

TYRE CITY PROFILE

2017

TYRE

CITY

PROFILE

2017



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UN-Habitat Mandate

UN-Habitat, the United Nations Human Settlements Programme, is mandated by the UN General Assembly to promote socially and environmentally sustainable towns and cities, and adequate housing for all, and is the lead agency within the United Nations system for coordinating activities in the field of human settlements. It is mandated through the Habitat Agenda¹ to take the lead in disaster mitigation, and post-crisis rehabilitation capabilities in human settlements.

UN-Habitat's global responsibilities in emergencies, humanitarian, and post-crisis response are to support national governments, local authorities, and civil society in strengthening their capacity for managing human-made and natural disasters affecting human settlements. Experience has shown that the potential for development gain is high in the immediate aftermath of a crisis, and this is a key principle underlying UN-Habitat's efforts to deploy at the earliest opportunity following a disaster. UN-Habitat's added value is that it is the UN agency specialised in working in cities and human settlements.

Since 2006, the agency has been present in Lebanon, first involved in recovery and reconstruction efforts in South Lebanon, Beirut and Northern Lebanon (particularly in the Nahr el Bared Camp crisis response in 2007), and in efforts to improve the living conditions in the 43 Palestinian out-of-camp concentrations. Since 2013, UN-Habitat has been involved in responding to the Syrian refugee crisis.

Credits & Acknowledgements

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This report was led by Suzanne Maguire, reviewed by Synne Bergby, researched and written by Maya Majzoub with input from Christelle Khalil, Sawsan Saad, Bassam Abdel Samad, with GIS input from Ali Saad and Racha Serhal, and graphically designed by Made for Brands and Rena Abou Chawareb with input from Georges Abi Sleiman, and with contribution from all of UN-Habitat Lebanon.

Foreword

On behalf of UN-Habitat Lebanon, I'm pleased to present the Tyre City Profile, which comes as the 2nd of a series (after Tripoli) of urban profiles that highlights the impact of the crisis on Lebanon's key cities. For a country like Lebanon where more than 88% of its population is urbanized, and for a country that is suffering from one of the largest refugee crisis in recent history, and for a country that lacks proper national policies and operates with already ill-equipped municipalities and sector ministries in terms of technical and financial resources, there is a crucial need for innovative tools and frameworks that can help respond to the impacts of the protracted Syrian crisis.

UN-Habitat City Profiles are multi-sectoral spatial tools that aim to enhance the understanding of vulnerabilities in urban settings, and to help local and regional actors make proper decisions and take appropriate actions in relation to the urban crisis response.

We look forward to receiving your feedback in order to maximize in the near future, the use of City Profiles by different stakeholders.

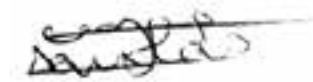


Tarek Osseiran
UN-Habitat Lebanon Programme Manager

The City of Tyre is considered the principal city of the district of Tyre. It hosts a rich and diverse Lebanese social fabric, as well as a dense Palestinian population present within its two Palestine Refugee Camps of El-Buss, and Al-Rachidiyeh, and in other gatherings around the city. This has caused huge pressure on the city on various sectors especially on basic services. Further, the Syrian refugee crisis and its subsequent implications, caused for a mass displacement of Syrian refugees, in an uncontrolled manner into the city placing further pressure on already strained infrastructure. Henceforth, the necessity to implement a new assessment which investigates the size and intensity of the rising problems along with their associated findings, became a priority. While it is not possible for the Municipality, who is lacking the required resources, to conduct such an assessment by itself, UN-Habitat initiative has come to shed light on the current issues pertinent to the city as part of the City Profiling project. It identifies current problems, places priorities, and provides attainable solutions, then programs them according to the available resources in a timely manner. This aims to reduce the detrimental impacts of the Syrian displacement on the various social, environmental, health, and humanitarian aspects and helps rebalance the state of the Lebanese host communities in a way that prevents negative coping mechanisms in dealing with our Syrian brothers.

In this regard, it is noteworthy to mention the importance of constantly updating and following up on this project on both the short and medium terms. We also hope for the findings to, not only remain on publication or in print, but also to be implemented; it is rather important to instrument the recommendations and proposals of this report especially when it comes to dealing with the marginalized and vulnerable neighbourhoods.

Finally, we must thank all those who contributed to the preparation, financing and implementation of this project, as we are looking forward to witness its positive outcomes soon.



Hassan Dbouk
Head of Union of Tyre Municipalities

“Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable” is the objective of the Sustainable Development Goal #11. Whereas globally, more than half of the world’s population is living in cities, the World Bank recently estimated the share of urban population in Lebanon at an astounding 88%. Faced with rapid urban growth in combination with increasing demands on public services, sustainable urban planning and development has become an enormous challenge. With the City Profile, UN-Habitat has developed a meaningful instrument to address this challenge. Together with the Neighbourhood Profile and the Neighbourhood Strategy, an in-depth analysis of a specific urban area of relevance to the further development of a city, is now at hand.

The strength of this instrument is the combination of social, technical and infrastructural aspects, resulting in a whole that is greater than the sum of its parts. Besides the holistic and cross-sectoral projection, the specificity of the instrument also lies in the participative involvement of all stakeholders and in its alignment to evidence-based data. That way it can unfold the unique character of a neighbourhood in all its many facets and realities; be it that of a Lebanese citizen, a Palestine or a Syrian Refugees, a South-Asian migrant worker or any other person bringing it to life.

The City and Neighbourhood Profile and the Neighbourhood Strategy together form a comprehensive tool for local authorities, implementers, donors and investors alike. It promotes a genuinely participatory approach by engaging with all stakeholders. For a fact, it is only when doing exactly this that the development of cities and neighbourhoods can indeed become resilient and sustainable.



Philipp Beutler
Head Swiss Cooperation Office

Embassy of Switzerland in Lebanon
Swiss Cooperation Office

The Cities Alliance Secretariat congratulates the partnership facilitated by UN Habitat to the development of the Tyre City Profile. The project ‘Profiling Migration Impact on Lebanese Cities’ had been selected as a winner of the Cities Alliance Catalytic Fund Call 2015 on Migration and the Inclusive City. It is a great pleasure to see that the project ambitions had been realised to help the municipality and its citizens of Tyre to better understand the assets, opportunities and challenges of their growing city. We hope that this diagnostic work will build up the necessary knowledge and partnerships to achieve an Inclusive City in Tyre.



Dr. Rene Peter Hohmann
Sr. Urban Specialist, Cities Alliance Secretariat

Introduction

Purpose

UN-Habitat City Profiles are formulated to offer a cross-sectoral perspective on urban vulnerabilities that will inform holistic and inclusive interventions by local authorities, humanitarian partners and others to respond to needs and alleviate poverty amongst host and displaced populations. They also aim at contributing to an analytical knowledge base that will facilitate nuanced medium to long term public sector planning and investment agendas.

Thematic scope

Concerned with the status of urban infrastructure and services and how these interplay with the distribution and socio-economic characteristics of host and refugee populations across the city, UN-Habitat City Profiles are structured around the five themes of space, governance, population, services and social stability. National and city-specific data is presented against each theme followed by identification of gaps and challenges.

In the fourth and fifth themes, services (divided into economy, basic urban services and social services) and social stability, relevant activities reported by partners to the Lebanese Crisis Response Plan in the online portal ActivityInfo are included, forming part of the evidence base against which gaps and challenges are suggested². Three reporting years are currently included, covering 2014 until end of 2016.

Methodological outline

Data collection is primarily desk-based, with supplementary primary data collection and surveying where necessary.

In defining the study area³, continuous built-up area is used as an imperfect morphological proxy for the functional urban area. This methodological choice is aimed at facilitating analysis of the city in terms of its active spatial interactions as opposed to historic administrative boundaries. To illustrate, topics optimally addressed at this scale elsewhere typically include economic development, mobility including public transport infrastructure, spatial planning including housing, and implementation structures. Delimiting the study unit in this transparent, replicable way allows for comparison between cities on a like-for-like basis.

UN-Habitat City Profiles are characterisable not only as geographical and multi-sectoral but also participative, developed through a collaborative and consultative process that engages from the outset local authorities (unions of municipalities and municipalities), NGOs and other UN agencies. 'Round tables' facilitated by UN-Habitat are convened by the local authorities at

key profile development stages for consultation and endorsement purposes. Information and validation is gained from services providers as well as the humanitarian sector leads for the relevant territory.

UN-Habitat promotes an 'area-based' approach for urban response, with urban profiles as one of the key features, followed by formulation of multi-sector and multi-stakeholder strategies, project implementation, as well as capacity support of local authorities and local communities.

Structure

Following an outline of the city's historic and developmental context, the five themes (Space, Governance, Population, Services and Social Stability) are addressed in turn. Each begins with key summary points, followed by discussion in terms of their national and functional urban area dimensions. Conclusions are then drawn, focussing first on resounding findings and second on policy and research implications. The latter incorporates a set of suggested projects of potential strategic impact which may respond to some of the challenges identified.

Terminology

The term 'city' is henceforth used to refer to the multi-municipality urban area focussed on Tyre, defined by the extent of the continuous built up area.

Whilst the terms Tyre and Sour are used interchangeably by some, here the term Tyre refers to the multi-municipality city and the term Sour is reserved for the Municipality of Sour.

Related UN-Habitat Lebanon publications

Tripoli City Profile
Haddadine (Tripoli) Neighbourhood Profile & Strategy
Nabaa (Bourj Hammoud, Beirut) Neighbourhood Profile & Strategy
Maachouk (Tyre) Neighbourhood Profile & Strategy

² A tailored selection of ActivityInfo indicators was selected for the purpose of City Profiles. Short-term impact interventions such as multi-purpose cash were omitted, with medium to longer-term impact projects included.

³ Ideally functional urban areas are defined not only on morphological parameters but also on direct functional ones, particularly travel-to-work trips for mapping economic integration across the urban margin. Such functional data does not exist in Lebanon.

TYRE

CITY PROFILE

Tyre, often referred to by its Arabic name of Sour, is a harbour city well recognized for its mercantile activity throughout the Mediterranean since ancient Phoenician times. Located in Lebanon's South Governorate 83km south of the capital Beirut and 26km north of the country's southern border, Tyre is considered Lebanon's fourth largest coastal city, and is characterised by its wealth of sites of archaeological and natural significance.

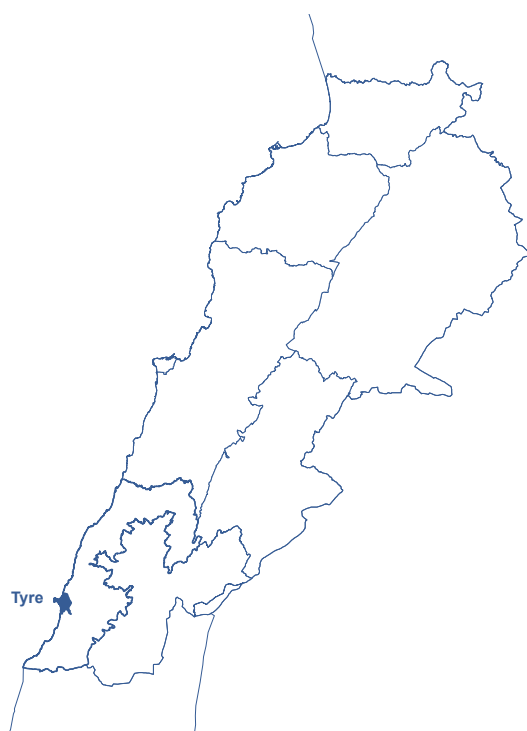


Figure 1: Location of Tyre in Lebanon, showing governorate boundaries. Source: UN-Habitat, 2016

History

• Tyre has hosted diverse civilisations throughout history, resulting in different layers of built and cultural

• Tyre experienced its 'golden age' during the 10th Century BC. Through to the 8th Century BC its traders founded colonies in North Africa and around the Mediterranean and Atlantic, expanding markets.

• A particularly prized commodity in Tyre's commerce was a locally produced, expensive purple dye used for the textiles of royalty. With Phoenician expansion from around 815 BC, maritime trade flourished (Nahhas 2013).

• In the early 6th Century BC, Nebuchadnezzar, King of Babylon laid siege to the city for 13 years, likely to have prompted the movement of population from the mainland to the fortified island city.

• As part of Alexander the Great's Siege of Tyre in 332BC - aimed at conquering this strategic coastal base - he dismantled much of the mainland city and used its fallen debris rock to fill in the sea between the mainland and the island to create a land bridge for his war machines. This man-made bridge has been reinforced over time by heavy sedimentation to form today's promontory.

• The area became a Roman province in 64BC. During this era, the Arch of Hadrian was built as well as a hippodrome.

• After the fall of the Roman Empire in 476 AD, Tyre continued as a port city under the Byzantine Empire until the 7th century AD when it was taken in the Muslim conquest of the region.

• Tyre was captured during the first Venetian Crusade in 1124.

• In 1291, Tyre was taken by the Mamluk Sultanate. This was followed by Ottoman rule from 1516 up until the fall of the Empire in 1918.

• With the end of World War I Tyre was integrated into the modern state of Lebanon under the French Mandate⁴.

• Tyre was subject to the influx of Armenian refugees in the 1930s, and the subsequent influx of refugees from Palestine from 1948.

• In 1936 the French authorities established refugee camps in Tyre for Armenian refugees. Later, with the influx of Palestinian refugees, these already established refugee camps were denoted as Palestinian Refugee Camps⁵. Tyre has been subject to an ongoing rural exodus since the 1960s, superimposing on natural population

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