

LEBANON



LEBANON

- ❖ Continent: Asia
- ❖ Population: 5,261,372
- ❖ Religion:
 - ❖ Muslim 59%
 - ❖ Christian 35%
 - ❖ Agnostic 3%
 - ❖ Buddhist 2%
 - ❖ Atheist 1%
- ❖ Literacy Rate: 95.1%
- ❖ Unreached: 14%



LEBANON

Home to two of the world's oldest cities, Byblos and Sidon, Lebanon is hemmed in by Syria and Israel on the coast of the Mediterranean Sea. Because of its strategic location, it has been part of many conflicts with Syria and Israel. With over six million people, Lebanon is uniquely comprised of both Shia and Sunni Muslims, as well as Christians and Druze. The official languages are Arabic, French, English, and Armenian. This diversity has made Lebanon a place of refuge for minorities throughout the region.

LEBANON

Lebanon is a democratic republic, and each major religion is represented in the parliamentary system. After over two years without a president, Michel Aoun, a former army commander, was elected in 2016 to help bring Lebanon out of its long history of conflict. A civil war ravaged the nation from 1975-1990, and Israel and Syria became heavily involved. Hezbollah was formed during this time and is credited with driving out the Israeli occupation of southern Lebanon in 2000. Widely seen as a terrorist group, Hezbollah and Israel have had ongoing conflicts, decimating parts of the country.

LEBANON

More recently, Lebanon has taken in the largest number of refugees per capita in the world with: roughly 1.5 million Syrian refugees; 200,000 Palestinians; and thousands more from Iraq and Sudan. This refugee crisis has strained the economy. Combined with other factors, Lebanon's financial crisis is now considered one of the most severe in the world since the mid-19th century. By 2021, the Lebanese lira lost 90 percent of its value; 82 percent of the population struggle to meet even basic needs; 70% of young people want to emigrate. Shortages of fuel, food, and medicines are widespread, and days-long electricity outages are common.

In the election this week, the Iranian-backed Hezbollah party and its allies lost the majority that they had held in parliament. Hezbollah had, with their majority, obstructed the investigation in the 2020 Beirut port explosion which killed hundreds and destroyed the port and dozens of surrounding blocks of housing. Hezbollah and Lebanon's ruling dynasties have overseen a political system rigged to maintain their power along religious sectarian lines and perpetrate the devastating corruption that has enriched them.

The church in Lebanon has been seeking God to intervene and bring about a political change that people are powerless to accomplish. While no group won a majority, voters boosted the number of anti-Hezbollah members of Parliament, voting in 16 independent, reform-minded activists. This is the political breakthrough that believers have been praying to see take place.

LEBANON

Lebanon is roughly 54% Muslim (evenly divided between Shia and Sunni) and 41% Christian. This nation is home to the highest concentration of believers in the Middle East. It is the only Arab nation that promotes religious freedom and legally allows for conversion, which provides an open door for the spread of the Gospel, and makes it a unique and strategic center for Christian ministry throughout the entire Middle East. Many pastors and Christians workers have left the country because of the economic crisis and many churches have turned inward, but those who have reached out to provide for the physical needs of refugees—such as food, clothing, blankets and education—are seeing hundreds respond and put their faith in Christ.

PRAYER POINTS



- ❖ Pray for the recovery of the economy and the support of Christians ministries. Millions of Christians are among those who have no work and are unable to take care of their families. Many western ministries have shifted their support from Lebanon to Ukraine.
- ❖ Pray for Christians to commit to staying in the land in order to spread the gospel.
- ❖ Pray for healing and forgiveness for those deeply wounded by the tragedy of war.