



Lebanon: Beirut Port Explosions

Situation Report No. 11

As of 16 September 2020

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

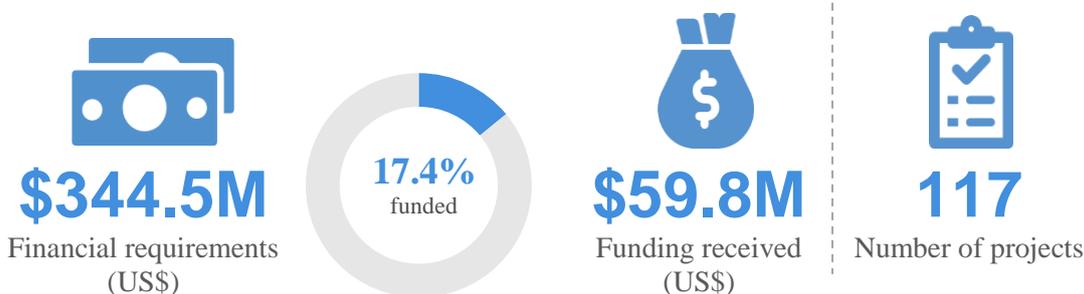
HIGHLIGHTS

- 19,000 individuals reached by protection partners since the beginning of the response.
- Over 1,110 households reached with multi-purpose cash-based assistance across three affected neighbourhoods. Close to 200 micro, small and medium enterprises supported with rehabilitation works.
- Over 2,220 persons reached with psychosocial support services, and over 1,300 women and girls provided with services related to sexual reproductive health and gender-based violence. Also, over 24,300 dignity kits distributed since the beginning of the response.
- Provision of medicines and medical supplies continues, with five hospitals and one dispensary supported over the past week.
- Over 7,500 shelter weatherproofing kits distributed to over 25,000 individuals since the beginning of the response.
- Provision of WASH services to medical facilities continues, with 70m³ of water trucked to Geitawi Hospital over the past week.
- Over 6,400 buildings assessed; water supply connection re-established for over 3,000 households, reaching over 15,000 people since the beginning of the response.
- At least 6,800 hygiene kits and over 540 baby kits distributed since the beginning of the response.



A medical consultation is provided to a resident in one of Beirut's affected neighbourhoods by the Beirut Port explosions of 4 August.

Credit: Amel Association International



SITUATION OVERVIEW

In Lebanon, the emergency humanitarian response to the 4 August explosions in the Port of Beirut continues to adapt to the evolving needs of the affected communities, progressing now towards the medium-term interventions that will pave the way for longer-term recovery and reconstruction. Aid agencies remain focused on delivering assistance to the most vulnerable people.

The Port has played a key role in Beirut's history and economy. Situated at the center of the city, it is surrounded by some of Beirut's most important neighbourhoods. The dense residential areas of Gemmayzeh and Geitawi are located to the west and Mar Mikhael and Quarantina to the east; the latter being the Ottoman quarantine station that marks the point of arrival and settlement of several waves of refugees throughout the decades. This cluster of neighbourhoods hosts many of Lebanon's state and private services, including the electricity provider, a bus terminal and three major hospitals that were severely affected in the explosions.

With force equal to a 3.5-magnitude earthquake, the explosions had a devastating impact on peoples' living conditions and livelihoods, testing peoples' coping mechanisms and resulting in mounting protection concerns. Currently, shelter repairs, followed by food, cash and medication are the top priorities reported by residents affected by the explosions. Moreover, anecdotal evidence from food security partners points to an increasing number of people in need of food assistance in areas outside the immediate perimeter of concern related to the explosions. This supports highlighting the significant, pre-existing, needs beyond the 300,000 people targeted in the Flash Appeal by the UN and partners.

The Multi-Sector Needs Assessment (MSNA) supported by the Emergency Operating Cell Assessment and Analysis Cell is ongoing. The targeted area for the MSNA has been extended to cover all households within a 3-kilometer radius from the site of the explosions. As of 15 September, assessments have been completed for approximately 19,000 households, out of some 35,000 that are expected to be assessed by the end of October. Despite the considerable burden of assessments upon affected households, the importance of a comprehensive and accurate MSNA dataset cannot be underestimated in ensuring coordinated and effective reconstruction efforts going forward.

On 10 September, a fire broke out at one of the Port's warehouses where oil and tires were reportedly stored, generating panic in the nearby neighborhoods and reigniting the trauma and anxiety that communities have been dealing with since the 4 August explosions. This is the second fire since the explosions, and humanitarian partners have reported a high level of stress among the residents, especially children. The fire produced huge plumes of smoke, an issue for the many homes that still remain without windows. While the cause of the fire and its exact point of origin remain unclear, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) reported a part of their stock of food parcels at the warehouse caught fire. Since the immediate aftermath of the explosions, the ICRC, like other organizations, had worked to remove their stocks from the Port area. The ICRC expects the fire will have an impact on their humanitarian aid, whether in Lebanon or Syria, though the full impact is hard to ascertain at this stage. According to the Lebanese Red Cross, no individuals were injured on 10 September and only one case of smoke inhalation was reported. However, due to the fire some protection partners working in the affected areas had to halt community outreach activities for the day. Intensified mental health support services, specifically targeting children, were resumed the following day.

COVID-19 update

The COVID-19 outbreak in country remains a serious concern. As of 16 September, Lebanon's total number of cases reached 26,083, with 259 deaths and 9,634 recoveries. Over 98 per cent of cases are among residents, confirming continued and widespread community transmission. Lebanon registered 634 new cases and seven deaths yesterday, 16 September. At least 824 healthcare workers have been diagnosed with the respiratory illness since February. The number of hospitalized patients continues to fluctuate and reached 426, with 120 patients in intensive care units (ICUs). Over the past month, the number of patients in hospitals doubled, while the number of patients in ICUs almost tripled, according to WHO. Protection activities related to outreach, risk mitigation, awareness raising and individual consultations became increasingly challenging with COVID-19 related restrictions.



An outbreak in Lebanon's largest detention center, Roumieh Central Prison – with over 100 cases detected among detainees and guards – is being closely monitored. A number of partners, including WHO and the ICRC, upgraded the infrastructure for improved hygiene and created an isolation ward for detainees' medical care.

The updated COVID-19 Lebanon Emergency Appeal (LEA) was launched on 17 July, following the July update of the UN-coordinated COVID-19 Global Humanitarian Response Plan, appealing for over \$10 billion. The LEA received \$46.6 million (27 per cent) against the \$170.8 million amount requested for Priorities 1, 2 and 4, as of 30 June. The LEA consists of four Priorities: 1) Supporting Lebanon's health system; 2) Strengthening the engagement of, and communication with, communities; 3) Ensuring uninterrupted delivery of critical assistance and services to the most vulnerable communities affected by the Syria crisis, as covered by the Lebanese Crisis Response Plan 2017-2020 (LCRP); and 4) Supporting the vulnerable populations groups affected by the economic crisis and COVID-19 outbreak.

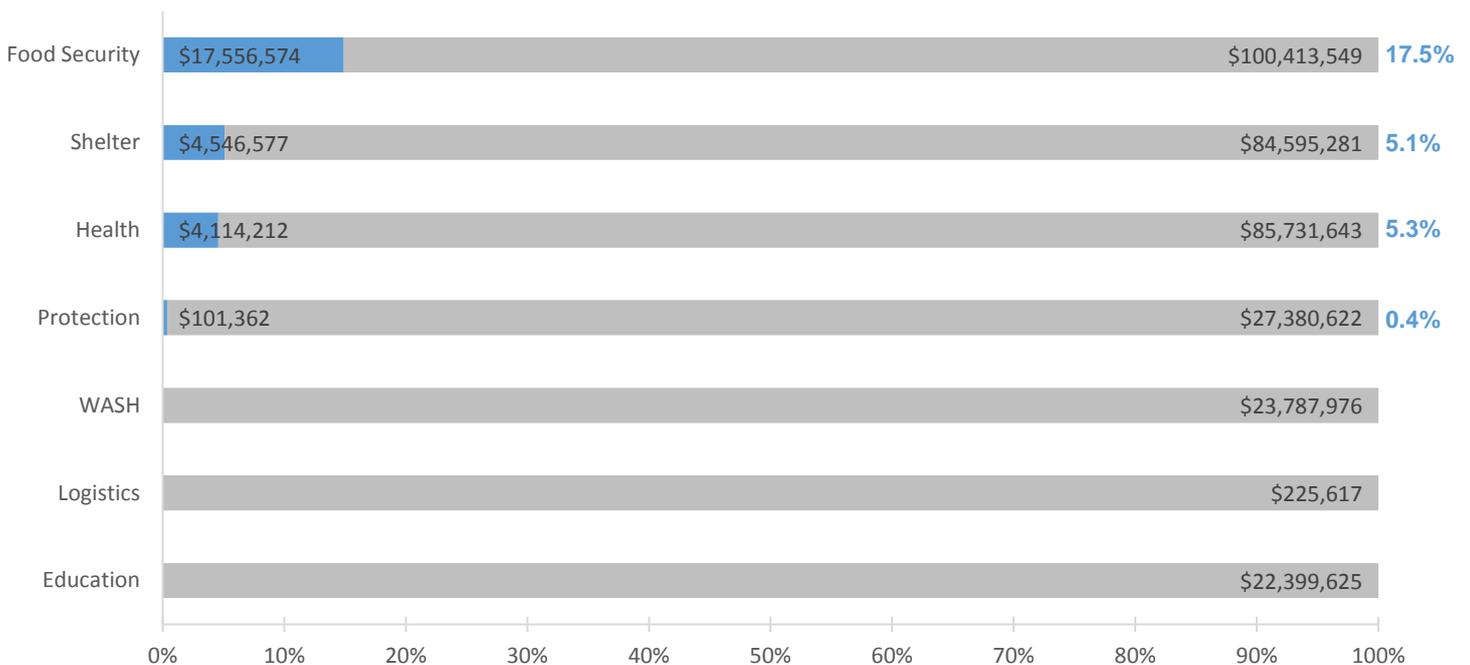
FUNDING

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. Funding towards 117 projects, targeting 300,000 people in need, 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. More information about the FTS can be found [here](#).

Funding continues to be urgently needed, with the Lebanon Flash Appeal funded at just over 17 per cent. 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 protection, food, nutrition, shelter and health support. All these areas of work and sectors remain significantly under-funded. Sustained, timely and predictable funding is required to continue targeted humanitarian interventions, and their scale-up, for the most vulnerable and to prevent the situation from worsening. Donors are encouraged to prioritize funding to projects within the Flash Appeal to ensure alignment with sector priorities, enhance coordination, reduce duplication and enable the tracking of funds.

Beyond humanitarian assistance, Lebanon will also require substantial and long-term assistance to support economic reform, recovery and reconstruction. Some of the UN and partners are already actively linking their interventions to development frameworks, including the World Bank, EU and UN Reform, Recovery and Reconstruction Framework (3RF), a critical step in the transition from immediate humanitarian programmes to more sustainable interventions and support.

Received funding by sector



HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE

Protection

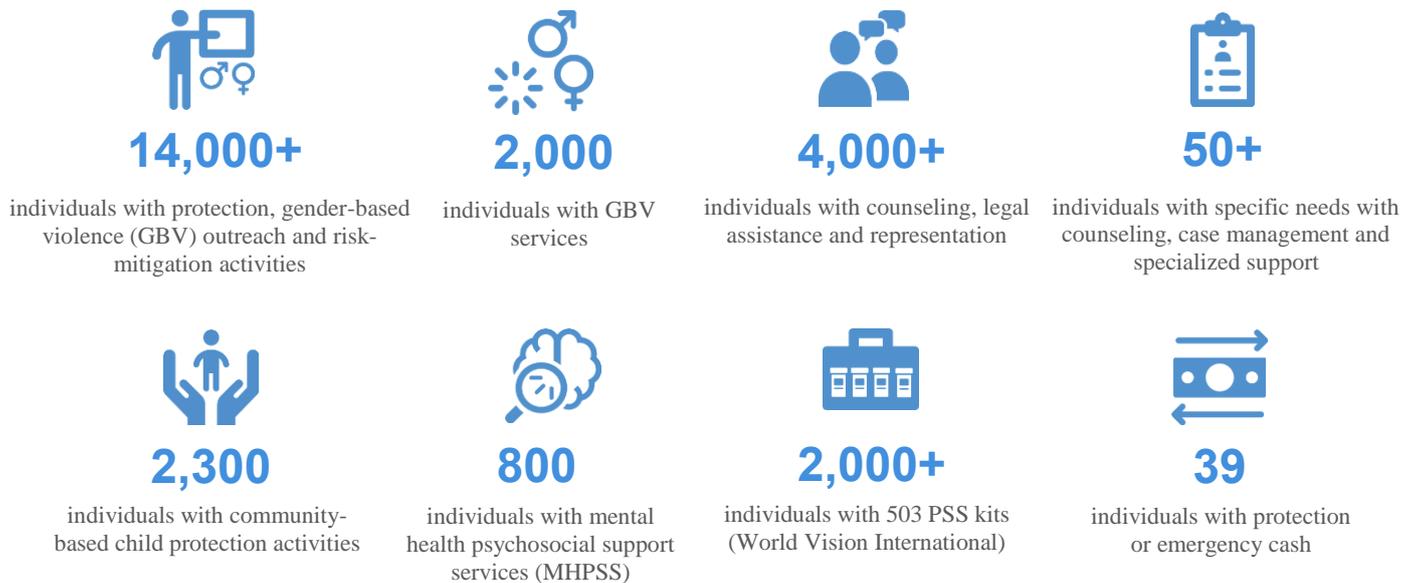
Needs:

- A recent child protection and psychosocial support (PSS) needs assessment conducted by Terre des Hommes found that 47 per cent of the surveyed families – 305 households – were already dealing with challenges and specific vulnerabilities prior to the explosions. Eighty-seven per cent of children are reportedly in need of individual PSS, with needs found to be significantly higher among the Syrian refugee population (78 per cent) compared with the Lebanese population (43 per cent). Also, 6 per cent of respondents reported new disabilities, either temporary or permanent, within their family as a result of the explosions.
- Incidents such as the 10 September fire at one of the Port's warehouses can further exacerbate stress levels among Beirut residents as well as increase a general feeling of lack of safety, especially those in the most affected areas.
- Incidents of tensions and hostilities against Syrian refugees were reported in some neighbourhoods, including Quarantina. For example, partners have received anecdotal reports with regards to refugees being prevented from accessing distributions, or with regards to distribution only targeting Lebanese nationals.

Response:

- Protection partners are continuing to use structured assessments, community outreach and referrals to identify and reach out to men, women, girls and boys with specific needs.

In the reporting period, protection partners reached:



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

Food Security

Response:

- Food assistance continues, mainly through community kitchens; currently supported by the Maher Social Foundation, the International Orthodox Christian Charities (IOCC) and Preemptive Love. Partners continue to reach the most vulnerable households, including the elderly, in Achrafieh and Bourj Hammoud.
- Save the Children International, the International Rescue Committee (IRC) and Tearfund are supporting some multi-purpose cash-based assistance (MPCA), thus far reaching 1,120 households in Achrafieh, Bourj Hammoud and Rmeil. In the coming weeks, numerous partners have plans to scale up the MPCA.
- Food security partners have started scaling-up their resilience-building activities. IRC, Welthungerhilfe (WHH) and the Lebanese Organization for Studies and Training (LOST) also started implementing projects in support of micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs): 195 MSMEs have been mainly supported with rehabilitation works.
- Under the Nutrition Task Force (NTF), and during the reporting period, nutrition partners provided counselling to 826 pregnant and lactating women (PLW) in need of pre-natal, breastfeeding and infant and young child feeding (IYCF) practices. UNICEF, the Makhzoumi Foundation and IOCC provided counselling to 4,088 women in need as of 14 September. IOCC conducted a second IYCF workshop on 10 September for the formula milk providers to inform on the importance of breastfeeding and provide nutrition support in line with the Operational Guidance on IYCF in Emergencies. Also, UNICEF trained 70 participants on IYCF practices.
- The National IYFC hotline (+961 70 231 739), coordinated by IOCC, is operational since last week, providing support on IYCF and related issues.

Partners

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|--------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|---|---------------------------------|--|
| A plus initiative | ADRA Lebanon | Amel Association International | American University of Beirut | Anti-Racism Movement | Awareness ACA |
| Basmeh & Zeitooneh | Beit El Baraka | CARE Lebanon | Caritas Lebanon | COOPI | Development for People and Nature Association (DPNA) |
| ESDU | Farah Social Foundation | Food Heritage Found | Humanitarian Relief for Development Society | Humanitarian Relief Foundation | IOCC |
| IRC | LLWB | LOST | LSESD | Mada | Makhzoumi Foundation |
| Merath | Michel Daher Social Foundation | Preemptive Love | Rifak El Darb | Save the Children International | Shareq and Nusaned |
| | SHEILD | WFP | WHH | World Vision International | |



Health

Needs:

- There are critical needs for both elderly care supplies, and acute and chronic medications for adult patients.

Response:

Primary Health Care, including outreach teams, mobile medical teams (MMTs) and static facilities

- Amel Association International, HelpAge International, International Medical Corps (IMC), Ajjalouna and Mercy Corps International provided at least 1,650 consultations (including related to wound and nursing care) to 1,490 persons through four MMTs, one outreach team and one static facility in Quarantina, Bourj Hammoud, Mar Mikhael and Aisha Bakar.

Sexual reproductive health (SRH), GBV, and mental health and psychosocial support services (MHPSS)

- Teams from UNFPA, Médecins du Monde (MdM) and IMC provided psychosocial support services, including psychological first aid (PFA), to 321 individuals – reaching a total of 2,218 persons since the beginning of the response. UNFPA and IMC supported SRH and GBV interventions for 485 women and girls; reaching a total of 1,316 so far. MdM also provided 32 mental health awareness sessions to 278 individuals at the Rafic Hariri University Hospital's (RHUH) community mental health center. Additionally, the Institute for Development, Research, Advocacy and Applied Care (IDRAAC) and Relief International provided MHPSS and other types of specialized mental health services through hotlines and static sites, while the Imam Sadr Foundation and the National Mental Health Programme provided online PFA training to 58 front-line workers.

Distribution of medicines, supplies, equipment and personal protective equipment (PPE)

- As part of SRH and GBV awareness, IOCC, UNFPA and partners distributed 1,141 dignity kits to women and girls, with 24,348 kits distributed since the beginning of the response. IMC distributed 1,676 hygiene kits. IMC, UNICEF and the Syrian American Medical Society (SAMS) distributed PPE to at least 2,000 individuals, 19 primary healthcare centers, eight hospitals, and three mobile medical units. Relief International, the Union of Relief and Development Association (URDA) and SAMS provided medicines and medical supplies to five hospitals (Sacre Coeur Hospital, Saint George Hospital, RHUH, Notre Dame University Hospital, and Makassed General Hospital) and Dispensaire Medico-Social Bourj Hammoud.

COVID-19 awareness raising

- MdM conducted COVID-19 awareness sessions for 192 persons in Quarantina. Since the beginning of the response, 264 persons were reached by these sessions.

Assessments

- WHO supported a 4-week mission in September led by Public Health England (PHE) to develop a plan for addressing environmental public health issues. Recommendations by the PHE experts are being finalized, alongside a detailed action plan that will be developed with the multi-stakeholder Environmental Public Health Working Group established in response to the explosions. Some guidance and recommendations on post-explosion management are available here ([EN](#) / [AR](#)).

Shelter

Response:

- Shelter partners concluded the distribution of shelter weatherproofing kits to respond to the most immediate and urgent needs – over 7,500 kits were distributed, reaching over 25,000 individuals.
- Minor repair interventions were also provided to 107 dwellings by the AVSI Foundation, the Comitato Internazionale per lo Sviluppo dei Popoli (CISP), and Nusaned over the past week. In addition, Nusaned provided rehabilitation interventions to 45 homes. Since the beginning of the response, shelter partners completed approximately 1,200 rehabilitation and minor repair interventions.
- Sector Temporary Technical Committees (TTCs) 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 Housing, Land and Property Rights (UN-Habitat and NRC) are working to provide specific guidance to sector partners.

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

Needs:

- With the initial WASH assessment completed, the second round of review and visits continues, with the two-fold purpose of checking on functionality of previously undertaken WASH rehabilitations and revisiting those buildings that had been found inaccessible during the initial WASH assessment.
- A total of 6,472 buildings were assessed since the beginning of the response, with 1,458 of those needing some sort of WASH intervention and needing overseen by the Beirut and Mount Lebanon Water Establishment.
- An additional 367 buildings with connection issues to the main urban water network.

Response:

- Water supply connection was re-established for 3,059 households, reaching 15,192 people. Among other activities, the rehabilitation works included the installation of 2,566 new water tanks and 80 new pumps.
- WASH partners distributed a total of 5,187 hygiene kits and 543 baby kits since the beginning of the response.
- The WASH hotline campaign continues, with 1,500 posters/flyers distributed in the affected areas. WASH hotlines offer support with regards to water trucking requests, minor plumbing repairs and other WASH hardware support. To date, 55 WASH requests were addressed through the three active hotlines.
- Provision of WASH services to medical facilities also continues, with 70m³ of water trucked to Geitawi Hospital, where 50 water tanks will also be installed by LebRelief as soon as infrastructure rehabilitation works are completed.
- New bilateral support from UNICEF, via an international water company, was provided to the Water Establishment; equipment and staff were also shipped to start a leak-detection programme that will identify potential ruptures in Beirut's underground water network.

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