

GCPEA identified two attacks during the escalation of hostilities in late 2024:

- On November 8, 2024, airstrikes reportedly damaged several buildings at Rafik Hariri campus of Lebanese University, in Hadath, Mount Lebanon governorate, as reported by Scholars at Risk.<sup>36</sup>
- On November 25, 2024, airstrikes reportedly damaged the Islamic University of Lebanon in Khalde, Mount Lebanon governorate, as reported by Scholars at Risk.<sup>37</sup>

GCPEA found one attack on a higher education building in 2025. On July 5, 2025, a drone attack allegedly struck near to a vocational school in Bent Jbeil city, Al Nabatieh governorate, as reported by ACLED and local media.<sup>38</sup>