**Humanitarian Action for Children**

### Lebanon

On 4 August, two explosions hit Beirut city, sending shockwaves throughout the city causing multiple casualties and widespread damage. As of 11 August, at least 160 people have been killed and 6,000 injured, of which over 1,000 are children. Up to 300,000 people have lost their homes, with up to 100,000 children directly affected. The WASH sector estimates that at least 25 per cent of the 3,000 affected buildings have no proper access to water and sanitation.

The explosion caused extensive damage to essential public services. At least three hospitals have been severely damaged. Out of 55 medical facilities assessed, around 40 per cent have suffered moderate to serious damage. Initial assessments from the Ministry of Education and Higher Education indicate that around 120 public and private schools and 20 TVET schools have also suffered structural damage.

This crisis is unfolding in the context of a collapsed economy, political instability and a surge in COVID-19 cases. Under the current circumstances, there is already a rapid spread of COVID-19. The longer-term consequences of the explosion particularly on children are yet to be fully grasped, and the fall out will be felt for months and possibly even years to come.

### Humanitarian strategy

UNICEF is working with the Lebanese authorities, UN agencies and partners to address the immediate needs of affected girls, boys and their families. Within the coordination structure in place, UNICEF is leading the WASH sector and the child protection working group.

One of the first UNICEF priorities is for girls and boys to recover from the trauma of the explosions and remain safe and protected. UNICEF is providing psychosocial support, access to protection services and case management. Special consideration will be given to vulnerable women and girls and mitigation of gender-based violence.

UNICEF will continue to ensure access to safe water and sanitation and will prioritize the recovery of damaged essential public services such as schools and health facilities, critical to the wellbeing of children. To alleviate the impact of the crisis on the most vulnerable children, UNICEF will provide a one-off emergency cash assistance to affected families to ensure 60,000 children access their basic needs. To help rebuild better, UNICEF will equip adolescent and youth with the training and resources to participate in the rehabilitation effort.

UNICEF will also support the implementation of an Accountability to Affected Populations response framework inclusive of children with disabilities.

### Results from 2020 (7 days)

At least 80 percent of acute and chronic medicine and all of vaccines stored in the central warehouse were relocated.

- UNICEF helped bring 10,000 tetanus vaccines and delivered personal protective equipment- 3.5 million surgical masks; 17,370 N95 masks; 2.6m pairs of gloves; 124,810 gowns, face shields, coveralls, boot covers, head covers and goggles
- UNICEF provided drinking water to first responders and persons remaining in their damaged homes
- In close coordination with the authorities, reactivated the water systems in affected areas the day after the blast.
- With the WASH and shelter cluster, UNICEF initiated assessments of water network from the pumping station and at building and household level with immediate repair at building level.
- Referral tents set up for children and caregivers in Beirut to provide psychological first aid and refer to shelter services, water, food, or hygiene items
- UNICEF provided psychological first aid to 720 children and adults through face to face sessions and phone calls
- Some 400 young people from across Lebanon supported with transportation, tools and protective equipment to clean, cook and distribute water and do minor repairs on homes and shops reaching more than 3,500 people.

### 2020 programme targets

**Nutrition**
- 5,000 children under 5 years receiving vitamin A supplements
- 5,000 children under 5 receiving micronutrients supplementation

**Health**
- 16 public health centers supported with emergency rehabilitation and supplies
- 25,000 children accessing routine immunization services
- 6,000 injured people vaccinated against Tetanus

**WASH**
- 100,000 people accessing a sufficient quantity of safe water for drinking, cooking and personal hygiene
- 100,000 people accessing improved and appropriate sanitation

**Child protection**
- 7,000 people accessing mental health and psychosocial support
- 50 unaccompanied and separated children accessing family-based care or a suitable alternative

**Education**
- 50,000 children receiving individual school materials
- 85 schools rehabilitated

**Social Policy**
- 60,000 children reached with humanitarian cash transfers across sectors

**Adolescents and youth**
- 5,000 adolescents and youth who access technical training and income generation opportunities

**Communication for development**
- 300,000 people reached and engaged on COVID-19 through messaging on prevention and access to services
Funding requirements
UNICEF requires $46.7 million to respond to the immediate needs of children and their families in the aftermath of the explosions in Beirut. This includes support to directly affected children and families as well as health and other front-line workers, immediate rehabilitation of health centres, schools and the water network, while limiting the spread of COVID-19 during the emergency response to the explosion.

This urgent funding appeal is in addition to already existing humanitarian funding needs: $461.7 million for the Syrian refugee crisis (65 per cent funded) and $58.9 million for the COVID-19 response which received only 15 per cent of required funding.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sector</th>
<th>2020 requirements (US$)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nutrition</td>
<td>646,800</td>
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<tr>
<td>Health</td>
<td>3,339,361</td>
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<tr>
<td>Water, sanitation and hygiene</td>
<td>15,569,747</td>
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<tr>
<td>Child protection</td>
<td>3,214,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td>6,619,800</td>
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<tr>
<td>Social policy</td>
<td>11,550,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Youth and adolescents</td>
<td>4,982,750</td>
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<tr>
<td>Communication for development</td>
<td>860,000</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>46,782,458</strong></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

1 Target is calculated based on monthly average of children vaccinated in 2019; 100 per cent of monthly average caseload targeted.
2 Improving sanitation facilities in temporary accommodation centers, solid waste management and IPC measures to combat COVID-19.
3 Some 1,000 Women and girls will also receive GBV prevention information. 2,000 male and female adolescent and youth.
4 A total of 20 TVET schools to be rehabilitated and 65 public schools to be repaired with existing funding.
5 Cash grants include: The provision of US$120 cash as a one-off payment for every child affected by the Beirut explosion.
6 Including 100,000 children.

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