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Humanitarian Action for Children

unicef 

Lebanon

On 4 August, two explosions hit Beirut city, sending shockwaves throughout the city causing multiple casualties and widespread damage. As of 3 September, at least 180 people have been killed and 6,500 injured, including up to 1,000 children. Up to 300,000 people have lost their homes, with up to 100,000 children directly affected. Water systems of at least 1,339 buildings and waste water systems of at least 647 buildings are damaged.

The explosion caused extensive damage to essential public services. Three hospitals have been severely damaged, and a new-born and pediatric unit, 23 Primary Health Care Centers, dispensaries and the Central Drug Warehouse require rehabilitation. The assessments from the Ministry of Education and Higher Education indicate that 92 public and 69 private schools and 20 Technical and Vocational Education and Training buildings have suffered structural damage.

This crisis is unfolding in the context of a collapsed economy, political instability and a surge in COVID-19 cases. Under the current circumstances, there is already a rapid spread of COVID-19. The longer-term consequences of the explosion particularly on children are yet to be fully grasped, and the fall out will be felt for months and possibly even years to come.

Humanitarian strategy

UNICEF is working with the Lebanese authorities, UN agencies and partners to address the immediate needs of affected girls, boys and their families. Within the coordination structure in place, UNICEF is leading the WASH sector, the Child Protection sub-sector, and the Education working group while being an active member in Health, Food Security and Shelter sectors.

One of UNICEF's priorities for children is to recover from the trauma of the explosions and remain safe. UNICEF is providing psycho-social support, access to protection services and case management. Special consideration will be given to vulnerable girls and women and mitigation of gender-based violence.

UNICEF will continue to ensure access to safe water and sanitation and prioritize the recovery of damaged essential public services such as schools and health facilities, critical to the well-being of children. To alleviate the impact of the crisis on the most vulnerable children, UNICEF will provide a one-off emergency cash assistance to affected families to ensure 80,000 children access their basic needs. UNICEF will equip adolescent and youth with training and resources to participate in the rehabilitation effort.

UNICEF will also support the implementation of an Accountability to Affected Populations response framework inclusive of children with disabilities.

Results from 2020 (1 month)

- UNICEF reached 1,768 children and 950 caregivers with psycho-social first aid, engaged 715 children in recreational activities and distributed 5,000 sanitary pads and 2,500 mini hygiene kits.
- 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 save storage.
- UNICEF provided 2,815 counselling sessions to caregivers on prenatal, breastfeeding and infant and young child feeding practices.
- 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 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, 318 youth for cooking of hot meals, 60 youth for installation of water tanks, and 42 youth for production and distribution on fabric masks amid the rising COVID-19 cases
- UNICEF has distributed critical humanitarian supplies worth US\$ 464,000, including baby kits, hygiene kits, sanitary pads, psycho-social support kits, recreational kits, water tanks, tarpaulins, as well as PPE and IPC items such as gloves, surgical masks and hand sanitizers.

Total people in need

300,000

Total children (<18) in need

100,000

Total people to be reached

300,000

Total children to be reached

100,000

2020 programme targets

Nutrition

- 55,000 children under 5 received essential nutrition supplements including Vitamin A
- 6,000 primary caregivers of children 0-23 months who received counseling and awareness on Infant and Young Child Feeding

Health

- 15 impacted Primary Health Care Centers (PHCCs) and dispensaries rehabilitated and provided with supplies and minimum service package
- 10,000 affected children vaccinated (per month)

WASH

- 50,000 affected people assisted with temporary access to adequate quantity of safe water for drinking and domestic use¹
- 50,000 affected people with access to improved safe sanitation in impacted areas²
- 50,000 affected people who were reached with public health awareness³
- 264,000 people having sustained equitable access to public water facilities and services⁴

Child protection

- 25,000 children, parents and primary caregivers provided with community-based mental health and psycho-social support
- 1,000 girls and women provided with psycho-social first aid, psycho-social support and information on gender-based violence risks
- 50 unaccompanied and separated children provided with appropriate alternative care arrangements

Education

- 50,000 school children provided with education supplies
- 50,000 children benefiting of rehabilitated schools and replacement of furniture and equipment
- 14,000 school children provided with internet support and electronic devices

Social protection and cash transfers

- 80,000 children and most vulnerable individuals receiving emergency cash transfer

Adolescents and youth

- 4,000 youth who access employment or income generation opportunities

Communication for development

- 300,000 affected people reached and engaged on COVID-19 through messaging on prevention and access to services

Funding requirements

In line with updated Lebanon Flash Appeal, UNICEF has revised its funding ask to \$50 million to respond to the immediate needs of children and their families in the aftermath of the explosions in Beirut. This includes support to affected children and families as well as health and front-line workers, immediate rehabilitation of health centres, schools and the water network, while limiting the spread of COVID-19.

This urgent funding appeal is in addition to already existing humanitarian needs: \$461.7 million for the Syrian refugee crisis (70 per cent funded), and \$58.9 million for the COVID-19 response which received only 39 per cent of required funding.

Appeal Sector	Original 2020 HAC Requirement (US\$)	Revised 2020 HAC Requirement (US\$)	Funds Available (US\$)	Funding Gap	
				US\$	%
Health and Nutrition	3,986,161	9,235,000	503,900	8,731,100	95
Water, Sanitation and Hygiene	15,569,747	16,259,747	512,500	15,747,247	97
Child Protection	3,214,000	2,746,690	512,003	2,234,687	81
Education	6,619,800	7,600,000	-	7,600,000	100
Social Policy	11,550,000	10,700,000	1,132,552	9,567,448	89
Adolescents and Youth	4,982,750	3,000,000	512,000	2,488,000	83
Communication for Development	860,000	503,110	117,647	385,463	77
Total	46,782,458	50,044,548	3,290,602	46,753,945	93

¹ Affected people include girls, boys, women and men.

² Ibid.

³ Ibid.

⁴ Ibid.

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