

HEALTH & NUTRITION

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.
- Beirut explosion extensively damaged essential public health services, including 23 primary health care centres (PHCCs) that provided 33,000+ consultations a month. Four health centres were destroyed, and antenatal care and high-risk pregnancy centres were also damaged.
- Children's health facilities were severely damaged, including the new-born and paediatric unit in Karantina, with 16 specialized Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) beds, 2 paediatric Intensive Care Unit (ICU) beds and 24 general paediatric inpatient beds.
- Children's Cancer Centre in Lebanon (CCCL) was severely affected. CCCL is a regional centre for cancer care for children and offers life-saving free treatment for all children regardless of race, sex, ethnicity, religion or nationality. Patient rooms, storage and clinical treatment units were destroyed.
- Lebanese Ministry of Public Health's (MoPH) National Central Drug Warehouse (CDW) and Central Supply Drug Warehouse suffered severe damage, which included 7 cold rooms for vaccines and medicines.
- A dramatic spike in COVID-19 cases: 87,197 cases as of 4 November from 44,482 cases on 4 October.

CORE NEEDS

- Restoration of Reproductive, Maternal, New-born, Child and Adolescent Health (RMNCAH) services that were disrupted due to physical damages, lack of supplies and equipment, including adequate Personal Protective Equipment (PPEs), and lack of trained health workers.
- Improve and increase Infection Prevention Control measures and support the increase in utilization of services to reduce COVID-19 transmission. Continuation of child vaccination campaigns.

UNICEF IN ACTION

- UNICEF took immediate and appropriate measures to ensure safe storage of vaccines and protected 1,748,660 doses by relocating them from damaged warehouses at the port to alternative cold rooms.
- UNICEF helped MoPH reassemble the cold room next to the Karantina warehouse, and supported Rafik Hariri Hospital (RHUH) with two new solar fridges and maintenance of two cold rooms for vaccine storage.
- UNICEF completed assessment of the damages to three PHCCs, and initiated the rehabilitation work. UNICEF with partners recruited medical advisors and health staff for the three PHCCs, and deployed 12 staff to strengthen the PHC network.
- UNICEF trained 65 frontline workers who reached 40,000 caregivers through direct community engagement providing referrals to quality Maternal Newborn Child Adolescent Health (MNCAH) services.

- UNICEF facilitated **10,026 counselling sessions** to caregivers on prenatal, breastfeeding and infant and young child feeding (IYCF) practices, reaching 3,742 Lebanese and 6,284 non-Lebanese. An **IYCF Hotline** was set up to respond to beneficiaries' inquiries and address reservations on IYCF practices, and to follow up with pregnant and nursing women experiencing problems with breastfeeding or other challenges.
- UNICEF organized a **virtual online training** for organizations and individuals distributing breastmilk substitutes and trained 70 participants on the Code of Breastmilk Substitutes and Standard Operation Procedures for IYCF, **promoting breastfeeding** whenever possible. UNICEF conducted workshops and trained 51 individuals to limit the random distribution of formula milk that are not in line with international and local guidelines.
- UNICEF distributed **critical nutrition supplies to partners and PHCCs**: 27,000 multiple micronutrient sachets, 2,500 vitamin A packs, 8,370 therapeutic milk, 5,600 ReSoMal sachet for treating rehydration, 10,650 supplementary spread sachet, 6,500 high energy biscuit sachet, 1,080 emergency food rations.
- UNICEF purchased and distributed **Personal Protection Equipment (PPE) and Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) items**, with most items distributed to 17 most affected PHCCs. Items include 460 boxes of 50 pairs of gloves, 974 boxes of surgical masks, 1,120 boxes of N95 masks, 85 protective goggles, 1,516 hand sanitizers, 184 4liter bleach, 175 liquid soap, 17 infrared thermometers and 1,722 gowns. UNICEF also helped MoPH replenish the stock of the public hospital in Bouar with 4,430 medical masks
- UNICEF distributed more than 20,000 fabric masks to vulnerable population affected by the Blast. UNICEF conducted a **review of the standard operation procedures for key RMNCAH services** including antenatal and postnatal care at primary health care centres, and deliveries at hospitals.

FUNDING REQUIREMENT

A total of \$9,235,000 is needed to provide children and women affected by the Beirut explosion with health emergency assistance, access to essential MNCAH services, mental health support and immunization, amidst the COVID-19 pandemic.

TARGETS

- Over **55,000 children under five years** of age provided with essential nutritional supplements including Vitamin A.
- 6,000 primary caregivers of children 0 to 23 months of age receive **counselling on Infant and Young Child Feeding (IYCF)**.
- 15 impacted Primary Health Care Centres (PHCCs) and dispensaries are **rehabilitated, provided with emergency supplies** and provisioned with a Minimum Initial Service Package (MISP).
- **10,000 children vaccinated (per month)** in the PHCs located in the areas impacted by the explosion.

ACTIVITIES: Immediate and Ongoing

- **Physical rehabilitation of the damaged health care facilities**, including Karantina hospital, Dar El Hawraa Centre, Lebanese Red Cross Centre in Chiyah, and dispensaries. **The damage assessment of two Primary Health Care Centres (PHCCs) is completed** and the bidding process for rehabilitation begun. UNICEF with partners completed the recruitment of medical advisors and health staff for all three PHCCs.
- **Provision of a comprehensive package of subsidized fees for Maternal, New-born, Child and Adolescent Health care** including mental health support and immunization services as part of the "PHC re-start package" for all vulnerable groups.
- **Provision of necessary medicines** including oncology drugs, equipment, and provision of essential supplies to the affected PHCCs and dispensaries.
- **Rehabilitation and maintenance of cold rooms and the cold chain system** at MoPH central warehouse in Karantina; as well as, at different hospitals and MoPH district offices, to ensure safe storage of vaccines.
- **Mental health mainstreaming** at the primary health care level as part of the PHCCs rehabilitation package that includes setting up community mental health centres in coordination with WHO for pregnant and post-partum mothers.

- **Provision of emergency health kits, obstetric kits, nutrition supplies** (such as MUAC tapes) as well as therapeutic and supplementary food, for primary and secondary health facilities.
- **Support appropriate and safe waste management practices** to protect impacted populations from secondary health effects as a result of poor waste disposal.

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: WHO; UNHCR; UNFPA; International Orthodox Christian Charities (IOCC); Makhzoumi Foundation; Lebanese Ministry of Public Health (MoPH); Lebanese Order of Midwives; Tahhadi; SOS Children Villages – Lebanon; Orphan Welfare Society; Arcenciel (AeC); L'Association d'Aide à la Mère et l'Enfant à l'Hopital - Birth and Beyond; Children's Cancer Center in Lebanon (CCCL); Children Against Cancer Association (CHANCE); Palestine Red Crescent Society; and the Lebanese Red Cross.

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:

Lebanon Country Office:

YUKIE MOKUO, Representative

ymokuo@unicef.org

MARY LOUISE EAGLETON; Deputy Representative

meagleton@unicef.org

NAOKO AKIYAMA; Humanitarian Affairs Manager

nakiyama@unicef.org