



War Impact

ON CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES & THEIR FAMILIES

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I-A Country in Escalation and Uncertainty

Lebanon is once again facing a serious escalation of armed conflict as regional tensions intensify. Airstrikes and military operations have affected several areas of the country, causing casualties, displacement, and growing instability.

Entire villages in Beirut and in southern Lebanon have received evacuation warnings, and large numbers of families are fleeing their homes in search of safety.

Children are among the most affected: thousands of children have already been displaced, and several have been killed or injured during the recent hostilities.

Even in areas that are not directly targeted, the entire country is experiencing the consequences of fear, displacement, economic disruption, and humanitarian strain.

In such a context, organizations working with the most vulnerable populations must remain fully operational despite growing uncertainty and pressure on resources.

For institutions like SESOBEL, ensuring continuity of care for children with disabilities is not only a social responsibility but an urgent humanitarian necessity.

II-Children with Disabilities: The Most Vulnerable in Times of War

For children with disabilities, war multiplies every challenge.

At SESOBEL, many of our beneficiaries live in regions that are now exposed to conflict or instability. Their families face enormous difficulties:

Psychological and Emotional Impact

Children with developmental disabilities, autism, or neurological conditions struggle deeply with sudden changes in routine, loud noises, and uncertainty. Airstrikes, alarms, and displacement create intense anxiety and behavioral distress.

Parents report that many children are experiencing:

- sleep disturbances
- heightened anxiety and agitation
- regression in communication or learning skills
- difficulty understanding the situation

For children who rely on stable environments and therapeutic routines, war can undo months or even years of progress.



Access to Therapy and Medical Care

Children with disabilities depend on continuous care:

- physiotherapy
- occupational therapy
- speech therapy
- specialized education
- assistive devices and medication

However, in times of war:

- roads may become unsafe
- transportation becomes difficult
- families prioritize survival needs
- healthcare systems become overwhelmed

Interruptions in therapy can significantly impact the development and wellbeing of these children.

Families Under Extreme Pressure

Families of children with disabilities already face financial and emotional burdens.

Today they are also dealing with:

- fear of displacement
- loss of income
- rising prices of food and basic goods
- transportation difficulties
- lack of access to essential services

Some families have relatives in regions directly under threat. Others are hosting displaced family members in already fragile households.

In several cases across the country, families fleeing violence are sleeping in cars or temporary shelters, unable to secure stable accommodation.

For parents caring for children with disabilities, these conditions are almost impossible.

III–The National Crisis: Energy, Fuel, and Essential Services

Lebanon was already suffering from one of the worst economic crises in its history. The current war is worsening an already fragile situation.

The country continues to face severe structural problems in the energy sector. Power cuts are frequent, and many institutions rely on diesel generators to operate.

Fuel shortages and the collapse of the electricity sector have previously caused nationwide blackouts and disrupted essential services such as water supply and healthcare systems.

For institutions like SESOBEL, these issues pose an existential threat.

Our services depend on:

- electricity for medical equipment
- heating and cooling systems
- rehabilitation devices
- elevators and accessibility infrastructure
- kitchen services for children and youth

Without diesel, gas, or electricity, even basic operations become extremely difficult.



IV–Impact on SESOBEL

Although SESOBEL is not located in a directly targeted area, the consequences of war affect us deeply.

Challenges We Are Already Facing:

1. Transportation Risks

Families coming from exposed areas may not be able to safely reach the center.

2. Staff Mobility

Some staff members live in regions experiencing instability.

3. Psychological Strain

Children and families arriving at SESOBEL are anxious and emotionally exhausted.

4. Rising Operational Costs

Fuel, transportation, food, and medical supplies are becoming more expensive.

5. Energy Dependence

The center relies heavily on generators and diesel to ensure continuity of care.

6. Suspension of Local Support and Self-Financing Activities

Another major challenge is the interruption of many of SESOBEL's local sources of support. Donations and contributions from within Lebanon have stopped due to the economic instability and the current war situation. In addition, our self-financing activities, on which we rely to sustain our services and support the children and their families, have been suspended. These activities are essential for helping SESOBEL remain operational.

V–A Future Marked by Uncertainty

The greatest challenge today is uncertainty.

We do not know:

- how long the conflict will last
- whether hostilities will expand geographically
- how the national economy will absorb another shock
- whether fuel and essential supplies will remain available

This uncertainty affects every institution working for vulnerable populations. For children with disabilities, interruptions in care can have lifelong consequences.



VI- SESOBEL's Commitment

Despite the challenges, SESOBEL remains committed to its mission:

To protect the dignity, rights, and wellbeing of children with disabilities and their families.

In this difficult context, SESOBEL continues to:

- maintain therapeutic and educational services
- support families facing psychological and financial distress
- adapt programs to ensure continuity of care
- prioritize the safety of children and staff
- mobilize solidarity and partnerships

However, sustaining these services in a context of war and economic collapse requires extraordinary resilience and support.

VII-A Call for Solidarity

At SESOBEL, we have always believed that every child deserves care, dignity, and opportunity.

In times of war, this mission becomes even more essential.

Children with disabilities must not be forgotten in humanitarian crises. Their needs do not disappear during war; on the contrary, they become greater. For many families, SESOBEL remains one of the very few places where their children can continue to receive care, stability, and support.

Today, the challenges we face are not only humanitarian but also operational. The interruption of local support and of our self-financing activities place additional pressure on our ability to sustain our services during this uncertain period.

Despite these difficulties, SESOBEL remains fully committed to standing by the children and their families. With the dedication of our teams and the solidarity of our partners, we continue to do everything possible to ensure that care, therapy, and support remain accessible to those who need them most.

In this context, the support of our partners and friends is more vital than ever. Your solidarity enables SESOBEL to continue its mission and to preserve a place of care, protection, and hope for the most vulnerable children.

**Because even in the darkest times, our responsibility remains clear:
to protect hope, dignity, and life for every child.**



Your help is vital

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SESOBEL treasures its autonomy and is not affiliated to any religious nor political entity.

SESOBEL is engaged to abide by rigorous and transparent management practices: the finances of SESOBEL are regularly monitored by 2 auditing firms, the international Ernst & Young and the Cabinet Antoine Haddad in Lebanon.

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