

## SITUATION OVERVIEW



**+137K**

IDPs in 674 shelters  
(98% near capacity)



**+1M**

self-registered IDPs  
with MoSA



**Service stress pressure**  
emerged as an increasing  
tension driver



Strong government  
messaging and measures to  
**safeguard civil peace**

The fifth week of the escalation was marked by the convergence of mounting security concerns, deepening internal political tensions, and growing pressure on Lebanon's already fragile social landscape.

Across the week, domestic tensions were increasingly shaped by the continuation of political controversy surrounding the Iranian ambassador issue, the expansion of displacement orders to new areas of West Bekaa, growing host community resentment linked to displacement, and rising perceptions of insecurity driven by increasing theft incidents. The targeting of paramedics, journalists, LAF soldiers, and UNIFIL peacekeepers intensified public anxiety and reinforced the sense that the escalation is increasingly eroding civilian safety and the actors meant to preserve stability. Simultaneously, pressure on basic services emerged more clearly as a growing driver of tensions, reflecting the cumulative strain of displacement, insecurity, and rising living costs on already fragile local systems. The dominant feature of this week's social media environment was the connection of security panic and sectarian framing with perceptions of distrust in institutions and intermediaries.

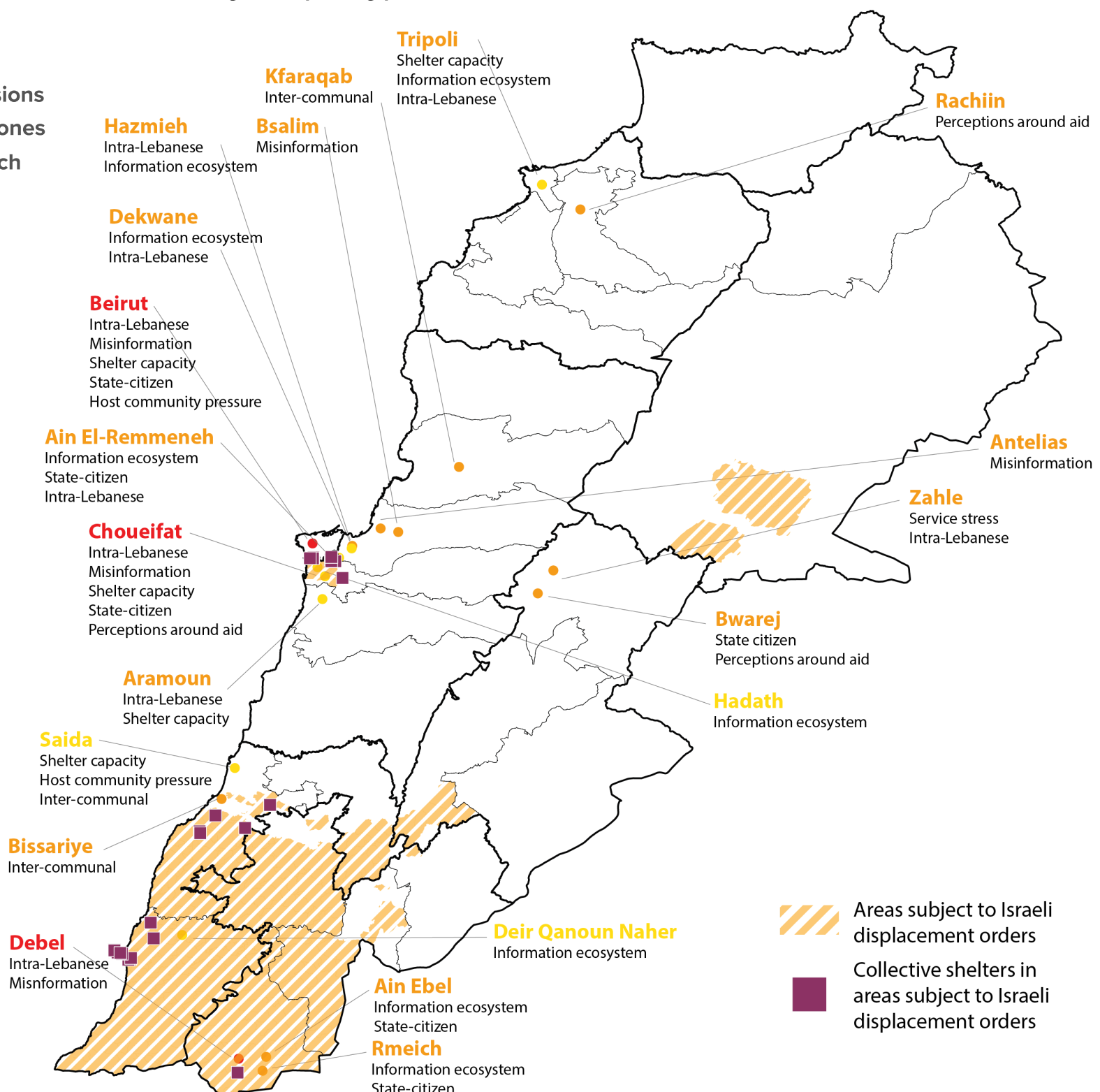
Strong government statements, including by the President of the Republic, alongside heightened security measures, particularly in Greater Beirut, to safeguard civil peace, reflect a growing recognition that the primary risk is no longer limited to humanitarian strain, but lies in the potential for internal fragmentation driven by insecurity, rumor, and politicized responses. In parallel, Tom Fletcher, the United Nations Emergency Relief Coordinator, emphasized during his visit to Lebanon this week that the country is facing a severe protection and displacement crisis, with humanitarian needs outpacing available support.

These pressures are accelerating strain on host communities, overstressing state response capacity, and increasing the risk that insecurity and political polarization further destabilize an already fragile social landscape.

## GEOGRAPHICAL HOTSPOTS

Identified hotspots for social tensions during the reporting period

**Red** = Emerging tensions  
**Orange** = Pressure zones  
**Yellow** = Area to watch



## TENSIONS DASHBOARD

■ Critical ■ Emerging ■ Watch

↑ increasing → stable ↓ decreasing

## Driver

## Status

## Trend



## Host community pressure



Host community pressure remained **critical** throughout the week and **continued to manifest through efforts to regulate, restrict, or reduce the visible presence of displaced populations**. The dismantling of IDP tents in Choueifat by security forces, supported by municipal authorities citing public order concerns, was one of the clearest examples of how hosting tensions are increasingly being addressed through enforcement measures. Similar dynamics were reflected in a dispute between IDPs and residents in Koura, continued pressure to restrict IDP hosting in several areas, and calls in Zahle to reopen public schools currently used as shelters.

Host community pressure this week was primarily driven by the growing framing of hosting as a security issue. Local responses increasingly defined displacement through concerns over public order, demographics, and institutional control. For example, the plan to install prefabricated houses donated by Turkey was halted following a sectarian online campaign over demographic concerns. In this context, **even modest changes in sheltering arrangements or localized incidents risk triggering disproportionate reactions**, as hosting is increasingly interpreted through a political and security lens.



## Shelter capacity pressure



Shelter capacity pressure remained **critical** across the week, despite continued opening of additional collective shelters. The number of collective shelters increased from 663 to 674 during the reporting period, while occupancy remained high at 98 per cent near capacity. **The system remains under sustained strain, even as additional capacity continues to be mobilized to absorb displacement.**

At the same time, the week highlighted that **shelter pressure is increasingly about conditions, acceptance (or lack thereof), and confidence in shelter arrangements**. Calls to reopen schools used as shelters in Zahle, allegations of contaminated diesel in a collective shelter in Bwarej (Zahle), and reports of polluted water in Rachiin (Zgharta), with reported adverse health effects among IDPs, all pointed to growing sensitivity around the quality and safety of shelter environments. In this sense, shelter tensions are being shaped as much by trust in management and living conditions as by capacity figures alone.



## State–citizen relations



State-citizen relations remained an **emerging** tension driver and showed signs of further strain during the week. On the one hand, the government and security institutions **stepped up visible efforts to preserve internal stability**. Security plans were implemented in Greater Beirut, security forces reinforced measures to maintain order, and the President of the Republic warned against threats to civil peace, underscoring an effort to project control and reassure the public amid rising unease. Nonetheless, the circulation of public-shaming videos of alleged thieves in Beirut's southern suburbs highlights the growing risk of self-security practices in response to perceived or vehiculated gaps in formal security provision.

On the other hand, the visibility of such measures also reflected a more contested relationship between state authority and public confidence. Residents of southern border villages called for assistance and security following reported LAF repositioning and some media reports accused authorities of delaying assistance initiatives for non-sheltered IDPs. These developments suggest that expressions of **trust in state institutions is increasingly contingent on perceptions of responses as protective, impartial, and timely**.



## Intra-Lebanese dynamics



Intra-Lebanese dynamics continue to be one of the most **critical** and worsening drivers of tension. Political and sectarian polarization continued to intensify around the controversy over the Iranian ambassador, responses to a Shia minister's participation in last week's cabinet meeting, and broader disagreement over wartime political positioning. The President's warning against threats to civil peace signals **that these tensions have escalated beyond online debate into a serious domestic stability concern.**

These tensions were further reinforced by **incidents and narratives that blurred the lines between insecurity, sectarian rhetoric, and local confrontation.** The dismantling of IDP tents in Choueifat, a dispute between IDPs in Tripoli that required LAF intervention, protests in Beirut condemning killings of journalists and the conflict more broadly, and repeated circulation of public-shaming content targeting alleged thieves all contributed to a social environment in which internal divisions were being sharpened through both political and everyday security narratives. The broader pattern this week suggests that intra-Lebanese tensions are increasingly sustained by accumulative signals of mistrust, rather than a single triggering incident.



## Inter-communal tensions



Inter-communal tensions remained at **less acute** level, yet **demonstrated how readily they can be reactivated by cross-border and border-security narratives.** The reported discovery of two cross-border tunnels between Lebanon and Syria and renewed concerns over possible Syrian military mobilization heightened public anxiety and triggered reactions with clear inter-communal undertones. These developments further reinforced a fragile environment where perceived external threats are readily translated into internal communal suspicion.

Night curfews resurfacing in Bissariye (Saida), reportedly targeting both Syrians and Lebanese, highlight that local security responses are becoming more socially sensitive and may affect different communities unevenly. As in previous weeks, the **main inter-communal risk continues to stem from misinformation, securitized local measures, and the rapid communalization of border-related developments.**



## Information ecosystem



The information ecosystem remained a **critical** and worsening tension driver this week. Fake calls and rumors about the presence of Iranian officials persisted, this time reportedly in Hadath (Baabda), while misinformation and sectarian campaigning also shaped responses to proposed shelter and housing solutions. Most notably, plans to install prefabricated houses donated by Turkey were halted following an online sectarian campaign framed around demographic concerns, demonstrating how **misinformation and inflammatory framing are now also influencing concrete response options.**

The circulation of images of the bodies of alleged thieves, continued public-shaming videos in Beirut's southern suburbs, and growing backlash against the perceived role of the media reinforced how the information space is functioning as a catalyst of tension and actively shaping public interpretations of security, aid, and legitimacy.



## Perceptions around aid



Perceptions around aid remained an **emerging** driver of tension and became more clearly linked to questions of safety, quality, and inclusion. Allegations of contaminated diesel in a collective shelter in Bwarej and reports of polluted water in Rachiin risk deepening mistrust not only in shelter management but in the wider response environment. At the same time, continued disruption of humanitarian access to hard-to-reach areas raised the likelihood that communities cut off by insecurity would increasingly interpret uneven assistance as neglect or unequal prioritization.

Perceptions around aid were also politicized by the reported halting of Turkish-donated prefabricated housing after sectarian backlash and by media claims that assistance initiatives for non-sheltered IDPs were being delayed because they were not yet integrated into the national plan. **Aid is increasingly assessed through perceptions of safety, neutrality, and accessibility, particularly beyond the formal shelter system.**

# TENSIONS DASHBOARD



## Service stress pressure



Service pressure **emerged** more clearly this week as a driver of tensions, reflecting the cumulative strain of displacement, insecurity, and rising living costs on already fragile local systems. The issue was most visible through rising fuel, commodity, and generator billing prices, growing concern over insecurity and theft, and signs that the prolonged crisis is placing added pressure on service hubs and everyday coping mechanisms.

This pressure also became visible through growing tension around the use and condition of essential facilities. Calls to reopen public schools used as shelters in Zahle, alongside reports of contaminated diesel in Bwarej and polluted water in Rachiin, highlighted how service-related grievances can quickly feed mistrust and deepen broader tensions around response quality, local capacity, and unequal burden-sharing.

# KEY ONLINE NARRATIVES

Online narratives during the week clustered around six main themes:

1. **Strong condemnation of the killing of journalists, paramedics, LAF soldiers, and UNIFIL peacekeepers** stood out as one of the few relatively unifying reactions in an otherwise polarized environment.
2. Cabinet participation, the Iranian ambassador issue, and rumors concerning the presence of Iranian officials **sustained a highly politicized and sectarianized domestic discourse.**
3. Insecurity-related narratives, including public shaming of alleged thieves and warnings about internal security threats, fed **growing concern about disorder and social breakdown.**
4. **Increased backlash against the media**, with criticism focusing on its perceived role in fueling fear, exaggerating incidents, or worsening polarization.
5. **Aid and shelter narratives were increasingly politicized**, focusing on shelter conditions, delays in assistance to non-sheltered IDPs, and the suspension of prefabricated housing plans after sectarian campaigning.
6. Rising concern over fuel, commodity, and generator billing prices contributed to a broader narrative of cumulative social stress, **linking wartime insecurity to everyday economic anxiety.**

179.7K

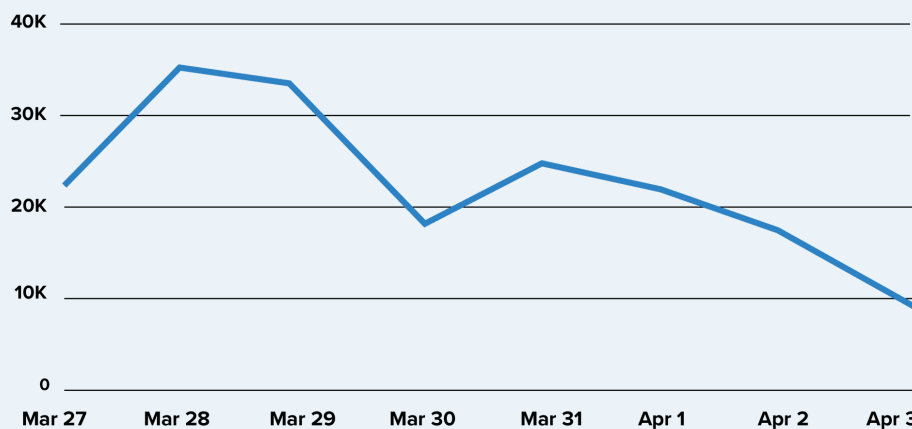


Figure 1: Engagement trend around killing of journalists, paramedics, LAF soldiers, and UNIFIL peacekeepers

93.9K

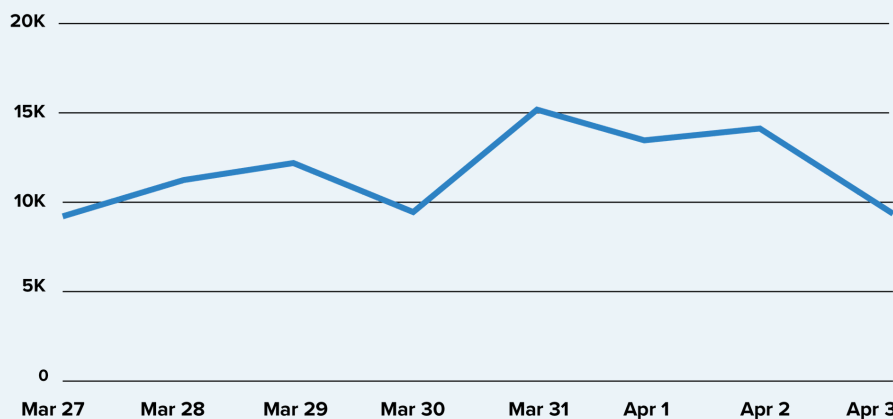


Figure 2: Engagement trend around the increase in fuel and commodity prices



## KEY CONSIDERATIONS

The following considerations remain relevant and are further reinforced by this week's developments, highlighting priority areas for preventive and response efforts to help mitigate emerging tensions in the period ahead:

- **Ensure fair and inclusive management of collective shelters** by actively involving representatives of hosted communities, addressing grievances promptly through accessible feedback mechanisms, communicating clearly and mainstreaming cultural sensitivity.
- **Promote conflict-sensitive approaches** among national and local authorities, civil society, and service providers—including targeted training and guidance in both Arabic and English, delivered in accessible formats that do not disrupt ongoing emergency operations—particularly in areas experiencing rapid displacement and hosting pressures.
- **Prevent assessment fatigue** among displaced families by coordinating with other actors, minimizing repetitive data collection, and ensuring that assessments are necessary, respectful, and conflict sensitive.
- **Support dialogue and inclusive engagement between host communities and displaced populations in emerging tension hotspots**, including mediation mechanisms and joint local initiatives that strengthen cooperation around shelter arrangements, services, and shared space
- **Address rising negative coping, market stress, and service pressure** through support that protects household access to basic goods, electricity, water and waste management while easing pressure on overstretched local services.
- **Strengthen the role of security institutions in community-based initiatives**, promoting their participation in dialogue platforms and local engagement efforts to build trust, ensure conflict-sensitive responses, and better align security posture with community needs.
- **Ensure that communities are meaningfully consulted** and that their views inform any relocation decisions, promoting informed, voluntary, and context-appropriate choices.
- **Reinforce accountability and feedback mechanisms**, including accessible channels for communities to raise concerns and address perceptions of bias.
- **Ensure that cash assistance and aid delivery are implemented in a conflict-sensitive manner**, aligned with Government of Lebanon allocation protocols, and supported by clear communication to help prevent tensions among affected communities.
- **Enhance efforts to address mis/disinformation** and inflammatory narratives, including through timely clarification of contested information and support for media literacy, responsible public communication, and access to reliable fact-checking resources.
- **Promote balanced and responsible public messaging**, including support for content that highlights solidarity, coexistence, and positive community interactions, to help counter polarizing narratives.



## WHAT TO WATCH

- **Growing pressure to restrict hosting of IDPs, including local screening practices, tighter controls on accommodation, pressure on landlords, and calls for relocation**
- **Diminishing humanitarian access in hard-to-reach areas**
- **Increased visible deployment of security forces in sensitive hosting areas and its potential effects on community perceptions and tensions**
- **Increased backlash against negative role played by the media in stoking tensions**
- **Social tensions around increased commodities and fuel prices and generator billing**
- **Risk of further expansion of displacement warnings to areas north of the Litani River**
- **Increased resort to self-security practices and public shaming**