



REBUILDING LEBANON: Clean Energy Access and Challenges

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📍 BEIRUT, LEBANON

LEBANON

OVERVIEW

Lebanon's energy sector, already weakened by decades of short-term fixes and political deadlock, faces new challenges in the aftermath of recent conflict. A closed roundtable discussion hosted by the Arab Reform Initiative on December 19, 2024, brought together experts and policymakers to explore how post-war reconstruction could become a catalyst for an equitable, sustainable energy transition.



KEY FACTS & FIGURES

- **Solar Panel Destruction:** 10–15% of solar panels destroyed, with estimated losses between **\$150–\$300 million**.
- **Private Sector Losses:** 40% loss on private energy investments, highlighting the fragility of the current system.
- **Legal Context:** Israeli attacks on civilian infrastructure (including energy facilities) contravene international law (Additional Protocols I & II, Hague Convention of 1954) and may constitute war crimes.



CORE CHALLENGES

- **Political Paralysis:** Chronic governance failures and corruption hinder strategic planning and funding for rebuilding.
- **Fragmented Approach:** Overreliance on private generators and localized solutions leads to inefficiencies and uneven distribution of resources.
- **Financial Instability:** Lebanon's high-risk environment and lack of cohesive policy deter investors.
- **Weak Enforcement:** Existing laws and frameworks exist but are not applied consistently; capacity for legal accountability is limited.

Opportunities for Reform



DECENTRALIZED SOLUTIONS

- **Empower Municipalities** to produce and manage local renewable energy under Law 462.
- **Avoid duplication of effort** by creating a robust monitoring body or task force to guide community-led initiatives.



SUSTAINABLE RECONSTRUCTION

- **Smart Grids & E-Governance:** Modernize the electricity grid and leverage digital tools for transparent data management.
- **Energy-Efficient Buildings:** Strengthen building codes to reduce demand for heating and cooling.



LONG-TERM VISION & DATA-DRIVEN POLICY

- **Clear Political Framework:** Align political will with technical solutions to ensure equitable access to power.
- **Accurate Data Collection:** Support informed decision-making and attract targeted international investments.



LEGAL ACCOUNTABILITY & ADVOCACY

- **Documentation of Violations:** Build strong, evidence-based cases against attacks on civilian infrastructure.
- **Collaboration with International Organizations:** Leverage global networks to press for accountability and set precedents for environmental crimes.



"We've waited so long for basic human rights like electricity. We can wait a little longer if it means building a sustainable, green energy future. We don't want to tick boxes—we want to build a state."

— Christina Abi Haidar, Lawyer and Member of the IUCN World Commission on Environmental Law

"The renewable energy sources were the main targets during the war, and it is estimated that 10–15% of solar panels were destroyed, and the losses are between \$150 to \$300 million."

— Pierre El Khoury, Energy Expert



Path Forward

①

Establish a national task force to unify efforts among government, donors, and communities.

③

Leverage decentralization while safeguarding equity and avoiding resource duplication.

②

Enhance transparency & oversight through e-governance tools and reliable data collection.

④

Invest in resilient infrastructure that prioritizes renewable energy, efficiency, and future-proof technologies.

Conclusion

Post-war reconstruction offers Lebanon a rare chance to break from its past patchwork solutions and build a truly sustainable, resilient, and just energy sector. As stakeholders align around a long-term political vision and enforce existing laws, the country can ensure equitable access to clean electricity—an essential step toward broader social and economic revival.

"Who will lead, who will finance, and who will ultimately benefit?"

Answering these questions collaboratively is key to creating an energy landscape that serves all Lebanese citizens.