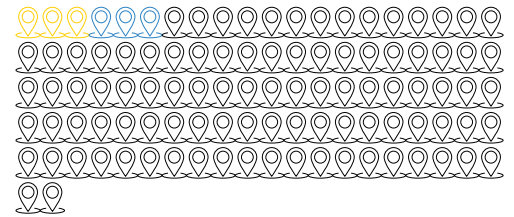


Metn

DISTRICT SNAPSHOT

SECTION 1: TENSIONS SUMMARY

Metn district, commonly referred to as “Northern Metn” – is relatively homogeneous demographically with a majority of Christians but exhibits significant economic diversity. The southern and western parts of the district, including areas like Dora, Bourj Hammoud (a hub for Lebanon’s Armenian community), and parts of Sin El Fil, are economically disadvantaged and experience higher crime rates. The district is also home to Shiite communities in neighbourhoods such as Roueissat and Nabaa.

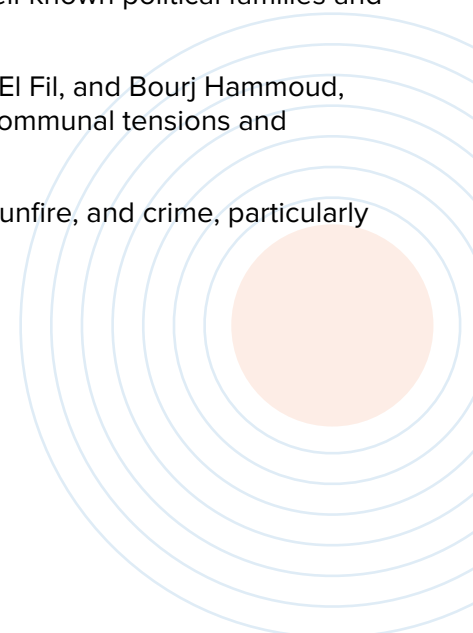


6 cadastres out of 102 are characterized as **high** or **moderate** tensions levels as of October 2024

Tensions and incidents in Metn are primarily concentrated in these southwestern areas, with additional hotspots like Jal el Dib, which often witnesses demonstrations and roadblocks. In contrast, the rest of the district is more affluent. Metn is also notable for hosting prominent political families, whose factions enjoy substantial support across the district.

Given its proximity to Beirut, parts of Metn are regarded as northern suburbs of the capital, which contributes to tensions stemming from:

- **Socio-economic disparities** between affluent areas such as Bteghrine and low-income coastal areas like Bourj Hammoud, Dora (Jdeideh), Roueissat (Jdeideh), and Nabaa (Sin El Fil). This includes inconsistencies in services and competition over resources, often leading to bribery and resentment, adding to communal frictions.
- **Political tensions, rivalries and sectarian conflicts** with the district hosting well-known political families and their respective followers.
- **Inter-communal conflicts** which are more pronounced in areas like Dora, Sin El Fil, and Bourj Hammoud, where socio-economic challenges and diverse demographics intensify inter-communal tensions and incidents.
- **Volatile security situation and high levels of crime**, with reports of clashes, gunfire, and crime, particularly in Nabaa and Bourj Hammoud.



SECTION 2: TENSIONS OVERVIEW



In the Metn district, tensions are significantly influenced by a complex interplay of social, economic, and political factors. The district's geographical and socio-economic diversity, ranging from the coastal areas to the affluent mountain regions, contributes to varied and often conflicting community dynamics. The predominant drivers of tensions in Metn district include socio-economic disparities, service provision challenges, safety and security, sectarian conflicts, political party rivalries, and inter-communal dynamics.


In the coastal areas, safety and security incidents are prevalent, with frequent reports of theft, police operations, and occasional violent clashes. The presence of armed groups and the presence of weapons contribute to the district's instability. Clashes between various groups, including political parties, are not uncommon. For instance, residents in areas like Jdeideh and Fanar often hear gunfire from nearby Roueissat and Zeaytriyeh due to conflicts between drug dealers or military raids. Additionally, municipalities have raised concerns about armed groups of different nationalities in certain areas, further complicating the security situation.

The Northern and Eastern regions of Metn, such as Marina Dbayeh, Mtayleb, and Rabieh, are home to wealthier populations. These areas experience less economic tensions. However, political tensions are significant, fueled by the presence of and competition between major parties such as the Lebanese Forces, Free Patriotic Movement, Kataeb Party, and Syrian Social Nationalist Party, particularly in areas like Bikfaya, Dhour Shweir, Dikwaneh, Jdeideh, and Mrouj.

Economic resource tensions are particularly pronounced in the industrial areas of Boushria, Bourj Hammoud, and Dora, where industrialists frequently clash over access to resources like water and electricity, deepening existing social and economic divides. This dynamic is further amplified by the district's role as an economic hub, with both businesses and residents struggling to secure limited resources. The stark contrast between affluent areas and low-income coastal regions, including Bourj Hammoud, Nabaa, Sin El-Fil, and Dora, highlights these disparities. These coastal areas are marked by high levels of poverty and host a diverse population comprising Lebanese from various sects, Syrians, Palestinians, and other migrants. The combination of economic challenges and demographic diversity often fuels intense competition and conflicts over basic needs and services and trigger inter-communal tensions more broadly.

Beyond industry, service provision issues, such as inconsistent water supply and electricity outages, further aggravate tensions. In some neighborhoods, residents resort to bribery to secure basic services, leading to resentment and conflicts between those who can afford informal payments and those who cannot. The role of municipal employees and the lack of adequate security in some areas exacerbate these issues, particularly in low-income neighborhoods with fewer resources and political influence.

Key Tensions Drivers	Analysis
 <p>Socio-Economic Disparities and Gaps in Services</p>	<p>The economic disparity between affluent regions and low-income coastal areas deepens tensions within the district. In industrial zones such as Boushrie, Bourj Hammoud, and Dora, competition for resources like water and electricity aggravates social and economic inequalities. These struggles underscore the stark economic divides that drive resentment and strain in the community.</p> <p>Underprivileged neighbourhoods face significant challenges in accessing essential services and wielding political influence. In areas like Nabaa and Bourj Hammoud, residents often resort to bribery to obtain basic services, fueling frustration and tension within the community. This dynamic not only undermines social stability but also exacerbates existing socio-economic hardships, deepening the instability in these areas</p>
 <p>Political Tensions, Rivalries and Sectarian Conflict</p>	<p>Upper Metn areas like Bikfaya, Dhour Shweir, and Mrouj face heightened vulnerability due to political disputes. The significant influence of rival political parties in coastal regions contribute to frequent political confrontations and occasional violence, deepening existing rivalries and disrupting community stability.</p>

Key Tensions Drivers	Analysis
 <p>Inter-Communal Conflicts</p>	<p>Incidents such as the murder of a Lebanese Forces official allegedly linked to a Syrian group in Jbeil in April 2024 heightened tensions, sparked clashes and fuelled anti-Syrian sentiments in 2024. These events highlight underlying political divides that threaten community stability and expose the vulnerability for such tensions to erupt into incidents. Areas with significant political activity, like Dikwaneh, have implemented restrictive measures targeting Syrians to limit their presence, exacerbating inter-communal tensions. These dynamics are also pronounced in areas like Dora, Sin El Fil, and Bourj Hammoud, where socio-economic challenges and diverse demographics intensify inter-communal tensions and incidents.</p>



Volatile Security Situation and High Levels of Crime

Metn continues to face significant challenges related to security, crime and drug-related incidents, particularly in economically disadvantaged areas such as Bourj Hammoud, Dora, Sin El Fil, Dekwaneh, Nabaa, and Jdeidet El Meten. The persistence of criminal activity raises concerns about public safety and security. Zeaytriyeh in Fanar is notably recognized as a hotspot for drug trafficking. Additionally, the prevalence of privately held weapons for protection in certain areas reflects underlying insecurities and further complicates efforts to maintain stability.

SECTION 3: TENSIONS HOTSPOTS

Southern and western parts of the district are poorer and see higher rates tensions and incidents. As a result, the main hotspots in Metn are:



Bourj Hammoud

A densely populated neighbourhood in the coastal part of Metn, Bourj Hammoud exemplifies the district's social and economic challenges. Due to its close proximity to Beirut, it is often associated with the capital and considered part of its greater metropolitan area, reflecting the interconnected dynamics of the two regions. With its significant Armenian community and diverse mix of other nationalities and religious and political groups, the area faces intense competition for scarce resources, leading to frequent conflict. Bourj Hammoud experiences numerous safety and security incidents, such as theft, drug-related crimes, and occasional violent clashes. Service provision issues are also acute, with frequent electricity outages and inconsistent water supply creating significant challenges for residents. In some cases, navigating bureaucratic hurdles to access essential services can lead to practices that undermine equitable service distribution.



Jdeideh

Jdeideh, a coastal area in Metn, is highly populated and hosts many businesses, alongside numerous political parties. The coexistence of diverse economic and political interests often intensifies divisions, contributing to heightened tensions in the area. Service provision related tensions, such as water, parking spaces, solid waste management are common in this area. The area also suffers from a high sense of insecurity specially during the night. Some neighbourhoods such as Dora and Roueissat are more vulnerable than others.



Fanar

like Jdeideh, Fanar includes a vulnerable neighbourhood that faces challenges such as drug trafficking and occasional criminal activity. In contrast, other parts of Fanar benefit from a stronger economic standing and experience fewer incidents.



Dikwaneh

Located near Jdeideh and Fanar, Dikwaneh is a densely populated area with significant intra-communal political tensions. The area has implemented strict restrictive measures, including the municipality closing shops operated by Syrians, often drawing significant public attention. These actions impact inter-communal relations and have contributed to a decline in the Syrian population in the area.

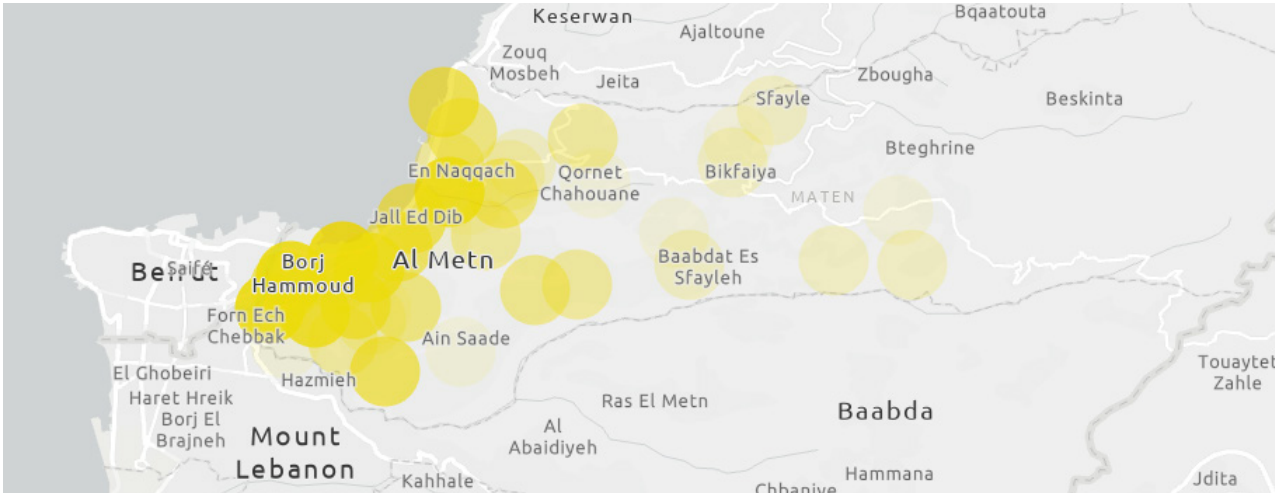


Figure 1: Heat map of reported safety and security incidents

