

Asia

Constellation: APME Middle East C8

Lebanon, Israel, Egypt, Iraq



NEEDS

Continent: **Asia**

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Country: **Lebanon**

Cry of the Earth

- deforestation
- erosion
- desertification
- species loss
- air pollution in Beirut from vehicular emissions and burning of industrial waste
- pollution of coastal waters from raw sewage and oil spills
- poor waste-water management

Cry of the Poor

- Sectarianism is a key element of Lebanese political life.
- The country has been marked by periods of political turmoil since its independence in 1943
- Nearly one million registered and an estimated 300,000 unregistered Syrian refugees has increased social tensions and heightened competition for low-skill jobs and public services.
- weak infrastructure
- poor service delivery
- institutionalized corruption
- slow economic growth
- unemployment 9.7%
- population below poverty 28.6 % (2004 est.)
- home-based terrorist groups: Abdallah Azzam Brigades (AAB), Asbat al-Ansar (AAA): Hizballah

Commitments

- foreign-based terrorist groups : al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigade (AAMB), al-Nusrah Front/al-Qa'ida, Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps—Qods Force (IRGC-QG, Palestine liberation front (PLF), Popular Front for Liberation of Palestine (PFLP)
- Tens of thousands of persons are stateless in Lebanon, including many Palestinian refugees and their descendants, Syrian Kurds denaturalized in Syria in 1962, children born to Lebanese women married to foreign or stateless men, most babies born to Syrian refugees, and Lebanese children whose births are unregistered.
- source and destination country for women and children subjected to forced labor and trafficking
- Women and girls from South and Southeast Asia and East and West Africa are recruited by agencies to work in domestic service but are subject to conditions of forced labor.
- Syrian refugees are vulnerable to forced labor and prostitution
- Lebanese children are reportedly forced into street begging and commercial sexual exploitation.
- Under Lebanon's artiste visa program, women from Eastern Europe, North Africa, and the Dominican Republic enter Lebanon to work in the adult industry but are often forced into the sex trade.
- Syrian refugees are vulnerable to forced labor and prostitution.
- Lebanon is a transit country hashish, cocaine, heroin and fenethylene.
- Concerns that money laundering of drug proceeds is used to benefit extremists.

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Country: **Israel**

Cry of the Earth

- droughts
- restricted freshwater resources
- desertification
- air pollution from industrial and vehicle emissions

Cry of the Poor

- low labor force participation among minority populations
- Income inequality and poverty rates are among the highest of OECD countries.
- broad, public perception that a small number of tycoons have a catrel-like grip over the major parts of the economy

- high cost for housing and consumer staples
- Expenditure in educational institutions remain low compared to most other OECD countries with similar GDP per capita
- limited arable land
- groundwater pollution from industrial and domestic waste, chemical fertilizers and pesticides
- West Bank and Gaza strips are Israeli-occupied with current status subject to Israeli-Palestinian Interim Agreement
- Since 1948, peacekeepers from the UN Truce Supervision Organization monitor ceasefires, supervise armistice agreements, and prevent isolated incidents from escalating.
- increased concern about ecstasy, cocaine, and heroine abuse

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Country: **Egypt**

Cry of the Earth

- agricultural land lost to urbanization and windblown sands
- increasing soil salination below Aswan High Dam
- desertification
- oil pollution threatening coral reefs, beaches, and marine habitats
- water pollution from agricultural pesticides, raw sewage, and industrial effluents
- limited natural freshwater resources away from the Nile
- rapid growth in population overstraining the Nile and natural resources

Cry of the poor

- Most of the country is desert, so about 95 % of the population are concentrated in a narrow strip of fertile land along the Nile River, which represents about 5% of Egypt's land area.
- Rapid population growth stresses limited natural resources, jobs, housing, sanitation, education, and health care.
- Currently, literacy, educational attainment, and labor force participation are much lower for women than for men.
- Youth unemployment (15-24 years of age) 29.6%. The rate for women the same age is 38.3% (2017 est.)
- An estimated 28% of the population live below the poverty line (2016 est.)
- prevalence of violence against women
- poor living conditions and limited job opportunities for the last two decades
- lack of female political representation

- nearly universal practice of female genital cutting
- Cairo has one of the largest urban refugee populations in the world.
- terrorist groups- home based: Islamic State of Irak and ash-Sham (ISIS)
- terrorist groups- foregn based:al-Qa'ida, Army of Islam (AOI)
- Egypt is a source, transit , and destination country for men, women, and children subjected to sex trafficking and forced labor.
- Street childern are vulnerable to forced labor, in domestic service, begging, and agriculture or may be victimnes of sex trafficking or child sex tourism.
- Transit point for cannavis, heroin, and opium moving to Europe, Israel, and Nort Africa

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Country: **Iraq**

Cry of the Earth

- Government water control projects drain most of the inhabited marsh areas east of An Nasiriyah by drying up or diverting the feeder streams and rivers.
- threat to wildlife populations due to the destruction of natural habitat
- inadequate suppliies of potable water
- soil degradation (salination) and erosion
- desertification
- Military and industrial infrastructure has realeased heavy metall and other hazardous substances into the air, soil, and groundwater.
- major environmental damage from oil refineries
- factory and sewage discharges into rivers
- fertilizer and chemical contamination of the soil
- industrial air pollution in urban areas

Cry of the Poor

- literacy rate- 50.1% (2018 est.)
- Largely state-run economy dominated by the oil sector provides roughly 80% of government ravenue and 80% of foreign exchange earnings
- tenuous polotical system
- concerns about security and social stability
- antquated commercial laws and lack of economic reforms

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• unemployment (16% 2012 est.)• population living belw poverty line 23% (2012 est.)• corruption• home base terrorist groups- Ansar al-Islam (AAI), Jaysh Rijal al-Tariq al-Naqshabandi (JRTN), Kata'ib Hizballah (KH), Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK), Asa'ib Ahl al-Haq (AAH) Jaysh Rijal al-Tariq al-Naqshabandi (JRTN), Asa'ib Ahl al-Haq (AAH) | |
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