



## **Handicap International alarmed by escalating violence in Lebanon and grave risks to civilians**

Handicap International is deeply alarmed by the sharp escalation of violence in Lebanon over the past 48 hours. The intensity of hostilities, including the heavy use of explosive weapons in populated areas in the South of the country and in Beirut, demonstrates a troubling level of impunity and disregard for international humanitarian law (IHL).

The rapid deterioration of the security situation has already triggered significant displacement within a matter of hours. Families are fleeing under fire, seeking safety in overcrowded shelters, schools, and with relatives. Critical civilian infrastructure — including homes, health facilities, roads, and essential services — is being damaged or destroyed, further compounding humanitarian needs.

### **Nahed Al-Khlouf, Country Director of Handicap International in Lebanon, said:**

“In just the past hours, we have seen displacement increase at an alarming pace. Entire communities in the South are on the move, while parts of Beirut are enduring intense bombardment. Civilians are paying the highest price. People with disabilities are disproportionately affected in such crises. Many cannot flee without assistance. Others lose access to mobility aids, medication, rehabilitation, and support networks. Without targeted support, they risk being left behind, invisible and unprotected. Beyond immediate casualties and injuries, the destruction of infrastructure disrupts access to healthcare, electricity, water, and education, deepening vulnerabilities for those already at risk.”

Handicap International teams in Lebanon are mobilising to respond to the growing needs, with a focus on inclusive humanitarian assistance. However, humanitarian actors cannot operate effectively in the absence of safety and access. Civilians in Lebanon must not bear the brunt of escalating hostilities. Respect for international humanitarian law is not optional — it is an obligation.

Handicap International urgently calls on all parties to the conflict to:

- **Respect international humanitarian law**, including the principles of distinction, proportionality, and precaution;
- **Protect civilians and civilian infrastructure**, including health facilities, schools, and essential services;
- **Ensure the protection of humanitarian workers**;
- **Facilitate full, safe, immediate, and unimpeded humanitarian access** to all people affected by the violence.