

ADOLESCENTS & YOUTH

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**.
- **Displaced and affected youth** forced to make difficult decisions regarding their livelihoods, education, and healthcare (including mental health support).
- **Increase in unhealthy behaviours** are likely if young people do not have the support they need to understand and cope with the stress caused by the explosion and compounding issues.
- **Dramatic spike in COVID-19 cases**: 87,197 cases as of 4 November from 44,482 cases on 4 October.

CORE NEEDS

- **Empowerment of young people** to continue being a key stakeholder in the humanitarian crisis response.
- **Address the growing mental health needs** of adolescents and young people.
- **Fast-track skills-building efforts** while giving young people access to employment opportunities.

UNICEF IN ACTION

UNICEF engaged **1,800 youth in a community-based response**, nearly half in cash-for-work programmes, and they were catalysts of numerous efforts, including:

- **1,026 youth volunteers** participated in cleaning **583 streets, houses and sites**.
- **182 youth helped rehabilitate 557 households** as they had been previously trained in rehabilitation and construction as part of UNICEF's Technical Vocational Educational Training (TVET) Centre courses.
- **60 youth assisted in the installation of water tanks** to ensure safe drinking water and sanitation services.
- Since the blast, **18,692 families affected benefited from hot meals cooked and distributed by 398 youth**.
- To address the significant increase in COVID-19 cases especially in the blast area, **82 youth produced a total of 23,154 fabric masks** and distributed them to families and frontline workers.
- **3,182 children were reached with awareness raising messages on COVID-19** through recreational activities in the affected neighbourhoods.

- In addition, to promote mental and physical wellbeing and reduce stress and anxiety **UNICEF trained 51 coaches to facilitate sports for development sessions** for **342 youth and adolescents** at three child friendly spaces set up in the most affected areas.

FUNDING REQUIREMENT

A total of \$3,000,000 is needed to ensure 4,000 youth access employment or income generation opportunities through rehabilitation, construction and other means.

TARGETS

- 4,000 youth access income generating opportunities.

ACTIVITIES: Immediate and Ongoing

- UNICEF will build on **current skills training programmes** for young people to respond to reconstruction efforts and increase their income generating opportunities.
- UNICEF is engaging with programme and technical staff from partner organizations to train **2,000 youth to address needs** as a result of the explosion
- UNICEF will involve **2,250 young people in rehabilitating 693 residential units**.
- **Increase adolescent and youth engagement and participation** – mobilize and inspire young people to continue volunteering by matching their interests with needs in the aftermath of Beirut explosion.
- **Support adolescents and youth with mental health services** – build on the successful mental health campaign linked to the COVID-19 response with the Ministry of Public Health (MoPH) and Ministry of Education and Higher Education (MEHE), including direct provision of Psychosocial Support (PSS) through adolescent friendly spaces to affected young people.
- **Ensure continued learning opportunities for adolescents and youth** – UNICEF will scale up TVET and skills building trainings in construction, invest in the Learning Passport (LP) for distance learning, rehabilitate 20 TVET schools to ensure continued learning, and meet market demand for skilled and semi-skilled labour.

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 Rene Mouawad Foundation (RMF); ANERA; Lebanese Relief Council (LebRelief); Lebanese Organization for Studies and Training (LOST); AVSI Foundation; Mouvement Social (MS); HOOPs Club; Makassed Philanthropic Islamic Association of Beirut; and Rural Entrepreneurs.

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>

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