

# Increased renewable energy penetration lebanon

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Lebanon has been facing an energy crisis for several years, with regular blackouts leading to an overreliance on diesel generators for power. This is largely due to years of misspending public funds and underinvestment in the country's energy infrastructure. Now, there are concerns that Lebanon's ongoing conflict with neighbouring Israel could make it even more difficult to tackle the worsening energy and economic crises.

In the summer of 2021, following years of on-and-off blackouts due to severe underinvestment in Lebanon's ageing energy infrastructure, the country entered an energy crisis when the State became unable to secure the foreign currency needed to purchase fuel. Since then, the ESL has only been able to provide a few hours of electricity per day on average.

While the government has long been open to the development of Lebanon's renewable energy capacity, it continues to rely heavily on fossil fuels for its power. In 2022, oil contributed 55 percent of Lebanon's electricity generation, followed by solar PV (29 percent) and hydropower (16 percent). The government has introduced diverse energy policies over the last decade and a half to limited success.

The government has aimed to diversify Lebanon's energy mix in recent years to enhance energy security in recent years. To date, the government has signed power purchase agreements for 11 projects with a projected total of 165 MW of PV capacity. Meanwhile, private investment in rooftop solar projects has increased as citizens respond to several years of unstable energy provision, regular power cuts, and rising electricity costs, which have driven many to rely heavily on diesel generators for power.

In addition to battling continued economic and energy crises, the Lebanese government must now find a way to support hundreds of thousands of people who have been displaced due to the ongoing conflict with Israel. Between mid-September and mid-November, around 1.2 million people were reported to have fled their homes because of the conflict.



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