



Presbyterian Mission

**Presbyterian Ministry at the United Nations**

# LEBANON

## The United Nations in Lebanon

**UN Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL):** This peacekeeping team was formed by the UN Security Council in 1978 with a mandate to confirm Israeli withdrawal from Lebanon. In 2006, the mandate was revived with a new focus: to monitor the cessation of hostilities, accompany Lebanese armed forces, and extend assistance to ensure humanitarian access to civilian populations and ensure safe return of displaced persons. As of 2018, UNIFIL hosts 15,000 total uniformed personnel.<sup>1</sup>

**UN Office of the United Nations Special Coordinator for Lebanon (UNSCOL):** The Special Coordinator was appointed in 2007 with the task of coordinating United Nations activities in the country. Their mandate focuses on peace and security in Lebanon, stability of State institutions and international assistance in support of humanitarian and development work. In 2017, UNSCOL helped deliver vital services to the Lebanese people.<sup>2</sup>

- Basic **health** care for over half a million people in Lebanon
- Democratic **elections** prepared through technical assistance and material support
- Safe **water to 1.3 million** vulnerable people in Lebanon and improved waste management in 21 municipalities
- **Education for 400,000 children**, half of which are Lebanese
- **Food assistance provided for over 1,000,000** people in need<sup>3</sup>

**UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA):** This office is responsible for creating a coherent response for humanitarian aid in Lebanon. In 2015, this included routine vaccination for 540,000 children, shelter winterization for 950,000 people, and support for hundreds of health centers and hospitals.<sup>4</sup>

**UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNWRA):** This agency houses 450,000 refugees between a dozen camps in Lebanon. Palestinian refugees make up about 10% of the total population of Lebanon and, because they are not formally citizens of another state, lack certain political rights and access to employment.

UNWRA provides a million patient visits annually across 27 health care facilities, operates 69 schools for 32,350 students, and delivers social protection for 61,031 beneficiaries in Lebanon's refugee camps.<sup>5</sup>

## The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) & Lebanon

**Presbyterian Mission:** The PC(USA) has been involved in Lebanon for over two hundred years. In 1956, the National Evangelical Synod of Syria and Lebanon (NESSL) assumed responsibility for the Presbyterian churches in the area. Since then, Lebanese and U.S. partners have collaborated on various projects, including the Jinishian Memorial Program in Lebanon which works to meet the physical and spiritual needs of the post-genocide Armenian population.<sup>6</sup>

**Syria Lebanon Partnership Network of the PC(USA):** This mission network brings together Presbyterians from around the United States to facilitate partnerships with ministries in Syria and Lebanon. The network is committed to supporting leadership development and theological education and working toward a just peace in the region.<sup>7</sup>

**PC(USA) Policy on Lebanon:** The General Assembly of the PC(USA) has not recently passed any policy directly related to Lebanon.<sup>8</sup>

## Presbyterian Ministry at the United Nations (PMUN)

Presbyterian Ministry at the United Nations is called to act on an issue when it meets three criteria: the PC(USA) has a policy regarding the topic, partner churches are in favor of action, and it appears on the UN agenda. In the case of Lebanon, PMUN has interpreted their ministry through participation in ecumenical advocacy on the UN Security Council.

**NGO Working Group on the Security Council:** The NGO Working Group was founded in 1995 to promote dialogue between the NGO community with foreign officials, policy experts, and members of the Security Council. PMUN involvement in the working group creates an exchange of information and perspective between the PC(USA) and the principal UN organ for the maintenance of international peace and security, including responsibilities for setting the mandate for the peacekeeping mission in Lebanon.<sup>9</sup>

<sup>1</sup><https://peacekeeping.un.org/en/mission/unifil>

<sup>2</sup><https://unsc.org/unmissions/background>

<sup>3</sup><https://unmissions.org/annual-report-implementation-un-strategic-framework-lebanon>

<sup>4</sup><https://reliefweb.int/report/lebanon/2015-humanitarian-response-lebanon>

<sup>5</sup><https://www.unrwa.org/where-we-work/lebanon>

<sup>6</sup><https://www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/global/lebanon/>

<sup>7</sup><http://www.syriailebanonpn.org>

<sup>8</sup>[www.pc-biz.org](http://www.pc-biz.org)

<sup>9</sup><https://www.globalpolicy.org/ngo-working-group-on-the-security-council-4-24.html>