

Project in key figures

1.2

M€

24

MONTHS
OF ACTIVITY

10

EXPERTS
MOBILISED

Support throughout the project



SUPPORT FROM
MAJOR FRENCH
SEAPORTS



A BOTTOM-UP AND
PARTICIPATORY
APPROACH



A COMPARATIVE
APPROACH



TARGETED
TRAININGS



STUDY VISITS

Project stakeholders

Funded by the Ministry of Ecological Transition in charge of Transport, the Ministry of Economy and Finance and the French Development Agency, this project is implemented by Expertise France.

As part of a Mediterranean partnership, the Port of Beirut and the Grand Port Maritime de Marseille-Fos are being encouraged to join forces. HAROPA – Port of Le Havre contributes to components relating to port safety and security.

This project benefits the Lebanese Ministry of Public Works and Transport as well as the Management and Operation Committee of the Port of Beirut (GEPB). Other state organizations are targeted, such as organizations in charge of port safety and security (Lebanese Armed Forces, General Security, Customs, Civil Protection).

Expertise France is the French public agency for the design and implementation of international technical cooperation projects. It operates in four priority areas: democratic, economic and financial governance; international security, stability and peace; sustainable development; health and human development. In these fields, Expertise France conducts engineering and implementation missions for capacity building projects, mobilises technical expertise and acts as a contractor for projects calling on public expertise and private know-how.

www.expertisefrance.fr



September 2023 © IPhoto Credit/ Expertise France.



SUPPORT THE RECONSTRUCTION OF
THE PORT OF BEIRUT, A PILLAR OF THE
LEBANESE ECONOMY

Since 2019, Lebanon has been facing a deep political and socio-economic crisis, aggravated by the COVID-19 pandemic and the explosion that occurred at the Port of Beirut on August 4, 2020. Following the explosion and after a first emergency mobilization, Expertise France was asked in October 2020 by the Interministerial Mission for the Coordination of International Support (MICOL) to Lebanon to bring together a multidisciplinary team of experts in charge of identifying the needs for the reconstruction of the Port of Beirut.

The project seeks to achieve three main objectives:

- 1) Support the general reform of port governance and strategic discussions relating to the reconstruction of the Port of Beirut.
- 2) Strengthen port safety and security, which are major economic and commercial assets.
- 3) Improving the IT capacities of customs authorities, who are key players in Lebanon's economic recovery.





Context and objectives of our support

Impacting a large part of the Port of Beirut infrastructure, the explosion of August 4, 2020 severely disrupted economic activities and aggravated an already critical situation in Lebanon. The Port of Beirut is a strategic platform through which 80% of the country's imports and exports transited before the explosion, and more than 60% in 2021. The France team is mobilized alongside the Port, an important true pillar of the Lebanese economy, in order to support its physical and institutional reconstruction.

The challenges are numerous. The Port of Beirut is currently managed by an interim committee called "Gestion et Exploitation du Port de Beyrouth (GEPB)". Although the committee benefits from a certain degree of autonomy vis-à-vis the Lebanese authorities, it is not strictly speaking a real port authority. Its complex and unique status, initially thought as provisional, has not been revised since the creation of GEPB in the 1990s. An overall reform of the authority managing the Port of Beirut is now considered, with international technical support.

In addition, it is essential to strengthen port safety and security to enable Lebanon to meet international standards. A port ensuring the safety of goods and people is considered trustworthy and therefore more attractive. This requires close collaboration between GEPB committee and the agencies in charge of safety and security at the Port, such as the Lebanese Armed Forces, General Security, Customs and Civil Protection.

Finally, customs infrastructure and equipment at the Port have been extensively damaged by the explosion. Given their key role in economic recovery, France is also supporting the strengthening of customs authorities' IT capacities.

Expertise France oversees the coordination of the various technical assistance components, articulated around three pillars:

1. Support to the reconstruction of the Port and to its governance reform

- Organization of technical assistance missions on reconstruction needs of the Port
- Comparative studies on the various models of port governance and operations
- Exchange of experiences between Port of Beirut and Port of Marseille
- Formalization of a partnership between the Ports of Beirut and Marseille

2. Strengthen port safety and security

- Support to provide compliance of the Port of Beirut with international port safety and security standards
- Organization of diagnostic missions on port safety and security needs
- Organization of training courses on international standards in terms of port safety and security
- Exchange of experiences between Port of Beirut and the Ports of Marseille and Le Havre
- Realization of a port security assessment

3. Support the strengthening of customs IT capacities

- Donation of a French mobile scanner to Lebanese customs authorities and monitoring of its use
- Deployment of a customs expert to provide recommendations and advice on customs' reform
- Strengthening of IT capacities through the updating of customs clearance software

