





Background

- **1944**: Independence
- **1958**: Crisis & US intervention
- **1975 - 1990**: Civil War
 - **1976 - 2005**: Syrian occupation
 - **1982 - 1985**: Israeli invasion
- **2006**: Israel-Hezbollah War
- **2019**: Demonstrations





Mass Demonstrations

Protests began shortly after the government announced new tax measures on October 17, 2019.

- 1 An end to government corruption.
- 2 An end to the sectarian political system.
- 3 The recovery of stolen funds and accountability for corrupt officials.
- 4 Fair taxes.

Stakeholders



Internal

- Hezbollah
- National Unity Government
- AMAL Movement
- Civil Society

External

- Syria
- Israel
- Iran
- UNHCR

Governance and Political Stability



Stabilizing Factors

- Level of democracy

Destabilizing Factors

- Regime durability
- Corruption
- Restrictions on civil and political rights

Status: High Risk; Worsening



Economic Performance



Status: High Risk; Worsening

Stabilizing Factors

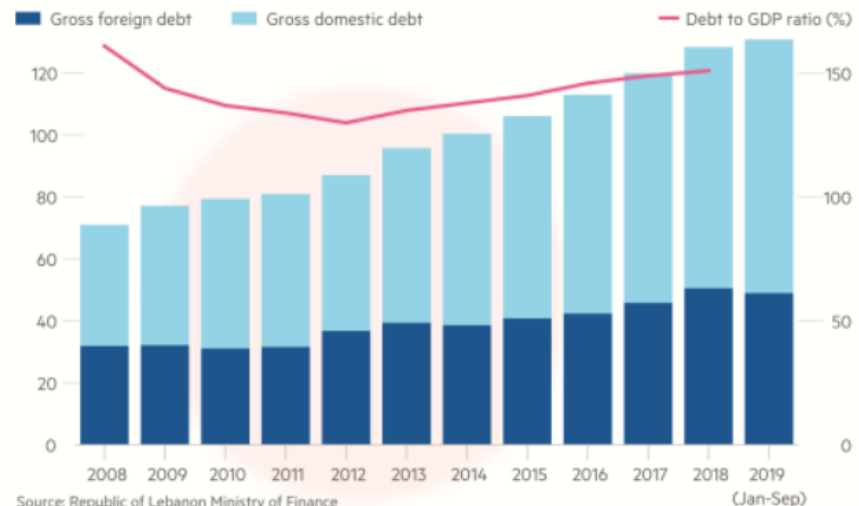
- Oil and gas

Destabilizing Factors

- Economic conditions
- Unemployment

Lebanon's debts have risen sharply since the crisis

Lebanese pound ('000)



Source: Republic of Lebanon Ministry of Finance
© FT

History of Armed Conflict



Status: Moderate Risk; Worsening

Stabilizing Factors

- Decline in sectarian violence
- United LAF

Destabilizing Factors

- Syrian Civil War
- Hezbollah and Israel
- Mass protests



Militarization



Status: Moderate Risk; Stable

Stabilizing Factors

- Military aid
- Domestic cooperation

Destabilizing Factors

- Regional tensions
- Hezbollah



Population Heterogeneity



Status: Moderate Risk; Worsening

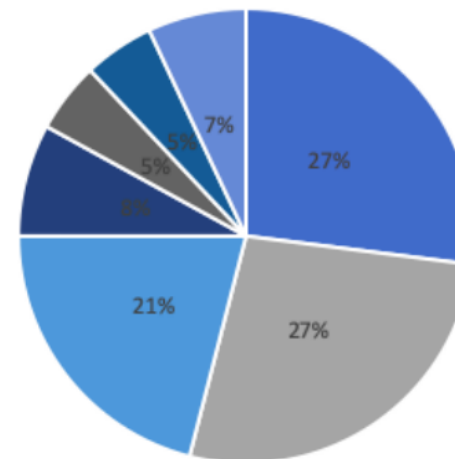
Stabilizing Factors

- Cultural and linguistic homogeneity

Destabilizing Factors

- Religious heterogeneity
- Refugees
- Sunni-Shia discord

Religion



■ Sunni Muslim ■ Shia Muslim ■ Maronite ■ Greek Orthodox
■ Druze ■ Greek Catholic ■ Other Christians

Demographic Stress



Status: Moderate Risk; Worsening

Stabilizing Factors

- Population growth

Destabilizing Factors

- Population density
- Urban population
- Youth bulge



International Linkages



Stabilizing Factors

- Economic and regional organizations
- United Nations

Destabilizing Factors

- Syrian Conflict / Refugee Crisis
- Israel

Status: Moderate Risk; Stable



Human Development



Status: Low Risk; Improving

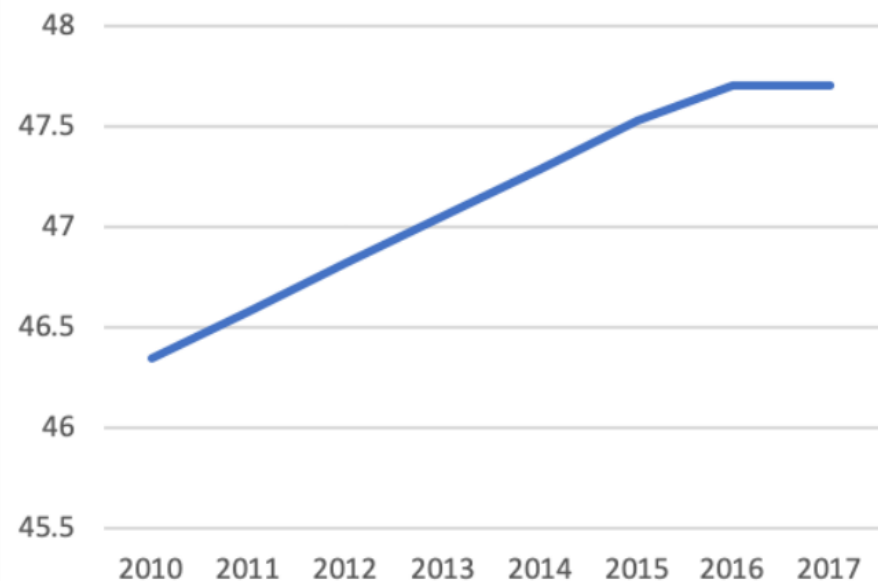
Stabilizing Factors

- Life expectancy
- Infant mortality

Destabilizing Factors

- Water and sanitation
- Poverty
- Food insecurity
- Education

people using safely managed
drinking water services (% of
population)



Environmental Stress



Status: Low Risk; Worsening

Stabilizing Factors

- Rate of deforestation

Destabilizing Factors

- Water supply



Scenarios

Best Case



- Protest movement = unified, non-violent
- Reforms
- Hezbollah: Lebanon-first policy

Worst Case



- No reforms
- Protests turn violent, lead to civil war
- Hezbollah attacks Israel

Scenarios



Most Likely

- Cursory reforms to appease protesters.
- Fear of civil war / Libya-like outcome = restraint.
- Hezbollah refrains from large-scale violence.
- Western states recognize strategic importance and provide financial aid.

