



UNICEF/Lebanon/2021/F. Assad-Chourmy

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Humanitarian Action for Children

Hanane (second from right), 9 years old, with friends at Karantina, following the Beirut port explosion. UNICEF is supporting the mental health of families reeling from the emotional aftershocks.

Lebanon

HIGHLIGHTS¹

- Lebanon's unprecedented economic and financial crisis has pushed individuals and families towards extreme vulnerabilities. People can no longer afford basic commodities and services, while the government and private sectors provide basic services. An estimated 2.3 million vulnerable Lebanese, Palestinian refugees and migrants,² including 700,000 children,³ are facing a humanitarian crisis and multiple deprivations.
- UNICEF will prioritize ensuring access to basic social services⁴ and reducing the risk of families resorting to negative coping strategies by addressing urgent humanitarian needs - through existing inclusive systems, where possible - and by incorporating across its interventions community-based approaches, resilience, gender and inclusion, and protection from sexual exploitation and abuse.
- UNICEF requires US\$65.5 million to support vulnerable children and families affected by the complex crises. This includes ensuring nearly 1 million people have access to safe water, and providing social protection assistance for 110,000 people.

KEY PLANNED TARGETS



108,098

primary caregivers receiving infant and young child feeding counselling



975,008

people accessing a sufficient quantity of safe water



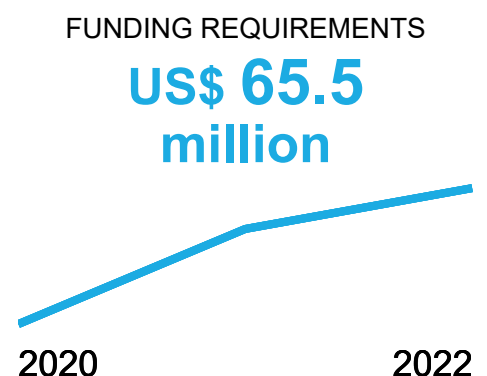
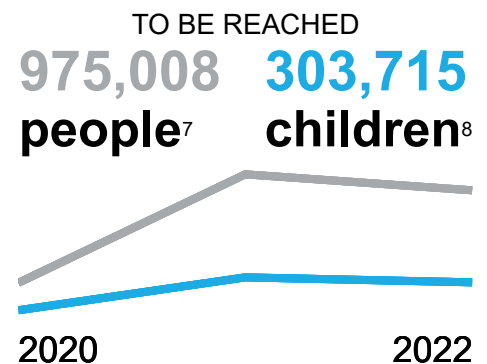
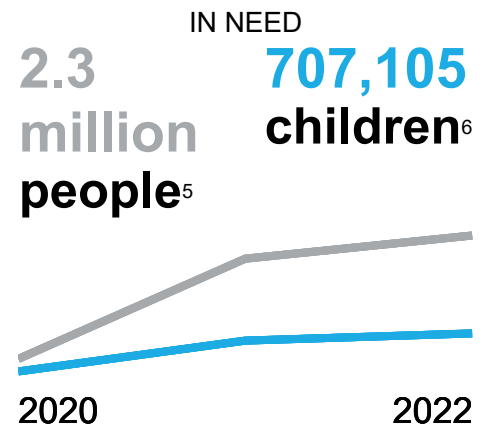
27,900

children/caregivers accessing mental health and psychosocial support



100,000

children receiving individual learning materials



Figures are provisional and subject to change upon finalization of the inter-agency planning documents.

HUMANITARIAN SITUATION AND NEEDS

Lebanon is grappling with economic and financial meltdown, compounded by the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. Since the economic and financial crisis began in October 2019, the Lebanese Pound has lost more than 90 per cent of its value, leading to year-on-year inflation of 123 percent by July 2021.⁹

Lebanon's critical water infrastructure is reaching breaking point, threatening access to safe water for more than 4 million people.¹⁰ Public water supply and wastewater treatment systems have drastically reduced operations all over Lebanon. Water shortages force households to rely on unsafe and expensive alternatives such as collecting untreated water from springs or use of water trucking. People are likely to decrease infection prevention and hygiene practices to reduce water consumption, leading to increased risk of COVID-19 and waterborne diseases, with babies and young children especially vulnerable.

Primary healthcare centres (PHCs) are severely strained due to an exodus of staff and shortages of medication and fuel. Approximately 15 per cent of 20,000 registered nurses have left the country over the past year, and about 1,000 have been laid off. Around 40 per cent of medical doctors have permanently emigrated or are working on a part-time basis outside of the country.¹¹ PHCs are rationing fuel by reducing opening hours, and more than 600 private pharmacies have temporarily closed.¹²

The crisis is exacerbating gender-based violence (GBV). More than two thirds of GBV-related organizations have experienced increased calls for assistance on their hotlines, and 96 per cent report reduced ability of survivors to reach out for assistance.¹³

Learning losses due to multiple crises and inequitable access to remote learning over the last two school years will likely be irreversible without urgent focus on delivering inclusive learning opportunities to recover lost learning. COVID-19 disrupted education for over 1.2 million school-aged children, with 400,000 children left out of school due to poverty and other factors.¹⁴ Among the most vulnerable, children with disabilities, girls and adolescent young women are most at risk of never returning to learning. Teachers' salaries devalued by 90 per cent in two years and urgent roll-out of teacher incentives is required to ensure continuity and quality of learning.

As the situation continues to deteriorate, measures are taken that often put children at risk. Children as young as 6 years are working on the streets, in agricultural fields or on construction sites, where they are exposed to risks of exploitation.

SECTOR NEEDS



206,781

children lack access to nutritionally diverse diet¹⁵



1.9 million

people lack access to safe water¹⁶



360,000

children need mental health, psychosocial or GBVIE support¹⁷



400,000

children left out of school¹⁸



1.7 million

people living in extreme poverty¹⁹

STORY FROM THE FIELD



The 4 August 2020 Beirut Port explosions dealt a devastating blow to thousands of families already struggling with a massive economic crisis, the COVID-19 pandemic and political instability. Many lost their homes, health, possessions and livelihoods, putting children and other vulnerable groups at greater risk.

'Jihane',²⁰ a 52-year-old Lebanese national, lives in Karantina, a Beirut neighbourhood that houses some of the city's most vulnerable residents. Because of injuries, she had to stop working for a while and had no income. With nowhere to turn for support, Jihane says the one-off cash support from UNICEF was a lifeline.

[Read more about this story here](#)

'Jihane', a 52-year-old Lebanese divorced mother, at home in Karantina, next to Beirut port. 'Jihane' was one of 80,000 vulnerable individuals to receive a post-explosion cash grant from UNICEF.

HUMANITARIAN STRATEGY

In Lebanon, UNICEF will address the humanitarian needs of the most vulnerable children and young people and contribute to social cohesion through sustaining provision of integrated programming, linking to longer-term strategy where possible. UNICEF will ensure neutrality of assistance and continue strengthening risk management, balancing delivery of services through public and private institutions, specialized civil society organizations, especially at decentralized level, in the most equitable, sustainable and effective way. UNICEF will equip partners and engage communities with information and tools to promote gender-transformative programming, as well as strengthen capacities to address the needs of children with disabilities and ensure child safeguarding and prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse.

As part of the Humanitarian Country Team and the Emergency Operation Cell, UNICEF will continue to lead the WASH, education, child protection and nutrition sectors, as well as play a key role in the GBV sector and health response.

The child protection programme will continue to focus on promoting the well-being and protection of women, girls, and boys and their families by preventing and mitigating risks of violence, abuse and exploitation of children and women, and providing vital services, including mental health and psychosocial support for children and caregivers.

In health and nutrition, UNICEF will encourage healthy nutrition practices through counselling and awareness initiatives, engaging 108,000 caregivers on integrated behavior and social change actions and reaching 90,000 caregivers with health integrated messages. To support ongoing access to immunization and health services, UNICEF will support 375 facilities with cold chain and 3,000 children and women with healthcare services.

The social policy programme will provide emergency social assistance to 110,000 people in vulnerable households, particularly those with children.

In WASH, UNICEF will work with the Water Establishments to ensure they have sufficient fuel, consumables and maintenance for ongoing provision of clean drinking water for nearly 1 million people.

The adolescent and youth programme will increase opportunities for meaningful participation, empowerment and income generation through supporting youth and adolescents to repair residences damaged in the explosions.

Communication for development (C4D) activities will include the use of behavioral and social science evidence to promote healthy and protective behaviours, community engagement, dissemination of accurate and life-saving information, and ensuring that the voices and needs of affected populations are heard and inform interventions.

UNICEF is working with partners across sectors on strengthening the emergency preparedness and response systems, building capacities for risk-informed planning and resilience.

Progress against the latest programme targets is available in the humanitarian situation reports: <https://www.unicef.org/appeals/lebanon/situation-reports>

2022 PROGRAMME TARGETS



Nutrition

- **700** children aged 6 to 59 months with severe acute malnutrition admitted for treatment
- **108,098** primary caregivers of children aged 0 to 23 months receiving infant and young child feeding counselling²²
- **50,000** children aged 6 to 59 months receiving multiple micronutrient powders
- **1,965** children aged 6 to 59 months with moderate acute malnutrition admitted for treatment



Health

- **3,000** children and women accessing primary health care in UNICEF-supported facilities
- **90,000** caregivers of children reached with integrated health messages
- **375** facilities supported to ensure cold chain for non-COVID-19 vaccines
- **5** hospitals supported on an emergency basis to maintain operations



Water, sanitation and hygiene

- **975,008** people accessing a sufficient quantity of safe water for drinking and domestic needs



Child protection, GBVIE and PSEA

- **27,900** children and parents/caregivers accessing mental health and psychosocial support
- **10,000** people who have access to a safe and accessible channel to report sexual exploitation and abuse by aid workers
- **3,000** girls and boys assisted through child protection case management and specialised services
- **9,800** women and girls access mobile and static safe spaces



Education

- **100,000** children receiving individual learning materials
- **8,500** children (in areas affected by Beirut explosion) have access to newly rehabilitated schools
- **750** public schools supported with operating costs



Social protection

- **110,000** people benefit from emergency and longer-term social and economic assistance



Adolescents/youth

- **200** residential units benefit from minor repair^{23,24}
- **200** residential units benefit from rehabilitation²⁵



Cross-sectoral (HCT, C4D, RCCE and AAP)

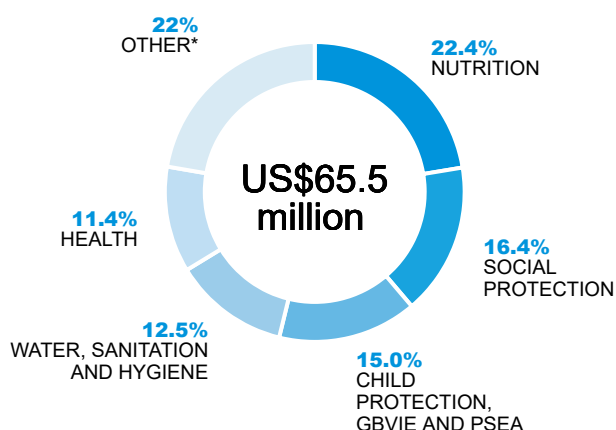
- **15,000** people reached through messaging on prevention and access to services

FUNDING REQUIREMENTS IN 2022

UNICEF is appealing for US\$65.5 million to respond to the urgent needs of over 975,008 people, including 303,715 children, affected by Lebanon's rapidly deepening economic crisis, and the aftermath of the Beirut Port explosion. This appeal, which is aligned with the Emergency Response Plan, focuses on covering the needs of the vulnerable Lebanese population.²⁶ It complements activities in the 2022 HAC appeal for Syrian Refugees that support Syrian refugees in Lebanon.²⁷

This funding will help cover priority needs, including access to safe drinking water, health, nutrition, education and child protection services, and mitigate the impacts of crises through cash transfers, livelihood support and youth engagement. This support will enable UNICEF to provide specialized services for disabled children, improve gender equality and strengthen prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse. Additional funding is also required to ensure minimum levels of emergency preparedness at the central and local levels, considering Lebanon's risk profile.

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 social assistance.



*This includes costs from other sectors/interventions : Education (9.3%), Cross-sectoral (HCT, C4D, RCCE and AAP) (7.0%), Adolescents/youth (4.3%), Emergency preparedness (1.7%).

Sector	2022 requirements (US\$)
Nutrition	14,662,981
Health	7,486,300
Water, sanitation and hygiene	8,159,761
Child protection, GBVIE and PSEA	9,839,052
Education	6,122,390
Social protection	10,740,307
Adolescents/youth	2,799,036
Cross-sectoral (HCT, C4D, RCCE and AAP)	4,570,404 ²⁸
Emergency preparedness	1,100,000
Total	65,480,231

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ENDNOTES

1. UNICEF's public health and socioeconomic COVID-19 response, including programme targets and funding requirements, is integrated into the standalone country, multi-country and regional Humanitarian Action for Children appeals. All interventions related to accelerating equitable access to COVID-19 tests, treatments and vaccines fall under the Access to COVID-19 Tools Accelerator (ACT-A) global appeal.
2. Based on the inter-agency Emergency Response Plan (ERP) for Lebanon 2021-2022, published August 2021.
3. 31.2 per cent of the nearly 2.3 million people in need, based on estimates from the Lebanon inter-agency group for the number of people under 18 years of age.
4. Including safe drinking water, education, primary healthcare, social protection, child protection and gender-based violence services, mental health and psychosocial support.
5. Based on the inter-agency Emergency Response Plan (ERP) – Lebanon 2021-22 that was published in August 2021. This includes 1.9 million Lebanese, 150,000 migrants and 220,000 Palestinian refugees in Lebanon.
6. 31.2 per cent of the people in need, based on estimates from the Lebanon inter-agency group for the number of people under 18 years of age.
7. In order to avoid double counting, this is based on the number of people accessing a sufficient quantity of safe water for drinking, cooking and personal hygiene (975,008 people). This total includes 52 per cent of women/girls and 2 per cent people with disabilities. Proportion of women and girls is based on OCHA guidance for the Lebanon Crisis Response Plan (LCRP) 2017 to 2021. UNICEF is committed to needs-based targeting, which means covering the unmet needs of children; and will serve as the provider of last resort where it has cluster coordination responsibilities.
8. 31.2 per cent of the people to be reached. Based on estimates from the Lebanon inter-agency group for the number of people under 18 years of age. This total includes 52 per cent of girls and 2 per cent of children with disabilities. This number of people to be reached is based on WASH sector which has the highest number of people to be targeted as per the the interagency emergency plan issued in August 2021. This represents a decrease from HAC appeal from 2021, as the number of children reached previously included children targeted under the safe schools initiative, which is now subject to a different appeal.
9. Lebanon Central Administration of Statistics, July 2021.
10. UNICEF-supported assessment based on data collected from Lebanon's four main public water utilities in May and June 2021.
11. WHO, 2021. <http://www.emro.who.int/countries/lbn/index.html>
12. Ibid.
13. Inter-Agency SGBV Task Force Lebanon, 20 October 2021. Survey on the impact of Lebanon's fuel and electricity crisis on SGBV programming.
14. ERP 2021-2022.
15. Nutrition sector estimates in the ERP 2021-22.
16. ERP 2020-2021.
17. Ibid.
18. Ibid.
19. UN ESCWA, 2021. Multi-dimensional poverty in Lebanon.
20. Name changed to protect her identity.
21. UNICEF leads cluster coordination for the WASH, nutrition and education clusters and the child protection area of responsibility.
22. This activity will specifically be targeting pregnant and lactating women.
23. Minor repair consists of minor property damage such as broken glass and doors. These repairs cost up to US\$1,500.
24. Youth and adolescents benefit from activities repairing and rehabilitation units damaged in the Beirut Port explosions through gaining meaningful work experience and through the sense of achievement and engagement from supporting their community.
25. Rehabilitation covers more substantial damage than repairs. It focuses on moderate damage to property and common areas and costs between US\$4,500 and US\$5,000 per property.
26. As Lebanese, Syrian refugees, Palestinians and migrant groups live in intermingled communities, some interventions will also reach non-Lebanese beneficiaries. Programme activities have been designed to ensure no duplication between this appeal and the Syrian Refugee HAC appeal.
27. The 2022 HAC Syrian Refugees appeal is aligned with the Regional Refugee and Resilience Plan (3RP).
28. There has been an increase in the funding requirement figure for the cross-sectoral line in 2022 as the cross-sectoral figure for 2021 was substantially lower as it did not include costs related to operations, field, communications and evaluation.