



# EDUCATION

## 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.
- 85,000+ children and youth in public and private schools without full access to learning.
- 200 schools and 20 Technical Vocational Education and Training (TVET) buildings damaged.
- **Medium and long-term impact on enrolment and continuation of learning paths** for children and youth.
- **Lack of adequate connectivity and devices** makes it a challenge to pivot to blended education immediately.
- **Dramatic spike in COVID-19 cases:** 87,197 cases as of 4 November from 44,482 cases on 4 October.

### CORE NEEDS

- **Rehabilitation and reconstruction of schools is an urgent priority** of the Ministry of Education and Higher Education (MEHE). Of the 91 affected public schools, preliminary assessments indicate: 12 schools heavily damaged, 52 schools moderately damaged, and 28 schools lightly damaged.
- **Access to learning for children** is essential and a recognized challenge with the imminent start of the 2020/21 school year as homes were destroyed and families forced to relocate. In addition, it will not be possible to rehabilitate some schools that were badly damaged before the start of the school year **at the end of September 2020**.
- **Financial support due to increased obstacles** to enrol and continue the education of children and young people due to the severe economic crisis and COVID-19.

### UNICEF IN ACTION

- The MEHE has constituted a Beirut Blast Response Committee, with UNESCO coordinating rehabilitation partners and with **UNICEF coordinating the Education Sector**.
- UNICEF supported MEHE to develop a draft **Remote Learning IT Plan** to ensure learning for children and youth. **Connectivity solutions are being sought with** for both teachers and schools as well as devices for students at home.
- UNICEF's construction team is **assessing schools'** infrastructure damage in coordination with MEHE engineers to accurately cost the impact of the explosion.
- As co-chair of the Education Donor Group, UNICEF (and DFID) **convened donors to update them on the assessments and the coordination efforts**.

## FUNDING REQUIREMENT

**UNICEF requires a total of \$7,600,000 to support safe and timely reopening of schools and access to blended learning, for public school students affected by the Beirut explosion.**

## TARGETS

- 50,000 children and youth benefitting from **rehabilitated, equipped, and furnished** primary education and TVET schools.
- 50,000 children provided with **education supplies**.
- 14,000 children and youth access blended learning with **internet connectivity and electronic devices**.

## ACTIVITIES: Immediate and Ongoing

- **Rehabilitate, equip, and furnish primary schools and TVET buildings** that sustained light to moderate damage as a result of the Beirut explosion. In addition to the rehabilitation of four public primary schools, UNICEF will support the refurbishment and replacement of damaged furniture and laboratory equipment for all 90 public schools affected by the blast. Similar options are being explored to support some private schools that are serving the most vulnerable children, including refugee children.
- Purchase **school supplies for 50,000 students affected by the Beirut explosion**.
- Ensure **internet connectivity and electronic devices for 14,000 primary school students** for remote learning. UNICEF will procure the Microsoft License and support the national teaching platform for the Ministry to initiate online teaching.
- Continue to provide **technical support to the MEHE's Beirut Blast Response Committee**, with UNESCO coordinating partners engaged in the rehabilitation and UNICEF coordinating the Education Sector.
- Work closely with partners to **develop middle and long-term reconstruction plans**.

## 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 Ministry of Education and Higher Education (MEHE).

## 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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