

Advancing resilience and sustainability in fragile and conflict-affected settings.

GCCED Fragile States Portfolio 2026

Lebanon — Environmental Stress and Governance

Snapshot: Population ~5.5 million | GDP per capita ~US\$4,000 | Fragility context: Economic and institutional crisis | Region: Middle East

Integrated Context

Lebanon is experiencing a convergence of environmental stress and institutional fragility, shaped by a prolonged economic crisis and declining public sector capacity. Years of underinvestment in infrastructure, combined with governance challenges, have led to systemic issues in waste management, water quality, and air pollution—affecting both urban centers and rural communities.

At the same time, climate change is intensifying existing vulnerabilities. Rising temperatures are increasing heat stress, while prolonged dry periods and shifting precipitation patterns are exacerbating water scarcity. Wildfire risks have also grown, particularly in forested and peri-urban areas. Municipalities, which play a critical role in service delivery, are facing severe fiscal constraints, limiting their ability to respond effectively.

Addressing these interconnected challenges requires a renewed focus on environmental governance, alongside targeted investments in sustainable urban systems, energy transition, and resource efficiency.

Key Climate and Environmental Challenges

- Inefficient waste management and widespread environmental pollution
- Increasing water scarcity and contamination of water resources
- Rising risks of wildfires and heat stress
- Weak environmental governance and institutional capacity

GCCED Engagement Priorities

- Urban resilience planning and sustainable city systems
- Waste-to-resource and circular economy initiatives
- Renewable energy deployment and energy efficiency
- Environmental policy reform and governance strengthening

Strategic Note

Lebanon's pathway to environmental recovery depends on rebuilding institutional capacity while advancing practical, locally grounded solutions in urban infrastructure, resource management, and energy systems. Strengthening governance frameworks—particularly at the municipal level—will be essential to restoring public trust and enabling long-term climate resilience.

SDG Alignment: 6 • 11 • 13