



Lebanon: Beirut Port Explosions

Situation Report No. 10

As of 9 September 2020

This report is produced by OCHA Lebanon in collaboration with humanitarian partners.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Over 6,700 individuals reached with protection and gender-based violence outreach and risk mitigation activities, alongside another 475 individuals reached with specific gender-based violence services during the past week.
- Over 2,800 individuals received counseling services and legal assistance and representation over the past week.
- Over 2,700 individuals reached with community-based child protection activities during the past week.
- Offloading completed of the 12,500 metric tons of wheat flour shipped by WFP.
- Shelter assistance provided to 5,140 households over the past week. Shelter weatherproofing kits distributed to 1,071 households; 7,062 kits distributed since the beginning of the response.
- A total of 5,740 buildings assessed for WASH interventions; water supply re-established to 1,662 households; 7,989 people reached since the beginning of the response.
- 26 water tanks installed at two of the damaged hospitals (Quarantina and Wardiya) closest to the explosions' site, with another 50 to be installed at Geitawi Hospital.

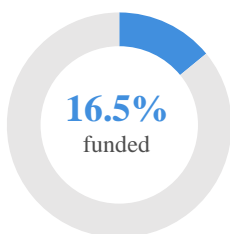


Humanitarian assistance is handed out to a resident in one of Beirut's most affected neighbourhoods following the Beirut Port explosions of 4 August.
Credit: Caritas Lebanon



\$344.5M

Financial requirements
(US\$)



\$56.8M

Funding received
(US\$)



117

Number of projects

SITUATION OVERVIEW

Offloading of the WFP shipment of 12,500 metric tons of wheat flour has been completed in response to the loss of 15,000 metric tons of grain stocks stored in the silos affected by the explosion. The wheat flour will be delivered to the contracted millers across the country. Lebanon's grain silos of some 120,000 metric tons' capacity were destroyed during the 4 August explosions, directly affecting food availability and food safety in all parts of the country. According to the Food Security sector, food intake has dropped since the explosions and not having enough money to buy food is the overarching concern, along with a lack of fuel or access to cooking facilities. The explosions occurred at a time when Lebanon was already dealing with a COVID-19 outbreak and coping with a multi-faceted crisis of economic contraction, increasing poverty and rising prices of basic commodities, all threatening household food security.

The lack of affordable and safe shelter in areas severely affected by the explosions resulted in many affected families moving to other parts of the city. Protection partners are working with communities to identify and reach those families to assess possible protection-related needs. Also, displacement is exacerbating protection risks and concerns, especially for women and children. Assessments indicate that some households may be displaced for an indefinite period. For example, in the Quarantina neighbourhood, assessments indicate a timeline of up to one year for people to return to their homes.

Of the over 6,500 people who were injured in the explosions, some 1,000 were children, according to UNICEF. Also, approximately 100,000 children saw their homes either completely or partially destroyed. UNICEF estimates that up to 600,000 children could suffer from some form of psychological shock/distress. The loss of homes often results in overcrowded households and communities, thus raising other risks, such as COVID-19 transmission, and/or sexual and gender-based violence (GBV).

Overall, the loss of livelihoods compounded by the current COVID-19 outbreak and economic crisis has created an urgent need for continued life-saving assistance in terms of food, nutrition, protection and health support. Sustained, timely and predictable funding is thus urgently needed to continue targeted humanitarian interventions and their scale-up to prevent further deterioration of the situation.

As of 9 September, Lebanon's total number of cases reached 21,877. The number of diagnosed health workers stands at 751. The number of hospitalized patients continues to fluctuate and reached 400, with over half of the patients in intensive care units (ICUs). As of Tuesday, 8 September, approximately 51 per cent of COVID-19-dedicated regular beds were occupied, as well as 69 per cent of COVID-19-dedicated ICU beds. The Head of Beirut's Rafic Hariri University Hospital, the country's leading figure in the fight against the virus, warned the current focus on treatment, rather than prevention, would backfire, thus harming the most vulnerable sections of the population living in high-density spaces. Similarly, the Caretaker Health Minister Hamad Hasan stated earlier during the week that the number of COVID-19 cases is increasing in Tripoli, with the city needing support in both the number of daily PCR tests performed, as well as increased bed capacity at the Tripoli Governmental Hospital, Halba Governmental Hospital and Sir Dinnieh Hospital. As of Tuesday, 8 September, the general curfew is enforced between 01:00 and 06:00.



total cases
21,877



new cases
553



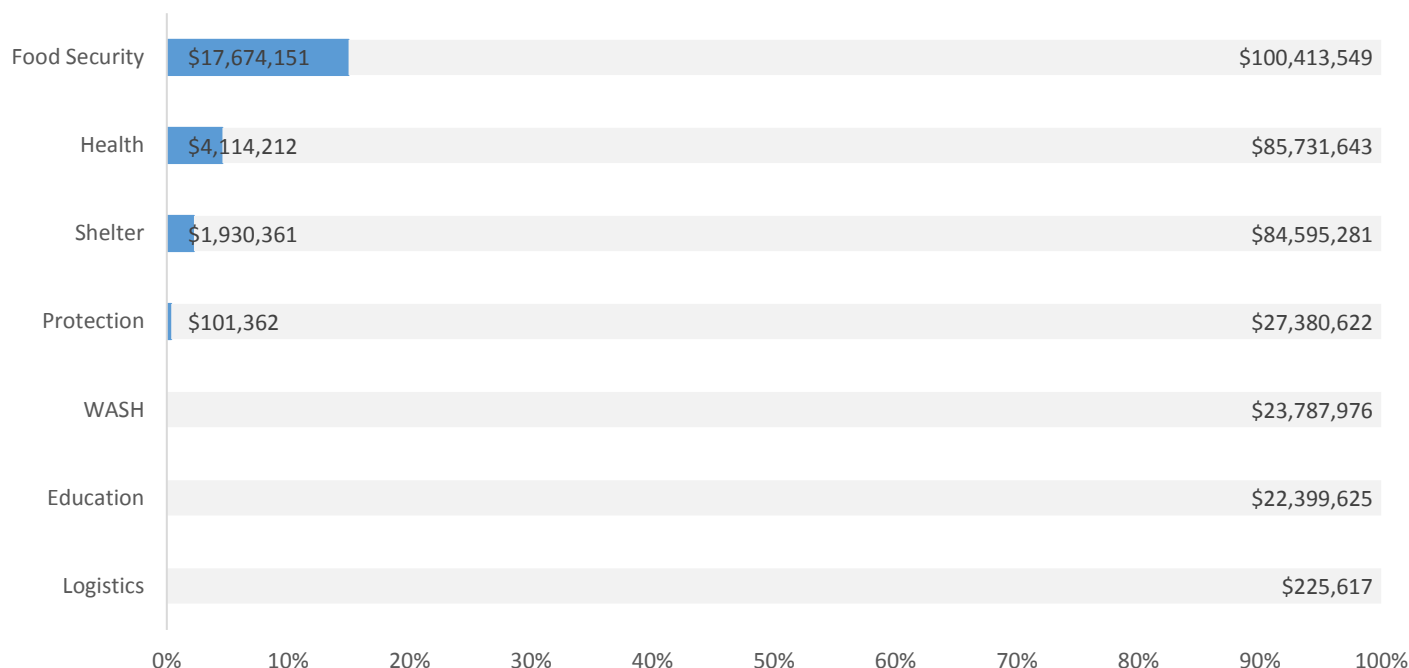
deaths
212



recoveries
7,024

FUNDING

The UN-coordinated response to the Beirut Port explosions, through the Flash Appeal issued on 14 August, is seeking US\$344.5 million to address the immediate life-saving needs for three months – 117 projects that target 300,000 people have been uploaded and funding towards the response is being tracked on the [Financial Tracking Service](#) (FTS). The FTS records all reported humanitarian contributions and provides updated information on the total amount of funding and resource gaps. Funding is urgently needed, with the Lebanon Flash Appeal less than 17 per cent funded. More information about the FTS [here](#).



HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE

Protection

Needs:

- Protection partners highlighted the lack of community spaces in a number of the areas affected by the explosions, including Quarantina, Bachoura foncière and Mdaouar foncière. This has created challenges for implementing activities that have community outreach components, including accessing child friendly spaces or providing information.
- The lack of affordable and safe shelter in areas severely affected by the explosions resulted in many affected families moving to other parts of Beirut. Protection partners are working with communities to identify and reach those families to assess possible protection-related needs.

Response:

In the reporting period **20 organizations** reached



6,700+

individuals with protection, GBV outreach and risk mitigation activities



475

individuals with GBV services



2,845

individuals with counseling, legal assistance, and legal representation



101

individuals with specific needs with counseling, case management and specialized support



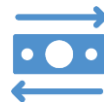
2,709

individuals with community-based child protection activities



1,265

individuals with mental health psychosocial support services

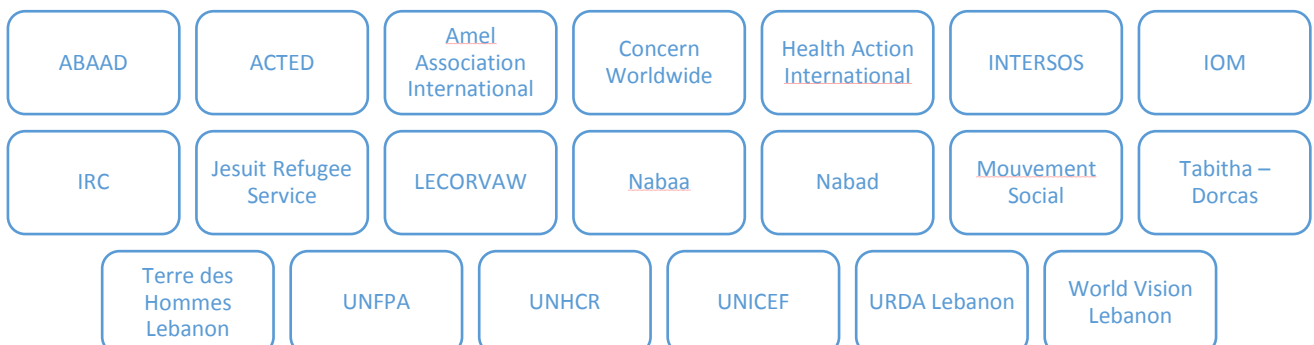


69

individuals with protection cash or emergency cash

N.B. These figures are not necessarily representative of the entirety of the protection response on the ground.

Partners



- The Ministry of Social Affairs (MoSA) developed a tool with support from IOM to rapidly screen migrants for vulnerability to abuse, violence and exploitation. This digitalized tool will strengthen national referral mechanisms to ensure migrant workers with special protection needs and those who were affected by the explosions are properly identified and referred for assistance. A team of social workers from MoSA piloted the tool with a group of Ethiopian migrants who are staying at the Ethiopian consulate shelter.
- On 5 September, UNHCR reached the remaining refugees known to live within 5 kilometers of the Beirut port, marking the end of the outreach exercise. The final and cumulative results are as follows: 10,916 calls were made since August 14, 49% of which were answered. 52% of respondents reported damages in their dwellings and 23% expressed psychological distress/anxiety due to the blast. Only 40% stated no impact at all. Across all areas, the priority needs remain are: food, cash needs (food, rent, basic items) and shelter repair.

Education

Response:

- UNICEF continues to support vulnerable youths and adolescents in Beirut with sports-for-development activities at several UNICEF tents. Over the past week, three coaches conducted activities for 18 youth.

Food Security

Response:

- Offloading of the WFP shipment of 12,500 metric tons of wheat flour has completed and the wheat flour will be delivered to the contracted millers.
- Nutrition partners provided counselling to 447 pregnant and lactating women in need of prenatal, breastfeeding and infant and young child feeding (IYCF) practices through lactation specialists and phone calls. Also, since the immediate aftermath of the explosions, UNICEF provided counselling to 3,262 women in need.
- The Nutrition Working Group Task Force finalized an advocacy brief and a standard operating procedure on IYCF. The purpose of the documents is to guide and inform both national and international partners working in Lebanon on how to ensure appropriate, timely and safe IYCF support for families with pregnant women and/or infants aged 0-2 years. The documents are also tailored to focus on the current COVID-19 outbreak and economic crisis in country.

Health

Needs:

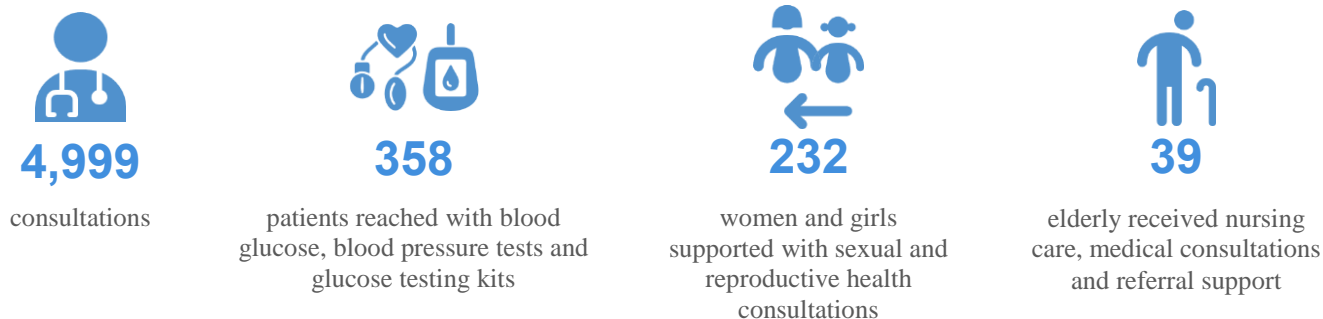
- There are critical needs for elderly care supplies and home care for older adult patients and mental health services and chronic medications for adult patients. There is also a need for more psychosocial support and vaccination services for children.
- Out-of-pocket expenditure for coverage of fees for laboratory diagnostic services has been reported as a challenge for affected people.

Response:

Health services

8 organizations provided

Outreach health services



Primary health care by Caritas Lebanon



N.B. These figures are not necessarily representative of the entirety of the health response on the ground.

Partners



Hospital support

- WHO is supporting three Emergency Medical Teams (EMTs) to conduct infection, prevention and control trainings at six public hospitals across Lebanon (Bouar, Dahr ElBachek, Saida, Baabda, Tripoli, and Halba) with which they were paired after being repurposed to increase the capacity for COVID-19 management. Also, 13 didactic trainings were conducted at Bouar and Dahr ElBachek Hospitals. Trainings for the other hospitals are planned in September. On-the-job training continues at all sites.

Mental health and psychosocial support services (MHPSS)

- WHO and the National Mental Health Program (NMHP) are working closely with the Beirut Forward Emergency Room (FER) to coordinate MHPSS activities under the umbrella of the MHPSS Task Force. Also, NMHP started rolling out training on Psychological First Aid (PFA) for partners.
- Teams from UNFPA, Caritas Lebanon, Jesuite Refugee Service (JRS), Restart Center, IMC and Médecins du Monde (MdM) provided MHPSS activities, including PFA and awareness for 796 individuals and 251 families, while an additional 51 individuals were referred to specialized care. Since the start of the response, health actors have provided MHPSS services to just over 3,200 individuals and referred a further 1,207 persons for specialized services, including mental health.
- NMHP, WHO and UNFPA developed awareness material as follows: 1. a tip sheet for gynecologists and midwives to support pregnant or post-partum women ([EN / AR](#)); 2. an awareness [video](#) for the general public.

Medicines, supplies and distributions

- Amel, UNICEF, IMC and SAMS distributed 10,388 pieces of personal protective equipment (PPE), including face masks and hand sanitizers to volunteers and community residents. Since the start of the response, PPE and medical supplies were provided by IMC to 62 PHCCs, 8 hospitals and 2 MMUs, while 2,000 PPE items, in addition to blankets, were provided to the Middle East Hospital by SAMS.
- URDA, Medair and IMC distributed 1,410 hygiene kits, while Makassed and UNFPA partners distributed 1,262 dignity kits to vulnerable women and girls. Since the start of the response, more than 6,100 kits were distributed to affected communities by these actors, as well as by SAMS.

Rehabilitation support

- WHO is in the last stages of a complete restoration of the Ministry of Public Health's (MoPH) central drug warehouse (CDW), doubling its storage capacity and upgrading its equipment. A new logistics management software is being developed to handle the functions of the CDW and medical-dispensing programs of the MoPH.

Awareness raising

- To date, International Orthodox Christian Charity (IOCC) teams provided IYCF counseling and awareness to 41 pregnant and lactating women (PLW) and caregivers, as well as raised awareness on COVID-19 at the UNICEF tent in Quarantina. Since the start of the response, IOCC teams provided IYCF counseling and awareness to 436 PLWs and caregivers, and distributed dignity kits to 148 women.
- MdM conducted COVID-19 awareness sessions to 72 persons in the most affected areas. Since 24 of August, MdM teams provided COVID-19 awareness sessions to 114 persons.

Shelter

Response:

- During the past week, 16 partners provided assistance to a total of 5,140 households.
- Immediate and urgent needs also continued being addressed through the distribution of shelter weatherproofing kits to 1,071 households, with a total of 7,062 kits distributed since the beginning of the response.
- Also, shelter partners continued supporting minor repairs that were done for 20 households and rehabilitation that was done for 1,122 households.
- A meeting was organized between the sector and the Beirut FER in order to improve coordination. The sector has assigned sector partners to specific zones based on their available capacities, experience, and links with affected communities. This is a living document that will be updated and adapted as necessary moving forward.
- Inter-sector collaboration with the Protection sector has stepped up through a joint working group on Housing, Land and Property (HLP) issues, as well as with the WASH sector on coordinating interventions by different partners. Sector Temporary Technical Committees were created and are focusing on specific issues, such as i) Cash for Rent (led by the Polish Center for International Aid); Minor Repairs (Save the Children); Rehabilitation (Norwegian Refugee Council), and HLP (UN-Habitat and NRC).

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

Needs:

- With the initial WASH assessment completed, a second round of review/visits are underway, with the two-fold purpose of checking on functionality of WASH rehabilitations that were already undertaken and revisiting buildings that were found inaccessible during the first round. Assessment of areas further from the explosions' site is taking place. A total of 5,740 buildings were assessed since the beginning of the response, with 1,605 needing some sort of WASH intervention.

Response:

- Water supply was re-established to 1,662 households, reaching 7,989 people.
- WASH partners distributed a total of 4,870 hygiene kits and 499 baby kits to those families in need since the beginning of the response.
- Out of the four hospitals in the vicinity of the explosions' site, three requested WASH partners' support. Support requests from Quarantina and Wardiya Hospitals resulted in the installation of 26 water tanks; another 50 water tanks will be installed at Geitawi Hospital.
- Over 500 posters with the WASH hotlines numbers were distributed in the affected areas, offering support in terms of water trucking requests, minor plumbing repairs and other WASH hardware support. To date, 47 WASH help requests were addressed through the hotlines.
- Surveying of the water distribution network continues: out of 33 manholes inspected, 32 need repairs, however noting that only one manhole was directly affected by the explosions, while the other 31 lacked maintenance over the years.

Logistics

Response:

- The current procedure for customs clearance for humanitarian goods requires the following steps:
 - 1) registered organizations have to submit a letter to the High Relief Commission, requesting the exemption of all customs' fees and duties;
 - 2) once such exemption is granted, organizations can introduce their customs' declaration, as well as obtain approvals from their cargo-related ministries (Health, Agriculture, Economy).
- The Logistics sector continues to advocate with the Higher Council of Customs for the lifting of the aforementioned procedures.

Leveraging local expertise for WASH response

Local NGO Development for People and Nature Association (DPNA) was established in October 2003. Since its inception, DPNA's focus has been on promoting justice, solidarity, human rights and environmental protection. DPNA worked on responding to the needs of those displaced in 2006-2007 and more recently to addressing the needs of the Syrian refugees. Throughout the years DPNA has built an experience in providing food security, shelter, WASH, non-food items, and psychosocial support assistance, focusing on the needs of the local communities they serve, while working to increase local communities' capacities and values.

DPNA's expertise in WASH came in handy in the immediate aftermath of the Beirut Port explosions, and immediately began responding by repairing damaged pipes, trucking water, re-installing water tanks, and promoting hygiene practices. In the month since the explosions, they have reached at least 850 households in the neighbourhoods of Basta, Gemmayzeh, Geitawi, Quarantina, Khandaq al-Ghamiq, Mar Mikhael, and Ras Nabaa. The needs of the targeted communities were addressed following a comprehensive assessment of the damages and, in partnership with UNICEF, DPNA contracted 45 plumbers to conduct major repairs.



A water tank is being installed to restore water supply to a damaged building in Beirut's Basta neighbourhood.

Credit: DPNA

"When the explosions happened, we had to think very fast, beyond our usual way of working, to support those in urgent need", says DPNA's Project Coordinator for WASH activities, Slayman Fawaz. He further explains that in cooperation with a partner, DPNA engaged some 180 volunteers to remove debris from the streets, and helping to clean 1,200 houses. In collaboration with other partners and with donations from various charities and embassies, including the French Embassy, DPNA also mobilized 102 tons of food and distributed food parcels to more than 2,350 households in the aftermath of the explosions.

Most recently, to follow up on their WASH core work, DPNA established a helpline, currently operated by two staff members. "We organize support to the people and communities as soon as we receive their calls" Mr. Fawaz explains. The organization's track record in managing helplines professionally was confirmed, including by a woman who found a number to call on their website, prior to the formal establishment of the helpline, asking to receive some water assistance. The woman was asked to hang up to be called back by DPNA. Mr. Fawaz explains that was so as it is crucial to understand the needs of those in need and most vulnerable, including the fact they may not have enough money to make long calls asking for assistance.



Flyer for the DPNA hotline.

Credit: DPNA.

For further information, please contact:

Séverine Rey, Head of Office, UN OCHA Lebanon, rey@un.org, Tel: +961 71 802 640

Enrica Giacobbe, Humanitarian Affairs Officer, UN OCHA Lebanon, giacobbe@un.org, Tel: +961 71 907 855

For more information, please visit www.unocha.org www.reliefweb.int