

# WATER & SANITATION

## Beirut Explosions Response Overview

November 2020

### SITUATION

- 200 killed, with more than 6,500 injured, of which over 1,000 are children.
- 300,000 people are in need, of whom 100,000 are children.
- 9,700 buildings within a three kilometres radius of the Blast directly impacted.
- WASH sector completed assessment of the initially agreed affected areas, and currently assessing the areas outside of the immediate surrounding of the port. Out of 13,000 assessed so far, **1,839 require at least one intervention** and **399 have connection issues to the main urban network**. **6,081 water tanks and 544 pumps were found to be damaged**.
- Dramatic spike in COVID-19 cases: 87,197 cases as of 4 November from 44,482 cases on 4 October.

### CORE NEEDS

- **Rehabilitation** of the plumbing systems of safe and occupied **buildings**, to ensure availability of at least one water point in each premise (step 1).
- **Maintenance** of plumbing systems to ensure availability of one water point within **each apartment** with moderate damage (step 2).
- Contribute to the **re-construction of damaged apartments, including plumbing services** in strong coordination with the Shelter sector (step 3).

### UNICEF IN ACTION

- The UNICEF-led **WASH sector assessment** for the initially agreed affected areas has been completed, with **13,000** buildings have been assessed. A second round of visits has started. An assessment of the areas outside the immediate surrounding of the port is ongoing.
- UNICEF and partners have installed **4,882 water tanks and 250 pumps** in total, and have re-established water supply in 4,080 households in 1,060 buildings, reaching 20,765 people.
- UNICEF with partners installed 111 water tanks in the **three hospitals in the vicinity of the explosion**.
- UNICEF with partners **detected and fixed 102 leakages** in the water pipeline.
- UNICEF distributed and posted over **3,200 posters** in the worst affected areas, and sent **25,000 SMS**, referring to the **WASH hotline** to request support for water trucking, minor plumbing repairs and other WASH hardware support. **468 out of the 663** requests were addressed, covering approximately two-thirds of the urgent needs of the overall vulnerable households in the affected suburbs within and outside the priority area.
- Provided technical support to the Water Establishments to **operate Achrafieh Pumping Station**.
- Provided water and wastewater services to **three Lebanese Red Cross first response tents**.

- UNICEF with partners launched a **new online live dashboard** showing targets and progress and complementing the WASH sector live geo-split platform.

## FUNDING REQUIREMENT

**UNICEF requires a total of \$16,259,747 to provide safe drinking water, sanitation facilities, hygiene kits; and, to run communication campaigns to promote handwashing and minimize the transmission of COVID-19.**

**TARGETS:** All targets are to support men, women, girls and boys:

- 50,000 will have temporary access to adequate quantity of safe water for drinking and for domestic use.
- 50,000 will have access to improved safe sanitation in impacted areas.
- 50,000 will receive public health awareness.
- 264,000 will have sustained equitable access to public water facilities and services.

## ACTIVITIES: Immediate and Ongoing

- A **second round of visits** to check functionality of rehabilitated WASH facilities and infrastructure
- Provision of **support to the Municipality of Bourj Hammoud in cleaning and unplugging the wastewater network** at the beginning of the rainy season
- Ongoing institutional **support to the Water Establishment.**
- Provision of access to **safe drinking water and sanitation facilities** to children and families in affected households and accommodations centres.
- Distribution of **essential hygiene kits, sanitary pads, soap, jerry cans** and other items in impacted areas and in areas of displacement, as well as additional waste management options provided to affected populations.
- Strengthening **COVID-19 prevention messaging.**

## KEY PARTNERS

- Since the explosion, UNICEF Lebanon has been working closely with partners and will continue to do so to implement immediate and ongoing activities. Partners include the Lebanese Water Establishment; the Ministry of Energy and Water; the Disaster Risk Management Unit (DRM); Development for People and Nature Association (DPNA); Lebanese Relief Council (LebRelief); Lebanese Red Cross; and ACTED.

## CONTACT INFORMATION

### UNICEF Lebanon Country Office

Official Website: <https://www.unicef.org/lebanon/>

Facebook Page:

<https://www.facebook.com/UNICEFLebanon/>

Twitter Account:

<https://www.twitter.com/UNICEFLebanon/>

Instagram Account:

<https://www.instagram.com/UNICEFLebanon/>

UNICEF Humanitarian Action for Children (HAC)

Lebanon Appeal, 2020:

<https://www.unicef.org/appeals/lebanon.html>

### Who to contact for further information:

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