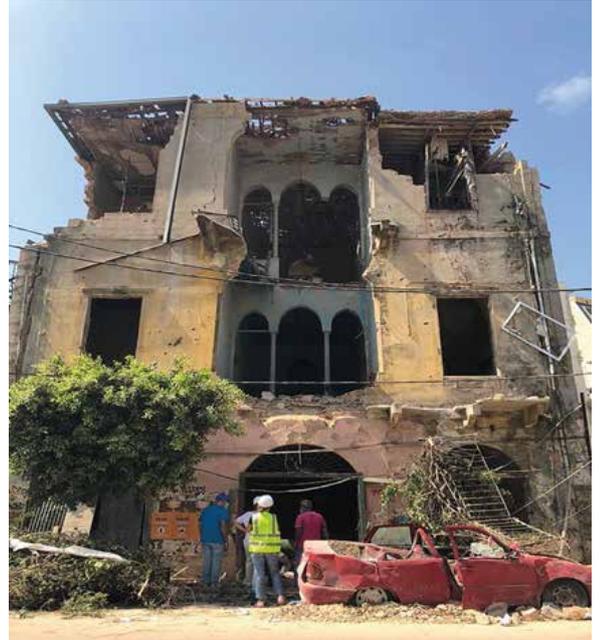


This report is produced by OCHA Lebanon in collaboration with humanitarian partners. It covers the period from 14 to 17 August 2020.

HIGHLIGHTS

- **180** people were killed, over **6,000** people are estimated to be injured, and at least a dozen people remain missing following the Beirut Port explosions of 4 August 2020.
- Some **40,000** buildings were damaged, with **3,000** residential structures seriously damaged.
- Over **70,000** workers are estimated to have lost their jobs as a result of the explosions, with direct implications for over **12,000** households.
- A new record with regards to new COVID-19 cases in one day was set on 17 August – **456** new cases were registered, bringing the tally of confirmed cases to **9,336** including **105** deaths and **2,809** recoveries.
- The humanitarian community seeks **\$565** million to respond to port explosions.



A devastated building in Beirut, Lebanon.
Credit: Nadine DaoU, RCO/UNIC Lebanon

KEY FIGURES



SITUATION OVERVIEW

Almost two weeks after the Beirut Port explosions, the Caretaker Ministry of Public Health (MoPH) reported that the number of people killed has reached 180 people; over 6,000 people are estimated to be injured, and at least a dozen people remain missing. On 16 August, the Head of the Beirut Doctors Syndicate stated that “at least 2,000 doctors in Beirut were affected by the explosion”, adding that doctors were either “injured physically or had their clinics destroyed”.

The Assessment & Analysis Cell (AAC) continues to gather information on ongoing assessments, including maintaining an assessment registry. Engagement also continues with the municipality of Beirut, the Lebanese Red Cross (LRC) and UN-HABITAT to develop a system that visualizes ongoing response activities. Information collected so far through the assessment registry show both the partners' and the assessments' geographic coverage. The AAC also supports the LRC-led multi-sectoral needs assessment.

Rapid environmental assessments findings are feeding into a comprehensive disaster waste management plan, including hazardous waste which is being developed for Beirut. The European Union allocated 15 million Euros to fund emergency waste management activities throughout Beirut – the work will be carried out by the Ministry of Environment, in collaboration with UNDP and national partners. Guidance is also being provided to NGOs to ensure that adequate personal protective measures are in place during debris clearance. Maps on the work carried out thus far are publicly available on <https://www.humanitarianresponse.info>.

Following assessments, Dorcas/Tabitha, MSD, HelpAge International, Makassad and Amel, targeted over 800 people in the affected neighborhoods of Baddawi, Bourj Hammoud, Gemmayzeh, Geitawi and Quarantina with assistance. In addition to basic needs for food, cash and in-kind assistance, 26 per cent of respondents expressed concerns about their mental health. This was of particular concern to older people (25 per cent of respondents) and among Syrian refugees (32 per cent of respondents). Almost all respondents (98 per cent) reported housing unit damage, with damages to electricity, sewage and water networks especially concerning in the Quarantina and Bourj Hammoud areas. Also, some 34 per cent of respondents reported having difficulties accessing health services, compounded by the COVID-19 pandemic. Overall, it is expected the explosions will have a long-term impact on the lives of people, especially for those in already highly vulnerable situations.

According to a UNDP economic brief, a total of 200,000 housing units were affected in Beirut; 40,000 buildings were damaged; and 3,000 housing structures received serious damage as a result of the explosions. Over 15,000 establishments – some 50 per cent of Beirut establishments – are estimated to be damaged, the majority in the wholesale, retail and hospitality sectors. Over 70,000 workers have reportedly been made unemployed due to the explosions, with direct implications for over 12,000 households.

On 17 August 456 new COVID-19 cases – a new record – were reported, bringing the number of confirmed cases to 9,336, including 105 deaths and 2,809 recoveries. UNRWA reported four deaths due to COVID-19 among Palestine refugees in Lebanon over the past weekend, bringing the total to eight. COVID-19 community transmission is being observed, with some 30 per cent of cases not having a clear source of infection. As the country's healthcare system grows reportedly overwhelmed, the Caretaker Minister of Public Health called for a two-week lockdown on 17 August. The UN and partners continue to support the national COVID-19 response, focusing on both mitigation measures and the continuation of the "Test, Trace, Treat" strategy. While COVID-19 cases have been recorded across Lebanon, the largest numbers have been reported in Saida city, in the south, and its environs.

FUNDING

On 14 August the humanitarian community launched a \$565 million Flash Appeal to respond to immediate lifesaving needs as a result of the explosions, and to help move towards recovery.

The Humanitarian Coordinator release \$9 million from the Lebanon Humanitarian Fund (LHF) within 36 hours of the 4 August explosions. The funding has been allocated to national and international NGO partners' projects and targeting the following sectors: health (\$4.6m), food security (\$1.5m), WASH (U\$750,000) and protection, including work to ensure protection from sexual exploitation and abuse (\$1.85m).

LHF Distribution
(Million Dollars)



In addition to the LHF funding, the Emergency Relief Coordinator released \$6 million from the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) on 7 August. The CERF allocation provided WHO with \$4 million for critical life-saving support to public and private hospitals treating trauma cases through the provision of personal protective equipment, trauma and surgical kits, and the procurement of urgent medication. UN-HABITAT received \$1 million to initiate emergency accommodation repairs in the areas most affected by the explosions; and WFP was allocated \$1 million to ensure logistical support to the Beirut port.



HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE



Needs:

- Protection sector' interventions target 152,200 among the most affected and vulnerable Lebanese, refugees and migrant workers.
- Affected men, women, girls and boys need information on their rights, access to assistance, and on tracing missing family members. Also, they need for themselves and their communities to be empowered and be involved in the response.
- There is an urgent need for protection services, including psychosocial support and psychological first aid, referrals and targeted assistance – this as part of a holistic protection response.

Response:

- UNHCR and Caritas are co-leading the Protection sector, with UNICEF co-leading on Child Protection. A mapping of services available to those affected is being finalized. UNHCR continues to work closely with the LRC to ensure, inter alia, protection and prevention from sexual abuse and exploitation work are mainstreamed”.
- Beyond its coordination role, UNHCR is prioritizing community engagement and outreach, and psychological first aid and referrals. A wide network of outreach volunteers, from among the community, is in place, and emergency teams are deployed to assess and respond to the urgent needs of the most vulnerable. Priority interventions are targeting older persons living alone, persons with disabilities and those severely traumatized by the explosions. Also, protection partners continue to provide psychological first aid and support for children and adults, including case management and referral to specialized services.
- Through the sector coordination, eight protection partners expressed interest to participate in the LRC assessment in the affected areas. Given the urgency of the situation, several partners are conducting their own rapid assessments including Intersos (Achrafieh, Geitawi, Quarantina and Bourj Hammud); and Abaad (Rmeil area and Quarantina).
- UN Women is rolling out a Rapid Gender Assessment with Care International and Abaad for the last week of August. Also, UN Women and Abaad are maintaining a dedicated safe line for women and girls at risk/experiencing gender-based violence in affected areas. Thus far, over 70 calls were received, and more than 100 on-site psychological first aid sessions were provided to affected families.

- Protection partners conducted 350 psychological first aid sessions for adults and children. Also, partners continue to work with communities to identify additional needs and facilitate referrals to specialized services, including mental health and psychosocial support.
- Protection partners continue to respond to the immediate needs of vulnerable men, women, girls and boys, assisting over 40,000 individuals. Interventions have thus far included the provision of hot meals, food kits, clothes, shoes, mattresses, through Caritas in Achrafieh, Mar Mikhail, Rmeil and Bourj Ham-moud, and child-appropriate non-food items, through Borderless in Quarantina.
- A Protection monitoring system collect, verify and analyze information to identify protection risks and calibrate interventions. Since 5 August, UNHCR Mount Lebanon Helpline handled 6,197 calls and 561 direct referrals with regards to refugees in need of assistance. UNHCR is providing them with basic assistance and services, including psychosocial support, emergency cash, shelter kits and follow-up on any issue related to child protection or sexual and gender-based violence. Emergency cash was provided to 10 refugee families directly affected by the explosions. Also, UNHCR protection teams have a roaming presence in the affected areas, disseminating established dedicated hotline contacts, disseminating information, and identifying referrals through foot patrols for those unaware or unable to reach the info points or services.
- UNHCR is contacting all refugee households residing in affected areas and referring persons identified to appropriate support. Affected refugees in affected areas include 10,884 households: 1,435 households within 2 kilometers of the explosions' site, 2,451 households within the 2-2.5 kilometers' range; 5,908 households within the 2.5-3 kilometers' range, and 1,089 households within the 3-4.5 kilometers' range.
- As of 14 August, the total number of confirmed refugee deaths stood at 13 individuals; 224 people were injured, 141 were reported missing and 46 reported homeless, and 30 people were in urgent need of relocation.



Education

Needs:

- Initial findings from the ongoing Ministry of Education and Higher Education's (MEHE) rapid assessment show that 120 public and private schools; 20 public Technical and Vocational Education (TVET) and training schools; as well as 20 buildings from the Lebanese University have sustained damages.
- Education sector partners will also launch a rapid needs assessment, implementing Non-Formal Education programs, such as Community-Based Early Childhood Education, Basic Literacy and Numeracy (BLN), Youth BLN, and to assess the impact of the explosions on the partners' capacity, including their ability to deliver programs and reaching children in need

Response:

- UNICEF is supporting the MEHE to finalize the estimated cost of the rehabilitation and rebuilding of the affected schools, which will be released on 19 August. UNESCO will support the MEHE in coordinating the rehabilitation of schools. UNESCO has so far secured \$1.2 million to support the work on public primary and secondary schools, while UNICEF is expected to have sufficient funds to cover the rest of the public schools.

Needs:

- Food Security Sector provided food security inputs into the Lebanese Red Cross (LRC) multi-sectoral household-level assessment. The inputs include, but are not limited to, beneficiary preference on food assistance, e.g. in-kind (hot meals or food parcels) or cash-based transfer.

Response:

- UNDP provided cash-for-work assistance targeting 200 food-insecure people in Geitawi, Rmeil and Bouri Hammoud. Assistance is in the range of LBP50,000-70,000 over the next three months. Work includes cleaning and minor maintenance in public areas affected by the explosion.
- World Central Kitchen delivered over 70,000 hot meals to over 50 locations in the past 12 days, paying nine impacted restaurants to produce 5,500 meals per day.
- SHEILD distributed 200 food parcels to affected families in Quarantina and 200 food parcels in Bourj Hammoud, two of the most heavily affected neighbourhoods. An additional 84 food parcels were dispatched to the Lebanese Food Bank to run 2 kitchens for a week. Additionally, 100 food parcels were delivered to Caritas hot meal-kitchens in Gemmayzeh, with more food parcels to be dispatched this week in support of ongoing hot meal initiatives supporting families in need.

Needs:

- Medical supplies and medications (in particular for non-communicable diseases); reproductive health kits, and medical and personal protective equipment (PPE).
- Support for physical rehabilitation and reconstructive surgery for injured persons.
- Dignity items, including for menstrual health hygiene.
- Training for staff on psychological first aid (PFA).

Response:

- PU-AMI supported a preliminary assessment of seven affected primary health care centers (PHCCs) to determine rehabilitation cost and medical equipment needs. PU-AMI also provided the LRC with PPEs.
- Medical Aid for Palestinians procured medical supplies for the Palestine Red Crescent Society that mobilized their ambulances and paramedics and received injured patients at Haifa hospital.
- IOM ensured that 36 Tuberculosis patients received their treatments through outreach
- Restart center's multidisciplinary team reached affected people in Mar Mikhael, Ashrafieh and Quarantina with Psychological First Aid and support.
- UNFPA distributed 1,975 dignity kits; 100,000 vials of Oxytocin were procured for PHCCs; and 10,880 pieces of PPE were distributed to the Ministry of Social Affairs. UNFPA-supported mobile medical units (MMU) to provide first aid to 74 women affected by the blast; 60 women received MHPSS services, and 40 pregnant women received home visit consultations through UNFPA-supported activities.
- The Makhzoumi Foundation and Relief International provided health services and wound management; supported breastfeeding mothers; provided medical supplies and PPEs to hospitals; and also provided infant and young child feeding (IYCF) counseling, Psychological First Aid and specialized mental health services.

- Rahma hospital's MMUs treated 143 community members and volunteers who were wounded during cleaning activities.
- WHO is coordinating the Emergency Medical Teams (EMTs) some of which will be repurposed to support with the COVID-19 response, and WHO drafted a COVID-19 risk communication and community engagement action plan in the aftermath of the explosions.
- The central warehouse reconstruction plans are under preparation by WHO, in close coordination with MoPH; discussions are initiated with UNOPS and partners in the environmental group for possible introduction of renewable energy (solar panels) in the warehouse and selected PHCs.
- Amel MMUs in Quarantina area provided medical consultations, essential medications, dressings change, and wound care to 250 people.
- Almost 1.75 million doses of vaccines were rescued in the aftermath of the explosions and are being distributed by UNICEF to PHCCs, dispensaries, UNHCR vaccination sites, and other immunization points.
- Médecins du Monde is conducting outreach for PFA and psychological support in Quarantina and offering MHPSS through a phone helpline. Awareness sessions were conducted with focus on the mental health effects of the explosions. Médecins du Monde also procured PPEs and donated two kits containing 10,000 acute medications.
- INARA provided basic and advanced first aid to 306 patients at two medical stations in Quarantina and Mar Mikhael and distributed water and PPE to community and volunteers.
- IOCC provided IYCF counseling to pregnant and lactating women. IOCC teams also conducted COVID-19 awareness and supported Caritas to deliver burns and wounds aftercare. Caritas also is providing health services through a medical tent in Mar Mikhael area. MHPSS was provided in the field and through home visits. Caritas dispensaries are providing primary healthcare services in Sin El Fil and Sid El Bauchrieh.
- MSF set up medical points in Mar Mikhail and Quarantina; a package of activities is being provided including support with regards to wound care, mental health and psychological first aid; social workers continue with home visits. MSF is also carrying out PCR testing at the medical points as part of the ongoing support to the Government's COVID-19 response.
- Over 550 hygiene kits were distributed, and three water points were installed. A number of local initiatives to support with non-food items relief were identified, such as grass-roots organizations distributing items to vulnerable migrant communities. In order to better reach the most vulnerable, MSF continues to identify, and coordinate with, grass-root/community-organized initiatives.

Gaps & constraints:

- Funding of especially NGOs.
- A general state of fatigue and anger is leading to a relaxation in, and de-prioritization of, the application of COVID-19-related preventive behavior.



Response:

- The shelter sector continues to distribute shelter kits in Geitawi, Mar Mikhail, Gemmayzeh, and Quarantina. A total of 405 UNHCR shelter kits were delivered on 14-15 August, bringing the total of delivered UNHCR shelter kits to 1,231.
- UNHCR and the LRC continue to work on households' assessments and zoning, the latter to ensure coordination, avoid duplication of assistance and facilitate follow-up and referrals of individual cases.
- A UNDP-led shelter assessment in Bourj Hammoud and Nabaa is ongoing for the next three weeks. Findings will inform shelters' repairs work and target both Lebanese, refugees and migrant workers.

- UN-Habitat, local and international NGOs and volunteers are carrying out assessments of the buildings in the Municipality of Bourj Hammoud – 90 per cent of the buildings are assessed and findings will be presented this week. Nearly 4,000 buildings were assessed and mapped to prioritize upcoming interventions. Further technical assessments will also follow to identify the cost of damages. Also, a socio-economic assessment of Bourj Hammoud is planned for Wednesday, 19 August, with the participation of UNDP and local and international agencies.



Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)

- WASH assessments are ongoing and expected to be finalized this week. Thus far, 1,555 buildings were assessed in seven areas – a total of 1,114 buildings were found accessible. Over 150 buildings occupied and safe were referred for urgent repair to ensure at least one water point is available in the premises.
- Distribution of hygiene and baby kits continue, based on the LRC multi-sectoral assessment. So far 390 kits have been distributed to as many people, covering the reported needs so far.
- Water trucking is provided based on referrals. So far three buildings were covered with water, reaching 20 households that were found to have water needs. Over 680 households need water tanks and 171 manholes need external rehabilitation. 6 buildings have already been re-connected as a start of the rehabilitation phase.



Emergency Telecommunications (ETS)

Needs:

- The ETS seeks \$370,000 cover critical communications services over the next three months. Critical services will include the provision of data connectivity at the port until national providers are fully re-established; and, through mobile networks are available, the provision of voice and data packages for those most affected, so to enable both access to information and humanitarian assistance, is lacking. Also, security telecommunication networks will be assessed and strengthened as needed to ensure humanitarian responders can continue to operate safely.

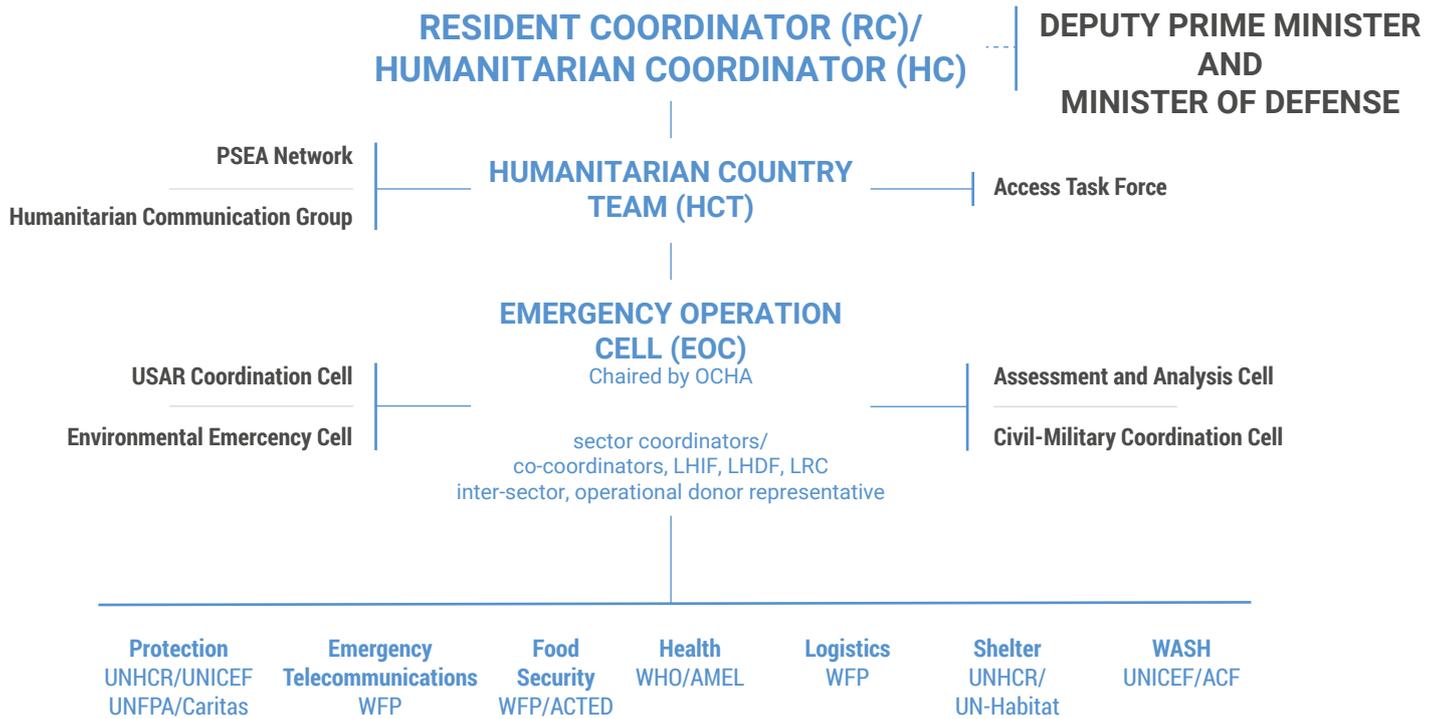
Logistics

Response:

- Logistics sector continues to follow up on issues, as they arise, related to cargo so to have an efficient management of humanitarian cargo coming in the country.
- A Logistics Capacity Assessment is being compiled, taking into consideration all infrastructures and services that are relevant from a logistics perspective. Ongoing assessments at warehouses, mills and the port are equally informing the LCA.

GENERAL COORDINATION

The Humanitarian Coordinator and the Humanitarian Country Team (HCT) are overall responsible for the implementation of the humanitarian response to the Beirut Port explosions in line with the Flash Appeal. The HCT is supported at the operational level by an Emergency Operation Cell (EOC). As part of the response to the explosions, humanitarian sectors have been established to ensure optimal coordination. A flexible coordination structure will facilitate and enable the principled delivery of emergency assistance to the most vulnerable populations and support transition towards subsequent phases of the response. Many sectors and partners are scaling up their presence through surge deployments in order to enhance their coordination capacity during the emergency response, considering an increasingly complex environment with other humanitarian response operations and a COVID-19 outbreak in community transmission phase.



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