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Reporting Period: 18 September to 3 October 2020

Lebanon Humanitarian Situation Report No. 8

Highlights since 4 August

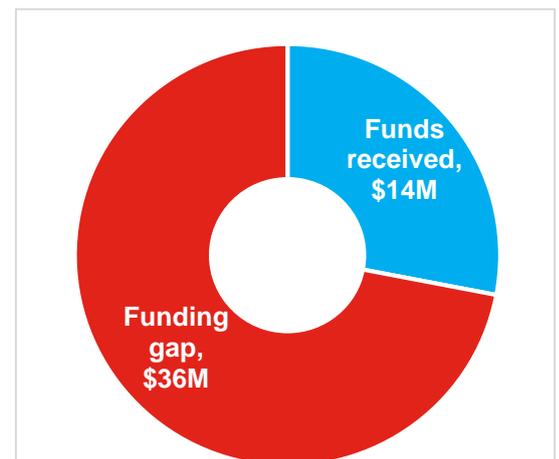
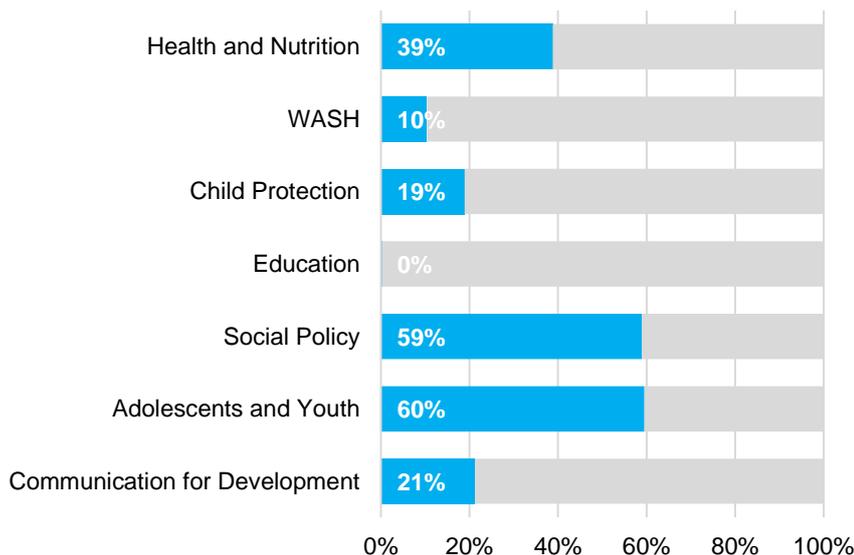
- UNICEF provided 18,860 people with temporary access to adequate quantity of safe water for drinking and domestic use and reached over 17,200 affected people with public health awareness messages.
- UNICEF reached over 30,000 individuals with different forms and levels of psychosocial support. Focus has been on providing parents with tools and support to help restore the child's sense of wellbeing while children have also been reached at individual level through psycho-social support, specialized mental health interventions and psychological first aid.
- As part of a community-based response, UNICEF engaged 950 youth in employment and income generation opportunities, including minor rehabilitations, installation of water tanks, cooking of hot meals, and production and distribution on fabric masks amid the rising COVID-19 cases.
- UNICEF provided 7,085 counselling sessions to primary caregivers of children under two years, raising awareness on healthy infant and young child feeding practices.
- UNICEF designed and launched a large-scale Emergency Cash Grant for Children and Vulnerable Groups targeting up to 80,000 affected people.
- UNICEF distributed critical humanitarian and COVID-19 protection and hygiene supplies worth over half a million US dollars.

Situation in Numbers

- 300,000** people in need
- 100,000** children in need
- Over **160** primary, and 20 public Technical and Vocational Training schools damaged
- 23** Primary Health Care Centers damaged
- 1,706** buildings need WASH interventions (including rehabilitation/installation of tanks, pumps and pipes)

UNICEF's Funding requirements 50.04M (US\$)

Funding Status (US\$)



Situation Overview & Humanitarian Needs

Two months has passed since the explosions that sent shockwaves through the city of Beirut, killed 200 people and injured more than 6,500 including 1,000 children. Various assessments confirm far-reaching substantial impact on the people and infrastructure.

Lebanon's economy continues to deteriorate, the number of COVID-19 cases has increased eightfold since 4 August, and with the resignation of the PM-designate Adib, the political situation remains uncertain.

UNICEF issued Humanitarian Action for Children (HAC) for the blast response, which estimates that 300,000 people are in need, of whom 100,000 are children. The overall damage is estimated between US\$3.8 and US\$4.6 billion, in addition to around US\$2.9 to US\$3.5 billion in economic losses¹. More than half of small and medium enterprises will likely not be able to resume work. Half of the tourism facilities in the area were affected, and over 90 percent of medium to large manufacturing industries within a three-kilometer radius of the blast site have been damaged to varied degrees. This, in addition to the already dire economic situation and high inflation rate, is heavily impacting the population living and/or working inside the affected area². A UNICEF rapid needs assessment showed that one third of surveyed households with at least one child had no member earning income in the last two weeks at the time of the assessment³. Protest and demonstrations against the deteriorating living conditions and the lack of fuel continued in various locations throughout the reporting period.

Over 160 public and private primary schools and 20 public Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) centers were damaged or destroyed, affecting over 85,000 students. Six major hospitals, a new-born and pediatric unit supported by UNICEF, 20 clinics, 23 Primary Health Care Centers (PHCCs), dispensaries and the Central Drug Warehouse – including its cold chain and dry room – require rehabilitation. The 23 PHCCs alone were providing on average 33,000 consultations a month. A quarter of the assessed 7,302 buildings need some sort of rehabilitation to ensure safe access to water and wastewater services. Around 1,000 buildings in the most affected area remain inaccessible.

Needs assessments⁴ highlight continuous needs for food, cash assistance, rehabilitation and psychosocial support. Many families whose homes were destroyed continue to live in a temporary place, often with relatives. Displacement and overcrowding increases risks for COVID-19 transmission, and/or sexual and gender-based violence (GBV) with children and women being at particular risk. Displacement in many instances is for an indefinite period, some are expected to return only one year after the explosion.

COVID-19 cases are steadily rising, reaching over 1,000 daily cases towards the end of the reporting period. The total number of cases rose from 5,000 before the explosion to around 44,500 cases (of which 24,300 are still active) and 406 deaths. About 85 percent of public Intensive Care Unit (ICU) beds are occupied. As of 4 October, 1,078 health workers tested positive. Many health staff are underpaid, overworked, risk infection and burnout. In addition, hospitals are working with a minimum of inventory, as 80 percent of medical supplies and medications are imported. On 2 October, the Ministry of Interior and Municipalities issued a decision to impose a total lockdown on 111 Lebanese towns and villages with high COVID-19 rates from 4 until 12 October.

¹ World Bank (2020), Beirut Rapid Damage and Needs Assessment.

² Infopro (2020), Damage Aid Initiatives.

³ UNICEF (9 September 2020), Rapid Needs Assessment. Results are based on surveys conducted with 3,400 people at the UNICEF tents; and are not representative.

⁴ Including UNICEF (9 September 2020), Rapid Needs Assessment (1,113 interviewees), IOM (September 2020), Foreign Nationals MSNA Analysis Beirut (1,896 households).

Summary Analysis of Programme Response

UNICEF aims to foster gender equity and inclusion of the most vulnerable groups across all its interventions. It is represented with gender focal points in the WASH, education and social protection sectors who provide guidance how to best integrate gender equality issues, and issues of sexual minorities, into their sector. 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

UNICEF has committed to rehabilitate three Primary Health Care Centers (PHCCs). The damage assessment of two PHCCs is completed and the bidding process for rehabilitation is in process, while the assessment of the third one is ongoing. UNICEF with partners completed the recruitment of medical advisors and health staff for the three PHCCs.

During the reporting period, UNICEF provided counselling to 579 Lebanese and 785 non-Lebanese on prenatal, breastfeeding and infant and young child feeding (IYCF) practices through lactation specialists, phone calls and at the UNICEF tents, reaching a total of 6,614 counselling sessions following the explosion. Emphasizing the importance of COVID-19 preventive measures, UNICEF distributed over 5,000 fabric masks during face-to-face counselling. UNICEF with partners set up an IYCF Hotline, the first under the national IYCF committee, to respond to beneficiaries’ inquiries and address reservations on IYCF practices, and to follow up with pregnant and nursing women experiencing problems with breastfeeding or other challenges. If needed, they are then referred to other health care services.

UNICEF has distributed critical nutrition supplies to partners and PHCCs, including 27,000 multiple micronutrient sachets, 2,500 vitamin A packs, 8,370 therapeutic milk, 5,600 ReSoMal sachet for treating rehydration, 10,650 supplementary spread sachet, 6,500 high energy biscuit sachet, and 1,080 emergency food rations. UNICEF also provided medical facilities with 195,650 surgical Masks, 2,980 N95 Masks, 1,300 protective goggles, 7,220 head covers, 4,800 pairs of boot covers, 2,500 face shields, 60,955 surgical gowns, 209,450 pairs of gloves, and 2,880 hand sanitizers. All PPE and IPC item delivered by UNICEF since 4 August are worth more than US\$3.5 million, and especially critical after 10 containers of PPE were destroyed in the explosions.

WASH

The UNICEF-led WASH sector assessment for the initially agreed affected areas has been completed. A second round of visits to check functionality of rehabilitated WASH facilities and infrastructure and visit previously inaccessible buildings has started. An assessment of the areas outside the immediate surrounding of the port is ongoing. To date, 7,170 buildings have been assessed, of which 1,706 need at least one intervention. During the reporting period, 2,225 water tanks and 102 pumps were installed (in total 4,882 tanks and 204 pumps following the blast). Water supply was re-established in 3,799 households, reaching almost 19,000 people. UNICEF with partners installed 111 water tanks in the three hospitals - Karantina, Wardiya, and Geitaoui - in the vicinity of the explosion. In addition, UNICEF distributed 6,455 Hygiene Kits and 843 Baby Kits to affected families and 1,858 Infection Prevention and Control, and Household Kits for families in the blast region directly or indirectly affected by COVID-19.

Over 2,300 posters have been distributed and posted in the worst affected areas and 25,000 SMS sent, referring to the WASH hotline to request support for water trucking, minor plumbing repairs and other WASH hardware support. So far, 305 out of the 663 requests were addressed. UNICEF in close collaboration with WASH sector partners launched a new online live dashboard⁵ showing targets and progress and complementing the WASH sector live geo-split platform.

⁵ <https://bblast-uniceflebanon.hub.arcgis.com/pages/Sit-Rep>, accessed 1 October 2020.

Education

In addition to the rehabilitation of four public primary schools, UNICEF will support the refurbishment and replacement of damaged furniture and laboratory equipment for all 90 public schools affected by the blast. Similar options are being explored to support some private schools that are serving the most vulnerable children, including refugee children. As of 28 September, most of the damaged schools will not be able to open. UNICEF has supported MEHE to develop a draft Remote Learning IT Plan to ensure learning for children and youth affected by the school damages continue their learning⁶. UNICEF will procure the Microsoft License and support the national teaching platform for the Ministry to initiate online teaching. In addition, connectivity solutions are being sought with for both teachers and schools as well as devices for students at home.

Child Protection

UNICEF partners are addressing the needs on the ground and are conducting the necessary referrals to relevant service providers to ensure that all children and families receive the support they need. So far, over 6,500 children, parents, and primary caregivers have received community based mental health and psycho-social support (MHPSS), including participation in social networks, child-friendly spaces activities and parenting sessions. 410 boys, girls and caregivers were reached with specialized MHPSS and Focused Non-specialized Psychosocial Support. 150 children, including children with disability, have received individual counselling, case management and specialized support. As for services related to gender-based violence, 1,525 girls and women have attended information sessions, psychological first aid, and psychosocial support provided by UNICEF's partners. UNICEF also distributed 65,150 packs of sanitary pads to vulnerable girls and women, 30 Recreational Kits and 15 Early Childhood Development Kits for partners to implement activities for children. 500 PSS Kits supporting play and recreational activities in the home environment have been distributed, each kit catering for approximately 5 children. UNICEF mainstreamed GBV risk mitigation messages in outreach activities and embedded Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) risk mitigation in sector wide responses, parents tips, ideas and guidance on how to best support their children in the aftermath of the blast and information on service providers available in the area have been disseminated through social media channels.

UNICEF developed a five-day training module for school counsellors and child protection focal points within the Ministry of Education and Higher Education for the school reopening. The training aims to strengthen their skills and competencies on COVID-19 preventatives measures and distance learning. Modules include supporting the wellbeing of children in response to the Beirut Blast, support the inclusion of psychosocial support activities, self-care, codes of conduct while providing remote learning, and promotive positive behaviors and positive discipline in classroom. In addition, the training provides guidance on how to deal with cases of violence observed or detected during distance learning by providing safe identification and referral. UNICEF will also use the "Ready to come back: A teacher preparedness training Package" that was recently launched by UNICEF Regional Office to integrate relevant modules accordingly.

The UNICEF Child Protection MHPSS community-based support targets 25,000 children, with additional needs foreseen in the area of GBV specific programming and unaccompanied and separated children following the blast. To ensure a response at scale that targets boys, girls and families affected by the Beirut Blast, over the past couple of weeks UNICEF has been developing a programme that can better target not only children and families from vulnerable communities, but also children and young people from middle and upper-middle socio economic backgrounds who make up a good proportion of those by the blast. One of the avenues UNICEF is advancing is collaboration with clubs, centers that have already established programmes providing recreational activities to children (arts centers, music centers, sports academies, scouts clubs, yoga centers, etc.). UNICEF is looking for both community-based organizations and private sector providers in and around Beirut that cater for children and families living in Beirut and Mount Lebanon, which

⁶ Due to COVID-19, a blended approach of face-to-face learning with distance/online learning was announced for the 2020/2021 school year at national level, with gradual school opening initially being scheduled for 28 September. Due to a surge in COVID-19 cases, MEHE further postponed to 12 October.

will be linked with existing UNICEF partners to ensure that all population groups affected by the blast have access to services.

Adolescents and Youth

Since 4 August, UNICEF with partners engaged over 2,150 youth in a community-based response focusing on cleaning, minor rehabilitation of households, and preparation and distribution of meals for vulnerable families. UNICEF mobilized 1,026 youth volunteers for cleaning 583 streets, houses and sites. UNICEF equipped 609 youths, previously trained in rehabilitation and construction as part of UNICEF's TVET courses, with material and equipment to support minor rehabilitation for 552 damaged households, which includes 59 sites rehabilitated by 22 youth during this reporting period. In addition, UNICEF employed 60 youth as part of a cash for work programme to install water tanks under WASH programme.

A total of 15,520 families affected by the blast received hot meals prepared and distributed by 382 youth as part of the UNICEF cash for work programme, with 2,834 families in Bourj Hammoud reached during the reporting period. All involved youth previously graduated from UNICEF's vocational course on cooking.

UNICEF in collaboration with HOOPS sports club developed life skills materials and tools for a sport for development programme, aiming at improving mental and physical wellbeing of adolescents and youth. UNICEF trained 51 coaches, who conducted sports for development sessions for 342 youth and adolescents at the three child friendly spaces set up in the most affected area, and trained coaches and all youth frontliners on identification of child protection cases and referral to case management services.

As part of UNICEF TVET programme, UNICEF trained 82 youth and adolescents in sewing and provided material for production and distribution of 23,154 masks to affected families and frontline workers.

Child-Sensitive Social Policy

On 15 September, UNICEF Lebanon launched its new Emergency Cash Assistance programme to respond to the Beirut blast. This initiative is designed to serve up to 80,000 vulnerable people, targeting primarily households with children, but also persons with disabilities, elderly and female-headed households living in the poorest and most affected geographical neighbourhoods, starting with Karantina and Bourj Hammoud. The Emergency Cash Grant will be provided directly to recipients as a one-time cash transfer of 840,000 Lebanese Pounds for each child or eligible household member, up to a maximum of three members per household. Eligible households can apply directly online through a mobile-friendly web-based application which was launched on 15 September, or through onsite registration centers which were opened on 28 September in Bourj Hammoud and Karantina areas. Communities and individuals are being reached through partners on the ground, SMS, the UNICEF call centre, and UNICEF Lebanon's official social media channels. To date, around 7,800 applications were received through the online application form from the different selected priority areas and validation process will start at the end of the reporting period. Coordination is ongoing with WFP, UNHCR and other cash actors including NGOs through the Task Force on Emergency Cash Assistance as part of the Beirut Blast Response. The Task Force is coordinated by the LOUISE coordinator to ensure a harmonized approach.

UNICEF provides technical assistance to the Government of Lebanon to continue the delivery of the Government's emergency COVID-19 cash assistance directly to more than 170,000 poor and vulnerable households. In addition, UNICEF's technical inputs to design a new national cash transfer programme to respond to broader vulnerabilities of Lebanese households continues with the World Bank, EU and the Government of Lebanon.

The well advanced technical and financial support that UNICEF leads to develop a national social protection response strategy was consolidated and reflected into a draft Strategy Document – in light of the current political situation – to facilitate rapid development of the strategy by the new Government, once formed and will service as a basis for the social protection sector under the Reform, Reconstruction and Recovery Framework (3RF) with the EU and World Bank.

Communications for Development (C4D), Community Engagement & Accountability

During the reporting period, UNICEF provided technical guidance to partners to directly engage 370 children through recreational activities to raise awareness on key healthy and protective behaviors, including COVID-19 preventive measures, reaching 3,182 children since the beginning of the intervention. Through trained volunteers and activists, UNICEF reached further 1,211 households with COVID-19 preventive messages, reaching in total 4,611 households in the affected areas since the blast.

Humanitarian Leadership, Coordination and Strategy

UNICEF's response to the Beirut Explosion is guided by three pillars: i) Keeping children safe ensuring 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.

On 25 September, the Lebanon Humanitarian Country Team endorsed a new overarching humanitarian coordination structure, with immediate effect. It merges the three previously existing coordination frameworks - I) the Lebanon Crisis Response Plan (LCRP) addressing the Syrian refugee crisis and led by UNHCR/UNDP and the Ministry of Social Affairs (MOSA), 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 and III) the Beirut Blast. The new overarching coordination structure is led by the Inter-Sector Coordination Group (established as Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) under the Beirut Blast response), while the government response for the Beirut Blast continues to be led by Deputy Prime Minister/Lebanese Armed Forces. Transition is ongoing, and coordination with the government will be ensured through sector coordinators/co-coordinators. UNICEF continues to lead the WASH and Education sectors, the Child Protection sub-sector, while being an active member in Health, Sexual and Gender Based Violence (SGBV), and Shelter sectors as per the existing humanitarian architecture.

The planning process of the 15 months Recovery, Reform and Reconstruction Framework (3RF), led by EU, World Bank and UN, is ongoing. Under the 3RF, UNICEF will be co/leading education (with UNESCO), social protection (with ILO) and water sectors, and municipal services pillar. Efforts are made to ensure coordination at the field and central levels with relevant actors, including municipalities, Civil Society Organizations and other UN agencies.

External Communication

UNICEF has been raising awareness and contributing to donor engagement through external communication activities since 5 August. Over 1,500 media articles have echoed UNICEF's statements, multimedia packages, interviews or press conferences covering the children's situation and UNICEF action after the explosions. Seven media field visits and nine virtual events with participation of the Representative, the Regional Director or the Deputy Representative, were organized from the field with UNICEF offices supporting the fundraising efforts worldwide, from Japan and Geneva to Australia and the USA.

After the one-month press conference held in Beirut, external communication activities have continued to support donor engagement efforts, as well as the launch of the Emergency Cash Grant⁷. More than 20 media covered the story supported also by live interviews of UNICEF staff. Content on social media platforms has been also focusing on UNICEF response to the blast with a total reach of 4,162,400 and total impressions of 6,208,100.

⁷ <https://www.unicef.org/lebanon/press-releases/unicef-provide-emergency-cash-grant-children-and-vulnerable-groups-affected-beirut>, accessed 3 October 2020.

Human Interest Story

"I don't want to live in Lebanon anymore – enough. I used to tell my mother that I love Lebanon, but if I'd known something like this was going to happen, I'd have wanted to leave long ago. I will forget about the things that happened in Lebanon while playing with my friends. I will forget everything. I don't want to stay in my school – it is completely damaged now. Everything is damaged - even my books got torn to shreds. How I will be able to study again?"

Read the full story: <https://www.unicef.org/lebanon/stories/omars-story-six-weeks-after-beirut-explosion-unicef-listens-helping-rebuild-shattered-lives>



Funding Overview and Partnerships

UNICEF's current Humanitarian Appeal for Children (HAC) to respond to the immediate needs of children and their families in the aftermath of the explosions in Beirut stands at US\$50 million.

So far, UNICEF has received US\$14 million in funding from the Governments of Australia, Canada, Estonia, Germany, Japan, Republic of Korea, and Liechtenstein, from UNICEF National Committees of Australia, Canada, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Netherlands, Norway, Spain, Sweden, UK and US, from UNICEF China, Ecuador, Malaysia, Philippines and Thailand, and allocation from UNICEF's global thematic humanitarian fund. Additional commitments have been made by other public and private sector partners, including Governments of Italy and Austria. UNICEF is extremely grateful for these timely and flexible contributions and commitments and is hopeful for further support from the key public and private resource partners.

In addition to cash contributions, the Government of Belgium and the shipping line CMA-CGM offered free air and sea freight respectively of emergency items from the UNICEF Supply Division warehouse in Copenhagen to Lebanon. UNICEF has also received a donation of 500,000 bars of soap from UNILEVER UK, 300,000 bars of soap from Colgate Palmolive and over 7,000 masks from the French City of Boulogne-Billancourt to support the COVID-19 response. Eleven of the surge staff supporting UNICEF's response were deployed through Stand-by-Partners RedR Australia, Irish Aid, DSS Waters (Netherlands), and Veolia.

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

Next Situation Report: 4 November 2020

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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Annex A

Funding Status

Sector	Requirements	Funds available	Funding gap	
			\$	%
Health and Nutrition	9,235,000	3,586,063*	5,648,937	61%
Water, Sanitation and Hygiene	16,259,747	1 696 337	14 563 411	90%
Child Protection	2,746,690	518,544*	2,228,146	81%
Education	7,600,000	17,866*	7,582,134	100%
Social Policy	10,700,000	6,308,595	4,391,405	41%
Youth and Adolescents	3,000,000	1,785,663	1,214,337	40%
Communication for Development	503,110	106,803	396,307	79%
Total	50,044,547	14,019,871	36,024,676	73%

* Changes in funding status compared to the previous reporting period are due to re-allocation of funds.

Annex B

Summary of Programme Results

Revised HPM indicators (as per HAC revision on 4 September)

Sector	2020 UNICEF target	Total UNICEF results	Change since last report ▲ ▼
Nutrition			
# of children under 5 received essential nutrition supplements including Vitamin A	55,000	17,682	17,365 ▲
# of primary caregivers of children 0-23 months who received counselling and awareness on infant and young child feeding	6,000	7,085	2,997 ▲
Health			
# of impacted Primary Health Care Centers (PHCCs) and dispensaries rehabilitated and provided with supplies and minimum service package	15	0 ⁸	
# affected children vaccinated (per month)	10,000	2,401	2,401 ▲
WASH			
# affected people assisted with temporary access to adequate quantity of safe water for drinking and domestic use	50,000	18,860	3,456 ▲
# of affected people with access to improved safe sanitation in impacted areas	50,000	0 ⁹	
# of affected people who were reached with public health awareness	50,000	17,205	
# people having sustained equitable access to public water facilities and services	264,000	0 ¹⁰	
Child Protection			
# of children, parents and primary caregivers provided with community based mental health and psycho-social support	25,000	6,545	5,008 ▲
# of girls and women provided with psycho-social first aid, psycho-social support and information on gender-based violence risks	1,000	1,525 ¹¹	322 ▲
# of unaccompanied and separated children provided with appropriate alternative care arrangements	50	3 ¹²	

⁸ The target was set in the immediate aftermath of the blast. In the meantime, UNICEF in collaboration with MOPH and other partners agreed that UNICEF will rehabilitate three PHCCs. Damage assessment of two PHCCs is completed and the third one is ongoing. Bidding process for rehabilitation ongoing.

⁹ The target was set based on an estimation in the immediate aftermath of the blast, whereas so far no needs were reported during assessments.

¹⁰ Implementation has not started due to funding shortage.

¹¹ The target was set based on an estimation in the immediate aftermath of the blast, whereas actual needs were higher.

¹² The target was set based on an estimation in the immediate aftermath of the blast reflecting the expected number of children who would need alternative care arrangements. Based on an assessment, the actual need was much lower. The current number is not expected to further increase.

Education ¹³			
# of school children provided with education supplies	50,000	0	
# of children benefiting of rehabilitated schools and replacement of furniture and equipment	50,000	0	
# of school children provided with internet support and electronic devices	14,000	0	
Social Policy			
# of children and most vulnerable individuals receiving emergency cash transfer	80,000	0 ¹⁴	
Adolescent and Youth			
# of youth who access employment or income generation opportunities	4,000	950	45 ▲
Communication for Development			
# of affected people reached and engaged on COVID-19 through messaging on prevention and access to services	300,000	4,513 ¹⁵	1,513 ▲

¹³ Discussions with MEHE ongoing.

¹⁴ Registration launched on 15 September, verification process ongoing.

¹⁵ The number only reflects community engagement activities conducted by volunteers, activists and frontline workers. The calculation of the number of people reached through other through different channels is currently in progress and will be added in the next Sitrep.