

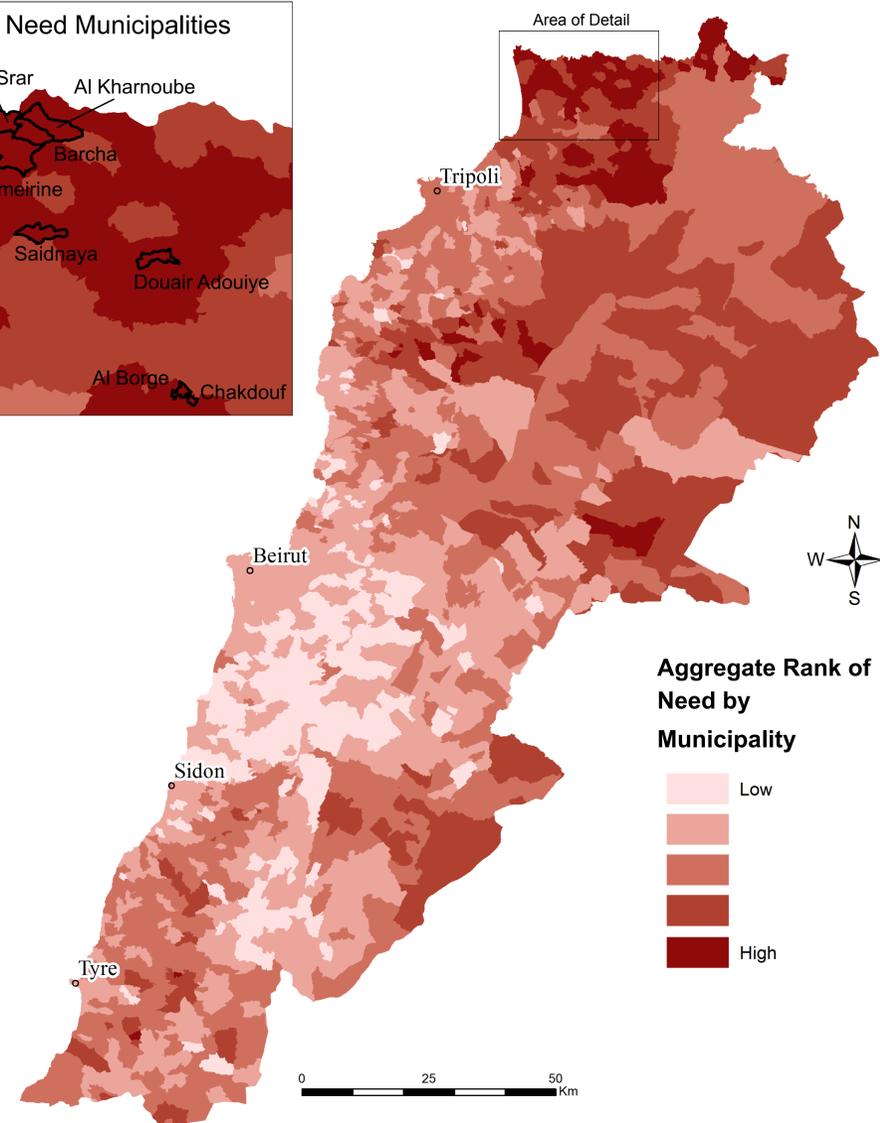
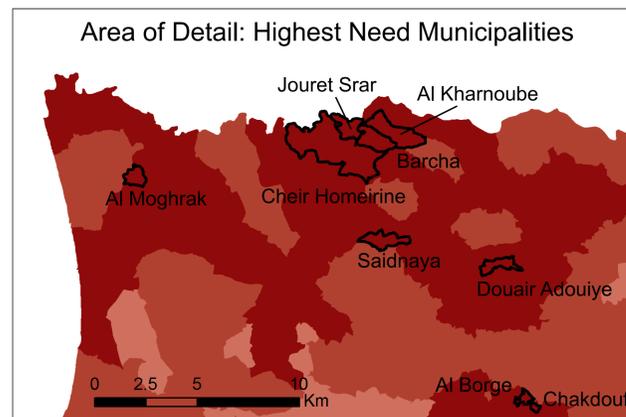
An Assessment of Social and Economic Needs in Lebanon

Project Overview

As a small country with a population of only 4 million, Lebanon is often overlooked in comparison to its larger and more volatile neighbors. However, after a devastating civil war that lasted from 1974 to 1991, its proximity to regional conflicts in Iraq and Syria, and its 2006 war with Israel, Lebanon has significant pockets of poverty, uneven provision of social services, and a fragile economy. It is also still divided along socio-religious lines. For local and international organizations trying to foster positive development in Lebanon it is important to understand the social and economic needs of this small but strategically important country. Access to education, healthcare, and employment are key factors in the development of any country. This analysis examines which areas of Lebanon are most in need of social and economic assistance through examining proximity to economic and social resources.

Methodology

This analysis begins the process of effective targeting of the neediest areas in Lebanon using available social and economic data. I ranked each of Lebanon's 1615 municipalities using a 1-5 scale in six categories, with 1 representing low need and 5 representing high need. My need rankings are based on six categories: population density, household expenditure, access to schools, access to hospitals, proximity to farmland, and proximity to industry. Distance to farmland and proximity to chemical industries are indicators of economic well-being, as people in areas far from these resources might have fewer employment opportunities in agriculture, industry, or retail. Distance to schools and proximity to hospitals are indicators of social well-being, as people far from these resources might have a greater need for educational or health projects. Population density is also an important part of this needs assessment, as organizations want to know how many people they will work with in a particular municipality and may want to target higher population areas.



Results

This analysis finds that the highest levels of social and economic need exist in northern Lebanon. I recommend that local and international organizations target health, education, and economic development projects in this area. Nine municipalities showed particularly high levels of need, as displayed the map's area of detail: Al Moghrak, Chour Homeirine, Joutet Sra, Al Kharnoube, Barcha, Saidnaya, Douair Adouye, Al Borge, and Chakdouf. This analysis is a first step in the targeting process. Organizations looking to encourage development in Lebanon should further investigate needs in these municipalities.

Limitations

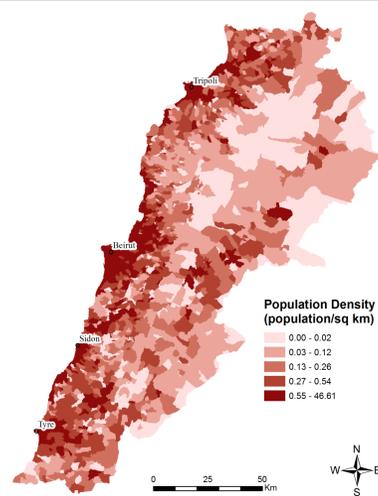
Unfortunately, there is little current data about Lebanon, particularly in the economic realm. All of my datasets are from 2006. Data related to household expenditure was only available at the level of governorates, and it would be more accurate if it were disaggregated at the smaller, municipality level. For non-agricultural economic activity and employment, proximity to chemical industries is a somewhat weak indicator, but it was the only data I could find related to industry in Lebanon. Also, this data excludes information about refugees in Lebanon. Both the longstanding Palestinian refugee population and the more recent Syrian refugee arrivals probably have some of the highest levels of need in the country. It is important to consider these groups as well, though my analysis does not include them. Their needs may be different from those of the non-refugee population. Despite its limitations this analysis provides a framework for assessing social and economic need in Lebanon. This methodology could be used and refined as more data becomes available about Lebanon.

Cartographer: Phoebe Sloane

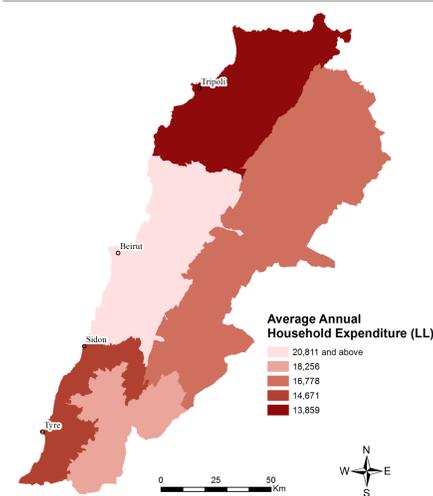
Sources: Central Administration of Statistics of Lebanon; Council for Development and Reconstruction, of Lebanon; Vietnam Veterans of America Foundation; USAID, Global Administrative Areas. All accessed April 2013.

Coordinate System: WGS_UTM_36N **Date created:** May 6, 2012

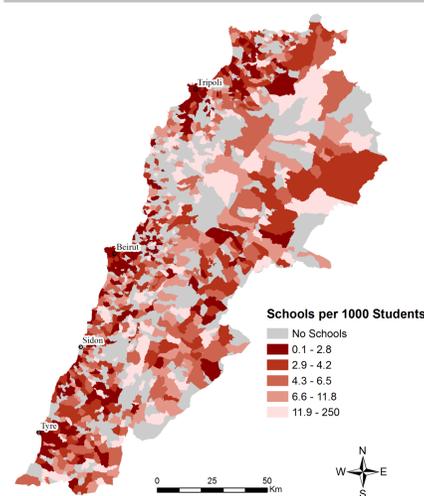
Population Density



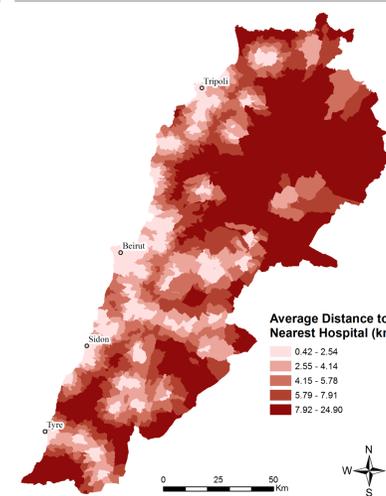
Household Expenditure



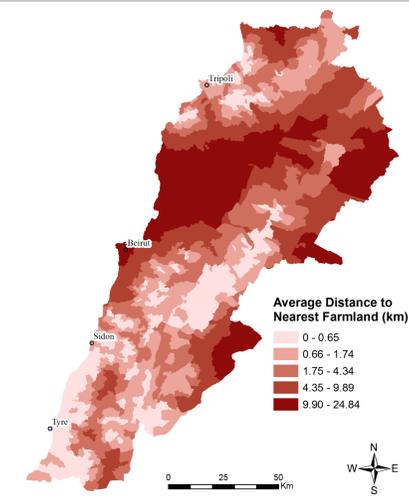
Access to Schools



Access to Hospitals



Proximity to Farmland



Proximity to Industry

