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Lebanon Humanitarian Situation Report No. 7

unicef 
for every child

Reporting Period: 4 August to 17 September 2020

Highlights

- UNICEF assisted 15,404 people with temporary access to adequate quantity of safe water for drinking and domestic use and reached over 17,205 affected people with public health awareness messages.
- UNICEF reached 1,537 parents and primary caregivers with community-based mental health and psycho-social support, and provided 1,203 girls and women with psycho-social first aid, psycho-social support and information on gender-based violence risks.
- UNICEF provided 905 youth with employment or income generation opportunities as part of a community-based response, including minor rehabilitation of households, installation of water tanks, cooking of hot meals, and production and distribution on fabric masks amid the rising COVID-19 cases.
- UNICEF provided 4,088 counselling sessions to primary caregivers of children under two years raising awareness on healthy infant and young child feeding practices.
- Emergency designed and launched a large-scale Emergency Cash Grant for Children and Vulnerable Groups reaching up to 80,000 affected people.
- UNICEF distributed critical humanitarian supplies and COVID-19 protection and hygiene supplies worth over half a million US dollars.

Situation in Numbers



300,000
people in need



100,000
children in need



163 primary schools
damaged, including 92
public schools



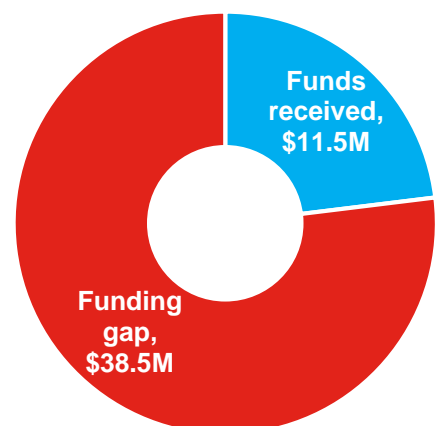
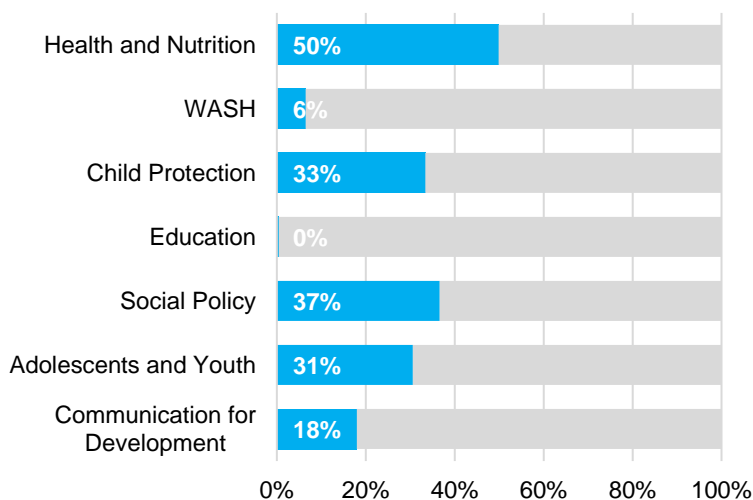
23 Primary Health Care
Centers damaged



1,473 buildings need
WASH interventions
(including rehabilitation/installation
of tanks, pumps and pipes)

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

Funding Status (US\$)



Situation Overview & Humanitarian Needs

The consequences of the explosion on 4 August at the Beirut port 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. More than 6,500 people have been injured, including 1,000 children, 100,000 children saw their homes either completely or partially destroyed, and up to 600,000 children are estimated to have experienced some form of psychological distress and need psycho-social support. Due to another massive fire at the duty-free area of the Beirut port on 10 September, several previously affected people reportedly left the area fearing a new explosion and humanitarian actors reported high levels of stress among both children and adults.

Many families whose home were destroyed continue to live in a temporary place, often with relatives. Displacement and overcrowding increases risks for COVID-19 transmission, and/or sexual and gender-based violence (GBV) with children and women being at particular risk. Relocation in many instances is for an indefinite period, some are expected to return only one year after the explosion.

The dire economic situation and high inflation rate is heavily impacting the affected population due to loss of assets, property and livelihoods. Needs assessments continue, aiming to reflect changes in needs of affected population, highlighting the continuous need for food supplies, cash assistance, hygiene kits, rehabilitation support and psychosocial support. The most recent UNICEF tent rapid needs assessment showed that every third households reported having a child and 28 percent an adult family member with negative behaviors or reactions after the explosion, while in previous assessments, these rates were at around 50 percent¹. Food intake has dropped according to the Food Security sector, and money to buy food and fuel and access to cooking facilities remain key concerns of affected families. Early September, WFP shipments arrived in Lebanon with 12,500 metric tons of wheat flour, to cover the loss of 15,000 metric tons of grain stocks due to the explosion and improve food availability and food safety.

UNICEF partners raised issues of discrimination and stigma during service provision. Refugees seeking humanitarian services reported discrimination from host communities, while vulnerable Lebanese communities displayed a shy behavior in approaching services due to potential stigmatization within the community. Partners are continuing a door-to-door approach, which not only helps avoiding stigma and discrimination but also reaching children living with disabilities who are not able to visit UNICEF tents in the area.

COVID-19 cases continue rising after a jump within the first week after the explosion and reached a total of over 26,700 cases compared to 5,000 before the explosion. As of 16 September, 838 health workers were tested positive, and around 70 percent of Intensive Care Unit (ICU) beds are occupied; 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.

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

UNICEF committed to rehabilitate three Primary Health Care Centers (PHCCs), completed the damage assessment of two PHCCs and initiated the bidding process for rehabilitation, while the assessment of the third one is ongoing.

During the reporting period, UNICEF provided counselling to 464 Lebanese and 362 non-Lebanese on prenatal, breastfeeding and infant and young child feeding (IYCF) practices through lactation specialists, phone calls and at the UNICEF tents, summing up to a total of 4,088 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. UNICEF with partners set up an

¹ UNICEF rapid needs assessment, 9 September 2020. Results are based on surveys conducted with 3,400 people at the UNICEF tents; and are not representative.

IYCF Hotline, the first under the national IYCF committee, for people to clarify and respond to beneficiaries' reservations and inquiries regarding IYCF practices, and to follow up with pregnant and nursing women in case they have problems with breastfeeding or face other challenges. If needed, they are then referred to other health care services.

UNICEF disseminated the Standard Operation Procedures (SOP) for IYCF practices, adapted to the current context and developed in collaboration with the partners from the Food Security working group and the Mental Health taskforce, to ensure a coherent response among partners and key stakeholders. UNICEF organized a virtual online training for organizations and individuals distributing breastmilk substitutes and trained 70 participants on the Code of Breastmilk Substitutes and the SOP on IYCF, promoting breastfeeding whenever possible.

During the first days after the explosion, many patients were transferred to hospitals outside the immediate surrounding of the Blast. Receiving medical masks from the city of Boulogne-Billancourt, MOPH and UNICEF decided to replenish the stock of the public hospital in Bouar with 4,430 medical masks, as the hospital has depleted their stock while treating injured. UNICEF provided 500 medical masks, 2,000 pairs of gloves, and 100 disposable gowns for an affected medical facility in the Tahhadi neighbourhood. In addition, UNICEF has distributed critical nutrition supplies to partners and PHCCs, including 27,000 multiple micronutrient sachet, 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, and 1,080 emergency food rations.

WASH

WASH sector assessment, led by UNICEF, for the initially agreed affected areas has been completed. Second round review visits started, aiming at checking functionality of rehabilitated WASH facilities and infrastructure and revisiting buildings previously inaccessible. Assessment of areas outside the immediate surrounding of the port are ongoing. To date, a total of 6,493 buildings have been assessed, of which 1,473 buildings currently need some sort of intervention. So far, 2,627 tanks and 102 pumps were installed, and water supply could be re-established in 3,092 households and reaching almost 15,500 people. In addition, UNICEF distributed a total of 5,187 hygiene kits and 543 baby kits to affected families. Over 500 posters have been distributed and posted in worst affected areas, referring to the WASH hotline for requests such as water trucking, minor plumbing repairs and other WASH hardware support. So far, 47 requests were addressed.

Out of the four hospitals in the vicinity of the explosion, three have requested for support. UNICEF with partners installed 26 water tanks in Karantina and Wardiya hospitals, and another 50 water tanks will be installed in Geitaoui Hospital.

UNICEF with partners inspected 33 manholes, 32 need repairs while only one shows signs of damage from the blast, and general lack of network maintenance seems the reason for the deterioration of the other 31. UNICEF in close collaboration with WASH sector partners set up a new online live dashboard showing targets and progress and complementing the WASH sector live geo-split platform.

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 damages. UNICEF, with the support from EU and KFW, will rehabilitate 4 public primary schools (including replacement of damaged furniture and equipment) that also cater to a 2nd shift for Non-Lebanese students. Most of the damaged school will not be able to open as of the 28th of September, and with the blended approach of face-to-face learning with distance/online learning announced for the 2020/2021 school year, UNICEF has supported MEHE to develop a draft Remote Learning IT Plan to ensure learning for more than children and youth affected by the school damages continue their learning. UNICEF will procure the Microsoft License and support the national teaching platform for the Ministry to initiate online teaching by teachers. In additional connectivity solutions are being sought with for both teachers and schools as well as devices for students at home.

Child Protection

UNICEF partners are responding to the needs on the ground and are conducting the necessary referrals to relevant service providers to ensure that all children and families receive the support that they need. So far, 2,629 children and 2,446 caregivers were provided with information on available services and were referred to basic services and psychological first aid if needed. Over 1,500 children and caregivers have been provided with community-based mental health psychosocial support services

(MHPSS) including recreational activities, focused non-specialized psychosocial support, mental health psychosocial support, child protection case management through activities organized in easy-to-access tents set up by UNICEF and partners in the affected areas. While the need for basic psychological first aid and community-based support continues to be high, some individuals require more in-depth support which is provided by UNICEF's trained partners through focused psychosocial support sessions. 164 cross-sectoral referrals were done to ensure a holistic approach for children to ensure that they receive needed non-child protection services. As for services related to gender-based violence, 1,203 women and girls attended information sessions, psychological first aid, and psychosocial support provided by UNICEF.

In partnership with the National Mental Health programme, UNICEF organized psychological first aid (PFA) trainings to ensure that partners are using the most up-to-date tools and methodologies. The first set of trainings on PFA for child protection actors was initiated on 8 September reaching 63 participants.

Through weekly coordination meetings, UNICEF ensures challenges are addressed and that those most in need receive assistance. UNICEF is also promoting a broadly integrated response linkages with other sectors, including youth-partners providing sports and other recreational activities to children. UNICEF partners are also initiating or strengthening partnerships with existing local neighbourhood committees in the affected areas to develop their capacities in terms of community-based interventions and approaches aiming at better quality access to information and services as well as promoting collaboration with all local initiative efforts for sustainability purposes.

In addition to services provided, UNICEF distributed 65,150 sanitary pads to vulnerable girls and women and 870 psychological support kits to affected children, as well as 30 recreational kits and 15 early childhood development kits for partners to implement activities for children.

Adolescents and Youth

Since 4 August, UNICEF with partners engaged over 2,000 youth through a community-based response focusing on cleaning, minor rehabilitation of households, and preparation and distribution of meals for vulnerable families. UNICEF mobilized 1,026 youth volunteers for cleaning 583 streets, houses and sites. UNICEF equipped 587 youths, previously trained in rehabilitation and construction as part of UNICEF's TVET courses, with material and equipment to support minor rehabilitation for 493 damaged households. 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 12,686 families affected by the blast benefitted from hot meals cooked by 350 youth as part of the UNICEF cash for work programme, with 16 youth, who graduated from UNICEF's vocational course on cooking, preparing and distributing hot meals to 1,504 families in Bourj Hammoud during the reporting period.

UNICEF collaborated with HOOPS sports club to develop life skills materials and tools for a sport for development programme, aiming at improving mental and physical wellbeing of adolescents and youth. UNICEF trained 39 coaches providing sports for development sessions for 253 youth and adolescents at the three child friendly spaces set up in the most affected area, and trained coaches and all youth frontliners on identification of child protection cases and referral to case management services.

UNICEF provided material for 82 youth and adolescents, trained in sewing as part of UNICEF TVET programme, to produce 23,154 masks and distribute them to affected families, and frontline workers.

Child-Sensitive Social Policy

UNICEF Lebanon launched its new Emergency Cash Assistance programme to respond to the Beirut blast. This initiative is designed to serve up to categorically target 80,000 vulnerable people, including primarily households with children, but also persons with disabilities, elderly and female-headed households living in the poorest and most affected geographical neighbourhoods, starting with Karantina and Bourj Hammoud. The Emergency Cash Grant will be provided directly to recipients as a one-time cash transfer for each child or eligible household member, up to a maximum of three members per household. Eligible households can apply directly online through a mobile-friendly web-based application form or registration centers as part of a thorough registration and validation process. Communities and individuals are being reached through partners on the ground, SMS, the UNICEF call centre, and UNICEF Lebanon's official social media channels. Coordination is ongoing with WFP, UNHCR and other cash actors

including NGOs through the HC lead Task Force on Emergency Cash Assistance in Beirut Blast Response coordinated by the LOUISE Coordinator to ensure a harmonized approach.

UNICEF is continuing technical assistance to the Government of Lebanon to continue the delivery of the Government's emergency COVID-19 cash assistance that provides cash directly to more than 170,000 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, once formed and will service as a basis for the social protection sector under the 3 Reform, Reconstruction and Recovery Framework (3RF) with the EU and WB.

Communications for Development (C4D), Community Engagement & Accountability

As Chair of the National Task Force on Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE) under the COVID-19 response, UNICEF has developed a RCCE & Accountability Work Plan and a Key Message Package to respond to the Beirut blast emergency with national and local partners. UNICEF provided technical support to partners to directly engage a total of 2,812 children in the affected neighborhoods, raising awareness on key essential healthy and protective behaviors, including COVID-19 preventive measures, through recreational activities. In the reporting period, 400 additional households were reached by trained volunteers and activists with COVID-19 risk messages, reaching a total of 3,400 households in the affected areas since the blast.

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 and III) the EU/WB/UN 3 RF sectors and pillars.

External Media

Since 5 August, more than 1,400 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. On September 4th, UNICEF held a press conference to communicate on the Impact on children and UNICEF's response after one month of the Beirut explosions. More than 14 TV stations and 40 local, regional and international media covered the news.

Content on social media platforms has been also focusing on UNICEF response, the one-month conference as well as the Regional Directors visit in August, 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

“After the explosion hit our home, we ran outside. My father had injuries to his back and a leg – he was bleeding heavily. My mother had to carry my younger brother out. The streets were full of people running – some left their home in the little that they were wearing. Some women fled without their hijabs. Smoke covered the area; we could barely see any distance in front of us. There was no colour in the sky nor across Karantina from that moment on”, 12-year-old Hussein, a resident of Karantina – a Beirut suburb close to the port, explains.

“I used to make drawings and colour them in, but I don’t use colours anymore because the explosion made all the colours in my life disappear. Everything changed on 4 August”.

Read the full story: www.unicef.org/lebanon/stories/after-explosion-my-world-has-no-color



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\$11.5 million in funding from the Governments of Republic of Korea, Canada, Estonia, Australia, Japan and Liechtenstein and from the UNICEF National Committees of France, Finland, Spain, Germany, Sweden, Thailand, Philippines, Malaysia, Ecuador, China, Australia, Canada, Norway, Denmark, Netherlands, UK and US, and allocation from UNICEF’s global thematic humanitarian fund while commitments have been made by other public and private sector partners, including Governments of Italy and Austria. 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, 300,000 bars of soap from Colgate Palmolive and over 7,000 masks from the French City of Boulogne-Billancourt 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: 4 October 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	4,608,745	4,626,255	50%
Water, sanitation and Hygiene	16,259,747	1,049,743	15,210,004	94%
Child Protection	2,746,690	917,030	1,829,660	67%
Education	7,600,000	31,595	7,568,872	100%
Social Policy	10,700,000	3,922,128	6,77,872	63%
Youth and Adolescents	3,000,000	917,930	2,082,070	69%
Communication for development	503,110	90,408*	412,702	82%
Total	50,044,547	11,505,984	38,506,968	77%

* Part of the initially allocated funding was reallocated to Social Policy.

Summary of Programme Results

Revised HPM indicators (as per HAC revision on 4 September)

Sector	2020 target	Total UNICEF results	Change since last report ▲ ▼
Nutrition			
# of children under 5 received essential nutrition supplements including Vitamin A	55,000	317	
# of primary caregivers of children 0-23 months who received counselling and awareness on infant and young child feeding	6,000	4,088	
Health			
# of impacted Primary Health Care Centers (PHCCs) and dispensaries rehabilitated and provided with supplies and minimum service package	15	0	
# affected children vaccinated (per month)	10,000	0	
WASH			
# affected people assisted with temporary access to adequate quantity of safe water for drinking and domestic use	50,000	15,404	
# of affected people with access to improved safe sanitation in impacted areas	50,000	0	
# of affected people who were reached with public health awareness	50,000	17,205	
# people having sustained equitable access to public water facilities and services	264,000	0	
Child Protection			
# of children, parents and primary caregivers provided with community based mental health and psycho-social support	25,000	1,537	
# of girls and women provided with psycho-social first aid, psycho-social support and information on gender-based violence risks	1,000	1,203	
# of unaccompanied and separated children provided with appropriate alternative care arrangements	50	3	
Education			
# of school children provided with education supplies	50,000	0	
# of children benefiting of rehabilitated schools and replacement of furniture and equipment	50,000	0	
# of school children provided with internet support and electronic devices	14,000	0	
Social Policy			
# of children and most vulnerable individuals receiving emergency cash transfer	80,000	0	
Adolescent and Youth			
# of youth who access employment or income generation opportunities	4,000	905	
Communication for Development			
# of affected people reached and engaged on COVID-19 through messaging on prevention and access to services	300,000	3,000	