



2025- 2026

GEP DEEP DIVES

AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENTAL
RECOVERY



AMERICAN
UNIVERSITY
OF BEIRUT



I. MINISTERIAL STATEMENT PROMISES

The following commitments were made by the Lebanese government in its ministerial statement, forming the baseline against which actual progress is assessed across the Agriculture and Environmental Recovery sector



Confronting Climate & Disaster Risks

Addressing decades of environmental crises and risks arising from climate disruption and natural disasters.



Sustainable Production Growth

Expanding cultivated land and promoting agricultural practices specifically adapted to climate variability.



Sustainable Reconstruction & Rehabilitation

Integrating environmental standards into rebuilding plans, specifically regarding debris management and aggression-affected areas.



Agro-Industry & Trade

Developing food processing sectors and utilizing international trade agreements to boost export opportunities.

II. AREAS WHERE PROGRESS HAS BEEN MADE



1. Climate Policy, Environmental Governance & Education

- The National Greening Education Strategy was launched at the Grand Serail in partnership with the Ministry of Education and Higher Education, CERD, and UNESCO, establishing a national framework to integrate climate education into curricula and promote greener learning environments nationwide.
- The Ministry of Environment introduced a comprehensive Climate Policy Package (2025), including the National Adaptation Plan (2025–2035), updated NDC 3.0, and a Long-Term Low Emissions Development Strategy, reinforcing Lebanon's Paris Agreement commitments.
- The Digital Solid Waste Management Information System was launched with UNOPS and GEF–World Bank support, creating a national digital platform to improve transparency, monitoring, and data-driven decision-making in waste management while supporting circular economy objectives.
- A scientific study on the environmental impact of Israeli attacks (2023–2025), developed with the National Council for Scientific Research, documented large-scale environmental damage and outlined a roadmap for ecological recovery and accountability.

II. AREAS WHERE PROGRESS HAS BEEN MADE (CONT'D)



2. Waste Management Reform & Institutional Strengthening

- The National Solid Waste Management Authority became operational with the appointment and Cabinet approval of its Board of Directors, strengthening institutional governance in the sector.
- The Cost Recovery Law for Solid Waste Management (Law No. 38/2026) was enacted on 18/12/2025, introducing the “polluter pays” principle and ensuring sustainable financial resources for municipalities and unions of municipalities.
- The National Integrated Solid Waste Management Strategy was updated, placing the sector on a structured reform path toward improved governance, efficiency, and environmental compliance.



3. Agriculture Modernization, Strategy & Market Competitiveness

- The National Agriculture Strategy 2026–2035 advanced through a validation workshop with FAO, addressing food security, resilience, and sustainable agricultural growth, supported by environmental and social safeguards.
- The Agricultural Business Clusters (ABC) model was launched in partnership with GIZ, strengthening value chains, improving market access, and enhancing rural competitiveness while reducing import dependency.
- The Official Agricultural Extension Program was introduced to promote sustainable farming practices, alongside expanded extension initiatives supporting climate adaptation through water efficiency, soil management, irrigation modernization, and climate-resilient crops.
- The national conference “Agriculture is the Earth’s Pulse” provided a platform for a comprehensive reform agenda addressing climate change impacts, conflict recovery, and structural agricultural transformation.
- The government approved the formation of the Cannabis Cultivation Regulatory Authority, advancing implementation of the 2020 law regulating cannabis cultivation for medical and industrial use as part of efforts to diversify agricultural production and create sustainable income opportunities for farmers.

II. AREAS WHERE PROGRESS HAS BEEN MADE (CONT'D)

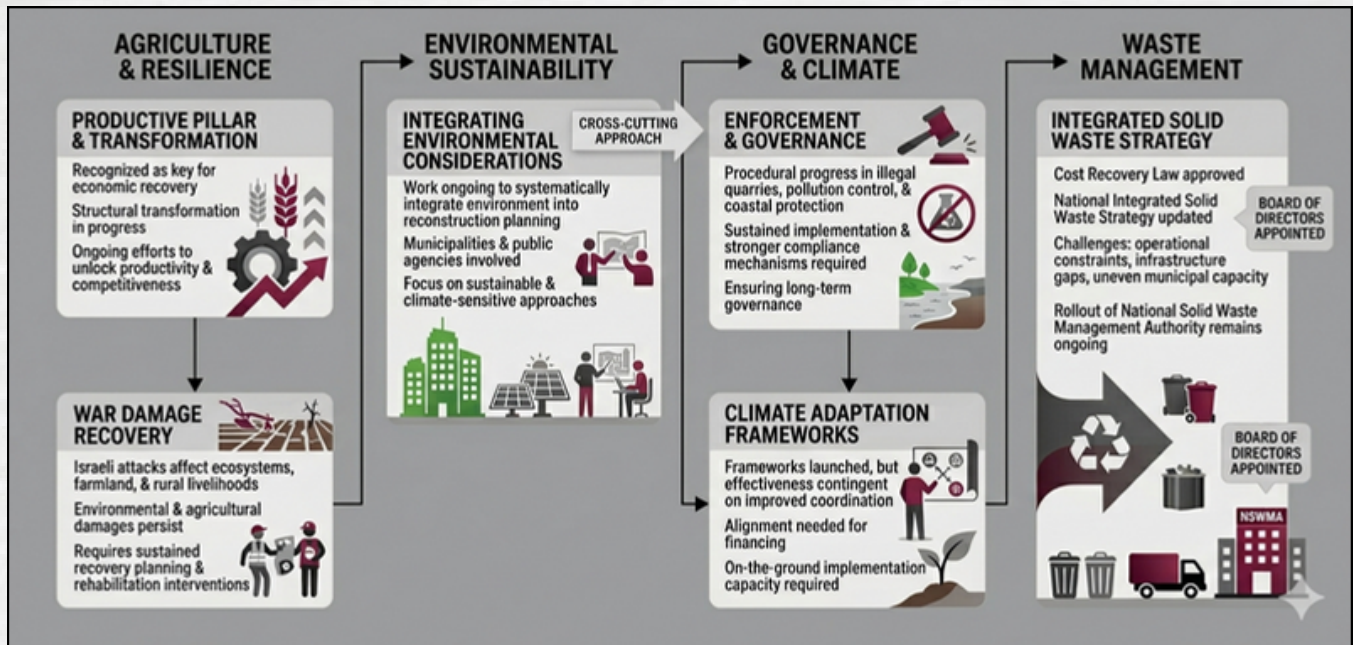


4. Rural Development, Resilience & Livelihood Support

- The ARADINA project (€7M), implemented with CIHEAM Montpellier, Fair Trade Lebanon, Action contre la Faim, and AFD, supported climate-resilient agriculture in Akkar and the Bekaa through improved production systems, value-chain development, and support to farmers, cooperatives, and SMEs.
- A Japan-funded FAO project supported the restoration of agrifood systems and rural livelihoods in conflict-affected areas of South Lebanon, benefiting approximately 230 farming households, including at least 30% women.
- The “Enhancing Agricultural Livelihoods” initiative strengthened rural infrastructure and resilience in vulnerable regions, particularly Akkar and Minieh-Dinnieh.
- The “Souk El Jabal” agro-eco tourism complex was inaugurated in Upper Chouf with UNDP and KfW support, benefiting over 270 farmers, 400 beekeepers, and 40 agro-food producers across 30 communities.

III. AREAS WHERE EFFORTS CONTINUE TO EVOLVE - AGENDA IN PROGRESS

1 Agriculture and Environmental Recovery



IV. OVERALL ASSESSMENT SUMMARY

Commitment	Status	Note
Agricultural Expansion & Sustainable Land Use		Policy direction set toward expanding cultivated areas and sustainable agriculture, but implementation remains uneven due to structural and climate constraints.
Agricultural Productivity & Value Chain Development		Progress through clusters, extension programs, and rural support initiatives, but full productivity gains and industrial scaling is still developing.
Agricultural Market Access & Competitiveness		Export facilitation improving via value-chain programs and international engagement, yet market access barriers and logistics constraints persist.
Climate Risk & Environmental Disaster Management		Climate adaptation frameworks and environmental policies were launched, but operational capacity for disaster response and resilience remains limited.
Environmental Recovery from Conflict Damage		Large-scale ecological, agricultural, and forestry damage from Israeli attacks continues; recovery planning initiated but long-term rehabilitation still at early implementation stage.
Environmental Integration in Reconstruction		Environmental criteria introduced into reconstruction planning, but consistent application across municipalities and agencies is still evolving.
Climate Adaptation & Sustainable Reconstruction Frameworks		Strategies developed (NAP, NDC, LT-LEDS), but financing, coordination, and execution remain partially constrained.
Environmental Enforcement (Quarries, Pollution, Coastal Protection)		Enforcement mechanisms activated and procedures improved, but compliance gaps and weak enforcement capacity remain significant.
Waste Management Governance Reform		Institutional framework strengthened (Authority + Strategy + Cost Recovery Law), but implementation is constrained by infrastructure gaps and municipal capacity.



Note: RED - early ; YELLOW – moderate; GREEN – advanced



**AMERICAN
UNIVERSITY
OF BEIRUT**



Government Engagement Platform (GEP)

College Hall - 4th Floor – GEP Office 427
American University of Beirut
Riad El Solh, Beirut 1107 2020
Beirut, Lebanon
Tel: +961 1 350000 ext. 3585 - 3597
gep@aub.edu.lb
www.aub.edu.lb/gep

