

UNHCR Flash Update on Lebanon: Beirut Port Explosions

6 October 2020

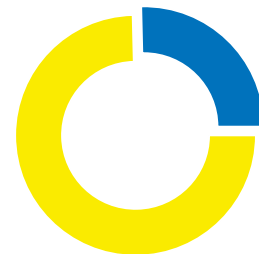
Situation Overview

- Two months after the Beirut port explosions, the second phase of UNHCR's response is well under way. Technical assessments for minor repairs and rehabilitation of shelters are ongoing, cash assistance for shelter is ready to be disbursed, and tailored support has been provided to the women, men, girls and boys in most urgent need of protection services. The continuous goal is to ensure that the maximum number of people affected are ready to face the approaching winter, both physically and mentally.

UNHCR is focusing its response to the port explosion in the sectors shelter and protection, and we plan to **reach over 100,000 affected persons** through all our interventions.

Overall needs:
USD 35M

Unfunded
66%
USD 23.1M



Funded
34%
USD 11.9M

UNHCR has re-allocated flexible funding in order to assist affected populations in a timely manner. We however still require over USD 23 million.

Coordination

- UNHCR has participated to the emergency humanitarian response to the Beirut port explosion since day one by providing resources, experience and expertise, particularly in the areas of protection and shelter. We have taken on the co-leadership of the Shelter and Protection sectors and worked with the partners to ensure adherence to relevant standards and principles. UNHCR coordination staff have been deployed to Lebanon to support in this regard.
- In the Protection sector, we have worked with the partners to streamline and disseminate technical standards and modalities for the distribution of protection and emergency cash. We have also provided technical support to a **3W mapping of the protection sector's services**, which helps ensure that coverage of the affected areas is as coordinated and comprehensive as possible. The protection services mapped are as follows: emergency protection cash (ECA), child protection, services to respond to gender-based violence (GBV), services for people with specific needs, psychosocial support (PSS), legal assistance, general protection and helplines/helpdesks. The 3W mapping is furthermore being turned into an interactive online tool to facilitate its use.
- In the Shelter sector, we have closely collaborated with the Lebanese Red Cross (LRC) to provide detailed maps of affected areas so that a [zoning tool](#) could be developed, which partners are using to ensure complementarity and prevent overlap and duplication. In collaboration with sector co-leads, UNHCR has also ensured linkage with the Government of Lebanon's Forward Emergency Room (FER). UNHCR continues to put its technical information management capacity to support coordination efforts beyond the zoning tool and produced the first [Shelter Sector Dashboard](#).
- At the same time, UNHCR has been actively engaged in the development of the World Bank, EU and UN Reform, Recovery and Reconstruction Framework – the 3RF – notably in the housing, and social cohesion, inclusion and gender sectors to help ensure a natural transitioning of the activities undertaken within the first 3 months of the response, to the medium-term framework.

Protection

- UNHCR's protection response is aimed at Lebanese and non-Lebanese who have experienced rights violations or been put at risk because of the blast. It takes place through our specialized partners and offers PSS, individualized support, emergency cash assistance (ECA), services for persons with specific needs, individual rehabilitation services, as well as legal aid.
- **Over 1,600 persons have been referred** for one or more of these specialized services through our hotlines and other channels, in addition to our partners' outreach. Given this large number, UNHCR provides operational support to our partners to speed up individual assessments, notably for the distribution of urgently needed cash (ECA).
- How do people access rehabilitation services? Whether separately or within a holistic individualized support process, an individual may be referred to a specialized partner for rehabilitation services. These may relate to a disability, physiotherapy or, for example speech therapy for children. Multi-disciplinary teams make a professional assessment and recommendation of the needed services during a meeting in equipped centres, or in the individual's home if necessary. These teams can then provide these services in the best way for the beneficiary. When an expertise is not available with our partner, they can seek external support and services through other specialized professionals or institutions, notably hospitals. The provision of assistive devices, such as wheelchairs, is also included in these services.

As of 4 October, UNHCR has supported:

- **Over 7,600** exchanges with affected individuals through home visits and outreach activities;
- **Over 690** persons with individual support and tailored assistance through our partners;
- **Over 340** households with ECA, reaching **over 1,150** individuals, helping them to address protection concerns;
- **Over 1,500** persons with specialized mental health and psychosocial support (in addition to the wider scale psychological first aid provided initially at community level).

Shelter

- The design of UNHCR's programme to enable minor repairs through shelter cash assistance is finalized and the first disbursements will take place this week. The programme targets repairable residential units damaged by the Beirut blast. It benefits vulnerable families whose residential units were lightly or moderately damaged by the explosion through a one-time cash grant of USD 600. The shelter cash is intended to be used to seal and protect damaged homes through minor or moderate shelter repairs, and targets **11,500 households**, identified through the Multi-Sector Needs Assessments that the Lebanese Red Cross's (LRC) conducted with UNHCR's and other partners' support. The shelter cash programme targets beneficiaries who are amongst the most vulnerable in the population surveyed and is complementary with programmes of other humanitarian actors.
- UNHCR's programme to enable more extensive minor repairs as well as rehabilitation will also start this week. Contractors will commence operations in **255 housing units** following technical assessments and the establishment of detailed repair needs for each apartment. Tenants and owners have a voice in how these repairs will look like and UNHCR endeavors to improve these apartments compared to how they used to be. This will enable people who live in these apartments to feel comfortable in their homes and improve the prospects of recovering from the trauma experienced on 4 August.
- Over 500 recipients of the 6,500 weatherproofing shelter kits have answered UNHCR's questions regarding the distribution process, usefulness of the materials provided and any further needs. The results are under analysis and will be published shortly.
- Since the [last update](#), we concluded the distribution of mattresses, blankets and kitchen sets to **292 families** affected by the blast in Karantina. These families, **comprising over 1,330 individuals** have been affected by the port explosions and couldn't afford to replace these items. 69% of recipient families are Lebanese and 29% are Syrian. Some families among the ones initially identified to receive these items had become unreachable or withdrew their expression of need.



Shelter aid helps victims of Beirut explosion protect homes ahead of winter. UNHCR teams distribute aid to refugees and Lebanese citizens after the blast in Karantina, one of the poorest areas of Beirut.

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UNHCR Lebanon is grateful for the support of its donors to our response to the Beirut explosions, including donors of flexible funds and private donors.

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UNHCR Lebanon Operation



Funding:

USD 607.5 million requested for the UNHCR Lebanon operation in 2020

47% funded as of 29 September 2020
(USD 285.8 million received)

Additional Links

For further information, please visit – [UNHCR Lebanon website](#) or the [UNHCR data portal](#).

Support UNHCR's emergency response in Lebanon:

<https://donate.unhcr.org/sg/stand-with-lebanon/~my-donation>

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