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Lebanon

Humanitarian Situation Report No. 6



Reporting Date: 4 September 2020

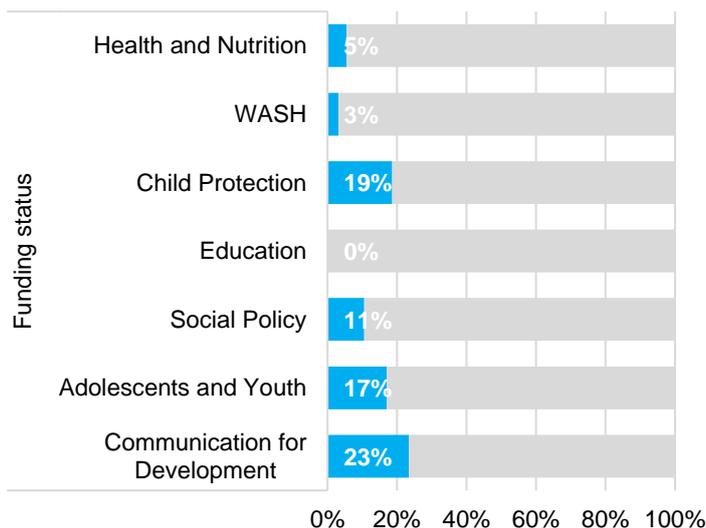
Highlights August 4 – September 3

- UNICEF reconnected 155 buildings to the public water systems, installed 873 water tanks in damaged households, and distributed 4,485 hygiene kits and 462 baby kits to affected families.
- UNICEF reached 1,768 children and 950 caregivers with psychosocial first aid, and 1340 children and caregivers with psychosocial support services including recreational activities, community based psychosocial support, and individual counselling.
- UNICEF engaged over 1,900 youth in a community-based response, almost half of them in cash-for-work programmes including 489 youths for minor rehabilitation of households, 60 youth for installation of water tanks, 318 youth for cooking of hot meals, and 42 youth for production and distribution on fabric masks amid the rising COVID-19 cases.
- UNICEF saved 1,748,660 doses of vaccines by relocating them from damaged warehouses at the port to alternative cold rooms, and provided two new solar fridges for safe storage. UNICEF provided 2,815 counselling sessions to caregivers on prenatal, breastfeeding and infant and young child feeding practices.
- UNICEF has distributed critical humanitarian supplies worth US\$ 464,000, including baby kits, hygiene kits, recreational kits, water tanks, tarpaulins, as well as PPE items.

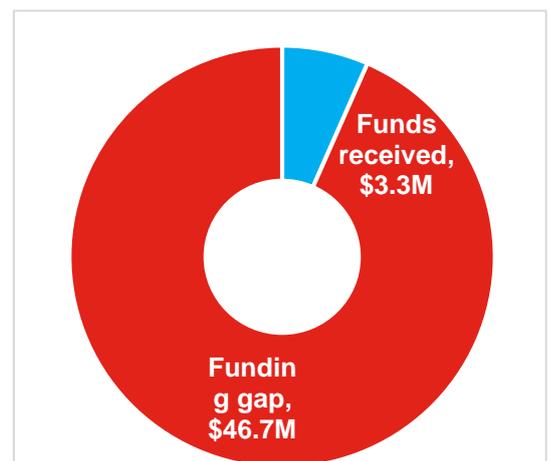
Situation in Numbers

- 300,000** people in need
- 100,000** children in need
- 180** confirmed dead, **6,500** injured
- Water systems of **1,339** buildings damaged
- 23** Primary Health Care Centers damaged
(Providing on average 33,000 consultations a month)

UNICEF's Funding requirements 50.04M (US\$)



Funding Status (US\$)



Situation Overview & Humanitarian Needs

One month on from the explosions which sent shockwaves through the city of Beirut, the number of killed has risen to over 180 and more than 6,500 have been injured. The consequences of the explosion will likely be felt for years to come, as the country in its entirety continues to grapple with a spiraling economy, surging COVID-19 epidemic and fragile political environment.

UNICEF has carried out interviews with those attending the services of the three UNICEF hubs providing information, referrals and services, the findings showed that 49 per cent of those interviewed by UNICEF with at least one child are now living in a temporary house. 50 per cent of households said they had a child or children displaying negative behaviours and or symptoms or reactions after the explosion, meanwhile for adults, this stands at 30 per cent. Out of the households interviewed, 35 per cent reported having children injured by the explosion. Overall, UNICEF has estimated that some 630,000 children within a 20km radius of the blast are expected to require some form of psycho-social support (PSS) and specialized mental health support. The main service requested at UNICEF hubs was for Basic Assistance (food and cash assistance), with medical and health coming in second, predominantly requests for first aid support and baby kits. UNFPA has estimated 24,000 adolescent girls of an approximate 81,000 women of reproductive age, were immediately affected by the explosions and will in addition to PSS, require sexual reproductive health and access to gender-based violence support services.

The dire economic situation and high inflation rate is heavily impacting the affected population due to loss of assets, property and livelihoods. The July Consumer Price Index reveals that furnishing, household equipment and maintenance prices increased by 500 per cent since last year¹, clothing and footwear has increased by 400 per cent and food and non-alcoholic beverage prices have more than tripled. Additionally, the Central Bank governor has warned that the bank may not be able to continue using its foreign currency reserves to finance trade and subsidize wheat, fuel and medicines, leaving an already impoverished and vulnerable population struggling to pay for the most basic of essential commodities. The Lebanese Red Cross reported in their multi-sectoral needs assessment that of those interviewed, 40 per cent reported not having earned an income in the two weeks prior to the assessment.

COVID-19 cases in the past month have jumped from an average of 150 to 200 cases per day, to over 500 cases and in some instances hitting over 600 cases per day, this is an increase of well over 200 per cent. As lockdown measures ease, the continued increase in COVID-19 cases are expected to continue stressing the already fragile health system. Since 4 August, UNICEF was also able to deliver more than US\$3.5 million worth of critical PPE and IPC kits - especially critical as 10 containers of PPE were destroyed in the explosions.

The UN Lebanon Flash Appeal was updated and released with an appeal figure of \$344.5M required to respond to the needs of 300,000 people directly impacted by the blast over a period of three months.

¹ Consumer Price Index, Central Administration of Statistics (CAS), July 2020

Summary Analysis of Programme Response

Across all its interventions, UNICEF aims to foster gender equity and inclusion of the most vulnerable groups, and is represented with a gender focal point in the WASH, education and social protection sectors who provide guidance how to best integrate gender equality issues, and issues of sexual minorities, into their sector. 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.

Health and Nutrition

Within the first week of the response, UNICEF and partners saved 1,748,660 doses of vaccines by relocating them from the damaged warehouses at the port to cold rooms in PHCCs, dispensaries, UNHCR vaccination sites, and other immunization points. UNICEF provided two new solar fridges and maintenance for two cold rooms as well as the electricity generator at Rafic Hariri University Hospital. UNICEF committed to rehabilitate three primary health care centers and completed the damage assessment.

During the reporting period, UNICEF provided counselling to 307 Lebanese and 307 non-Lebanese on prenatal, breastfeeding and infant and young child feeding practices through lactation specialists, phone calls and at the UNICEF tents, summing up to a total of 2,815 counselling sessions provided since the immediate aftermath of the explosion. Emphasizing the importance of COVID-19 preventive measures, UNICEF distributed fabric masks during face-to-face counselling. In addition, UNICEF provided technical support for the mental health psychosocial response action plan, shared widely with humanitarian actors by the Mental Health National Program, and UNICEF developed 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.

WASH

With UNICEF coordinating the assessment in close collaboration with the Beirut and Mount Lebanon Water Establishment, the public part of the water system in affected areas (the public water source to the buildings' connections) was reactivated the day after the explosion. The WASH sector led by UNICEF is close to completing the assessments of the buildings' connections to the roof tanks, having revised 5,355 buildings so far, of which 940 were not accessible, 136 with no access to water at all, 1,339 with damaged water systems and 647 buildings with damaged wastewater system. Other further-away zones are being currently surveyed but show little to no damage on WASH issues. Current numbers indicate that water systems in 1,339 buildings have been damaged and 3,584 roof tanks have been affected and need intervention or replacing.

To date, UNICEF with partners have provided plumbing services to repair damaged connections to 155 buildings and re-connected them with the public network, including 56 during the reporting period. Out of an identified 3,584 damaged water tanks, UNICEF installed a total of 873 water tanks, 225 additional during the reporting period, and repaired internal networks of 310 buildings, reestablishing their access to water. In order to ensure accountability to affected population, UNICEF set up three hotline numbers specifically for WASH for requests as well as complaints in case problems are encountered after rehabilitation. During the reporting period, UNICEF continued to provide water trucking to 20 households in three buildings with 10,000 liters of water to meet needs.

Based on the Lebanese Red Cross multi-sectoral needs assessment hygiene kits and baby kits distributions are ongoing supported by UNICEF. To date, UNICEF distributed 4,485 hygiene kits and 462 baby kits to affected families, covering all reported needs.

Education

While awaiting the official release of the Ministry of Education's school-damage assessment report, preliminary data indicates that 92 public schools, 69 private schools, 2 UNRWA schools, and 20 TVET buildings have sustained minor to significant damage. This has prevented access to learning for more than 85,000 children and youth. UNICEF called on the international community to urgently scale up support for education for children in Beirut, to coincide with the launch of a short report "Everything around me is in ruins", highlighting the impact of the explosions on children and families in Beirut and UNICEF's response to date.

Child Protection

In the immediate aftermath of the explosion, UNICEF mobilized its partners in conducting rapid needs assessments with and provide psychological first aid to boys, girls, women and caregivers affected by the explosion. Beirut and Mount Lebanon hospitals were visited to identify potential children who were separated from their caregivers due to the blast and ensure family tracing and reunification. Furthermore, UNICEF initiated door-to-door outreach activities and set up three tents as information centers and safe parks for children in affected areas that currently serve as service hubs providing access to children and families to multi-sectoral services including health, psychosocial support and youth activities. Since the beginning of the response, UNICEF reached 1768 children and 950 caregivers with psychological first aid and around 1340 children and caregivers (around 20 per cent caregivers) with community based mental health psychosocial support services (MHPSS) including recreational activities, community based psychosocial support, individual counselling, and child protection case management. Furthermore, 350 women and girls were provided with information, key message on mitigating gender-based violence risks, as well as psychosocial support activities. In addition, UNICEF has distributed 5,000 sanitary pads, 1,000 food parcels and 2,500 mini hygiene kits.

UNICEF designed an office-wide multi-sectoral MHPSS response strategy in line with international guidance and national frameworks. In partnership with the National Mental Health Programme, UNICEF provided technical guidance and support in the adaptation and roll-out of a training package on Psychological First Aid (PFA), targeting frontline workers from different sectors including Health, Shelter, Livelihood, Child Protection.

Adolescents and Youth and Community Engagement

Since 4 August, UNICEF with partners engaged over 1,900 youth through a community-based response focusing on cleaning, minor rehabilitation of households, and preparation and distribution of meals for vulnerable families. UNICEF mobilized 986 youth volunteers for cleaning 573 streets, houses and sites. UNICEF equipped 489 youths, previously trained in rehabilitation and construction as part of UNICEF's TVET courses, with material and equipment to support minor rehabilitation for damaged households. So far, 493 households have been rehabilitated, with 90 of the sites rehabilitated by 17 youth during the reporting period. In addition, UNICEF employed 60 youth as part of a cash for work programme for the installation of water tanks through the response highlighted above under WASH.

Since the beginning of the response, a total of 9,388 families affected by the blast benefitted from hot meals cooked by 318 youth as part of the UNICEF cash for work programme, with 42 youth, who graduated from UNICEF's vocational course on cooking, preparing and distributing hot meals to 1,388 families during the reporting period.

To address mental and physical wellbeing of adolescents and youth with a focus on decreasing tension and increasing resilience, UNICEF collaborated with HOOPS sports club to develop life skills materials and tools for a sport for development programme. UNICEF trained 28 coaches providing sports for development sessions for 186 youth and adolescents at the three child friendly spaces set up in the most affected areas. UNICEF also trained the 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.

Considering a significant increase in COVID-19 cases especially in the blast area, UNICEF mainstreamed COVID-19 awareness measures and enforced safety measures across all its activities. Since August 4th, UNICEF reached 1,281 children with awareness raising messages on COVID-19 through recreational activities in the affected neighborhoods, and around 3,000 households approaching UNICEF tents for information and services or through partners' outreach in the explosion affected areas. In addition, UNICEF provided material for 62 youth and adolescents, trained in sewing as part of UNICEF TVET programme, to produce 16,714 masks and distribute them to affected families, and frontline workers. UNICEF with partners distributed additional 416,670 masks produced by youth before the blast during food parcel and other aid distributions, and to individuals reached through activities who are not wearing masks in Gemmayze, Tareek Jdede, Karantina, and Karem Al Aresh.

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 80,000 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 the Task Force on Emergency Cash Assistance in Beirut Blast Response led by the LOUISE Coordinator to ensure a harmonized 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 a 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. Meanwhile, UNICEF, alongside ILO, will continue consultations with non-state actors and CSOs 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 throughout the process.

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, as well as the Education Working Group and the Nutrition task force under the Food Security working group while being an active member in Health, Sexual and Gender Based Violence (SGBV), 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, and Social Protection (with ILO) Working Groups, and supporting the Education/Culture Working Group led by UNESCO.

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

Since 5 August, more than 1,200 local, regional and international media articles and reports covered UNICEF’s response to the emergency, and statements and interviews with staff reached around 3 billion people. At least eight TV stations and more than 30 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.

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. Four virtual field missions were organized for a briefing to high net worth individuals that included Lebanese diaspora, and four media missions were organized within the first week after the blast.

Content on social media platforms has been also focusing on UNICEF response and Ted’s visit, reaching around 5 million people through social media including half a million through Facebook. A video advocating for solidarity with Lebanon by young people in Lebanon was broadcast globally through Facebook reaching 32 million views on the occasion of International Youth Day.

Human Interest Story



“There is barely a piece of glass not broken, and doors are smashed. The building’s services are badly damaged too – the electricity supply is now in an exposed and dangerous condition, and all of our water supplies were cut”, school director Rodolph Abboud of the 126-year-old Collège Sacré-Coeur on Gemmayze remarks. All this as the school is the middle of arranging to at least partially reopen – with Covid-19 restrictions in place - to its 1,300 kindergarten to grade 12 pupils in September.

Click [here](#) to know more on how UNICEF is engaging youth in installing new water tanks and repairing damaged water pipes like the one from the Collège Sacré-Coeur.

Funding Overview and Partnerships

UNICEF’s current Humanitarian Appeal for Children (HAC) to respond to the immediate needs of children and their families in the aftermath of the explosions in Beirut stands at US\$50 million.

So far, UNICEF has received US\$3.3 million in funding from the Government of Republic of Korea, the French, Finish, German, Swedish, 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, Estonia, 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 and the shipping line CMA-CGM offered free air and sea freight respectively of emergency items from the UNICEF Supply Division warehouse in Copenhagen to Lebanon. UNICEF has also received

a donation of 500,000 bars of soap from UNILEVER UK to support the COVID-19 response. Eleven of the surge staff supporting UNICEF's response were deployed through Stand-by-Partners RedR Australia, Irish Aid, DSS Waters (Netherlands), and Veolia.

With the urgency to meet the immediate response needs for the most affected children and youth until end of November, flexible and timely funding is essential so that UNICEF together with its NGO partners can deliver urgently needed services on the ground.

Next Situation Report: 16 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	9,235,000	503,900	3,482,261	87%
Water, sanitation and Hygiene	16,259,747	512,500	15,057,247	97%
Child Protection	2,746,690	512,003	2,701,997	84%
Education	7,600,000	-	6,619,800	100%
Social Policy	10,700,000	1,132,552	10,417,448	90%
Youth and Adolescents	3,000,000	512,000	4,470,750	90%
Communication for development	503,110	117,647	742,353	86%
Total	50,044,547	3,290,602	43,491,856	93%