



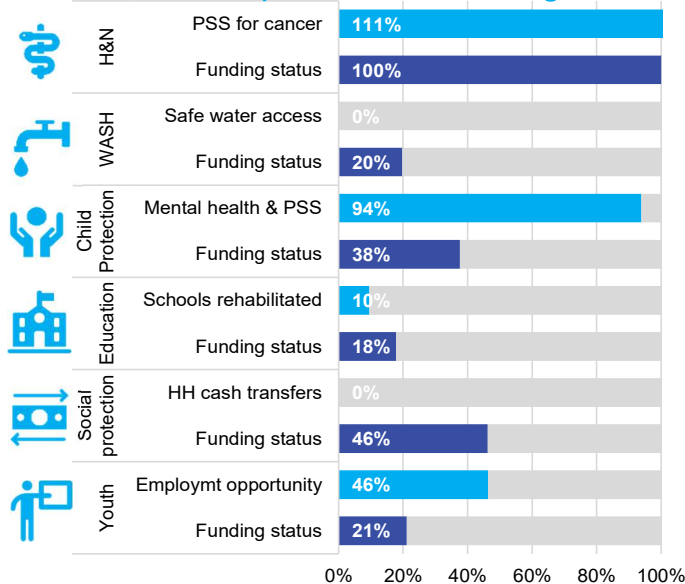
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Reporting Period: 1 January to 30 June 2021

Highlights

- UNICEF launched an emergency child grant in June. The assistance aims to reach 70,000 of the most vulnerable children in Lebanon with cash transfers of US\$40 for families with one child, up to US\$80 for families for three or more children.
- Work has commenced on the UNICEF-supported renovation and rebuilding of Quarantina University Public Hospital, which was heavily damaged in the Beirut port explosions. The new building, to be completed in early 2022, includes units for paediatrics, obstetrics and maternity, surgery and intensive care, and a primary health care centre.
- Due to the ongoing risk of the collapse the public water supply, UNICEF is supporting Water Establishments to ensure continued water supply to an average of 1 million people per month.

UNICEF's Response and Funding Status





UNICEF Lebanon Humanitarian Situation Report No.1

unicef 
for every child

Situation in Numbers

 **541,000**
children in need of
humanitarian assistance
(Lebanon Response HAC 2021)

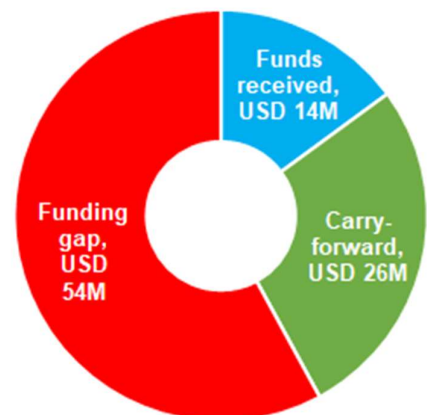
 **1,573,000**
people in need
(Lebanon Response HAC
2021)

 **750,000**
children out of school
(Lebanon Response HAC
2021)

UNICEF Appeal 2021

US\$ 94 million

Funding Status (in USD)



Funding Overview and Partnerships

UNICEF is appealing for US\$94 million to respond to the urgent needs of over 495,000 people, including 154,000 children affected by the deepening economic crises in Lebanon and the Beirut explosion, including its secondary impacts. This appeal is in addition to and complements the humanitarian response to the Syrian refugee crisis, which covers the needs of Syrian refugees and affected Lebanese host communities, as well as COVID-19 related needs.

UNICEF requires urgent funding to ensure that no child in Lebanon is left behind. Without sufficient and timely funding, UNICEF will be unable to support the national response to Lebanon's continuing crisis, and poor and vulnerable households with children will be left without access to basic services and needs.

Situation Overview & Humanitarian Needs

Lebanon is facing an economic and financial crisis which ranks in the top three most severe crises globally since the mid-nineteenth century, according to the World Bank. The deteriorating socio-economic situation, exacerbated by COVID-19 and the Beirut explosion on 4 August 2020, is threatening the livelihoods and well-being of the most vulnerable people.

The Lebanese currency has lost more than 90 percent of its value. Food prices increased staggering 222 per cent in the year to June 2021.¹ Poverty among the Lebanese almost doubled to 55 per cent in 2020, from 28 percent in 2018, while extreme poverty tripled from 8 percent². Eighty per cent of children in Lebanon are worse off than they were at the beginning of 2020, according to the Child-Focused Rapid Assessment³ conducted by UNICEF in April 2021. With no end in sight to the crisis, health, education and safety are at risk and children's futures are at stake.

Increasing unemployment and increasing prices are impacting families' ability to support their children. Thirty per cent of families had at least one child who skipped a meal or went to bed hungry in March 2021, and 77 per cent of households did not have enough food or enough money to buy food. Around 30 per cent of children in Lebanon are at risk of chronic malnutrition due to lack of access to food or to an appropriately diversified diet.⁴

The country is experiencing a breakdown in the delivery of basic services, such as water, power and fuel. More than four million people, including one million refugees, are at immediate risk of losing access to safe water, as the Water Establishments that pump water have run out of fuel and are not being maintained. Prolonged electricity outages are commonplace across the country, including in Beirut.

Some hospitals face closures if diesel stocks are not replenished, with hospitals already beginning to close their doors in parts of the country. Basic medicines, including antibiotics and painkillers, are in short supply, while life-saving medications are completely out of stock for children and adults. Some patients are resorting to reducing their daily dose of medicine because they cannot obtain new supplies from pharmacies. Hospitals are cancelling procedures due to shortages of essential supplies. Patients are not going to health facilities because they cannot afford care, nor the transportation.

This situation has complicated efforts to re-open schools, which have been closed since October 2019 (pre-COVID). Unless children have the opportunity to go back to school this year, thousands could be without an education and may never return to learning. Currently, over 750,000 children are out of school, with a lack of services available to reach these most vulnerable children. Having exhausted all other options, families are taking desperate measures, including sending children to work, marrying off young girls, skipping meals and incurring debt. Children work in the streets, in agricultural fields and garages or on construction sites, where they are exposed to risks of exploitation, violence and abuse.

Summary Analysis of Programme Response

UNICEF continues to support the most vulnerable children and young people and contribute to social cohesion through integrated programming targeting affected people regardless of nationality and balancing humanitarian and development needs. UNICEF is equipping partners and engaging communities with information and tools to promote gender-transformative programming; strengthen capacities to address the needs of children with disabilities and to ensure child safeguarding and prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse.

Health

In coordination with the Ministry of Public Health (MOPH), UNICEF and partners facilitated implementation of the Long-term Primary Healthcare Support Package (LPSP). This package consists of subsidized essential quality health and nutrition services, including mental health specialized services by psychotherapists, psychiatrists and social workers to all referred beneficiaries in three primary healthcare centres. A total of 13,732 patients benefitted from the package, of

¹ Lebanon Central Administration of Statistics

² https://archive.unescwa.org/sites/www.unescwa.org/files/20-00268_pb15_beirut-explosion-rising-poverty-en.pdf

³ <https://www.unicef.org/lebanon/media/6541/file>

⁴ [2020 UN Lebanon Annual Results Report](#)

whom 1,856 accessed paediatric care and 3,706 maternal/reproductive support. UNICEF provided maternal new-born child and adolescent health services to 9,765 affected people through outreach activities, lactation specialists, phone calls, as well as in-person at UNICEF tents.

Additionally, 126,569 caregivers of children were reached with health integrated messages, including messages about routine immunization. Emphasizing the importance of COVID-19 preventive measures, UNICEF distributed 3,578 fabric masks during face-to-face counselling in Beirut.

UNICEF provided technical support to the MOPH to finalize the community outreach plan for Nutrition, Immunization and Maternal New-born health.

Under the patronage of the MOPH, UNICEF in partnership with the French Development Agency agreed in March 2021 on the renovation and rebuilding of Quarantina University Public Hospital, which was heavily damaged by the Beirut port explosions on 4 August 2020. Through the rehabilitation and operationalization of the hospital building, the project will ensure that vulnerable mothers and children have access to quality care at the most critical stages of their life. The hospital's new building will include units for paediatrics, obstetrics and maternity, surgery and intensive care, as well as a primary health care centre. Works started in May 2021, and are expected to end by early 2022.

UNICEF is rehabilitating the cold rooms/cold chain in the central drug warehouse and supplying and installing solar power system. Three cold rooms will be procured, and eleven built-in cold rooms will be installed. The construction contract for the supply warehouse was signed in May, enabling works to commence.

Psychosocial support was provided for 333 children with cancer for at least six months through sessions on music, arts and crafts.

A total of 13,910 children were vaccinated in Beirut and Mount Lebanon centres, reflecting a near-normal level of programming. UNICEF, in collaboration with the MOPH and UNRWA, conducted an effective vaccine management assessment on 153 medical facilities. A five-year comprehensive improvement plan was developed including improvement and enhancement of general policies and operating procedures as well as enforcement of financial and human resources.

Due to the socio-economic conditions, and the challenges in accessing healthcare services, UNICEF and partners are working to increase levels of routine vaccination among defaulters as per the National Immunization calendar. This involves increasing primary healthcare capacity, ensuring appropriate cold chain management and data reporting. Capacity building was provided to private medical doctors, community health workers and dispensaries on health data application to ensure quality reporting.

Nutrition

Through the Infant and Young Child Feeding (IYCF) Hotline for lactation specialists to clarify and respond to beneficiaries' reservations and inquiries regarding IYCF practices, it has been observed that IYCF concerns and challenges, along with malnutrition numbers are on the rise in specific geographical locations due to the financial difficulties, scarce resources and the increased vulnerability of caregivers to provide enough nutrition for their children in these difficult times.

UNICEF has developed a package of immediate support to pregnant and lactating women to respond to the reduced food intake and diversity of diets resulting from the economic crisis.

Nutrition programming and nutrition surveillance needed to be scaled up, to prevent, detect and manage malnutrition. For this, UNICEF with partners, is improving children nutrition status by providing IYCF counselling projects to encourage best practices, by increasing awareness on IYCF practices through community outreach, conducting household visits and follow up, and by limiting the random distribution of formula milk that are not in line with international and local guidelines.

UNICEF supported MOPH to have in place malnutrition treatment case management in twenty-four treatment centres, where 100 cases of children under 5 with malnutrition have been treated. UNICEF supported the distribution of micronutrients to 20,457 children under five years of age, increasing their resilience to infection and supporting their physical and mental development with proper health key messages. In support of promoting, protecting and supporting optimal IYCF environment, UNICEF prepared a UN position paper that has been shared and endorsed by all UN heads of agencies.

UNICEF, with the Nutrition sector, finalized a 6-month IYCF emergency plan and planned for an IYCF behavioural change campaign in partnership and coordination with the Lebanese Parliament and the MOPH. From January to June 2021, counselling was provided on prenatal, breastfeeding and IYCF practices to 10,341 caregivers.

Cash assistance through UNICEF's social assistance programme was provided to 3,370 children under the age of 5 years from 1,602 households. This assistance was coupled with counselling on proper IYCF practices. The cash assistance is provided over six months. To reduce the need to queue at cash machines and to reach households without bank accounts, the funds are transferred using a money transfer agency, so grants can be provided in US dollars.

WASH

Water Establishments have suffered serious depletions in supplies, revenues, and financial and human resources, while affected by an upward spiral in costs. Due to reduced water supply from the Water Establishments, people have had to rely more on other costlier and less convenient water alternatives, such as water tankers and bottled water, whose prices have surged. The breakdown in sanitation services risks intensifying the spread of water-borne diseases, adversely impacting an already vulnerable public health.

UNICEF, through the European Union and KfW Development Bank, are covering expenses for the major operating expenditures of Water Establishments, including maintenance, supplies, and consumables. From October 2020 until June 2021, an average of USD 1.9 million per month has been provided to ensure continued water supply for an average of 1 million people per month. Urgent needs are expected to be higher, particularly during the dry season which runs from July to November.

As of June 2021, the chlorine supply has been stocked through local suppliers to maintain the demand for the coming months.

Education

The Beirut Port explosion on 4 August 2020 damaged numerous buildings and schools in the greater Beirut area. Final results of the rapid needs assessment, as released by the MEHE, indicate that 199 schools (90 public and 109 private) and 20 TVET institutes sustained minor to significant damage, affecting more than 85,000 children and preventing access to learning and education support to more than 50,000 children and youth. Costs for rehabilitation are estimated to be around USD 20 million for all public and private schools, with an additional USD1 million to refurbish damaged furniture, equipment and laboratories.

UNICEF, with the support from the European Union and KfW Development Bank, have committed to rehabilitate four public primary schools (including replacing damaged furniture and equipment). These schools cater to non-Lebanese students in the afternoon shift. Nine private schools serving the most vulnerable children, including refugee children, will also receive rehabilitation support. Despite delays due to COVID-19, UNICEF completed the rehabilitation of the four public schools in June 2021. Works are ongoing in the private schools and are expected to end in December 2021.

The education sector undertook an assessment of damage to non-formal education centres and the impact on children enrolled (including those with special needs). The assessment found that more than half (54 per cent) had programmes disrupted by the explosion, with 800 children in community-based early childhood education affected and homework support programmes for 1,950 children disrupted.

Child Protection

In the period from January to June 2021, UNICEF reached in total 39,252 beneficiaries with child protection activities. This includes 3,196 (35% girls and 65% boys) children who received case management services (76% Syrians, 24% Lebanese), and 14,072 beneficiaries, including 10,171 children (54% girls, 46% boys) and 3,901 caregivers (87% female, 13% male) who received focused psychosocial support activities. In addition, 14,516 children (50% girls, 50% boys) received community based psychosocial support, and 6,926 caregivers (88% female, 22% male) were engaged in activities to promote the wellbeing and children protection. In total, 542 staff benefited from child protection training, while 16 community engagement initiatives took place under *Qudwa*⁵.

In total, 5,013 children and adults had access to a safe and accessible channel to report sexual exploitation and abuse by June 2021, out of which 1,689 are Lebanese, 3,269 are Syrian, and 64 are Palestinian.

Adolescents and youth

Building on the work that initiated by young people in the aftermath of the explosions, within the Shelter sector, the adolescent and youth programme have continued supporting young people's engagement in the rehabilitation process. This includes training more than 300 youth on construction trade (such as aluminium processing, plumbing, carpentry and WASH), including Life skills training. Overall, 287 youths have been engaged in the rehabilitation of damaged households and sites.

Social Policy

In response to the rapidly deteriorating economic situation, UNICEF launched an emergency child grant known as "*Haddi*", meaning next to me, in June 2021. The initiative is currently reaching 70,000 vulnerable children supported through UNICEF's service provision and partners, particularly girls and boys involved in child labour, those at risk of child marriage, those excluded from learning and those with disabilities. Out of the 70,000 children benefiting from the programme, over 21,000 are vulnerable Lebanese children. The assistance provides US\$40 for a family with one child, US\$60 for two children and US\$80 for households with three or more children.

⁵ Launched by the Ministry of Social Affairs, *Qudwa* is the national national social behavioural change and communication plan to prevent child marriage, child labour and violence against girls, boys and women

Cash payments are being administered in USD via money transfer agents in over 1,100 locations across the country, this ensures that purchasing power of recipients is maintained even in light of the volatile depreciation of the Lebanese Pound, while also reducing potential inflationary pressure of such a large cash transfer programme. The use of money transfer agents ensures reliable access of recipients to their entitlement, not subject to challenges currently being faced by the banking sector driven by electricity cuts and currency shortages.

A robust call centre has been set up that improves accountability to recipients, allowing for efficient resolution of complaints and changes in household information. UNICEF is currently exploring opportunities to expand to more children and extend duration of the benefits.

Communications for Development (C4D), Community Engagement & Accountability

The economic crisis has exacerbated access barriers to basic services and resources, such as food, medication and other essential items, leading people to negative coping mechanisms and behaviours. This includes dilution of baby milk, substituting with cheap and poorer quality food and use of unsafe water. In response, UNICEF is working to promote healthy preventive measures and practices. With the aim to support pregnant and lactating women to cope with the lifting of subsidy on milk formula, UNICEF supported the Government to design and implement a campaign on IYCF to provide relevant information to women, community members and local authorities of affected areas. In this framework, 1,000 frontline workers were trained on interpersonal communication skills, advocacy and IYCF messaging, including the importance of early/exclusive breast feeding, with the support from Balamand University.

Humanitarian Leadership, Coordination and Strategy

In response to deepening economic and financial crisis in Lebanon, the Lebanon Emergency Response Plan 2021-22 was published in August 2021. In light of the rapidly deteriorating situation, UNICEF led the interagency development of response for nutrition, WASH, education and child protection/GBV to support the government's continued provision of public services to address increasing needs of vulnerable children and their families. UNICEF leads the WASH, education and child protection and nutrition sectors for response to Lebanon Crisis [non-Syria Refugee response] under the HCT, and plays a key role in health response.

Human Interest Stories and External Media

A series of content packages were produced to highlight the situation of children and families during the unprecedented crisis Lebanon is facing. In February, [a report to mark the 6 months since the Beirut explosions](#) was published along with a [social media package](#) and [stories](#) showing UNICEF support. In March, a [press conference](#) was organised to announce the beginning of the rehabilitation work of the Quarantina Public Hospital following the explosions. Furthermore, to mark the world water week, a [digital package](#) was shared on social media to shed the light on water scarcity, including a UNICEF [response package](#). In May, [communication](#) around the importance of establishing life-cycle social grants was published in support of the current situation. In June, the rehabilitation of the Karantina Park was inaugurated with an [event](#) to communicate the support following the Beirut explosions.

There were 1,080 mentions of UNICEF in national, regional and international media in the first half of 2021, reaching 765 million people, while the social media reach was 13,135,000.

Annex A

Summary of Programme Results

Sector	UNICEF and IPs Response			Cluster/Sector Response		
	2021 target	Total results	Change since last report	2021 target	Total results	Change since last report
Health						
Number of children aged 6 to 59 months vaccinated against measles	10,000	23,640	11,396			
Number of health care facilities, including points of entry, equipped with infection prevention and control materials and personal protective equipment	808	0 ⁶	-			
Nutrition						
Number of primary caregivers of children aged 0 to 23 months receiving infant and young child feeding counselling	10,000	10,314	10,314			
Number of children aged 6 to 59 months receiving vitamin A supplementation every six months	50,000	22,000	22,000			
Number of caregivers of children aged 0 to 23 months reached with messages aiming to protect breastfeeding in the context of COVID-19	30,000	10,751	10,751			
Child Protection, GBVIE & PSEA						
Number of children and caregivers accessing mental health and psychosocial support	15,000	14,072	14,072			
Number of women, girls and boys accessing gender-based violence risk mitigation, prevention or response interventions	5,000	381 ⁷	381			
Number of people with access to safe channels to report sexual exploitation and abuse	20,000	5,013	5,013			
Education						
Number of schools implementing safe school protocols (infection prevention and control)	1,234	0 ⁸	N/A			

⁶ This activity has been measured at the staff level instead of at the facility level. 6,283 health care staff and community health workers have been provided with personal protective equipment.

⁷ The number of women and girls accessing these services through the Lebanon Response appeal is lower than targeted due to funding shortfalls, meaning most programming is implemented under the Syrian Refugee Response appeal.

⁸ UNICEF is supporting MEHE to finalise their back-to-school strategy based on the Global Framework for Reopening Schools. UNICEF has also provided masks, PPE and hygiene material. However, no official reporting has been issued by MEHE on the number of schools supported.

Number of schools supported with information and communication technology capabilities to deliver distance learning	250	0 ⁹	N/A			
Number of education institutions rehabilitated	42	4	4			
Water, Sanitation & Hygiene						
Number of people accessing a sufficient quantity of safe water for drinking, cooking and personal hygiene	250,000	0 ¹⁰	-			
Number of people reached with critical water, sanitation and hygiene supplies (including hygiene items) and services	43,000	0 ¹¹	-			
Social Protection & Cash Transfer						
Number of households reached with humanitarian cash transfers across sectors	35,000	0 ¹²	-			
Adolescents & youth						
Number of youth accessing employment or income generation opportunities through rehabilitation and construction and other means	4,000	1,855	1,855			
Number of households damaged by the Beirut explosion supported with minor repair and rehabilitation	933	1,108 ¹³	1,108			
Number of adolescents and youth supported by competency and trade-based skills training programmes	6,000	3,629	3,629			
C4D, Community Engagement & AAP						
Number of people participating in engagement actions for social and behavioural change	5,000	1,800	1,800			

⁹ This activity is ongoing and figures will be reported in the next situation report.

¹⁰ Construction activities are underway. Beneficiary numbers will be reported on completion of these works.

¹¹ Ibid

¹² The first payments under *Haddi* were provided in July 2021. Beneficiary numbers will be reported in the next situation report.

¹³ Targets for repair and rehabilitation have been surpassed as funding available from the explosion response was renegotiated to reallocate to increase the rehabilitation and repair of households.

Annex B

Funding Status

Sector	Requirements	Funds available		Funding gap	
		Humanitarian resources received in 2021	Resources available from 2020 (Carry-over)	\$	%
Health and nutrition	5,060,000	6,775,733	11,020,476	-	-
Child Protection, GBViE and PSEA	5,000,000	556,837	1,325,958	3,117,205	62%
Education	21,968,000	600,345	3,334,851	18,032,803	82%
WASH	39,300,000	2,629,734	5,140,834	31,529,432	80%
Social protection and cash transfers	10,700,000	1,716,833	3,233,621	5,749,546	54%
Adolescents & youth	10,000,000	1,210,002	902,437	7,887,561	79%
C4D, community engagement and AAP	2,000,000	86,208	470,876	1,442,916	72%
Palestinian	-	444,433	117,600	-	-
Total	94,028,000	14,020,125	25,546,654	54,461,221	58%