

CHILD PROTECTION

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.
- Access to basic services has been interrupted as a result of the explosion, including:
 - Hospitals and primary health care centres;
 - Schools (and other educational facilities);
 - Social development centres, community centres;
 - Offices of UNICEF partners that provided services to children and families.
- Thousands of children and their parents are experiencing **anxiety, sleeplessness, or night terrors** likely to affect their mental health in the long term.
- **Women and girls are amongst the most affected.**
- **Dramatic spike in COVID-19 cases:** 87,197 cases as of 4 November from 44,482 cases on 4 October.

CORE NEEDS

- **Psychosocial support** for children, parents and caregivers directly affected by the explosion.
- Support to girls and women at **risk of gender-based violence.**
- **Capacity building and training** on mental health support to staff of implementing partners.
- **Rehabilitation of buildings** – community centres of partner organizations suffered substantial damage.

UNICEF IN ACTION

- Over **7,200** children, parents, and primary caregivers have received **community-based mental health and psycho-social support (MHPSS)**. **479** boys, girls and caregivers were reached with specialized MHPSS and Focused Non-specialized Psychosocial Support. **1,571 girls and women** have attended information sessions, psychological first aid, and psychosocial support **related to gender-based violence (GBV)** provided by UNICEF's partners.
- Distributed **5,000 packs of sanitary pads** and **2,500 mini hygiene kits** on SGBV referral pathway
- Developed a **5-day training module** for school counsellors and child protection focal points in the Ministry of Education and Higher Education to strengthen skills and competencies to prevent COVID-19 and do distance learning.
- UNICEF **re-activated a psychosocial support (PSS) hotline, initiated door-to-door outreach activities and set up three tents** as information and service hubs in affected areas.
- **UNICEF conducted a rapid assessment of Gender Based Violence (GBV) survivors** in case management together with partners; as well as, a needs assessment of children and their parents.
- UNICEF **coordinated with Cash Assistance Registration centres** and shared information on social services, including psychosocial support and case management during the registration, with particular attention given to the highly vulnerable groups, such as GBV survivors and single female/child headed households.

- UNICEF shared a series of posts on social media to **raise awareness and disseminate information** related to coping mechanisms in the aftermath of the Blast, reaching over **24,000** individuals with “How to Help Children Cope with the Current Situation” messages.

FUNDING REQUIREMENT

A total of \$2,746,690 is needed to provide over 26,000 children, women, parents and caregivers with protection response and services over a three-month period.

TARGETS

- **Over 25,000 children**, parents and primary caregivers are provided with community based mental health and psychosocial support **as a result of the explosion.**
- **Over 1,000 girls and women** in affected areas are provided with primary first aid, psychosocial support and information on risks associated with gender-based violence.
- **Over 50 children** without parental or family care due to explosion are provided with appropriate alternative care arrangements.

ACTIVITIES: Immediate and Ongoing

- **Rehabilitation assistance to 14 centres that support children, women, parents and caregivers**, and continued assessment of the extent of damage to partner community centres and offices.
- **Community-based mental health and psychosocial support** to 25,000 children in and around the affected areas, with additional needs foreseen in the area of GBV specific programming and unaccompanied and separated children following the blast. **Provision of focused psychosocial support for 6,000** children, parents and caregivers around Lebanon (through mobile services, establishment of child-friendly spaces, equipped with facilitators, recreational and Early Child Development kits as well as information leaflets).
- **Coordination with partners to reunite families** by following up on cases of separated children in hospitals and working with other organizations for family reunification and specialized support.
- **Distribution of 13,500 psychosocial support kits** to children and caregivers.
- Provision of **5,000 personal protective equipment** to frontline workers to prevent the spread of COVID-19.
- **Release of a series of eight social media videos** on resilience, seeking services, and coping with current situation by age group, safe return to school and prevention of cyberbullying.

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 Enough Violence and Exploitation (KAFA); ABAAD Resource Center for Gender Equality; Mouvement Social (MS); Union for the Protection of Juveniles in Lebanon (UPEL); Himaya; Terre des Hommes-Italy (TdH-Italy); Save the Children International (SCI); Amel Association; and the Danish Refugee Council (DRC).

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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