



unicef 
for every child

Humanitarian Action for Children

On 1 September 2020, 8-year old Hanan participates in UNICEF-supported psychosocial support activities at the Karantina public garden in Beirut, which was set up after the port explosion.

Lebanon

HIGHLIGHTS

- The multiple crises facing Lebanon – economic collapse, the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic, the Beirut explosion and the protracted refugee crisis – have thrust the country into uncertainty. Vulnerabilities have significantly increased among all populations, impacting children's basic rights and physical and mental well-being. An estimated 1.6 million people, including 541,000 vulnerable children, are facing multiple deprivations.¹
- UNICEF will prioritize increasing access to basic social services, including comprehensive primary health care, safe drinking water, sanitation, child protection and gender-based violence services, as well as social protection and quality education and training for children, adolescents and youth. UNICEF will also pursue longer-term system strengthening and sustainable solutions, while mainstreaming gender and inclusion, protection from sexual exploitation and abuse, and COVID-19 prevention, mitigation and response measures across its interventions.
- UNICEF requires US\$94 million to support vulnerable children and families affected by the complex crisis and its secondary impacts.

KEY PLANNED TARGETS



250,000

people accessing a sufficient quantity of safe water



15,000

children/caregivers accessing mental health and psychosocial support



1,234

schools implementing safe school protocols



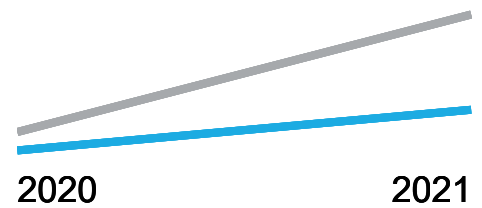
35,000

households reached with cash transfers across sectors

IN NEED

**1.6
million
people²**

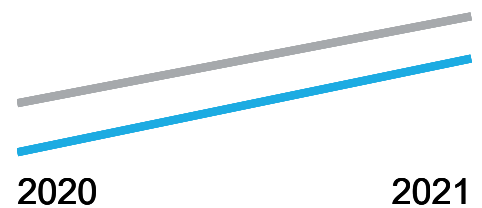
**541,000
children³**



TO BE REACHED

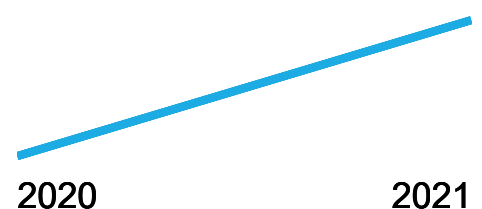
**654,000
people⁴**

**482,000
children⁵**



FUNDING REQUIREMENTS

**US\$ 94
million**



HUMANITARIAN SITUATION AND NEEDS

Lebanon is facing its worst economic crisis since the civil war. High levels of inflation, layoffs, pay cuts and currency devaluation, exacerbated by COVID-19 and the Beirut explosion, are threatening the livelihoods and well-being of the most vulnerable people, including Lebanese and migrant workers. An estimated 1.6 million people, including 541,000 children, are facing multiple deprivations.⁶

Food prices have increased 300 per cent in just one year⁸ and over 60 per cent of Lebanese⁷ have reduced their food consumption, putting children at heightened risk of malnutrition. Currently, only 13 per cent of children aged 6 to 23 months are eating the minimum adequate diet for complementary feeding.⁹

In times of instability and uncertainty, children's physical and mental health are at increased risk due to heightened stress and anxiety. Before the crisis, 6 per cent of Lebanese children were working; 4 per cent were married; and 57 per cent experienced violent discipline¹⁰ The numbers are expected to rise further as additional families fall below the extreme poverty line.

Economic deterioration is threatening the delivery of and access to quality basic services, including water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), health, education and specialized services for disabled children. The already underfunded public sector is overstretched, as increasing numbers of people no longer able to afford private services shift to the public sector. After an initially successful response to COVID-19, the number of cases skyrocketed, particularly after the Beirut explosion on 4 August, putting additional pressure on the health system. The water establishments responsible for providing water and wastewater services have been unable to collect user fees, which is threatening service provision.

The economic crisis and COVID-19 are threatening access to learning for children and adolescents and leaving youth unemployed. The port explosion damaged 90 public and 73 private primary schools and 20 public technical and vocational education and training institutions.¹¹ Remote and blended learning are presenting additional obstacles for the most vulnerable who lack access to digital tools and connectivity. Meanwhile, children with special needs lack access to specialized support, including psychotherapy and speech therapy. Specialized public institutions remain unfunded.

Overcrowded housing conditions in locations where populations are unable to pay rent or are displaced due to the Beirut explosion have raised the risk of COVID-19 transmission. Community and household tensions are also giving rise to sexual and gender-based violence, with women and children particularly affected.

SECTOR NEEDS



Water, sanitation and hygiene

375,000 people lack access to safe water¹²



Child protection, GBVIE and PSEA

145,000 children need mental health / psychosocial support^{13,14}



Education

297 education institutions need to be rehabilitated¹⁵

STORY FROM THE FIELD



"After the explosion hit our home, we ran outside. My father had injuries. My mother carried my younger brother. The streets were full of people running. Smoke covered the area.

"There was no colour in the sky nor across Karantina from that moment on", 12-year-old Hussein explains. "I used to make drawings and colour them in, but I don't use colours anymore because the explosion made all colours in my life disappear."

While physical needs and safe shelter were one of UNICEF's immediate concerns, so was the psychosocial health of the children and youth impacted by the explosion in Beirut.

[**Read more about this story here**](#)

Houssein, 12, shows a painting he did on 1 September as part of UNICEF-supported recreational activities in the Karantina public gardens in Beirut.

HUMANITARIAN STRATEGY

In Lebanon, UNICEF will support the most vulnerable children and young people and contribute to social cohesion through integrated programming targeting affected people regardless of nationality and balancing humanitarian and development needs. UNICEF will equip partners and communities with information and tools to protect themselves and prevent the spread of COVID-19; promote gender-transformative programming; and strengthen capacities to address the needs of children with disabilities.

UNICEF will continue to lead the WASH, education and child protection sectors and the risk communication and community engagement pillar of the COVID-19 response, and play a key role in the infection prevention and control pillar, the gender-based violence sector and the social protection response.¹⁶

The child protection programme will focus on promoting the well-being and continued 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 psychosocial support for children and caregivers.

In health and nutrition, UNICEF will focus on providing children, adolescents and women with life-saving, quality health services, including immunization and nutritional supplementation for children under 5 years, and information on healthy nutrition, including breastfeeding. UNICEF will also strengthen the information systems and capacities of partners and promote community engagement for behaviour and social change.

The social policy programme will focus on expanding the coverage of emergency social assistance to vulnerable households affected by COVID-19, particularly those with children and people with disabilities. UNICEF will also conduct advocacy and engage strategically at the policy level to support the development of the National Social Protection Policy, produce information on child poverty, and strengthen national accountability on public finances.

In WASH, UNICEF will mitigate the impacts of compound crises on access to water and wastewater services. UNICEF will hire youth trained through its cash-for-work programme; directly connect households to water and wastewater networks; support municipalities to provide water and wastewater services to marginalized populations; and provide supplies, materials and equipment to water establishments.

The adolescent and youth programme will increase the quality of and access to technical and vocational training, and innovative life-skills programmes to improve employability, while increasing opportunities for meaningful participation, empowerment and income generation.

Communication for development activities will promote healthy behaviours and community engagement; support the dissemination of accurate and evidence-based information; and ensure that the voices and needs of affected populations are heard and inform interventions.

Progress against the 2020 programme targets is available in the humanitarian situation reports:

<https://www.unicef.org/appeals/lebanon/situation-reports>

2021 PROGRAMME TARGETS



Nutrition

- **10,000** primary caregivers of children aged 0 to 23 months receiving infant and young child feeding counselling
- **50,000** children aged 6 to 59 months receiving vitamin A supplementation every six months¹⁷
- **30,000** caregivers of children aged 0 to 23 months reached with messages aiming to protect breastfeeding in the context of COVID-19¹⁸



Health

- **10,000** children aged 6 to 59 months vaccinated against measles
- **18,000** children aged 6 to 59 months vaccinated against polio
- **808** health care facilities, including points of entry, equipped with infection prevention and control materials and personal protective equipment



Water, sanitation and hygiene

- **250,000** people accessing a sufficient quantity of safe water for drinking, cooking and personal hygiene^{19,20}
- **43,000** people reached with critical water, sanitation and hygiene supplies (including hygiene items) and services



Child protection, GBViE and PSEA

- **15,000** children and caregivers accessing mental health and psychosocial support²¹
- **5,000** women, girls and boys accessing gender-based violence risk mitigation, prevention or response interventions
- **20,000** people with access to safe channels to report sexual exploitation and abuse
- **1,000** girls and boys assisted through case management and specialized services



Education

- **1,234** schools implementing safe school protocols (infection prevention and control)²²
- **250** schools supported with information and communication technology capabilities to deliver distance learning²³
- **42** education institutions rehabilitated



Social protection and cash transfers

- **35,000** households reached with humanitarian cash transfers across sectors²⁴



C4D, community engagement and AAP²⁵

- **5,000** people participating in engagement actions for social and behavioural change
- **3** platforms allowing people to share their concerns and obtain information on available support to address their needs
- **50** community-led interventions promoting child rights, protective behaviours and COVID-19 prevention



Adolescents/youth

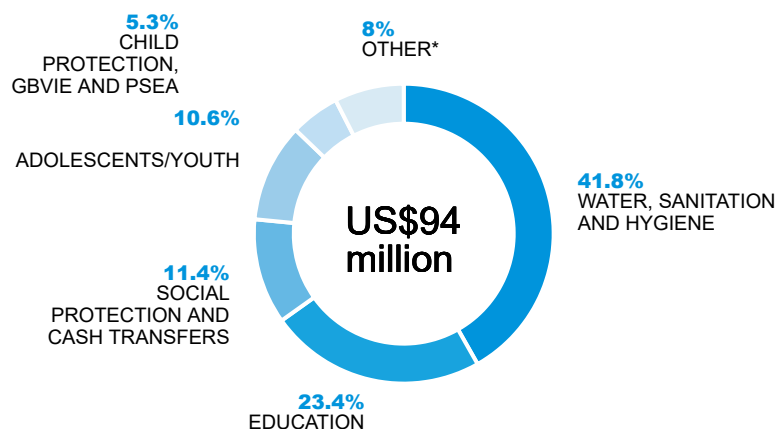
- **4,000** youth accessing employment or income generation opportunities through rehabilitation and construction and other means
- **933** households damaged by the Beirut explosion supported with minor repair and rehabilitation
- **6,000** adolescents and youth supported by competency and trade-based skills training programmes²⁶

FUNDING REQUIREMENTS IN 2021

UNICEF is appealing for US\$94 million to respond to the urgent needs of over 540,000 children affected by the deepening economic and banking crises in Lebanon, the Beirut explosion and COVID-19, including its secondary impacts. This appeal is in addition to and complements the existing humanitarian response to the Syrian refugee crisis, which covers the needs of Syrian refugees and affected Lebanese host communities.

This appeal aggregates the needs resulting from the multiple crises in Lebanon. This funding will help cover priority needs, including access to safe drinking water, health and child protection services; and mitigate the impacts of crises through cash transfers, livelihood support and youth engagement. This support will also enable UNICEF to provide specialized services for disabled children, improve gender equality and strengthen the prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse. Adequate funding will also ensure the continuity of COVID-19 prevention and response activities in 2021.

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 social assistance and financial support.



| Sector | 2021 requirements (US\$) |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Nutrition | 2,410,000 |
| Health | 2,650,000 |
| Water, sanitation and hygiene | 39,300,000 |
| Child protection, GBVIE and PSEA | 5,000,000 ²⁷ |
| Education | 21,968,000 |
| Social protection and cash transfers | 10,700,000 |
| C4D, community engagement and AAP | 2,000,000 |
| Adolescents/youth | 10,000,000 |
| Total | 94,028,000 |

*This includes costs from other sectors/interventions : Health (2.8%), Nutrition (2.6%), C4D, community engagement and AAP (2.1%).

Who to contact for further information:

Yukie Mokuo
Representative, Lebanon
T + 9611607403
ymokuo@unicef.org

Manuel Fontaine
Director, Office of Emergency Programmes (EMOPS)
T +1 212 326 7163
mfontaine@unicef.org

Carla Haddad Mardini
Director, Public Partnership Division (PPD)
T +1 212 326 7160
chaddadmardini@unicef.org

ENDNOTES

1. This includes the most vulnerable Lebanese populations (calculated based on analysis of four official studies from the Lebanese Ministry of Social Affairs (2004); the National Poverty Targeting Program (December 2014); the Council for Development and Reconstruction (2002); the Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (2009)); and the population of Palestinian refugee children (calculated based on analysis of: the Population and Housing Census in Palestinian Camps and Gatherings conducted with the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestinian Refugees in the Near East Lebanese Palestinian Dialogue Committee (2017); and the Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey on Palestinian Camps (2011)).
2. Ibid.
3. Ibid. The most vulnerable Lebanese children figure is calculated as 31.15 per cent of the total.
4. This was calculated based on the aggregated number of adults to be reached with a sufficient quantity of safe water (172,000); the estimated number of schoolchildren to be reached with safe school protocols (432,000); and children aged 6 to 59 months to be reached with essential nutrition supplements, including vitamin A (50,000). This includes 320,460 women/girls (49 per cent), 333,540 men/boys (51 per cent) and 19,620 people with disabilities (3 per cent). The remaining needs are expected to be covered by government partners, other United Nations agencies and non-governmental organizations. 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.
5. This was calculated based on the estimated number of schoolchildren to be reached with safe school protocols (432,000) and children aged 6 to 59 months to be reached with essential nutrition supplements, including vitamin A (50,000). This includes 236,180 girls (49 per cent), 245,820 men/boys (51 per cent) and 14,460 children with disabilities (3 per cent).
6. This includes the most vulnerable Lebanese populations (calculated based on analysis of four official studies from the Lebanese Ministry of Social Affairs (2004); the National Poverty Targeting Program (December 2014); the Council for Development and Reconstruction (2002); the Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (2009); and the population of Palestinian refugee children (calculated based on analysis of three different sources: the Population and Housing Census in Palestinian Camps and Gatherings conducted with the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestinian Refugees in the Near East Lebanese Palestinian Dialogue Committee (2017); and the Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey on Palestinian Camps (2011)).
7. World Food Programme (WFP) assessment of COVID-19 and the economic crisis, June 2020.
8. Lebanon Central Administration of Statistics, July 2020.
9. United Nations Children's Fund, National Baseline Nutrition Survey, 2016.
10. Ibid.
11. Lebanon Ministry of Education and Higher Education, 2020.
12. This was estimated based on 25 per cent of the most vulnerable people living outside of the 263 municipalities that are focus areas in the 2021 Syrian refugees appeal. UNICEF covers approximately 66 per cent of the sector.
13. Due to space constraints, the following acronyms appear in the appeal: GBViE (gender-based violence in emergencies); PSEA (prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse); C4D (communication for development); and AAP (accountability to affected populations).
14. Price Waterhouse Coopers, Beirut Explosion Impact Assessment, 8 September 2020.
15. Calculated based on data from the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, 2020.
16. The humanitarian coordination structure in Lebanon is currently being revised to bring together the Lebanese Crisis Response Plan framework that focuses on the Syrian refugee response, COVID-19 coordination and the response to the Beirut explosion. UNICEF's role is expected to remain largely the same, though some details (e.g. Cash Task Force) are yet to be finalized.
17. This covers Lebanese children only and also includes micronutrient supplementation for children aged 6 to 59 months.
18. This includes messaging on breastfeeding through national communication campaigns.
19. UNICEF covers approximately 66 per cent of WASH sector needs. The rest is covered by sector partners.
20. The target for WASH services under the Syrian refugees appeal includes refugees living in informal tented settlements. This target covers people living outside of informal tented settlements.
21. The sector need, which is 145,000, is a proxy figure. Other United Nations agencies and local and international non-governmental organizations will cover the gap, noting that planning and consultations on implementation are still ongoing.
22. These 1,234 schools will provide 432,000 children with safe space for learning.
23. This target is an estimate as planning and consultations are ongoing on which public schools will be supported in which locations and by which implementing agencies.
24. These 35,000 households are affected by COVID-19. UNICEF is also continuing to engage strategically with the Government at the policy level to develop the National Social Protection Policy, generate information and advocacy on child poverty, and strengthen national accountability on public finances.
25. Communication for development, including accountability to affected populations, is integrated into sectoral responses and interventions.
26. This covers children and adolescents accessing skills development programmes, including learning, personal empowerment, active citizenship and/or for enhancing employability.
27. US\$75,000 of UNICEF internal resources will be used for prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse interventions. This amount is excluded from the US\$5 million budget in this appeal. US\$1 million will be used for gender-based violence interventions.