



COUNTRY PROFILE LEBANON

Arab Business Legislative Frameworks Lebanon Profile

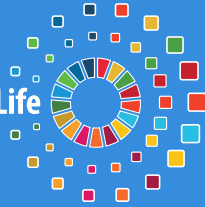


Shared Prosperity Dignified Life





Shared Prosperity **Dignified Life**



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Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia

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Country Profile

LEBANON



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Summary



The Republic of Lebanon, formed after independence from French Mandate in 1943, has a legal system based on and inspired by the French legal code. Lebanon is considered a civil law country with a constitution, while the personal status is governed by the different sectarian communities. Lebanon experienced a 15-year civil war and is currently going through a series of political and economic instability.

Competition



- Lebanon currently has **NO COMPETITION LAW** relying instead on other **legislation to govern modes of competition**, such as the **archaic Commercial Code and Penal Code**;
- Because of the **LACK OF ANY COMPETITION LAW**, there are **neither clear definitions of anti-competitive behaviour nor coherent methods of tackling monopolistic behaviour**;
- A **DRAFT COMPETITION LAW** has been **pending** for over a decade.

Foreign Direct Investment



- Lebanon developed **LAW NO. 360 OF 2001**, known as the **Investment Law**;
- To that effect, Lebanon has a developed **FDI LEGISLATION SYSTEM**, which includes **legislations, enforcement processes** and institutions to **approve, assess and manage foreign investments** into the country;
- However, the **FDI LEGISLATION** still **LACKS SOME CLEAR and CONCISE DEFINITIONS**. In addition, there are **restrictions on FDI** in certain sectors, such as the fields of **military and security**, the **media, banking, telecommunications, energy, real estate** and **public utilities sectors**, to name a few.



Anti-Corruption



- Lebanon **DOES NOT HAVE A STANDARDIZED ANTI-CORRUPTION LAW**; a **draft law** is currently pending;
- Lebanon currently relies on a **MIX OF OTHER LEGISLATION** to **TACKLE CORRUPTION**, such as **Law No. 154 of 1999** (The Illicit Wealth Law); **Law No. 318 of 2001** (on fighting money laundering); **Law No. 44 of 2015** (on money laundering and terrorist financing); and **Law No.83 of 2018** (on whistleblower protection);
- The Lebanese Government **HAS NOT YET FORMED AN OFFICIAL ANTI-CORRUPTION BODY** that is **independent** and **authorized** with the **powers to monitor, asses** and **enforce** the **legislations**.

Consumer Protection



- Lebanon has a **CONSUMER PROTECTION LAW, No. 658 of 2005**, which was **amended** and **updated** in **2012** and **2014**;
- Thanks to that law, there is a **CONSUMER PROTECTION AUTHORITY** within the **Ministry of Economy and Trade** that is **authorized** to **handle complaints** and **tackle violations**;
- **THERE REMAIN MAJOR GAPS** in terms of coherent and **consistent definitions** related to **consumer protection**, and a **major gap** in terms of **robust implementation** and **enforcement of the laws**.

Main Headings

● Very Strong
 ● Strong
 ● Developed
 ● Moderate
 ● Basic
 ● Weak
 ● Very Weak

COMPETITION

● **WEAK**

Anti-Trust and Competition Laws	● Weak
Anti-Dominance and Monopolisation Laws	● Very Weak
Cartels and Anti-Competitive Agreements	● Weak
Competition Enforcement Practices	● Weak
International Trade Agreements	● Weak
Liberalisation and Competition Intervention in Regulated Sectors	● No Score
Merger Regulatory Regime	● Basic
Labor Protection	● Basic




FOREIGN DIRECT INVESTMENT (FDI)

● **DEVELOPED**

Banking Regulations	● Developed
Macroeconomic Policies	● Strong
Investment Regulatory Framework	● Strong
Incentivisation Schemes	● Basic
Bi-lateral Treaties	● Developed



ANTI-CORRUPTION		● MODERATE
Anti-Corruption and Integrity in Public Sector	● Strong	
Anti-Bribery and Whistle Blow Laws	● Moderate	
Budgeting and Public Expenditures	● Very Strong	
Digital Government	● Moderate	
Open Government and Transparency	● Moderate	
Public Procurement Standards	● Very Weak	

CONSUMER PROTECTION		● DEVELOPED
Physical Safety Regulations	● Strong	
Protection of Consumers' Economic Interests	● Very Strong	
Measures Enabling Consumers to Obtain Redress	● Strong	
Promotion of Sustainable Consumption	● Basic	

Sub-categories

● Very Strong
 ● Strong
 ● Developed
 ● Moderate
 ● Basic
 ● Weak
 ● Very Weak

COMPETITION

Laws/Decrees (i.e. national legislations/regulations)	● Weak
Definitions (i.e. legal definitions within legislation/treaties)	● Very Weak
Institutions (i.e. bodies/authorities)	● Weak
International Agreements (regional/international conventions, treaties, trade agreements)	● Weak
Enforcement (i.e. positive or negative, such as incentives, subsidizes, sanctions, fines, prison sentences)	● No Score
Exemptions	● Moderate
Accessibility/Transparency	● Weak



FOREIGN DIRECT INVESTMENT (FDI)

Laws/Decrees (i.e. national legislations/regulations)	● Strong
Definitions (i.e. legal definitions within legislation/treaties)	● Basic
Institutions (i.e. bodies/authorities)	● Very Strong
International Agreements (regional/international conventions, treaties, trade agreements)	● Developed
Enforcement (i.e. positive or negative, such as incentives, subsidizes, sanctions, fines, prison sentences)	● Strong
Exemptions	● Very Strong
Accessibility/Transparency	● Strong



ANTI-CORRUPTION

Laws/Decrees (i.e. national legislations/regulations)	Developed	
Definitions (i.e. legal definitions within legislation/treaties)	Developed	
Institutions (i.e. bodies/authorities)	Basic	
International Agreements (regional/international conventions, treaties, trade agreements)	Moderate	
Enforcement (i.e. positive or negative, such as incentives, subsidizes, sanctions, fines, prison sentences)	Moderate	
Exemptions	No Score	
Accessibility/Transparency	Developed	

CONSUMER PROTECTION

Laws/Decrees (i.e. national legislations/regulations)	Moderate	
Definitions (i.e. legal definitions within legislation/treaties)	Developed	
Institutions (i.e. bodies/authorities)	Very Strong	
International Agreements (regional/international conventions, treaties, trade agreements)	Moderate	
Enforcement (i.e. positive or negative, such as incentives, subsidizes, sanctions, fines, prison sentences)	Moderate	
Exemptions	Very Strong	
Accessibility/Transparency	Developed	



