



LEBANON: Beirut Port Explosions

Situation Report No.15

As of 17 December 2020

Situation Reports are produced by OCHA Lebanon in collaboration with humanitarian partners.

HIGHLIGHTS

- In November, the Lebanon Flash Appeal was revised and extended until the end of the year. The revision included a review of the Sectors' response plans and accounted for the work undertaken by actors working outside the Flash Appeal, as well as the existence of other frameworks, most notably the European Union, UN and the World Bank Group's Reform, Recovery and Reconstruction Framework. The updated financial requirement for the Flash Appeal stands now at US\$196.6 million – a downward revision of US\$158.3 million from when the Appeal was launched on 14 August. As of 17 December, the Flash Appeal is nearly 80 per cent funded (US\$156.4 million).
- Since the beginning of the response, over 67,600 people, including nearly 37,300 women and at least 13,200 girls, benefitted from protection services.
- Since the beginning of the response, over 200,000 hot meals were distributed, and at least nearly 121,000 people received in-kind food parcels. Since August, at least 97,200 people were assisted with multi-purpose cash. At least 207 micro, small and medium-sized enterprises were supported with direct financial assistance, and at least another 157 enterprises were supported with rehabilitation.
- Nutrition became a Sector under both the Port explosions and COVID-19 response frameworks as of 20 November. About 16,000 pregnant and lactating women received nutrition services since the beginning of the response.
- As of 9 December, 26,000 people were reached with 8,000 emergency weatherproofing shelter kits that continued being distributed because of the heavy rains. Since the beginning of the response, over 10,500 apartments benefitted from support with either minor repairs or rehabilitation work. Over 5,100 households received cash-for-shelter to support the rehabilitation of their houses, and some 1,250 households received cash-for-rent, a means of basic financial assistance aimed at ensuring the most vulnerable households' access safe shelter for a three-month period.
- As of mid-November, while kits distribution continues, the WASH Sector closed the response with regards to interventions for households directly affected by the explosions. Overall, over 13,200 buildings were assessed for WASH interventions, and water supply connection was re-established for over 23,000 people (over 4,700 households). Nearly 4,400 tanks and 350 pumps were installed, and over 13,800 hygiene kits and 750 baby kits distributed, meeting approximately 70 per cent of the needs in this regard.
- As logistics needs are no longer present, the Logistics Sector was de-activated as of 12 November.

SITUATION OVERVIEW

The Beirut Port explosions occurred as Lebanon had been in the midst of a multi-faceted crisis since October 2019, with an accelerating economic and financial crisis that has since led to increasing levels of poverty and food insecurity, further compounding structural gender inequalities and needs among the Lebanese and non-Lebanese communities alike, including the significant refugee populations. Also, the public health system had been facing structural challenges prior to the COVID-19 outbreak, as the financial and economic crisis caused most hospitals to cut their bed capacity by at least 40-50 per cent. Further to that, the Port explosions damaged at least six hospitals, as well as more than 55 primary health care facilities/dispensaries. Moreover, social tensions have been growing in many parts of the country over the past year, with an associated increased perception in aid bias.

Against this backdrop, and building on pre-existing interventions, the UN, under the leadership of the Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator, launched a comprehensive response to the Port explosions, focusing on addressing immediate lifesaving and time-critical early recovery needs over an initial period of three months. As such, a UN-coordinated Flash Appeal was launched on 14 August to support a collective response to the most urgent humanitarian and protection needs of those affected by the explosions. In parallel, the European Union, UN and the World Bank Group worked on the Reform, Recovery and Reconstruction Framework (3RF) to provide a roadmap for addressing medium to longer-term people's needs through a combination of people-centred recovery and reforms.

On 12 November, the Lebanon Humanitarian Country Team agreed to a revision of the Flash Appeal, including its extension until the end of the year. The extension involved a revision of the 119 projects submitted in August, when the Flash Appeal was launched. Both the overall strategy of the Flash Appeal and the Sectors' strategic objectives have remained the same, as the revision involved a review of the outstanding, priority, emergency, humanitarian needs, alongside projects' targets and funding requirements. In this vein, Sectors' response plans were reviewed, also accounting for the significant support provided by actors working outside the Flash Appeal, and accounting for in-kind contributions from foreign countries, distributed through the Lebanese Armed Forces or the Lebanese civil society, support provided through the Lebanon Red Cross, assistance provided by the Lebanese diaspora, charities and individuals, as well as rehabilitation efforts undertaken by communities themselves. Some early recovery activities, for example Level 3 rehabilitation of those houses and buildings with heavy, structural damage, which had started under the Flash Appeal, will be integrated into the 3RF response strategies moving forward.

Analysis of the latest data available from the Multi-Sectoral Needs Assessment (MSNA) shows that cash, shelter repairs and medications remain the top priorities reported by those affected by the explosions. Cash remains the top priority in Bachoura, Bourj Hammoud, Mazraa, Mdaoura, and Sinn El Fil. Food is the main priority need in Sinn El Fil, the second-main priority need in all other Beirut's neighbourhoods, and the third-main priority need in Achrafieh, Bachoura, Bourj Hammoud, Mdaoura and Rmeil. While cash and shelter repairs are the top-two priority needs for both genders, female-headed households (FHHs) are more likely than male-headed households (MHHs) to state medications as their third, most pressing, need. Analysis also indicates that FHHs (60 per cent) are more likely than MHHs (49 per cent) to have at least one member over 60 years of age. Lastly, estimates show that FHHs are more economically vulnerable, with only 43 per cent of FHHs, compared to 66 per cent of MHHs, indicating that at least one household member had generated income over the previous month.

At the end of October, WFP, as a core member of the De-duplication sub-Task Force (DTF) within the Cash Coordination Task Force, launched an assistance coordination system using blockchain technology to de-duplicate cash assistance carried out by different actors. The system helps partners to avoid the same beneficiaries are concurrently assisted with the same type of assistance, thus harmonizing and optimizing the overall cash response. As of the end of November, 22 organizations delivering multi-purpose cash assistance to the most vulnerable and affected by the explosions have joined the assistance coordination system.

Beyond Beirut and the areas affected by the Port explosions, a close monitoring of the humanitarian situation in, and across, Lebanon will continue to be required.

FUNDING

The Flash Appeal, initially seeking US\$354.9 million, was revised in November and extended until 31 December 2020. The overall updated financial requirement stands now at US\$196.6 million – a downward revision of US\$158.3 million from when the Appeal was launched. As of 17 December, the Flash Appeal is nearly 80 per cent funded (US\$156.4 million). Despite the overall good level of funding, however, Health is 47 per cent funded and Protection remains only eight per cent funded. The Flash Appeal, still aiming at covering the outstanding needs of 300,000 people in the areas of protection, education, food security, health, shelter and WASH.

Funding towards the 102 projects (a decrease of 17 projects) in the latest revision of the Flash Appeal continues being tracked in the OCHA-managed [Financial Tracking Service](#) (FTS), alongside those contributions outside the Flash Appeal, the latter standing at approximately US\$100 million as of 17 December.

Sustained, predictable, and unconditional funding for early recovery and longer-term recovery and reconstruction activities within the 3RF framework will be required going forward to continue addressing priority needs in a transparent, coordinated, and accountable manner.

Received funding by Sector (Flash Appeal only)



	requested	received
Protection	\$23.9M	8%
Education	\$18.5M	75%
Food Security	\$52.6M	88%
Health	\$33.4M	47%
Shelter	\$65.4 M	72%
WASH	\$2.8M	33%
Multi-sector	n/a	\$5.8M
Not specified	n/a	\$25.5M

HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE

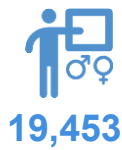
Protection

Needs:

- Critical needs relating to child protection, mental health and psychosocial support services (MHPSS) and support to people with disabilities remain. It is therefore critical to ensure protection services continue into 2021 and are integrated into, and addressed by, the 3RF.

Response:

- Since the beginning of the response, 67,650 people, including nearly 37,300 women and at least 13,200 girls, benefitted from protection services. Gender-based violence (GBV) partners continued to distribute women and girls' dignity kits – 5,400 in the month of November – while raising awareness on available MHPSS, GBV support, and prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse services.



of people reached through protection and GBV outreach, and risk mitigation activities



of people benefitting from information sessions, awareness sessions and individual consultations on how to access services (excl. legal services)



of people engaged in community-based child protection activities



of people provided with specialized Mental Health Psychosocial Support and Focused Non-specialized Psychosocial Support



of people reached through GBV services



of people with specific needs supported with protection or emergency cash



of people with specific needs, including disabilities, receiving individual counseling, case management and specialized support



of people benefitting from counseling, legal assistance and legal representation

N.B. The above figures are not necessarily representative of the entirety of the protection response on the ground.

Food Security

Response:

- In November, 11,956 beneficiaries, the majority Lebanese nationals, received in-kind food parcels. At least 120,945 people received in-kind food parcels since the beginning of the response.
- Food security partners continued the distribution of multi-purpose cash assistance (MPCA) to those most economically vulnerable. In November, 71,385 people received multi-purpose cash assistance (approximately \$4.5 million disbursed). At least 97,200 people have been reached since August, 71,155 by WFP alone. While most families received assistance through Western Union or emergency pre-paid cards, some families received the food portion of the transfer value in the form of a food e-card (voucher). Also, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) distributed emergency cash to 1,506 households, with 1,230 households selected for support for six months, until April 2021.
- In November, at least 24,000 people benefitted from hot meals, half of which were distributed through community kitchens. Since the beginning of the response, over 200,000 hot meals were distributed.

- In November, 70 small and medium enterprises received direct cash support, with at least US\$170,000 distributed, and 44 enterprises also received other types of support, ranging from physical repairs to in-kind assistance. In addition, ICRC is supporting 50 small and medium enterprises with monthly installments until the end of January 2021 (approximately US\$80,000 in value). At least 207 micro, small and medium-sized enterprises were supported with direct financial assistance, and at least another 157 enterprises were supported with rehabilitation.

Nutrition

Response:

- Nutrition became a Sector under both the Port explosions and COVID-19 response frameworks as of 20 November.
- Since the beginning of the response, 16,122 pregnant and lactating women were supported with nutrition services, and the Sector continued to coordinate the in-kind donations received, while ensuring national and international standards and laws are met, for example by supporting the Infant and Young Child Feeding (IYCF) Sub-Committee in improving services provided through the IYCF hotline, including referrals. Calls received through the IYCF hotline – 40 over the period mid-November to mid-December – mostly revolved around requests for breast-milk substitutes and lactation support; 30 referrals were made to IYCF specialists.

Health

Needs:

- The COVID-19 outbreak has been putting extra pressure on an already over-burdened and under-resourced national health system. Health partners report that communities they serve continue to identify the following, critical, health needs:
 - Lack of medications and supplies, particularly with regards to acute and chronic medications.
 - Insufficient home-based care service provision and lack of hygiene supplies for the elderly.
 - Lack of hospitalization's fees coverage, lack of fees' coverage for physical rehabilitation and physiotherapy, as well as high cost of diagnostic services.
 - Insufficient mental health and psychosocial support services.
- Also, and if the health system in Lebanon continues to be overloaded, it will inevitably limit availability and accessibility of life-saving health services, including sexual and reproductive health services for women and girls, essential in disaster settings and as women and girls are disproportionately affected.

Response:

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

- HelpAge International, Amel, Médecins Sans Frontières and Restart provided outreach health services through medical stations, MMUs and home-based care. Since the beginning of the response: 1,585 individuals were identified in need of support, 868 individuals were provided with psychosocial support services, 259 individuals were provided with in-kind assistance, and 238 individuals were provided with medications. Also, 532 older people were reached through outreach visits, 394 older people received medical consultations, and 495 received nursing care services.

Primary Healthcare Center (PHC) support

- Makhzoumi Foundation, International Orthodox Christian Charities and Première Urgence-Aide Médicale International (PU-AMI) continued to support a number of PHCs with both staff and medications. Since the beginning of the response, at least 3,559 consultations were offered at the Hariri and Khatam Al Anbiaa PHCs alone, and ten midwives provided sexual and reproductive health services at nine centers, attending to 2,176 patients.
- Caritas-supported PHCs and MMUs provided 462 consultations, medications for 2, 252 patients, as well as 25 paramedical sessions (both physiotherapy and mental health) for 20 beneficiaries.
- PU-AMI provided 799 consultations at three PHCs for 252 males, 547 females, 410 Lebanese, 381 Syrians, and eight other nationalities.
- Makhzoumi Foundation-supported PHC continued to provide mental health services and injury care free of charge.

MHPSS

- Humanity and Inclusion, HelpAge International, IDRAAC, Jesuit Refugee Services, and UNFPA continued to offer MHPSS services, providing psychological first aid (PFA) and MHPSS sessions to at least 846 patients, distributing medications to 51 patients, providing psychiatry, neurology, speech therapy, and pediatric services for 38 patients, and physiotherapy sessions to 50 persons with disabilities and older adults.
- IDRAAC continued offering mental health support through both its walk-in clinic at St. Georges Hospital University Medical Center and a 24/7-operational hotline (03 730 475), the latter established within 24 hours after the explosions to provide free consultations and PFA. HelpAge International, in partnership with IDRAAC, provided mental health consultations to at least 159 older people and family members, and specialized consultations to at least 30 people in need.

Donations and/or distribution of medical supplies

- Since the beginning of the response, at least 602,995 medical supplies, 12,714 medications, 144,934 PPE items, 1,264 surgical items and 1,260 hygiene supplies were donated by Anera to different hospitals. Also, Anera distributed at least 865,814 PPE items, 619,334 medical supplies, 66,065 medications, 15,713 surgical items and 14,874 hygiene supplies.
- Islamic Relief continued supporting two PHCs and one hospital with medical supplies, PPE and disinfectant.

Hospital support

- UNICEF completed the rehabilitation of the Quarantina PHC.

 **Shelter****Needs:**

- A rapid-needs assessment exercise was held with partners to both understand outstanding gaps under Level 1 (light damage), Level 2 (moderate damage) and Level 3 (heavy, structural, damage) and agree on the way forward. While findings are being elaborated, the exercise will inform the extent to which the needs have been addressed, specifically when it comes to minor repair and rehabilitation (Level 1 and Level 2) interventions, as well as identify gaps at the different zone levels.

Response:

- In November, the Sector increased its presence in the field, engaging with partners and organizations (both operating inside and outside the Flash Appeal), while focusing on both gaps in the response and the quality of shelter interventions. On the latter, the potential need for so-called “second-sweep repairs” was identified, further to poor and/or incomplete work undertaken during the early stages of the response; the Sector will be responding accordingly.
- The Sector continued to provide emergency weatherproofing kits due to heavy rains. As of 9 December, 26,000 people were reached with 8,000 shelter kits.
- Since the beginning of the response, over 10,500 apartments benefitted from support with either minor repairs (Level 1) or rehabilitation work (Level 2): 9,605 minor repairs and 964 rehabilitations were completed.
- Since the beginning of the response, 5,138 households received a one-off \$600 cash-for-shelter support, and 1,251 households received cash-for-rent support (set at 750,000 LBP per month, for three months).
- The Housing, Land and Property (HLP) Temporary Technical Committee (TTC) is finalizing a Guidance Note on HLP. The HLP TTC, co-chaired by UN-Habitat and NRC, is a short-term committee that sits under both the Shelter and Protection Sectors, and whose core function is to support the mainstreaming of HLP rights into the response to the Port explosions. The guidance note will be highlighting both key HLP issues and relevant legal frameworks to help guide partners, ensuring the response remains in line with a do-no-harm approach and, where possible, enhances access to HLP rights for those in need. Once the Flash Appeal ends at the end of the year, the HLP TTC will be merged with the Legal Actors Group under the Lebanon Crisis Response Plan, thus facilitating synergies and complementarities.

Gaps and constraints:

- Potential delays with regards to construction activities due to frequent heavy rains forecast over the coming weeks.

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)

Response:

- As of mid-November, while kits distribution continues, the Sector closed the response with regards to WASH interventions for households directly affected by the explosions.
- Over 13,200 buildings were assessed. Critical assessments, in areas closest to the Port, were prioritized in the aftermath of the explosions, followed by buildings deemed less critical in terms of support as further away from the explosions' epicenter.
- Overall, water supply connection was re-established for over 23,000 people (4,743 households), meeting all needs in this regard. Since the beginning of the response, a total of 4,394 tanks and 347 pumps were installed, and 13,858 hygiene kits and 752 baby kits distributed, covering approximately 70 per cent of the needs in this regard.

Logistics

Response:

- Activated right after the explosions, the Logistics Sector soon assessed no need for common support services, consequentially focusing on the facilitation of imports, customs procedures, and coordination and information management.
- As logistics needs are no longer present, the Logistics Sector was de-activated as of 12 November.

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