



Lebanon: Beirut Port Explosions

Situation Report No. 9

As of 2 September 2020

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

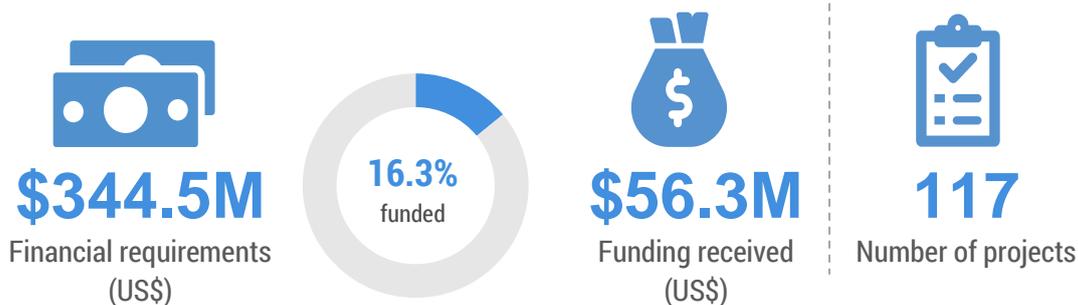
HIGHLIGHTS

- \$56.3 million received since the launch of the Flash Appeal on 14 August.
- 7,339 weatherproofing kits distributed, and minor repairs and rehabilitation work supported.
- At least 2,788 consultations and 1,116 wound-care sessions provided to at least 7,689 patients.
- Urban network connections in 155 buildings repaired, and almost 4,500 hygiene kits delivered.
- Over 2,900 psychological first aid sessions provided.
- 8,707 of the 12,500 metric tons of wheat flour arrived at Beirut Port offloaded.
- 12 mobile storage units set up at Beirut Port for humanitarian goods and cargo.



Close-up of a damaged building from the Beirut Port explosions of 4 August 2020.

Credit: OCHA



SITUATION OVERVIEW

Immediately after the explosions at the Beirut Port on 4 August, the humanitarian community, civil society and private initiatives started responding by providing life-saving assistance and protection to those affected. Planeloads of supplies reached Beirut within days; donors pledged hundreds of millions of dollars; the UN-pooled funds disbursed \$14.5 million; and a three-month humanitarian Flash Appeal seeking \$344.5 million was launched.

As the response moves into its second month, needs are evolving, and therefore the response is shifting focus. Following the immediate distribution of weatherproofing kits, shelter partners are moving into cash for shelter, as well as working on medium-term repairs and longer-term rehabilitation projects and activities.

Similarly, while critical psychological first aid needs remain, there is an increased focus by protection and health partners on providing tailored, longer-term mental health and psychosocial support.

Equally, physical repairs and reconstruction of educational facilities are critical, and the negative impact on education goes beyond physical damages. Increased risk of school dropouts, increased vulnerability of marginalized and special needs children, as well as post-traumatic effects on learners put at risk the continuity of quality education and will need to be addressed.

As WASH partners continue to provide immediate support through water trucking and repairs to the urban network connections, they also liaise with municipal authorities to address sewage conduct issues that are outside the scope and technical abilities of humanitarian responders.

The 12,500 metric tons of wheat, which is being offloaded at the Beirut Port in response to the loss of the 15,000 metric tons stocks stored at the silos at the time of the explosions, will be distributed to millers across Lebanon to support food security far beyond the immediately affected area.

While many hospitals and clinics remain damaged, reports of health workers with COVID-19 further impact the ability to provide health service. As of 2 September, the number of diagnosed health workers stands at 679 – with 80 new cases registered on 30 August-1 September alone. This in a context where the number of hospitalized patients continues to increase, reaching 348, with 97 in intensive care units, and 60 per cent of COVID-19-dedicated beds that are occupied. Three Emergency Medical Teams initially deployed for the explosions have been repurposed and are now being twinned with six government hospitals to increase the capacity for COVID-19 case management, and infection prevention and control at these facilities.

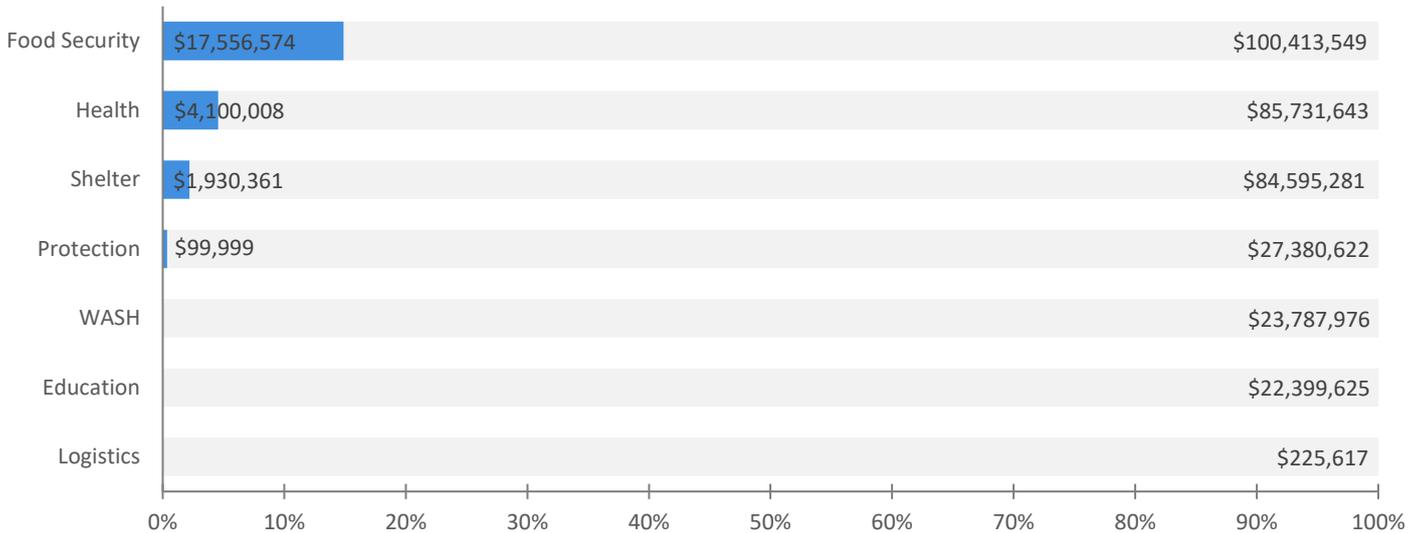


PSEA sessions

The first two in a series of awareness and sensitization sessions on Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) by the Lebanon PSEA Network were conducted on 20 August and 1 September. The sessions are open to all humanitarian actors, including community-based organizations at the forefront of the response. Additional sessions in Arabic and English are being rolled out, with the aim of reaching 800 frontline workers over the next three months.

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 the three months; 117 projects targeting 300,000 people are uploaded on <https://projects.hpc.tools/>, 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 critically needed, with the Lebanon Flash Appeal being less than 17 per cent funded. More information about the FTS [here](#).



Building on, and complementing the humanitarian needs assessments and response, preliminary results of the Rapid Damage and Needs Assessment (RDNA) launched by the World Bank, in cooperation with the UN and the European Union, estimate that the explosions caused between \$3.8-4.6 billion in damage and between \$2.9-3.5 billion in losses.

HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE

Protection

Needs:

- Protection partners conducted rapid assessments to further identify persons in need of direct protection services and referrals. Out of almost 2,300 families contacted, over 60 per cent expressed a need for protection and psychosocial support services, in addition to food, cash and non-food items.

Response:

- War Child Holland, Borderless, Tabitha-Dorcas, and UNICEF provided community-based psychosocial support services to affected boys and girls, as well as caregivers, reaching over 2,000 children and caregivers in child-friendly spaces and with outreach activities.
- During the reporting period, an additional 203 psychological first aid (PFA) sessions were provided, totaling over 2,900; 305 dignity kits were distributed; 26 case-management services were conducted; and over 9,000 households and individual assessments took place. During these activities, partners paid particular attention to the identification and referral of vulnerable people, especially those exposed to sexual- and gender-based violence (SGBV).
- Since the beginning of the response, over 80 partners were trained in protection-related activities, such as PFA, psychosocial support, SGBV and outreach.
- Since 14 August, UNHCR protection monitoring system targeted refugees known to live within five kilometers of the explosions. The results are as follows:



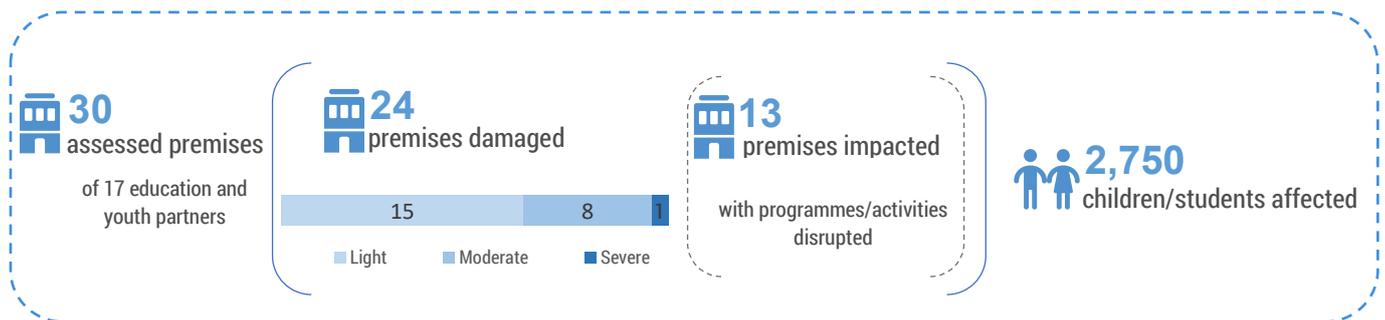
Partners

ABAAD	ADRA Lebanon	Anti-Racism Movement	Borderless	Caritas	Concern	DPNA	Helem
INTERSOS	Makhzoumi Foundation	Right to Play	Save the Children International	SHEILD	Tabitha-Dorcas	UN Women	UNFPA
	UNHCR	UNICEF	War Child Holland	World Vision			

Education

Needs:

- Support is urgently needed for school rehabilitation and, as the beginning of the academic year is approaching, urgent support for remote learning is also needed.
- Assessments show that higher education facilities were impacted by the explosion, including 22 buildings belonging to the Lebanese University and 14 buildings of private universities in Achrafieh, including scientific labs for medical schools.
- The negative impact on education goes beyond physical damages. Increased risk of school dropouts, increased vulnerability of marginalized and special needs children, as well as post-traumatic effects on learners put at risk the continuity of quality education.
- Education partners conducted a rapid assessment on both the structural and programmatic impact of the explosions on the education NGO partners in Beirut and Mount Lebanon, and the results are as follows:



Response:

- Recreational activities, including sports-for-development sessions, were delivered by Hoops NGO for 186 youths and adolescents at the UNICEF tents in Quarantina, Karm al Areesh and Basta.

Food Security

Response:



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

Partners



- Offloading of the WFP shipment of 12,500 metric tons of wheat flour continues, with 8,707 metric tons discharged as of 31 August. This shipment is in response to the loss of 15,000 metric tons of grain stocks stored at the silos and affected by the explosions. The wheat flour will be distributed to millers across the country to support food security in country by increasing the weight of a bread package by 117 grams for a period of two months.
- Nutrition partners trained 16 organizations on both processes for donations and distribution of breast milk substitutes to ensure artificial feeding support is being administered in line with international guidance.

Health

Needs:

- Communities continue to report a high need for mental health and psychosocial support services (MHPSS).
- Personal protective equipment for daily use by communities are in short supply as Lebanon is in Phase 4 of the COVID-19 outbreak with multiple clusters community transmission widespread in many areas.
- Further training on PFA in light of significant MHPSS needs.

Response:

Health services

Outreach health services (mobile medical units, medical stations and home-based care)

- A range of medical services, including at least 2,788 consultations and at least 1,116 wound-care sessions, was provided to at least 7,689 patients by the following partners: Imam Sadr Foundation, INARA, International Medical Corps (IMC), Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF), Order of Malta, Rahma Hospital, as well as Karagheusian, Makassed and Amel Association International.

Primary health care (PHC) and MHPSS

- The Imam Sadr Foundation deployed 11 PHC and mental health community nurses to an affected PHC in Bourj Hammoud and 659 consultations were conducted over five days; Ajjalouna clinics treated 126 patients and its pharmacy dispensed 798 boxes of medications to 189 patients; their health department also sponsored five surgeries. IMC

reached a total of 1,161 patients with a range of services in Bourj Hammoud, Mar Michakel and Aisha Bakar, and Caritas Lebanon disbursed more than 680 medicines to 228 beneficiaries.

- Caritas Lebanon and IMC provided PFA sessions, with IMC reaching to 191 patients in Bourj Hammoud, Mar Mikhael and Aisha Bakar. The Jesuit Refugee Service also provided psychosocial support services, PFA, and awareness and psycho-education sessions for 319 affected persons, as well as distributed psychotropic medications to 32 patients. Médecins du Monde's emergency team provided a total of 353 MHPSS interventions and 70 referrals since the start of the response. Restart expanded its services to reach more women and children who are in need of MHPSS services; thus far, 117 women and four children were identified, and UN Women will partially support the response.
- International Association for Human Values/Art of Living Provided a Healing Resilience Empowerment (HRE) workshop to 18 adults and ten children online. Since the start of the response; 11 persons were trained on HRE, and HRE workshops were conducted for 68 adults and ten children.

Secondary Health Care

- Three Emergency Medical Teams initially deployed for the blast have been repurposed and are now been twinned with six government hospitals to increase the capacity for COVID-19 case management, and infection prevention and control at these facilities.

Hospital support

The Swiss Agency for Development & Cooperation/Humanitarian Aid (SDC/HA) emergency medical team specialized care team "Mother & Child" ended its deployment on 31 August. The outpatient department at Quarantina Hospital is now running with local staff. Also, temporary rehabilitation of the Hospital included repairs within the neonatal intensive care unit, the pediatric intensive care unit, the operating room and a ward. In addition, SDC/HA committed to reconstruct the pediatric division over the next six months with a budget of \$1.1 million.

Medicines, supplies and distributions

- At least 18,000 masks, 2,098 hygiene kits, and 2,000 sanitizers, gloves and drinking water were distributed to affected communities, and at least 19 PHCCs, eight hospitals and two medical mobile units were serviced by the following partners: American Near East Refugee Aid, INARA, International Medical Corps, MSF, Relief International.
- With UNFPA support, 220 dignity kits were distributed by Makassed and Karagheuzian.
- Since the beginning of the response, 34 tons of PPE were delivered to 27 hospitals; 6.3 million pieces of PPE and COVID-19 supplies were distributed to five border-crossing points; and 1.4 million pieces of PPE and COVID-19 supplies were donated to the Ministry of Public Health.

Awareness raising

- To date, UNICEF and IOCC provided infant and young child feeding (IYCF) counseling and awareness sessions to 1,009 pregnant and lactating women and caregivers, including pre-natal and breastfeeding, and distributed 148 dignity kits. In addition to IYCF counseling, Makhzoumi Foundation also continues providing COVID-19 awareness sessions.

Gaps & Constraints:

- Access to medications remains a barrier, especially treatments that are not available at primary health care centers, including medications for kidney failure and other chronic disease medications.
- Difficulties in logistics and clearance procedures are delaying the delivery of medical supplies. At the same time, partners are also reporting shortages in medical supplies, as well as PPE for staff.
- Some partners report a shortage in specialized field staff to cover additional areas; most full-time specialists have full caseloads due to the explosions and cannot take part in outreach, resulting in beneficiaries being referred to centers.

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

Needs:

- The majority of the damage in terms of water and sanitation is at the individual building level.
- The WASH sector's assessment of 5,355 buildings in the affected areas found that the water systems in 1,339 buildings are damaged, and 3,584 roof tanks are affected and need intervening/substituting; the wastewater system of 647 building is also been damaged. Assessments further away from the explosions' site have indicated little to no damage.

Response:

- Based on the assessment, plumbing teams repaired damaged connections to the urban network in 155 buildings. An additional 310 buildings had their internal networks repaired as 873 new water tanks were installed to restore water supply. Further WASH support is provided through water trucking to areas where the network does not reach.
- Three hotlines gather information and provide assistance on water trucking, desludging services, and support to medical facilities. To date, 42 calls have been received and responded to by plumber teams on call.
- WASH partners are liaising closely with the Municipality of Beirut on sewage conduct issues that are outside the scope and technical abilities of the current plumbing teams.
- Sector partners distributed 4,485 hygiene kits to the most in-need families in Bachoura foncière, Rmeil, Quarantina and Bourj Hammoud.

🚚 Logistics**Response:**

Source: Beirut Container Terminal Consortium

- WFP established temporary augmented storage capacity through 12 mobile storage units set up at the Beirut Port for humanitarian goods and cargo, including packed food and non-food items.

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