

IMPROVEMENT OF POLICY ON OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH

From Policy Development to Implementation Measures
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Country report : LEBANON

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Map of LEBANON



LEBANON FLAG

- **Composed** of red ,white and red horizontal stripes, with green cedar in the middle
- The **white color** on the flag represents the snow as a symbol of purity and peace
- The two **red stripes** refer to the Lebanese blood shed to preserve the country against the successive invaders
- The **green cedar** symbolizes immortality



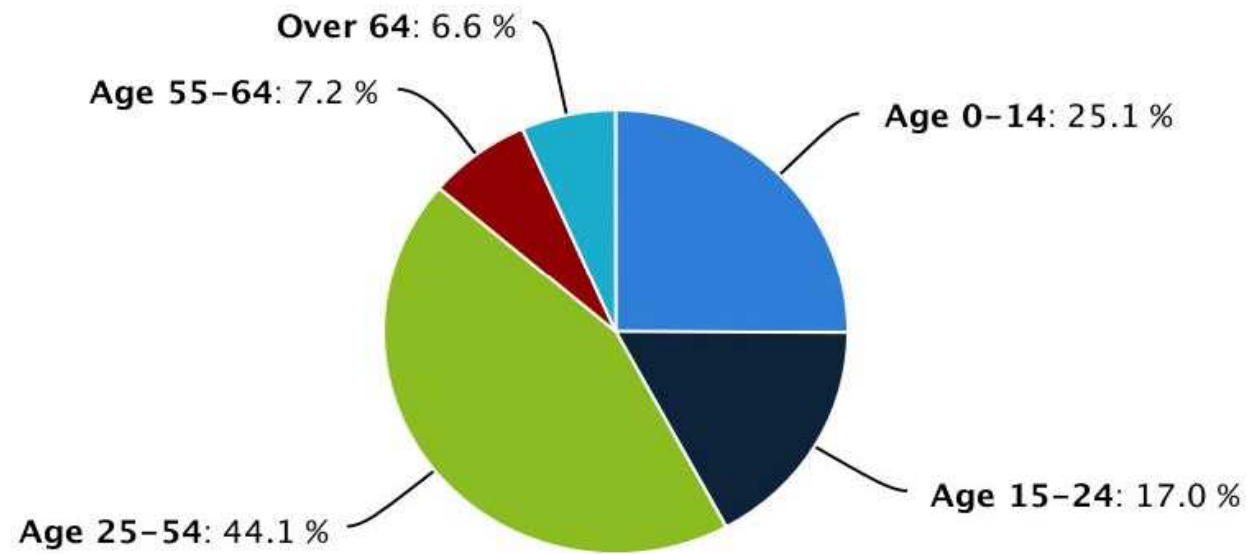
General information about LEBANON

- **Geographic Location** : Middle East ,located on the East coast of the Mediterranean Sea (225 km)
- **Border Countries** : Palestine(79 km), Syria (375 km)
- **Total Area** : 10,452 km²
- **Currency** : Lebanese Pound (LBP)
- **Time zone** : + 02:00 GMT
- **Calling code** : + 961
- **Population**: 6,020,355 (1.1 million refugees from Syria)

General information about LEBANON

- **Capital** : Beirut
- **Ethnic Groups** : Arab 95%, Armenian 4%, other 1%
- **Religions** : Muslims 59% , Christians 40%, minorities 1%
- **Government type** : Republic
- **Official languages** : Arabic , but English and French is widely spoken
- **Climate** : Moderate weather , it is alpine in the mountains and Mediterranean along the coast

Population per age



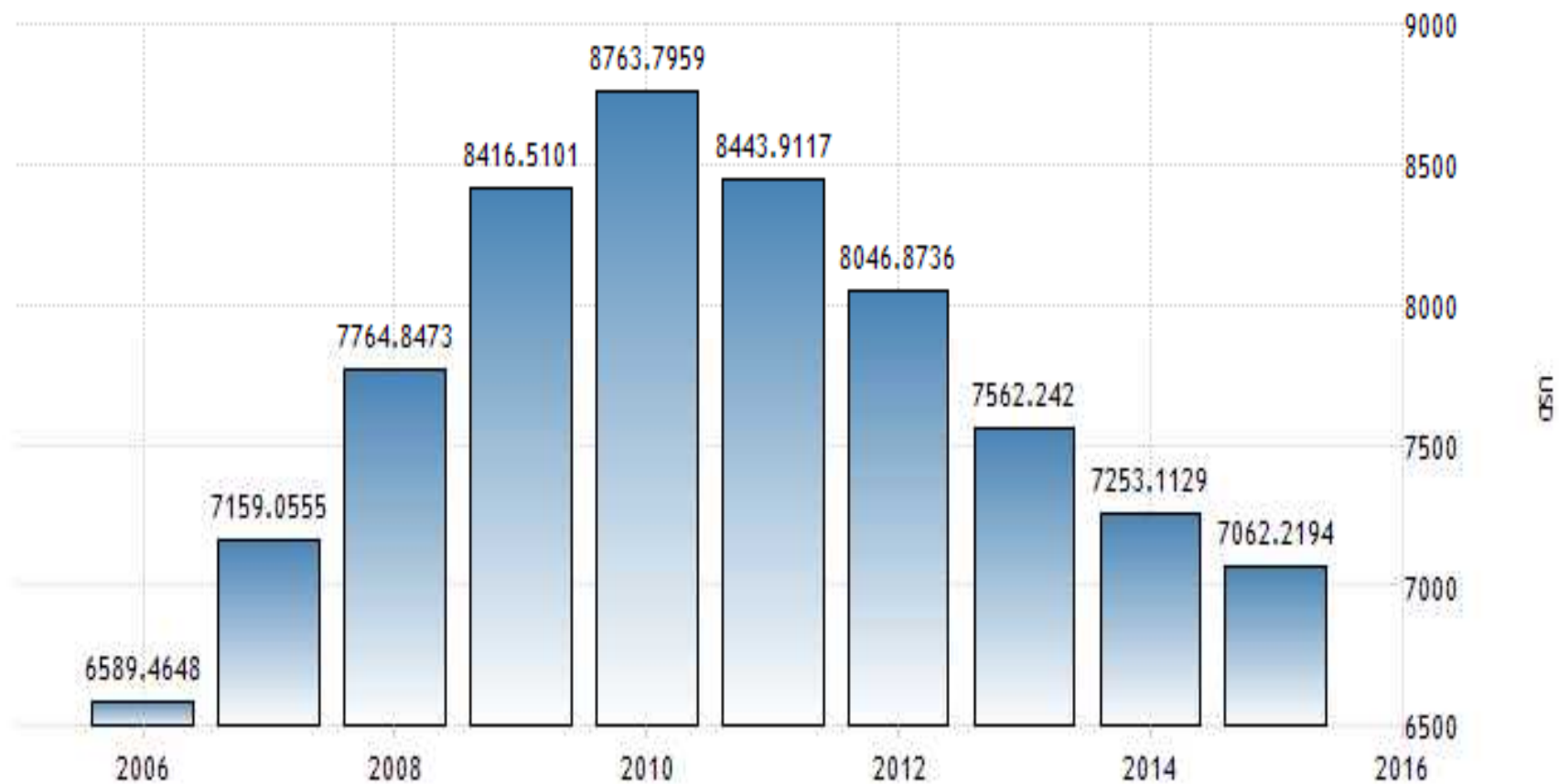
Lebanon GDP



SOURCE: WWW.TRADINGECONOMICS.COM | WORLD BANK

Lebanon GDP per capita

LEBANON GDP PER CAPITA



SOURCE: WWW.TRADINGECONOMICS.COM | WORLD BANK

Economy

- Lebanon 's liberal economy is based on competition and private ownership
- **Tourism and banking** sectors predominate, and dependence of those sectors made the **services** sector the most supportive sector of the Lebanese economy
- **Agriculture and industry** sectors constitute 20% of country 's GDP



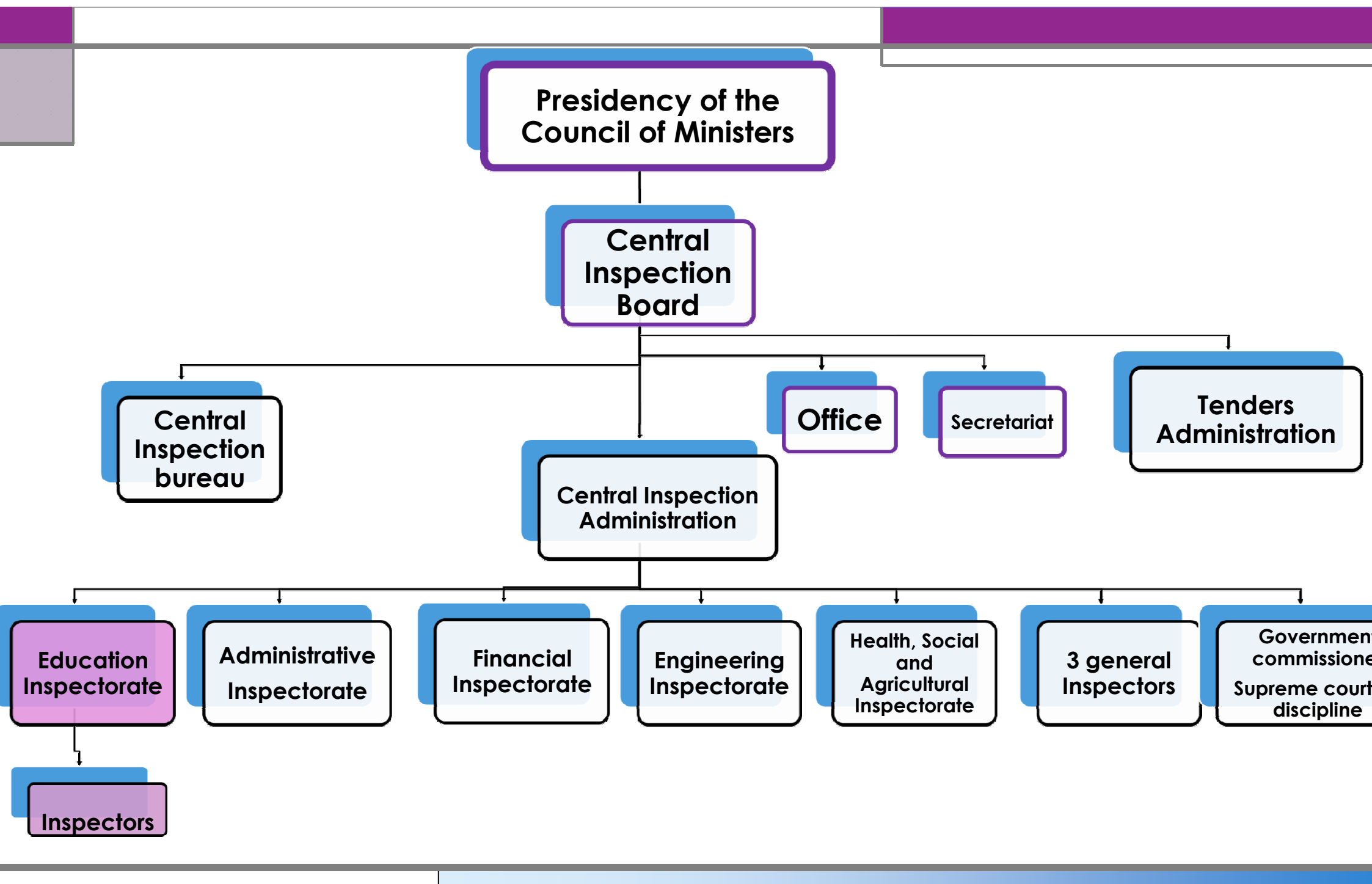
Culture

- The historical and cultural heritage of Lebanon dates back over 6,000 years to the Phoenicians and the subsequent civilizations that were established in Lebanon or interacted with the Lebanese people
- Throughout its history, Lebanon has been a contact center between various cultures and civilizations, and, as a result, the Republic today is a highly - cosmopolitan country
- Lebanon has a literacy rate as high as 96 %



Organization chart of Central Inspection Board





THE CENTRAL INSPECTION

- The **Central Inspection** is a Public Administration Connected to the council of Ministers

Tasks :


- Monitoring the actions of the public administrative departments to insure that they perform according to rules and regulations
- Monitors the punctuality and discipline of its personnel. This is achieved by means of the different specialties inspectors: Financial, administrative, educational, engineering, health, social and agricultural

- Working to improve the methods of administrative action.
- Giving consultation to the authorities spontaneously and according to demand
- Coordinating the common actions between several public administrative departments
- Organizing the rent of buildings for all administrative departments
- Handling tenders processes that are related to public civil administrative departments




OVERVIEW of LEBANON OSH SYSTEM







There is no national OSH policy and the related activities are also random and not followed by any strategies or plans



Status of industrial/occupational accidents and diseases



- The real status of occupational diseases and injuries is not well officially studied
- The Ministry of labor does not have any system for notifying, investigating or documenting occupational injuries and diseases
- There are some studies and analysis from universities and other organizations that give a general idea and not based on real data
- There is no in-depth studies that show which disease or group of disease are the most common

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- No official data or any statistics on workplace injuries and occupational diseases
 - Some private insurance companies can give us general ideas
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Related laws and regulations

The Occupational Safety and Health issues ,under the labor law of Lebanon, are mainly regulated in the following pieces of legislation:

- The **Decree No. 136** of 1983, the work related injuries and emergencies. This decree stipulates the employers' responsibilities in cases of occupational injuries and corresponding compensation and workers' entitlements, it also stipulates the sanctions in case of violations

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- The **Decree No. 11802** of 2004, Regulation of OSH in the enterprises. This decree includes the OSH requirements and precautions required by the employers in their workplaces
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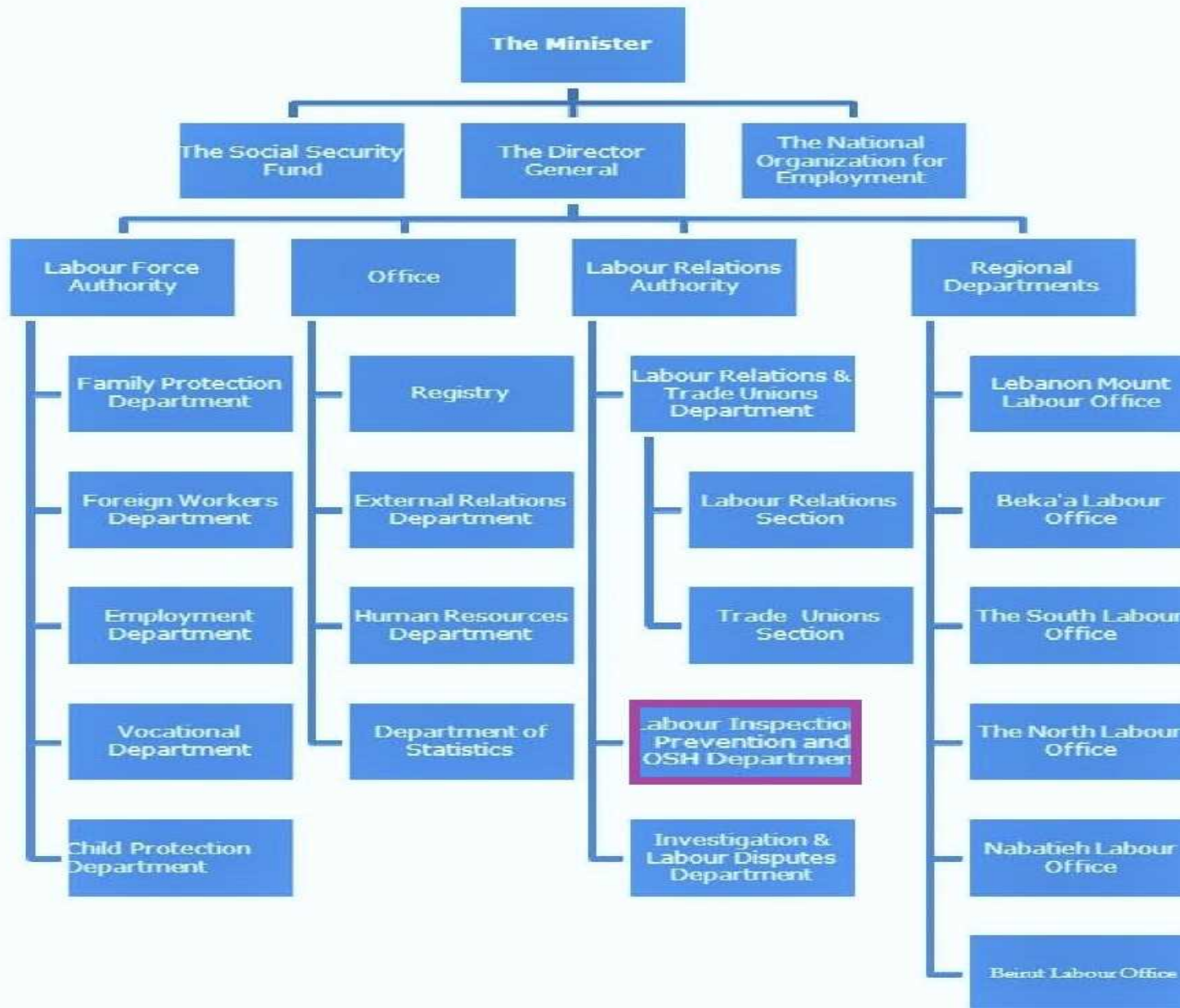
- The **Decree No. 11958** of 2004, Safety and Protection in Construction.
- The **Decree No. 4568** of 1960, Health care in the Enterprises.
- The **Decree No. 14229** of 2005, Occupational Diseases' Table

At the Ministry of labor (MOL)since the OSH team was backed up by engineers and physicians three decrees related to OHS were issued:

- **No. 11802 , No. 11958 , No. 14229** , at the beginning of 2005 the political situation including legislation was hindered thus implementation was not completely implemented. Despite that decree **No. 11958** stated that any workplace injuries should be reported, workplace injury should be reported to **MOL** within 24 hours of occurrence. Very rare enterprises are reporting abiding.



Organization chart of MOL



Labor Inspection System

- The ministry of labor(MOL) is responsible for labor and employment issues
- The department of labor inspection is under authority of the MOL
- labor inspection in Lebanon is mainly regulated by the Decree No. 3273 of 26 June 2000
- According to Decree No. 3273 , the labor inspection system ensures the supervision of compliance with regulation regarding conditions of employment, protection of workers including OSH

Labor Inspection System

- There are two types of inspection visits: periodic and urgent which is mainly complaint-based.
- Each inspector is assigned a certain geographical area which s/he is required to cover for a period of six months
- The labor inspectors prepare their plans by themselves

Labor Inspection System

- There are about 96 labor inspectors in MoL classified as follows:
 - 26 (administrative) labor inspectors
 - 46 assistant labor inspectors
 - 12 health inspectors (Physicians)
 - 12 safety inspectors (Engineers)

Labor Inspection System

The OSH inspectors have the following functions:

- Conducting inspection visits to ensure compliance with the OSH provisions of the labor law
- Examining the powered machines to ensure their compatibility with the OSH requirements and conditions, which is required by law for first-time licensing

Labor Inspection System

- Investigation of work related accidents
- Advising and guiding the employers and employees on safety and health

Labor Inspection System

In cases where the inspectors find violations in the enterprises being inspected, the following measures may be taken:

- A warning letter may be issued for the removal of the violation within the specified notice period
- If the employer fails to remove the violation within the notice period, a penalty is issued and a fine is imposed on him

Workers' accident compensation insurance

The social security services in Lebanon are provided by the National Social Security Fund (NSSF), as a social organization under the Ministry of Labour

The NSSF provides the following services to the insured:

- End of Service indemnity
- Sickiness and maternity social security
- Family and academic allowances

Workers' accident compensation insurance

- According to Social Security Law, the NSSF's services are supposed to include insurance against occupational diseases and injuries but this part of the law has not been implemented and such services are not yet included
- Workplace accidents are only compensated by private insurance companies

Safety of equipment and facilities

- Safety equipment is available in the country.
But in variant frequency and level of complexity
- There is no coordination between government departments there is no clear procedures to follow-up and handle matters relating to public safety

Training/ Education programs

- Staffs inspectors of OSH are either engineers or physicians who undergo special training courses in Lebanon provided mainly by ILO and other UN/ European agencies concerned in OSH
- Sometimes they are sporadically sent abroad for short courses

Activities of industrial/occupational safety and health organizations other than government

- Some industrial enterprises, chambers of commerce , NGOs (Non – government organizations)and academic institutions launch some activities ; however ,these activities are inefficient

OSHMS and Risk Assessment

- Risk Assessment and Management is developed in some of the private sector especially after the promotion ISO and the demand from many local and international organizations

Campaign/ Event/ National Convention/ Exhibition

- Due to political conflicts, campaigns are minimal .Event of the OHS day ,on 28 April has not been commemorated by the ILO regional office (located in Beirut) since 27 April 2006

References

- Recently ,a home page for the ministry of labor has been available , but the issue of OSH is not well highlighted. It mainly tackles the issue of work permit and other non-OSH regulations

A- the obstacles that hinder OHS Implementation

- Political conflicts are one of the core obstacles to achieve development and implementation of OHS services
- Absence of national OSH policy and strategy ,and misunderstanding the concept of OSH among the decision makers
- Understaffed ministry

B- Suggestions

- Urgent establishment of national OSH policy and strategy; a help from international countries/organizations would be of great importance
- Recruitment of extra qualified inspectors to perform professionally and efficiently ,to contribute as well in dissemination of awareness campaigns

Resources

- <http://www.ilo.org/beirut/>
- <http://www.labor.gov.lb>
- <http://www.moph.gov.lb>
- <http://www.lpa.gov.lb>
- <http://www.yasa.org/ar>
- <http://www.unicef.org>
- <http://www.highcharts.com>
- <http://www.worldbank.org>



Thank you

