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# Lebanon

## Humanitarian Situation Report No. 4



Reporting Date: 19 August 2020

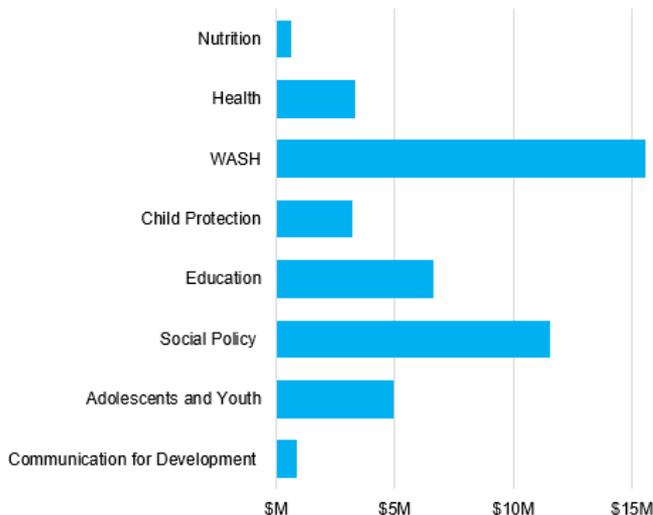
### Highlights

- The death toll of the explosions at the Beirut Port on 4 August has risen to 178. Over 6,500 were injured, estimated 1,000 of whom are children. There are four reported deaths of children. Dozens still reported missing.
- In the immediate aftermath of the explosions, UNICEF with WHO supported the Ministry of Public Health to successfully retrieve and secure 1,748,660 doses of vaccines and medication from damaged cold rooms/storages at the Port.
- UNICEF provided water to first respondents, distributed 1,600 hygiene kits and 400 baby kits to affected families, and ensured water trucking to 20 households and three hubs of the Lebanese Red Cross. Thus far, UNICEF re-connected over 60 buildings to the public water system and installed 109 water tanks in damaged households.
- UNICEF supported the engagement of over 1,170 youths for cleaning, minor repairs of damaged residences, and distribution of food and cloth masks to affected people.
- UNICEF has reached over 750 children with psycho-social first aid and around 600 caregivers with health counseling, and providing referrals and recreational activities for children and youth.
- UNICEF procured additional COVID-19 supplies worth US\$3.5 million to respond to increased needs.

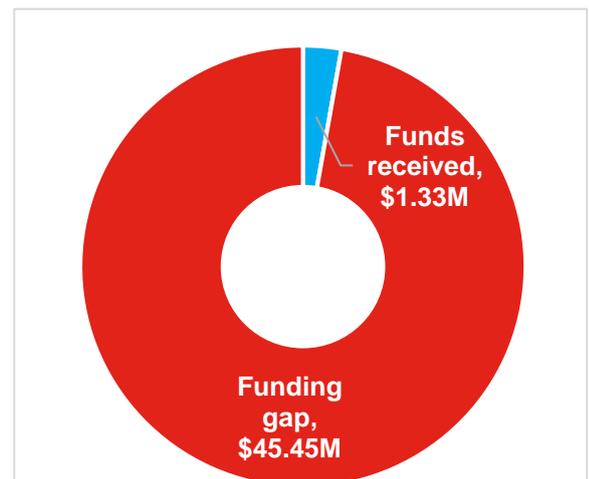
### Situation in Numbers

- 300,000** People in need
- 100,000** children in need
- 178** confirmed dead, **6,500** injured,
- 159** public (92) and private (67) schools and **20** TVET facilities damaged
- 630,000** children with psychosocial needs

### UNICEF's Funding requirements 46.78M (US\$)



### Funding Status (US\$)



## Situation Overview & Humanitarian Needs

The explosions in Beirut on 4 August killed at least 178 people and injured more than 6,500 individuals. The reliable number of deaths and injuries among children are not available, but partners report that approximately a thousand children were among the injured. The explosions caused widespread damages to residences and public and infrastructures, leaving many shocked and traumatised, including first responders and children. Based on initial assessments the immediate emergency and early recovery requirements are estimated at US\$ 565 million. On-going technical/in-depths assessments<sup>1</sup> conducted by humanitarian actors, including UNICEF, will provide more detailed needs and severity of the impact of the blast in the coming days.

The Port explosions are estimated to have directly impacted 9,700 buildings within three kilometres of the epicentre, as well as 291,180 individuals, up to 100,000 children among them. The areas within six kilometres radius from the epicentre are categorized as 'severely' damaged; those within 10 kilometres 'moderately' damaged; and up to 20 kilometres with 'lightly' damaged. According to initial assessments, Gemmayzeh, Mar Mikhael, Ashrafiyeh and Qarantina are among the most affected areas.

Significant damages have been reported to the water and electricity infrastructure. Preliminary findings of the assessment by the "Beirut and Mount Lebanon Water Establishment" (BMLWE) indicate no major damage to the main water network, however many households still have no clean water supply due to damages to the connections between water sources and buildings and within buildings. Based on initial findings, an estimated 5 per cent of the buildings in the affected areas have been disconnected from the main water network. The WASH sector, led by UNICEF, is conducting detailed assessments with the final results expected this week. In terms of water and sanitary facilities at household level, ten per cent reported having unacceptable toilet conditions, with major disparities across suburbs and neighbourhoods such as Qarantina and Nabaa, which depend on water trucking. Waste management is also delayed and limited, increasing the risk of water born diseases.

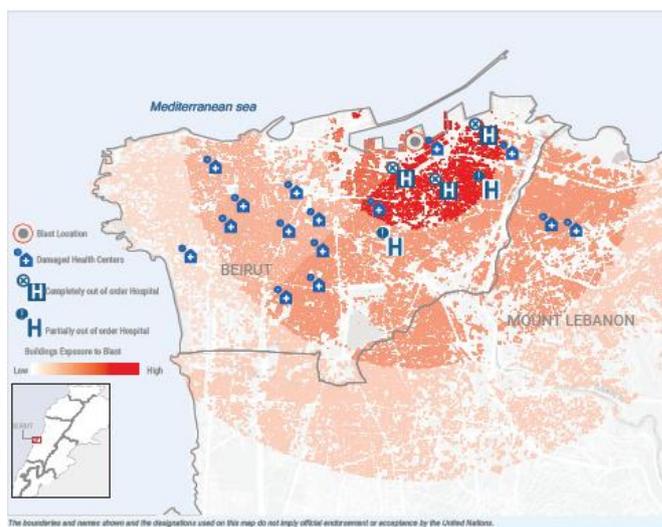


Figure 1: Beirut, Lebanon: Buildings Exposure to the Explosions with Damaged Hospitals and Health Facilities (as of 12 August 2020). OCHA Flash Appeal

The explosion has caused extensive damages to essential public and private services. Assessments in the health sector are ongoing. Six major hospitals and 20 clinics sustained partial or heavy structural damage, reducing collective health capacity by 500 hospital beds. In addition, a new-born and paediatric unit which had been supported by UNICEF at the Qarantina Governmental Hospital was severely damaged in the explosion. The Central Drug Warehouse, which stored vaccines and cold chains, cancer drugs, acute disease catastrophic illnesses, HIV and tuberculosis medications was located near the explosion site and was destroyed. With UNICEF and WHO support, 98 per cent of the medications and vaccines were secured and relocated. The assessment of 55 Primary Health Care Centres (PHCCs) in affected areas of Beirut show that 16 PHCCs, which in normal times serve around 160,000 people sustained damaged affecting their capacity to operate. Despite significant challenges, most of the PHCCs have remained open. Only 3 are currently not operational and not receiving patients due to the severity of the damage. In affected areas of Beirut demand for essential services in PHCCs are expected to increase by 25 to 50 per cent.

Initial reports indicate that mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) needs are acute among vulnerable groups impacted by the explosion. Children are particularly at risk. In a rapid assessment conducted by UNICEF<sup>2</sup> half of respondents reported negative behaviours or symptoms among children after the explosion. One third of adult family members indicated having injured family members in the household. According to an assessment conducted by World Vision International<sup>3</sup>, 41 per cent of parents interviewed reported that their children were manifesting psychological distress, including having nightmares (40 per cent), unusual crying and screaming (26 per cent).

<sup>1</sup> 50 assessments, and that efforts are on-going to coordinate them and avoid overlaps.

<sup>2</sup> UNICEF (August 17, 2020), UNICEF –TENTS Rapid Needs Assessment, Analysis II

<sup>3</sup> WVI (August 17, 2020), Beirut Blast Rapid Needs Assessment Summary

Initial findings shared by the Ministry of Education and Higher Education (MEHE) indicate that 159 public (92) and private (67) schools and 20 TVET schools have sustained minor to significant damage, accommodating around 50,000 children and youth. Rapid needs assessments and cost assessment for rehabilitation of the damaged schools, including infrastructures used for non-formal education, are ongoing. Needs of children with disabilities will be assessed and specialized services, including assistive devices and psychosocial support will be provided.

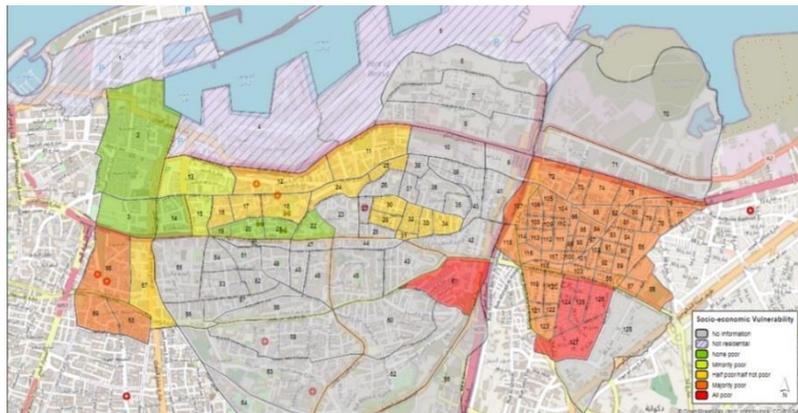


Figure 2: Beirut Explosion: Economical Vulnerability (as of 12 August 2020). MapAction.

According to the World Bank<sup>4</sup>, the explosion will further exacerbate the economic crisis in the country with poverty rates rising due to loss of assets, property and livelihood, and increase the need for a comprehensive social safety net for vulnerable Lebanese. Families owning small businesses and trading will likely require reconstruction assistance and capital to maintain their livelihood<sup>5</sup>.

## Summary Analysis of Programme Response

Across all its interventions, UNICEF aims to foster gender equity and inclusion of the most vulnerable groups. UNICEF is also ensuring integration of child safeguarding and “Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse” (PSEA) in messages to caregivers and children, strengthening focus on children with disabilities, and promoting non-stereotyped engagement of adolescent and young girls.

### Health and Nutrition

By relocating the vaccines within the immediate aftermath of the explosion, UNICEF and partners saved 1,748,660 doses of vaccines, which were distributed to PHCCs, dispensaries, UNHCR vaccination sites, and other immunization points. Medical supplies will be stored in the UNICEF warehouse until the five partially damaged cold rooms and the Quarantina warehouse are repaired and re-assembled in the original location. In order to ensure the safe storage of cancer treatment drugs stored in the two still functioning, yet damaged cold rooms, UNICEF supported MOPH in dismantling a cold room in Hamana and re-assembling it next to the Quarantina warehouse. UNICEF provided two new solar fridges to be installed in Rafic Harriri Hospital (RHUH) and maintenance for two cold rooms for vaccine storage. Three tents have been set up to consultations on health and child protection and referral services. UNICEF provided counseling to 183 Lebanese, 398 non-Lebanese on prenatal, breastfeeding and infant and young child feeding practices through lactation specialists. First aid to 120 individuals through mobile clinics was provided. In addition, UNICEF developed Standard Operation Procedures (SOPs) for infant and young child feeding practices to promote and support breastfeeding and complementary feeding. UNICEF provided technical support for the mental health psychosocial response action plan which was shared widely with humanitarian actors by the Mental Health National Program.

An estimated 25 to 50 per cent increase in demand of essential services in PHCCs is expected in the affected areas. UNICEF committed to rehabilitate and provide subsidization of patient fees for three PHCCs<sup>6</sup>.

With at least 10 containers of personal protective equipment (PPE) procured by WHO destroyed during the explosion, UNICEF increased its PPE and infection prevention and control (IPC) stocks. Supplies worth around US\$3.5 million were procured, with first shipments having arrived in Beirut on August 12.

### WASH

In the immediate aftermath of the explosion, UNICEF provided drinking water to port workers and first responders and supported three Lebanese Red Cross hubs providing basic assistance to victims with water-trucking and desludging

<sup>4</sup> Worldbank (August 9, 2020), Disaster Event in Beirut. Preliminary Assessment

<sup>5</sup> ACTED (August 2020), Beirut Blast. Rapid Needs Assessment Report

<sup>6</sup> Quarantina PHCC, Dar El Hawraa Center - Beer El-Abd, and Lebanese Red Cross Center in Chiyah.

services. Hygiene kits and baby kits distributions are ongoing, based on the Lebanese Red Cross multi-sectoral assessment. To date, UNICEF distributed 1,600 hygiene kits and 400 baby kits to affected families, covering all reported needs.

The public part of the water system in affected areas (the public water source to the buildings' connections) was reactivated the day after the blast, with UNICEF coordinating the assessment in close collaboration with the Beirut and Mount Lebanon Water Establishment. Assessments of the buildings' connections to the roof tanks is currently being conducted by the WASH sector led by UNICEF, with the results expected this week. Thus far, 2,761 buildings were assessed in seven areas with a total of 2,577 buildings found to be accessible, 5 per cent still need water. UNICEF and partners already installed 109 water tanks, re-connected over 60 buildings in the initial phase of the rehabilitation, and provided water trucking to three buildings, reaching 20 households with 10,000 litres of water.

## Education

Preliminary findings by the Ministry of Education and Higher Education (MEHE) indicate that 159 public (92) and private (67) schools and 20 TVET schools sustained minor to significant damage, which will prevent access to learning and education support to around 50,000 children and youth. UNICEF is contributing to the data analysis of the Ministry of Education and Higher Education (MEHE) rapid assessment of schools and is conducting field visits to 17 of the affected public schools. Assessments presented by MEHE, the estimates the cost of rehabilitation for primary and secondary schools of US\$22.5 million and around US\$2 million for TVET facilities. In addition, UNICEF and partners are conducting a damage and needs assessment of three infrastructures used for non-formal education in the affected areas, with a focus on the needs of children with disabilities. Further needs identified include schools supplies, psycho-socio support, possible temporary school arrangement for those schools with severe damages and support for distance learning such as electronic devices and connectivity.

## Child Protection

Beyond physical wounds, children are reportedly showing signs of severe distress such as anxiety and sleeplessness. A psychosocial support hotline was immediately activated, and over the last week, UNICEF and partners provided Psychological First Aid (PFA) and psychosocial support to 753 children and 26 caregivers through the hotline, door-to-door outreach and in three tents set up in affected areas, and reached 250 children with recreational activities in these tents. Safe referral to specialized services was provided when needed.

UNICEF and partners conducted different needs assessments, including a rapid needs assessment on case management for survivors of gender-based violence (GBV). Specialized and targeted referral pathways were created for affected women and girls. In close collaboration with the SGBV<sup>7</sup> taskforce, UNICEF finalized safety tips to be used by front liners to support women and girls after the Beirut explosion. Safety messages for women and girls were also developed and will be widely shared with all actors in the coming days.

Two UNICEF partners specializing in children with disabilities were mobilized to provide children with disabilities with specialised medical and psychosocial support.

## Adolescents and Youth and Community Engagement

UNICEF with partners are engaging over 1,170 youth (including Palestinian volunteers) through a community-based response focusing on cleaning, minor rehabilitation of households, and preparation and distribution of meals for vulnerable families. In addition, 75 youth took part in a joint household assessment led by the Lebanese Red Cross. During the reporting period, UNICEF equipped 115 youths with material and equipment to support minor rehabilitation for 130 households. Through a cash for work program, 26 youth cooked and distributed hot meals to 2,064 families. Ten volunteers distributed 2,000 masks, produced by vulnerable youth, to affected families living in Quarantine. UNICEF launched sports for development sessions for 50 youth and adolescents, with nine coaches conducting activities at child friendly spaces set up in the most affected areas. Assessments on the needs of adolescents and youth with a focus on livelihood, education and mental health are ongoing.

## Social Policy

UNICEF has finalized the operational components of a new Emergency Cash Assistance. This initiative is designed to serve up to 80,000 vulnerable people, including primarily households with children with disabilities, elderly and migrant workers living in the poorest and most affected areas. Coordination is ongoing with WFP, UNHCR and other cash actors.

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<sup>7</sup> Sexual and Gender-Based Violence Task Force

UNICEF is continuing technical assistance and collaboration with key actors including the World Bank, EU and Government of Lebanon to: (i) continue the delivery of Government's emergency social assistance, (ii) design a new national cash transfer programme, and (iii) lead support to develop national social protection response strategy.

## Humanitarian Leadership, Coordination and Strategy

UNICEF's response to the Beirut Explosion is guided by three pillars: i) Keeping children safe including health, protection and social assistance services; ii) Rehabilitating basic essential services, including water and sanitation, education and health infrastructure; and iii) meaningful youth engagement in cleaning and rehabilitation activities.

A coordination mechanism for the response to the Beirut Explosion has been set up and is led by OCHA. The government response is led by Deputy Prime Minister/Lebanese Armed Forces. Drawing on the existing sector system (LCRP), UNICEF is leading the WASH sector and the Child Protection sub-sector, while being an active member in education, health food security and shelter sectors as per the existing humanitarian architecture. Efforts are made to ensure coordination at the field and central levels with relevant actors, including municipalities, Civil Society Organizations and other UN agencies. In the ongoing discussion on UN – World Bank – EU Rapid Damage Needs Assessment and Reconstruction efforts, it has been tentatively agreed that UNICEF will be leading Water, Education/Culture (with UNESCO) and Social Protection (with ILO) Working Groups.

The coordination mechanism to respond to Beirut explosions comes in addition to two parallel and partly overlapping coordination mechanisms. I) the Lebanon Crisis Response Plan (LCRP) addressing the Syrian refugee crisis and led by UNHCR/UNDP and the Ministry of Social Affairs (MOSA), and ii) the response to COVID-19, led by WHO and MOPH/Higher Defense Council, based on "pillars", with UNICEF playing key roles in both mechanism.

## External Media

The UNICEF Regional Director and spokespersons in the regional and Lebanon offices conducted over 50 interviews with the media. Eight TV channels and more than 30 local, regional and international media outlets covered the visit of the Regional Director to Beirut to meet with affected children and families. Through his press interactions, he showcased UNICEF's response to the immense needs and provided the latest update on UNICEF's efforts and commitment to support people in Lebanon in rebuilding their city.

In addition to the continuous posts on social media platforms, a [dedicated webpage](#) has been created to host the different articles and press releases published on both the Lebanon office and MENA regional office's websites, including:

- UNICEF Lebanon HAC Appeal: <https://www.unicef.org/appeals/lebanon.html>
- Ms. Yukie Mokuo UNICEF Representative to Lebanon statement, 5 August 2020: <https://www.unicef.org/mena/press-releases/unicef-sad-shocked-beirut-explosions-concerned-wellbeing-children-families>
- Geneva Palais briefing note on situation for children affected by Beirut explosions and UNICEF response 14 August 2020: <https://www.unicef.org/mena/press-releases/briefing-notes-latest-situation-beirut>
- Beirut Blast – Desperately Seeking Elissar: <https://www.unicef.org/lebanon/stories/beirut-blast-desperately-seeking-elissar>

### “UNICEF and partners step up their provisions for child protection and psychosocial support”

"My eldest daughter comes to me saying when will we die. She asks me to stay by her side at night feeling she will die any second," says Faten, a single mother of three young children between the ages of 4 and 11.

"What these children have lived through could have a big impact on their mental health and social well-being. It is very important to help these children and their families, so they can adapt and understand what they have been through." Nisrine Tawily, Child Protection Specialist in UNICEF Lebanon country office.

Watch the video to listen to Faten's story and to know how UNICEF and partners are helping these children overcome this traumatic experience.



Video can be viewed through the following link: <https://youtu.be/KQ50uQDDq9o>

## Funding Overview and Partnerships

UNICEF requires US\$46.8 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.

So far, UNICEF has received US\$1.3 million in funding from the Government of Republic of Korea, the French, German, Spanish and US National Committees, and allocation from UNICEF's global thematic humanitarian fund. UNICEF is extremely grateful for these timely and flexible contributions and is hopeful for further support from its key public and private resource partners.

To ensure fast and scaled up response until additional funding is secured, UNICEF has allocated US\$4.2 million loan from its Emergency Programme Fund mechanism (funding from UNICEF's regular resources). This underlines the criticality of regular resources, especially in a sudden onset and unpredictable emergency, such as the explosion in Beirut, that demands swiftness and flexibility to reach children quickly where the need is greatest.

In addition to cash contributions, the Government of Belgium offered free delivery of emergency items to Lebanon, and UNICEF facilitated a donation from Sanofi Foundation to the Ministry of Public Health, including 10,000 tetanus vaccines, 42 emergency kits and over 24,000 doses of empirical injectable antibiotics and subcutaneous injectable anticoagulants (blood thinners), and its distribution to PHCCs, and storage and distribution to hospitals and other health facilities.

With the urgency to meet the immediate response needs for the most affected children and youth, flexible and timely funding is a priority so that UNICEF together with its NGO partners can deliver urgently needed services on the ground.

UNICEF Lebanon Country Office Official Website: <https://www.unicef.org/lebanon/>

UNICEF Lebanon Country Office Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/UNICEFLebanon/>

UNICEF Humanitarian Action for Children (HAC) Lebanon Appeal, 2020: <https://www.unicef.org/appeals/lebanon.html>

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