



Businesses and Cities of the Mediterranean

Engines of Innovation, Cohesion and Peace

September 19th 2025
Cagliari, Italy

Port Development and Urban Mobility in the Mediterranean:

Beirut Port and the City

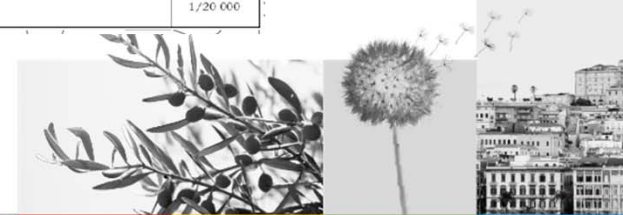
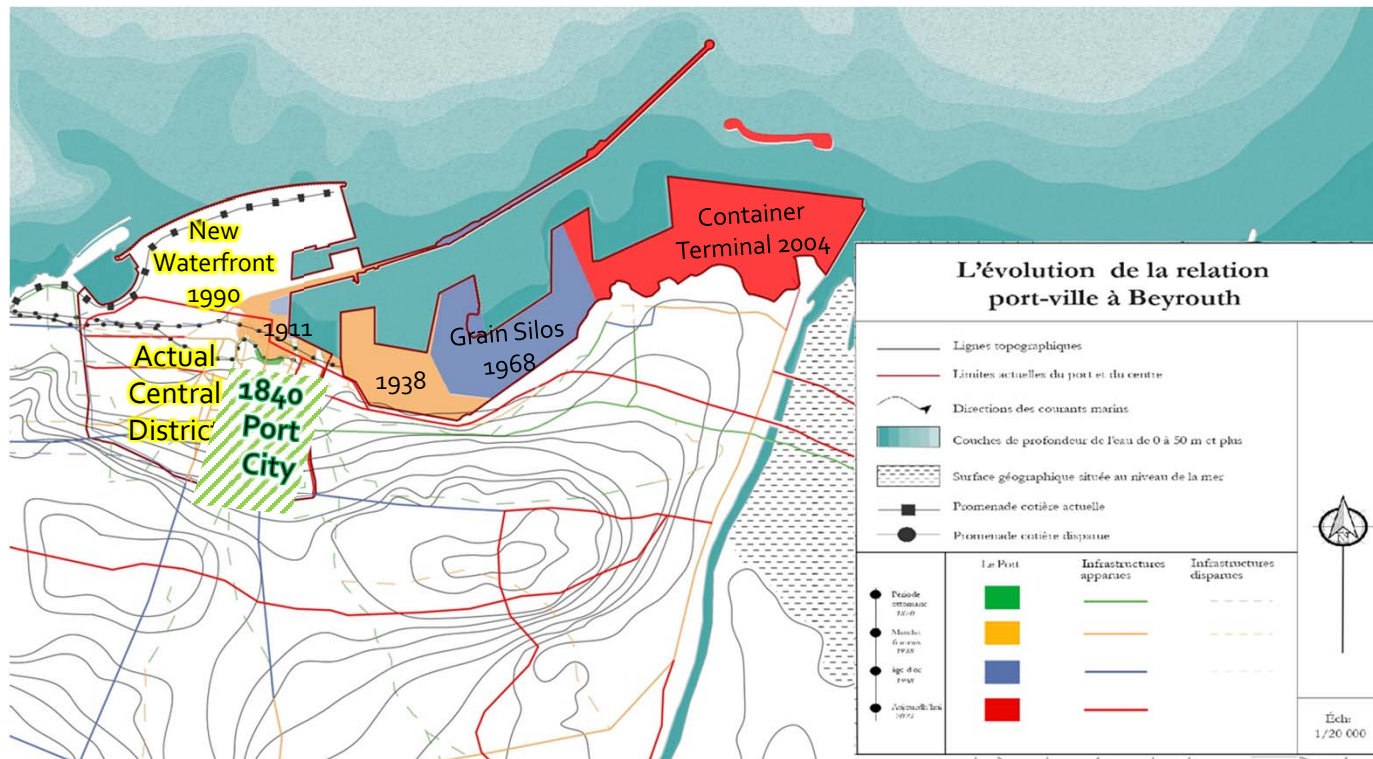
Rabih Sabra

Director General

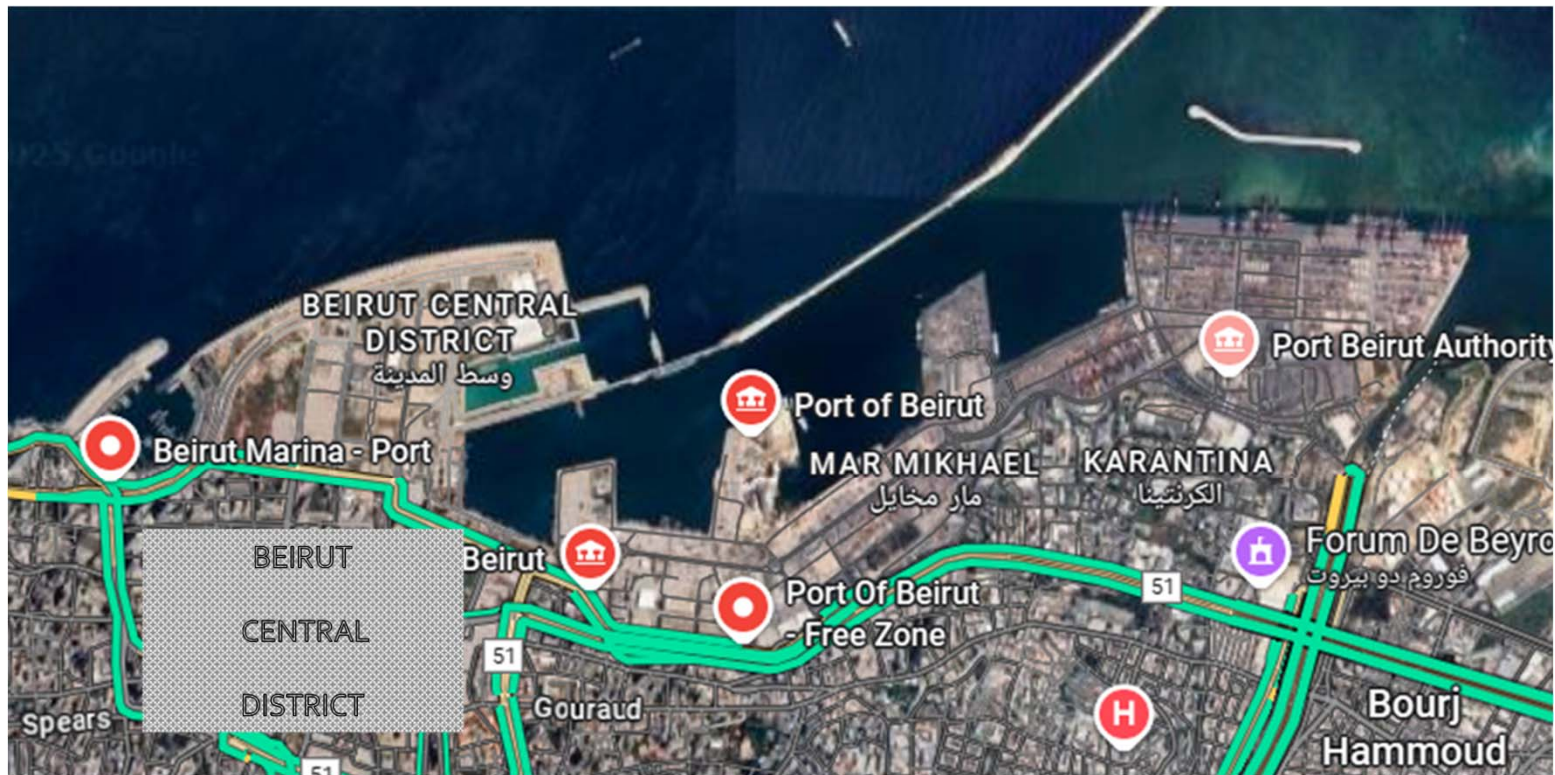
Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture
of Beirut & Mount Lebanon



Beirut Port - City : Historical Evolution



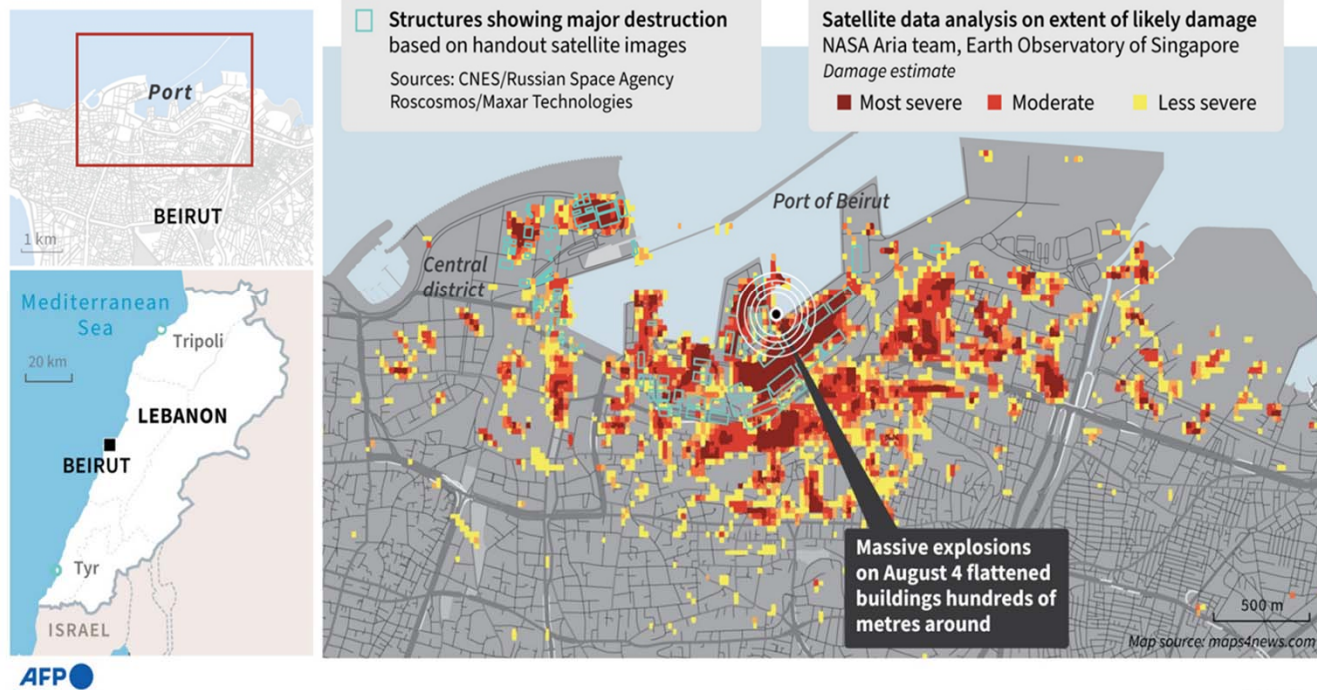
Port - City Relation and Urban Mobility



Beirut Port 2020 Blast & Incurred Damage

Beirut explosion damage: satellite imaging analysis

The blasts obliterated part of the port and caused damage over a wide radius in the heart of the city



Disaster Recovery & Urban Porosity

THE PORT AND THE CITY



BASSIN 1 URBAN POROSITY ?



Disaster Recovery & Connectivity

THE PORT AND THE CITY



NEED TO IMPROVE ACCESSIBILITY



Rehabilitation Proposals: WBG vs French

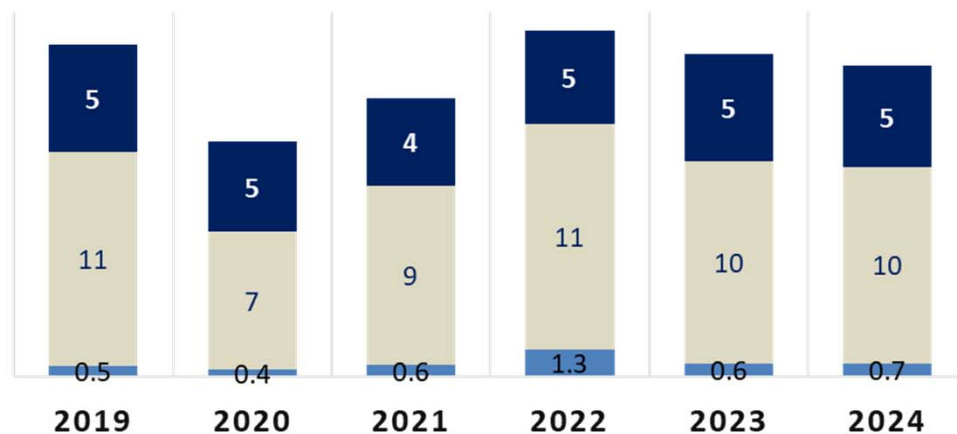
	World Bank Proposal (WBP)	French Proposal (FP)
Scope & Vision	- National port strategy, long-term integration with city - Landlord-model law - Positive economic spillover to Beirut	- Interim repair only, no national vision - Restoration of pre-explosion status-quo
Ports' functions	- Industrial/logistics + recreational/tourist - Special economic zone, innovation hub, sanctuary area	- Mainly cargo/containers - Limited tourism outside port area
Port-City Relationship	- Reconnect port & city - Public spaces, commercial & recreational functions - Memorial included	- Separates port & city - Focus on circulation efficiency
Governance	- New port law (landlord-model) - Public-private partnership with city representation	- Based on existing ad-hoc legal framework - WB governance adoption could bring change
Cargo Function	Space-efficient, multi-use of quays	- Large areas for Ro-Ro & general cargo - Livestock handling, solar panels
Recreational & Tourism Functions	- Large cruise terminal - Parks, recreational spaces	Limited to cruise terminal as passage only
Marine & Structural Works	No new works proposed	New quay, berth expansion, marine works
Silos	- Move to Quay 11, free damaged berth - Forecast reconstruction cost	Reconstruct silos near demolished ones for stakeholders
Environmental Impact	- Limit harm via routing high-risk cargo to hinterland - Introduce reforms	Solar panels only
Space Audit	~30 ha excess land for port/city integration	~9 ha excess land, kept enclosed
Cost Allocation	Focus on port's tech development	Rebuild Mole 2, marine works
Memorial	- Preserve destroyed silos - Integrate memorial site	Small, inaccessible memorial area



Importance of Beirut Port in National Trade

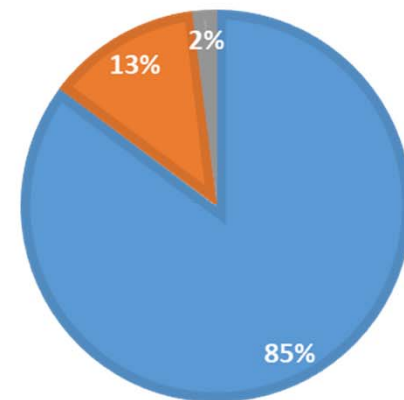
TOTAL TRADE PER TRANSPORT MODE
BN USD

■ Land ■ Sea ■ Air



PERCENT TOTAL SEA TRADE PER
PORTS (2024)

■ Beirut port ■ Tripoli port ■ Other ports

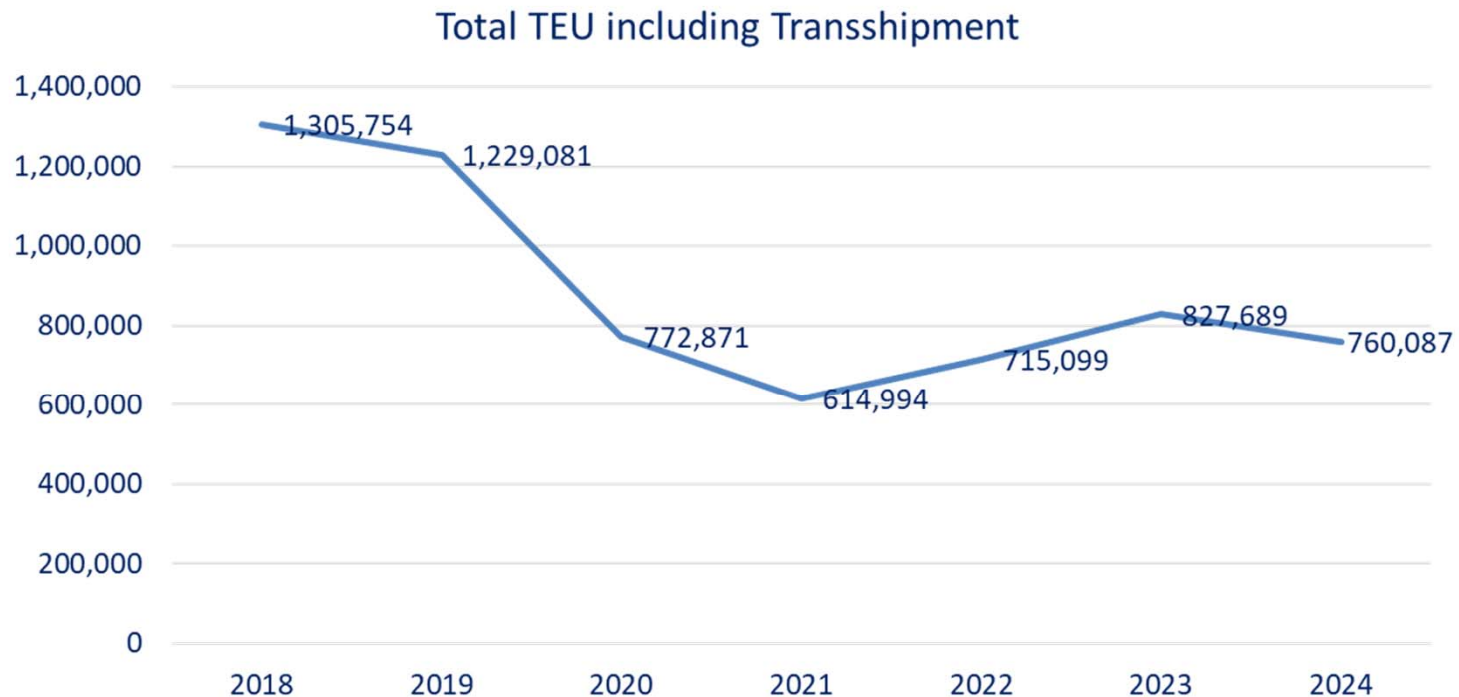


NB: Total trade excluding fuel.

Source: Original Data from Lebanese Customs, compiled by Author.



Beirut Port Container & Cargo Movement



Source: Original Data from Beirut Port, compiled by Author.



PPP in Beirut Port: BCTC (2005 – 2022)



PPPs in Beirut & Tripoli Ports: CMA-CGM (2021)



PPP in Beirut Central District: Solidere (1994)



Thank you

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