



SOCIAL POLICY

Beirut Explosions Response Overview

November 2020

SITUATION

- 200 killed, with more than 6,500 injured, of which over 1,000 are children.
- An estimated 300,000 people, including 100,000 children, are affected, many of whom are increasingly poor and vulnerable, and in need of cash assistance. They face a dire economic situation due to loss of assets, property and livelihoods.
- More than half of small and medium enterprises will likely not be able to resume work. Half of the tourism facilities in the area were affected, and over 90 percent of medium to large manufacturing industries within a three-kilometre radius of the blast site have been damaged to varied degrees.¹
- The blast affected specific neighbourhoods that are particularly poor and were heavily damaged. Many families whose homes were destroyed continue to live in a temporary place, often with relatives.
- Dramatic spike in COVID-19 cases: 87,197 cases as of 4 November from 44,482 cases on 4 October.

CORE NEEDS

- Deliver an emergency cash assistance initiative as an early response intervention with the aim of addressing the vulnerability of children and other disadvantaged groups.

UNICEF IN ACTION

- Launch of new Emergency Cash Assistance programme to serve up to 80,000 vulnerable people, with a one-time cash transfer targeting primarily households with children, and persons with disabilities, elderly and female-headed households living in the poorest and most affected geographical neighbourhoods
- Ongoing coordination with WFP, UNHCR and other cash actors, including NGOs through the Task Force on Emergency Cash Assistance as part of the response to the explosion is led by LOUISE Coordinator.
- Technical assistance to the Government of Lebanon to continue the delivery of the Government's emergency COVID-19 cash assistance directly to more than 170,000 poor and vulnerable households
- Ongoing technical inputs to design a new national cash transfer programme to respond to broader vulnerabilities of Lebanese households with the World Bank, EU and the Government of Lebanon
- Consolidation of a draft Strategy Document of UNICEF's technical and financial support, to facilitate rapid development of the strategy by the new government
- The development of the social protection sector plan in coordination with relevant stakeholders under the "strengthening social cohesion and resilience" pillar, ahead of the international conference on the Reform, Recovery, and Reconstruction Framework (3RF)

¹ Two Weeks on: Families in Beirut's Disaster Zone are Still in Dire Need of Support to Rebuild and Recover – Save the Children, 19 August 2020

FUNDING REQUIREMENT

A total of \$10,700,000 is needed to ensure 80,000 vulnerable households, primarily with children, those with disabilities, elderly and headed by women receive emergency cash transfer assistance.

TARGETS

- 80,000 of the most vulnerable households, primarily with children, those with disabilities, elderly and headed by females.

ACTIVITIES: Immediate and Ongoing

- **To address the needs of 170,000 poor and vulnerable households**, UNICEF will continue to provide technical assistance to the Government's Emergency Cash Programme.
- In-depth technical engagement with EU, World Bank, IMF and WFP for the **establishment of a new national cash transfer programme** under the National Poverty Targeting Program to reach initially 70,000 households, including up to 20,000 in vulnerable categories
- **Continue to lead on the development of National Social Protection Response Strategy**: already completed extensive consultations, sector mapping, initiated financing work and high-level buy-in from Government.
- **With ILO, UNICEF** will continue consultations with non-state actors and Civil Society Organizations to offer a platform for non-state stakeholders to contribute to the strategy and policy document, while maintaining engagement with the current caretaker government and keep it informed through the Inter-Ministerial Committee.

KEY PARTNERS

- Since the explosion, UNICEF has been working closely with partners and will continue to do so to implement immediate and ongoing activities. Partners include ILO, UNHCR and WFP.

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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