Electricity policy beirut

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Lebanon"s electricity failed over the weekend, plunging the country into further difficulty on top of economic collapse, political corruption, and a deadly port explosion in Beirut last year.

Beirut, Lebanon - Lebanon"s electricity sector is again on the verge of total failure, and the government has once more continued to throw money at it, instead of fixing it.

(Beirut) - The Lebanese government"s continued mismanagement of the electricity sector and its failure to carry out key reforms is diminishing the public"s already-limited access to ...

Increase Supply of Cheaper, more Sustainable Electricity Supply. The first policy objective is ensuring reliable, affordable, and sustainable (24/7) electricity services across Lebanon in an efficient, fiscally balanced, and environmentally friendly manner.

The reported electricity shortfalls were highest in Beirut and Mount Lebanon (averaging 11 hours per day) and lowest in South Lebanon (mean of 7 hours per day).

The primary energy use in 2009 in Lebanon was 77 TWh, 18 MWh per capita.[5][6] In 2019, the total solar PV capacity was 78 MW,[7] and it reached 1300 MW at the end of 2023.[8]

In August 2024, the situation reached a critical point when fuel reserves were completely depleted, leading to a nationwide blackout.[9]

Electricity was first introduced in Lebanon in the early 20th century, primarily to power the capital"s tramways. The Compagnie des Tramsways et de l"Electricit? de Beyrouth, founded in 1906, was the first to manage the electricity needs of Beirut. In 1923, this company merged with the Compagnie du Gaz et de l"Eclairage de Beyrouth, originally established in 1895, forming the Soci?t? des Tramways et de l"Electricit?.[11][12]

The nationalization of the electricity sector in 1964 allowed EDL to dominate the market. However, it coexisted with independent entities managing the hydropower plants on the Litani, Nahr Ibrahim, and Bared rivers, as well as local distribution concessions in towns like Zahle, Jbeil, Aley, and Bhamdoun.[15][16]

Despite decades of investment, Lebanon"s electricity generation capacity remains insufficient to meet the needs of its growing population. As of August 2016, the peak electricity demand in the country was 3,500 MW, but the grid"s total capacity was only 2,200 MW.[17] This gap has led to frequent and

widespread blackouts, forcing many Lebanese households and businesses to rely on private diesel generators, which are both costly and environmentally damaging.[18][19]

The situation deteriorated further in 2021 when Karpowership, a Turkish company providing Lebanon with 370 MW of electricity through power ships, halted supplies due to payment arrears and legal disputes. This exacerbated the electricity shortages, leading to near-total blackouts across the country.[20][17][21] In August 2024, the Algerian government stated it will send immediate fuel supply, following th e large blackout in Lebanon.[22]

Lebanon"s efforts to diversify its energy sources have included the use of natural gas. The Arab Gas Pipeline, which began operations in Lebanon in 2009, supplies Egyptian natural gas to the Deir Ammar power station, although this supply has been inconsistent due to regional geopolitical issues.[27] In 2021, Lebanon announced a plan to re-route its natural gas imports through Jordan to produce electricity for the Lebanese grid via Syria. However, the implementation of this plan has been delayed due to logistical and political challenges.[21]