



Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for
CHILDREN AND ARMED CONFLICT

Contribution of the Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict to the Universal Periodic Review of Lebanon, 2025

The information provided has been gathered by the United Nations Working Group on Children and Armed Conflict in Lebanon. It has been collected and verified by the United Nations based on the guidelines of the Monitoring and Reporting Mechanism on grave violations against children (MRM), established through Security Council resolution 1612 (2005).

<https://childrenandarmedconflict.un.org/>

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Input for the Universal Periodic Review of Lebanon
Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed
Conflict, June 2025

Background

Since 2020, children in Lebanon have been increasingly subjected to grave violations (16 in 2020, 55 in 2021, 67 in 2022, 104 in 2023 and 669 in 2024), with recruitment and use (9 in 2020, 32 in 2021, 48 in 2022 and 74 in 2023 and 76 in 2024), and killing and maiming (7 in 2020, 19 in 2021, 18 in 2022 and 21 in 2023 and 561 in 2024) being the two prevailing ones. Since 2021, an increasing number of attacks on schools and hospitals were also documented by the United Nations (4 in 2021, 1 in 2022, 9 in 2023 and 32 in 2024). For many violations, perpetrators could not be identified. When they could be identified, particularly for recruitment and use, perpetrators were armed groups.

During that period, children continued to be arrested and prosecuted under military jurisdiction on national security-related charges, including allegations of terrorism.

The year 2024 witnessed an unprecedented spike in grave violations (669 in total) against children particularly killing and maiming (561), owing to developments in Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territory since October 2023 and subsequent airstrikes and military operations conducted by the Israeli armed forces in Lebanon using explosive weapons in populated areas. The recruitment and use of children (76) and attacks on schools and hospitals (32) also witnessed a peak in 2024.

Recommendations for Lebanon

- **Ratify** the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict.
- **Release** children detained for alleged association with armed groups to civilian child protection actors and treat them in line with international juvenile justice standards, and provide access to reintegration programmes.
- **Develop** a handover protocol for the transfer of these children to civilian child protection actors.
- **Prioritize** the decontamination of areas contaminated by unexploded ordnance.

