

diabetes, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease and lung cancer, thereby making us more vulnerable to respiratory system viruses, such as COVID-19.”

Meanwhile, data from the report shows, fossil fuel-related pollution in Lebanon results in an extra 1.3 million days off work per year. While, economically, the effects of fossil fuel pollution reportedly swallow about two per cent of annual GDP, totalling approximately \$1.4 billion per year.

Lebanon is already in the midst of a debilitating economic crisis that has spiralled out of control since anti-government protests started in October last year. The country is facing a severe dollar shortage and is seeking a bailout from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the release of large international aid pledges to halt its economic collapse.

According to Jreissati, “in a country that is on the brink of an economic collapse, this cost [the \$1.4 billion] puts additional pressure on the finances of Lebanese citizens and their government and reveals an entirely new aspect of our economic crisis.”

Greenpeace and Lebanese activists have long been calling for an overhaul of the country’s energy sector, which has failed to provide 24-hour electricity anywhere in the country since the end of the civil war in 1990.

Now, Jreissati says, Greenpeace “[calls] upon the Lebanese government, particularly the Minister of Energy, to develop, adopt and implement an ambitious renewable energy plan as a fundamental step towards reducing the primary sources of air pollution and to save the country!”