



Addressing the Impact of the 2024 War and Promoting Sustainable Practices for Debris Removal in Lebanon

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INTRODUCTION



- ▶ Impact of the 2024 War in Lebanon
 - 3,102 deaths
 - 13,819 injuries
 - 1.3 million displaced
 - \$3.4 billion in physical infrastructure destruction
 - \$5.1 billion in overall economic losses
 - 100 million tons of rubble (compared to 6 million tons in 2006).

BACKGROUND

- ▶ Unsustainable solid waste management for over three decades.
- ▶ Economic inefficiency and harm to ecosystems.
- ▶ No cost recovery system based on the "polluter pays" principle.
- ▶ Annual environmental degradation from solid waste cost: **\$66.5 million**.
- ▶ Compounded by 2019–2020 economic collapse, Inflation, COVID-19 pandemic, 2020 Beirut Port explosion.

- ▶ **Current Policies and Strategies**
- ▶ **Key policies:** MoE's Proposed Reforms:
 - Decentralization of the sector
 - Cost recovery system
 - National Solid Waste Authority
- ▶ **Challenges:** Previous governments did not prioritize the sector.
- ▶ **Opportunity:** New government in place – push for reforms to avoid crisis.

Action Points for Debris Removal and Management



1) Central Coordination and Oversight

- **Lead Government Entity:** Appoint a lead entity for coordination.
- **Debris Ownership:** Identify ownership (MoPWT, MoIM, municipalities, unions).

2) National CDW Database: Tracking system for Debris Quantities and Types

3) Awareness on CDW Safety Hazards: National Awareness Campaign

- **Channels:** Hotlines, press, social media, WhatsApp groups.
- **Key Messages:** Safety measures and Reporting suspicious objects, UXOs, human remains, structural cracks.

4) Sustainable Financing of the action plan mainly:

- Bidding process including the contractors payments
- Awareness campaign funding
- Financial incentives for private quarry owners and CDW receivers.

Action Points for Debris Removal and Management



5) Legislative Reforms

- Facilitating Permitting Procedures for Transportation, Temporary storage sites, Debris Treatment and Final disposal sites.
- EIA Decree Compliance: Bidders and contractors to submit screening forms to be assessed by MoE.
- MoE has issued 2 ministerial decisions related to Environmental standards and guidelines for managing CDW.

6) Identification of Hazardous Materials

- Securing Debris Sites: Lebanese Armed Forces (LAF) or other security forces.
- Hazardous Material Mitigation:
 - Clear guidelines for handling and separation.
 - Protocols for reporting suspicious objects or remains.
 - Monitoring systems for safety compliance.

Action Points for Debris Removal and Management



7) **Debris Management Sites:** Site Identification and Management

- Temporary Storage Sites: For quick and organized debris removal.
- Processing Sites: Per affected governorate.
- Final Disposal Sites: For non-recyclable debris (e.g., quarry rehabilitation).

8) **Sustainable Practices**

- Promoting Recycling and Reuse
- Financial and social incentives
- Government Action:
- Issue a decree to recover recyclables and reuse debris in Rehabilitation and reconstruction projects based on Environmental sustainability.

THANK YOU