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# Lebanon

## Humanitarian Situation Report No. 5



Reporting Date: 26 August 2020

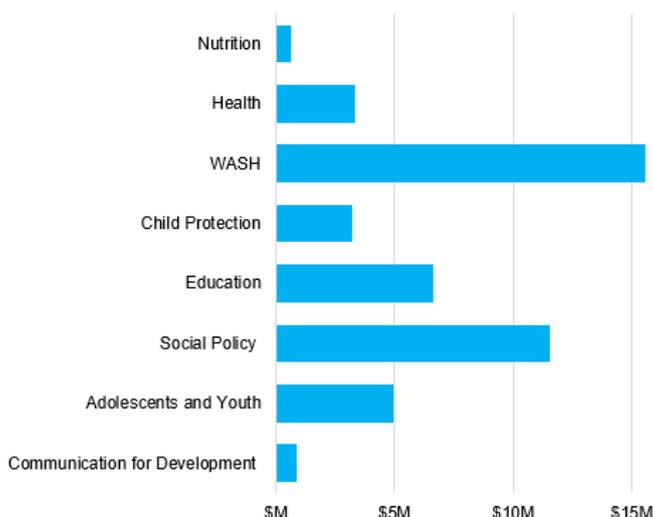
### Highlights 20 – 26 August 2020

- The death toll of the explosions at the Beirut Port on 4 August has risen to 180. Over 6,500 were injured, estimated 1,000 of whom are children.
- UNICEF installed 168 water tanks in damaged households, 150 of which were installed by trained youth, reconnected 39 buildings to the public water systems, and distributed 1,841 hygiene kits and 24 baby kits to affected families.
- UNICEF has reached over 250 children and caregivers with psychosocial services and case management, and distributed 1,000 sanitary pads.
- As part of its cash-for-work programme, UNICEF equipped 37 youths with material to support minor rehabilitation for 24 sites, and 22 youth to produce and distribute 4,840 masks amid the rising COVID-19 cases.
- UNICEF provided counselling to 752 caregivers on prenatal, breastfeeding and infant and young child feeding practices (IYCF), and shared adapted IYCF Standard Procedures to ensure a coordinated response.
- Since 5 August, UNICEF delivered 18 shipments of critical humanitarian supplies, totalling 67 tons, with a total value of US\$ 1,7 million.

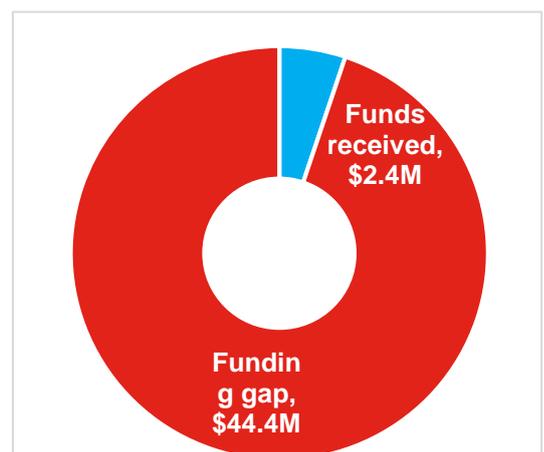
### Situation in Numbers

- 300,000** people in need
- 100,000** children in need
- 180** confirmed dead, **6,500** injured,
- 179 schools/education centers** accomodating **85,000** children and youth damaged
- 23** Primary Health Care Centers damaged  
(Providing on average 33,000 consultations a month)

### UNICEF's Funding requirements 46.78M (US\$)



### Funding Status (US\$)



## Situation Overview & Humanitarian Needs

The explosions in Beirut on 4 August killed at least 180 people and injured more than 6,500 individuals. According to the Lebanese Red Cross, seven people remain missing following the explosion. Reliable age-disaggregated data is lacking, but partners report that around one thousand children are among the injured, and 630,000 children within a 20km radius of the blast are expected to require some form of psycho-social and specialized mental health support. Affected people are facing dire economic situation due to loss of assets, property and livelihoods. Around 40 percent of households in the affected areas have no family member who generates income, and 87 percent have no savings<sup>1</sup>, increasing the number of people requiring social assistance.

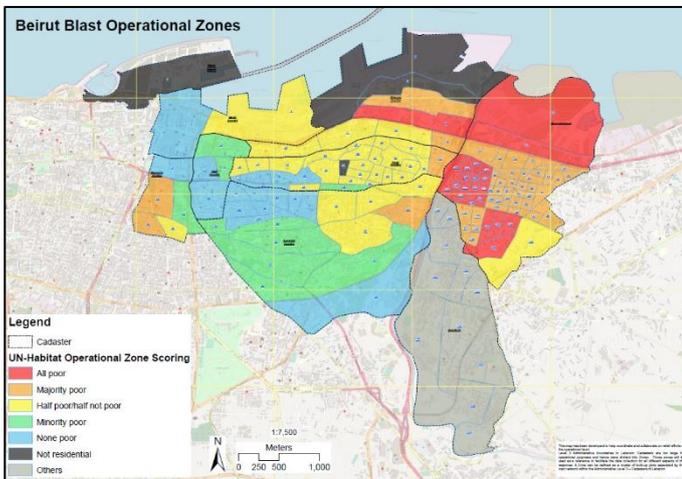


Figure 1: UN Habitat. Operational zones with poverty division

In addition to damages to residences, the explosion has incurred extensive damages to essential public and private infrastructure. Technical/in-depths assessments are still ongoing. Based on initial assessments, the immediate emergency and early recovery needs are estimated at US\$ 565 million. Six major hospitals, a new-born and paediatric unit supported by UNICEF, 20 clinics, at least 16 Primary Health Care Centers (PHCCs), dispensaries and the Central Drug Warehouse – including its cold chain and dry room – require rehabilitation. Despite significant challenges, most of the PHCCs have remained open, while an increase in 25 to 50 percent in demand for services is expected over the coming weeks. UNICEF committed to support six PHCCs to enable them to regain full functionality. UNICEF support will include structural and non-structural rehabilitation,

refurbishment, repair and provision of equipment, medical supply including personal protective equipment and surgical first aid kits, consultations subsidization, mental health and staffing support for three PHCCs, full rehabilitation for Qarantina primary health care center, and support partners in rehabilitation for two additional health care centres based on the needs assessment.

While the main public water network was reactivated the day after the blast, many households still lack clean water supply due to damages to the connections to water sources or inside buildings. Based on initial findings, an estimated three per cent of the buildings in the affected areas have been disconnected from the main water network, 15 percent have damaged water systems, 10 percent damaged wastewater system, and 22 percent remain inaccessible or are unoccupied at the moment.

According to the rapid needs assessment conducted by the Ministry of Education and Higher Education (MEHE) technically supported by UNICEF, 159 public and private primary and secondary schools and 20 Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) centers were affected by the explosion, which normally provide learning opportunities to around 85,000 children. Ninety-two of these are public schools, of which 32 also operate as second-shift schools, impacting some 43,000 first-shift students, 16,000 second-shift students and 3,000 teachers. Out of the 67 private schools, five were publicly subsidized and two were UNRWA-funded schools, reaching around 42,500 children and employing 4,600 teachers. Around two thirds of the affected schools sustained moderate to severe damages and an estimated \$22.6 million is required to rehabilitate the damaged schools, including almost US\$10.5 million for public schools. Five TVET compounds in the Beirut and Mount Lebanon area, comprised of 20 schools and buildings, were damaged resulting in at least 8,000 adolescents and youths affected. Currently, all non-formal education (NFE) activities in the Beirut and Mount Lebanon area are suspended. While Phase 2 of remote implementation under COVID-19 was supposed to start in August, due to the emergency, remote implementation for all Partners has been postponed to September.

Mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) needs are acute among vulnerable groups impacted by the explosion, with psychosocial distress reported among 50 to 90 percent of surveyed children<sup>2</sup>. UNICEF with partners are reaching out to people who relocated after the blast or might be indirectly impacted by other factors such as loss of family members, exposure to media, or deteriorating economic situation directly linked to the explosion. The majority of children and their family members currently experiencing distress are expected to recover through their own support networks, referral to basic services, and reestablishment of routine, while a minority may encounter longer term mental health problems including depression, anxiety, or post-traumatic stress disorder.

<sup>1</sup> Lebanese Red Cross (August, 2020), Multi-Sectoral Needs Assessments

<sup>2</sup> UNICEF (August 17, 2020), UNICEF –TENTS Rapid Needs Assessment, Analysis II; and World Vision Rapid assessment.

COVID-19 cases continue to rise exponentially with over 3,340 new cases within the reporting period, accounting for one fifth of the total caseload. A two-week lockdown including a 6pm to 6am curfew started on 21 August to curb the numbers of COVID-19 cases.

## Summary Analysis of Programme Response

Across all its interventions, UNICEF aims to foster gender equity and inclusion of the most vulnerable groups. UNICEF is also ensuring integration of child safeguarding and “Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse” (PSEA) in messages to caregivers and children, strengthening focus on children with disabilities, and promoting non-stereotyped engagement of adolescent and young girls. Considering a significant increase in COVID-19 cases, UNICEF adapted and contextualized COVID-19 messages and reinforced mainstreaming of COVID-19 awareness and safety messages across all its activities.

### Health and Nutrition

During the reporting period, UNICEF conducted a full maintenance of the electricity generator at Rafic Hariri University Hospital to ensure safe storage of vaccines and other critical health supplies and machines. UNICEF with partners provided counselling to 135 Lebanese and 622 non-Lebanese on prenatal, breastfeeding and infant and young child feeding practices by lactation specialists, at the three UNICEF tents set up as child friendly spaces and phone calls. UNICEF developed and shared Standard Procedures for infant and young child feeding (IYCF) practices adapted to the current context to ensure a coherent response among partners and key stakeholders. UNICEF emphasized on the importance of respecting the National Code on the use and the distribution of breastmilk substitute and supported the decision that any distribution of breastmilk substitute as well as violation of the National Code will be managed by the National IYCF Committee.

### WASH

During the reporting period, UNICEF with partners assessed 883 additional buildings. Out of the total 3,644 buildings assessed, 2,862 buildings were found to be accessible, of which 125 were without any functional water point, 541 had water systems damaged, and 370 had damaged wastewater system. Through plumbing, UNICEF with partners re-connected 39 buildings to the public water network, bringing the total reconnected buildings to 99 (out of 125 buildings that need to be re-connected.) Out of the 3,500 damaged roof tanks, 168 additional tanks were installed by UNICEF and partners, bringing the total of households having new water tanks in Gemmayzeh and Mar Mikhael to 460. UNICEF is currently contracting new water tank suppliers to avoid shortages of water tanks given the high needs. The Water Establishment of Beirut Mount Lebanon, with technical support from UNICEF, is assessing potential damages to the water network due to the underground shocks as a result of the explosion. Some damages to manholes around the blast area have already been identified and will be repaired by UNICEF.

UNICEF with partners distributed 1,841 hygiene kits and 24 baby kits to the most in-need families.

### Education

MEHE’s rapid needs assessment conducted with technical support from UNICEF<sup>3</sup>, estimates the costs for rehabilitation of 159 public and private affected schools to US\$22.6 million and for 20 TVET schools to US\$4 million. UNICEF commits to rehabilitate 20 primary schools and 20 TVET schools over the next three months that sustained light to moderate damage as a result of the Beirut Port explosion, and provide furniture and equipment to the 20 TVET schools, as well as tablets and internet connectivity to 7,000 primary school students for remote learning. UNICEF has also committed to rehabilitate 28 public primary schools with light and moderate damages, hosting second-shift non-Lebanese students. UNICEF is providing technical support to the MEHE Beirut Blast Response Committee, with UNESCO coordinating partners engaged in the rehabilitation works and UNICEF coordinating the Education Sector. In addition to urgently needed rehabilitation, equipment will also need to be replenished. Assessments on the needs of adolescents and youths with a focus on livelihoods, education and mental health are also ongoing.

### Child Protection

During the last reporting period, UNICEF and partners provided psychosocial first aid (PFA) to 120 children, psychosocial support to 45 children, including to 15 children at medium to high risk receiving more tailored support (focused PSS), case management services to 40 children and started counselling sessions with three children. Two UNICEF partners are providing specialized medical and psychosocial support to children with disabilities. In addition, UNICEF reached 15 caregivers with focused PSS, and 27 caregivers with counselling sessions. UNICEF through field workers and volunteers cleaned 150 houses and removed rubbles,

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<sup>3</sup> Published by MEHE on 22 August.

distributed 600 food parcels including water bottles, and 1,000 sanitary pads. Throughout all activities, UNICEF and partners promoted the activated child protection hotlines.

## Adolescents and Youth and Community Engagement

UNICEF with partners are engaging youth through a community-based response focusing on cleaning, minor rehabilitation of households, and preparation and distribution of meals for vulnerable families. During the reporting period, UNICEF equipped 37 youths, previously trained in rehabilitation and construction as part of UNICEF's TVET courses, with material and equipment to support minor rehabilitation for 24 sites. Thirty youth installed 150 water tanks through a cash for work program and 32 youth cooked and distributed hot meals to 980 families.

UNICEF in close collaboration with HOOPS sports club launched sports for development sessions for over 80 youth and adolescents with six coaches at child friendly spaces set up in the most affected areas. UNICEF trained HOOPS coaches and all youth frontliners on case identification and referral, and two adolescents could be referred in the reporting period to case management services. Assessments on the needs of adolescents and youth with a focus on livelihood, education and mental health are ongoing.

Given the significant increase of COVID-19 cases after the explosion, youth and adolescent, trained in sewing as part of UNICEF TVET programme, produced masks and 22 youths distributed 4,480 of them to the families in the most affected areas in Beirut, namely Tareek Jdede, Karam Al Areesh and Qarantina after the explosion.

## Child-Sensitive Social Policy

UNICEF Lebanon has designed and finalized the operational components of a new Emergency Cash Assistance programme to respond to the Beirut blast. This initiative is designed to serve up to 60,000 vulnerable people, including primarily households with children, but also people with disabilities, elderly and female-headed households living in the poorest and most affected neighbourhoods. Coordination is ongoing with WFP, UNHCR and other cash actors including NGOs through a Cash Task Force led by the LOUISE Coordinator to ensure a harmonised approach.

UNICEF is continuing technical assistance and collaboration with the Government of Lebanon to continue the delivery of the Government's emergency cash assistance that provides cash directly to 140,000 poor and vulnerable households. In addition, UNICEF's technical inputs to design a new national cash transfer programme to respond to broader vulnerabilities of Lebanese households continues with the World Bank, EU and the Government of Lebanon. The well advanced technical and financial support that UNICEF leads to develop national social protection response strategy will be consolidated into a Strategy Document – in light of the current political situation – to facilitate rapid development of the strategy by the new Government.

## Humanitarian Leadership, Coordination and Strategy

UNICEF's response to the Beirut Explosion is guided by three pillars: i) Keeping children safe including health, protection and social assistance services; ii) Rehabilitating basic essential services, including water and sanitation, education and health infrastructure; and iii) meaningful youth engagement in cleaning and rehabilitation activities.

A coordination mechanism for the response to the Beirut Explosion has been set up and is led by OCHA. The government response is led by Deputy Prime Minister/Lebanese Armed Forces. Drawing on the existing sector system (LCRP), UNICEF is leading the WASH sector and the Child Protection sub-sector, and the Education Working Group while being an active member in health, food security and shelter sectors as per the existing humanitarian architecture. Efforts are made to ensure coordination at the field and central levels with relevant actors, including municipalities, Civil Society Organizations and other UN agencies. In the ongoing discussion on UN – World Bank – EU Rapid Damage Needs Assessment and Reconstruction efforts, it has been tentatively agreed that UNICEF will be leading Water, Education/Culture (with UNESCO) and Social Protection (with ILO) Working Groups.

The coordination mechanism to respond to Beirut explosions comes in addition to two parallel and partly overlapping coordination mechanisms. i) the Lebanon Crisis Response Plan (LCRP) addressing the Syrian refugee crisis and led by UNHCR/UNDP and the Ministry of Social Affairs (MOSA), and ii) the response to COVID-19, led by WHO and MOPH/Higher Defense Council, based on "pillars", with UNICEF playing key roles in both mechanism.

## External Media

At least eight TV stations and more than thirty local, regional and international media outlets (print, online) covered the field visit of UNICEF Regional Director Ted Chaiban in Beirut. Through his press interactions, he showcased UNICEF's response to the

immense needs and provided the latest update on UNICEF's efforts and commitment to support people in Lebanon in rebuilding their city. The Washington Post, AFP, Reuters and [Al Jazeera](#) are among the 14 one-on-one interviews he gave.

Since 5 August, around 400 media articles/reports worldwide included UNICEF's statements, interviews with staff or information about its response to the emergency. UNICEF Japan organized an online press conference with UNICEF Lebanon Representative on 18 August and four UN press briefings to international media in Geneva have included information about the children's situation and UNICEF response. A press [briefing at Le Palais](#) on 21 August was focused on psychosocial support needs. Content on social media platforms has been focused on the Regional Director's visit, and WASH and child protection response, reaching around 780,000 people through social media including half a million through Facebook.

## Human Interest Story

*Ten-year-old Mira was at home in the early evening of 4 August when the Beirut port blast hit her house. "I was showering at the time and, when the impact hit, the first aid box exploded on my head. Then the door blew off its hinges. I remember that I just started screaming. My mother ran to me, pressed hard on my wound and gave me a drink of water so I wouldn't faint". Calling an ambulance was out of the question – even if they could have got a line, the emergency services were overwhelmed, and every serviceable vehicle was already deployed. Her father took her and others to a nearby hospital in his van – some died of their injuries on the way. "People in the truck were screaming for help, and it was very upsetting to see some die before even being treated. There were whole families with me where mother, father, and children were all bleeding on the floor of the van. My father was hurt too. I hope he recovers enough to be able to work, and then I can go back to school – I want the opportunity to study hard enough to become a doctor one day."*



Mira and her father Mazen.  
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## Funding Overview and Partnerships

UNICEF requires US\$46.8 million to respond to the immediate needs of children and their families in the aftermath of the explosions in Beirut. This includes support to directly affected children and families as well as health and other frontline workers, immediate rehabilitation of health centres, schools and the water network, while limiting the spread of COVID-19 during the emergency response to the explosion.

So far, UNICEF has received US\$2.4 million in funding from the Government of Republic of Korea, the French, German, Spanish and US National Committees, and allocation from UNICEF's global thematic humanitarian fund while commitments have been made by other public and private sector partners, including Governments of Canada and Australia. UNICEF is extremely grateful for these timely and flexible contributions and commitments and is hopeful for further support from its key public and private resource partners.

In addition to cash contributions, the Government of Belgium offered free air freight of emergency items from the UNICEF Supply Division warehouse in Copenhagen to Lebanon, carrying 6 surgical kits, 20 midwifery kits and nutrition supplies including 9,000 sachets of therapeutic spread, 12,000 sachets of supplementary spread, 960 cans of therapeutic milk and 4,440 emergency food rations. Four of the surge staff supporting UNICEF's response were deployed through Stand-by-Partners RedR Australia, Irish Aid and DSS Waters (Netherlands). With the urgency to meet the immediate response needs for the most affected children and youth, flexible and timely funding is a priority so that UNICEF together with its NGO partners can deliver urgently needed services on the ground.

## Next SitRep: 3 September 2020

UNICEF Lebanon Country Office Official Website: <https://www.unicef.org/lebanon/>

UNICEF Lebanon Country Office Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/UNICEFLebanon/>

UNICEF Humanitarian Action for Children (HAC) Lebanon Appeal, 2020: <https://www.unicef.org/appeals/lebanon.html>

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## Annex A

### Funding Status

Sector	Requirements	Funds available	Funding gap	
			\$	%
Health and Nutrition	3,986,161	745,8495	3,240,312	81%
Water, sanitation and Hygiene	15,569,747	512,500	15,057,247	97%
Child Protection	3,214,000	512,004	2,701,996	84%
Education	6,619,800	-	6,619,800	100%
Social Policy	11,550,000	-	11,550,000	100%
Youth and Adolescents	4,982,750	512,000	4,470,750	90%
Communication for Development	860,000	117,647	742,353	86%
<b>Total</b>	<b>46,782,458</b>	<b>2,400,000</b>	<b>44,382,458</b>	<b>95%</b>