

# Lebanon – Explosions

SEPTEMBER 16, 2020

## SITUATION AT A GLANCE

<b>180</b>	<b>6,500</b>	<b>300,000</b>	<b>171,600</b>
Deaths Resulting From August 4 Explosions in Beirut	People Injured by August 4 Explosions in Beirut	Number of People Targeted by USAID/BHA Food Assistance	Number of People Affected by Damaged Shelters
<i>GoL – Aug. 2020</i>	<i>UN – Aug. 2020</i>	<i>USAID – Aug. 2020</i>	<i>UN – Aug. 2020</i>

- USAID/BHA supports Caritas, LRC, LWR, and WFP to provide food, health, shelter, and WASH assistance to populations affected by the August 4 explosions.
- UNICEF reports that nearly 600,000 children are in need of PSS services due to explosions.
- Approximately 1,600 buildings require WASH interventions, including reconnecting to water supply networks and installing water tanks.



<b>TOTAL U.S. GOVERNMENT HUMANITARIAN FUNDING</b> For the Lebanon Response in FY 2020	USAID/BHA <sup>1, 2</sup>	\$15,267,951
	DoD <sup>3</sup>	\$3,794,200
	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$19,062,151<sup>4</sup></b>

<sup>1</sup> USAID's Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (USAID/BHA).

<sup>2</sup> Total USAID/BHA funding includes non-food humanitarian assistance from the former Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance and emergency food assistance from the former Office of Food for Peace.

<sup>3</sup> U.S. Department of Defense (DoD)

<sup>4</sup> This total does not include approximately \$41.6 million in supplemental funding through USAID/BHA and U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (State/PRM) for coronavirus disease (COVID-19) preparedness and response activities or State/PRM funding for refugee response activities in Lebanon. Existing State/PRM partners have reoriented activities to respond to the needs of individuals affected by the August 4 explosions.

## TIMELINE

**Aug. 4, 2020**

Concurrent explosions occur at a warehouse near Lebanon's Port of Beirut.

**Aug. 5, 2020**

U.S. Ambassador to Lebanon Dorothy Shea declares a disaster in Lebanon due to the humanitarian impacts of the explosions.

**Aug. 7, 2020**

USAID deploys a Disaster Assistance Response Team (DART) and activates a Washington, D.C.-based Response Management Team (RMT). USAID/BHA also announces \$15.1 million for emergency response activities in Beirut.

**August 9, 2020**

Urban search and rescue operations cease and response efforts shift to providing immediate humanitarian assistance to those affected by the explosions, per Government of Lebanon request.

**Aug. 10, 2020**

Acting USAID Administrator John Barsa arrives in Beirut to highlight U.S. Government (USG) commitment to addressing the needs of the Lebanese people.

**Aug. 14, 2020**

UN releases flash appeal for humanitarian and reconstruction support.

**Aug. 21, 2020**

USAID demobilizes DART and RMT as response efforts shift to reconstruction.

## KEY DEVELOPMENTS

### Approximately 600,000 Children in Need of PSS Services Due to Explosions

The August 4 explosions in the capital city of Beirut injured approximately 1,000 children, while damaged or destroyed homes affected 100,000 children, according to the UN. In total, the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) estimates that nearly 600,000 children are in need of psychosocial support (PSS) services following the August 4 explosions. In response, UNICEF has established a hotline for PSS counseling and a network of safe spaces for children, reaching nearly 1,410 children and caregivers with PSS activities as of early September. Additionally, approximately 20 humanitarian organizations reached 3,200 people—including children—with mental health and PSS services from August 4 to September 9, with efforts to expand programming ongoing, the UN reports.

### Explosions Affect 81,000 Women and Girls, Generating Protection Concerns

The August 4 explosions adversely affected 81,000 women and girls ages 15 to 49 years, including 24,000 adolescent girls, resulting in additional protection needs, including for gender-based violence (GBV) response services, according to the UN. However, less than 50 percent of 55 assessed primary health care centers in Beirut offer integrated services, such as mental health and PSS services and referrals to GBV case management operations. Efforts to address increased protection concerns are ongoing; from September 2 to 9, the UN reports that humanitarian organizations reached more than 6,700 people with GBV outreach and risk mitigation activities, approximately 2,700 people with community-based child protection interventions, and nearly 480 individuals with GBV response services.

### Assessment Identifies 1,600 Buildings in Need of WASH Interventions

Of 5,740 assessed buildings, relief actors had identified 1,600 buildings in need of water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) interventions—including reconnecting to the water supply system and repairing damaged water tanks—as of early September, the UN reports. In response, WASH actors had re-established access to the water supply network for nearly 7,990 people as of September 9, the UN reports. Additionally, WASH partners had distributed nearly 4,870 hygiene kits to vulnerable households affected by the explosions and UNICEF had installed 870 water tanks in damaged houses as of early September. Response organizations have also installed nearly 30 water tanks at hospitals damaged by the explosions to facilitate water access.

## KEY FIGURES



**300,000**

Number of people targeted to receive USAID/BHA food assistance

# NATIONAL, INTERNATIONAL, AND U.S. GOVERNMENT RESPONSE

## FOOD SECURITY

Food security was a major concern in Lebanon prior to August 4, and the explosions destroyed silos at the Port of Beirut that processed 85 percent of the country's grain supply, the UN reports. However, humanitarian actors do not expect food shortages to occur as repairs have expanded the capacity of the Port of Beirut and commercial operations have rapidly resumed since the explosions. Additionally, as of September 9, the first UN World Food Program (WFP) shipment of approximately 12,500 metric tons (MT) of wheat flour was offloaded to mobile storage units at the Port of Beirut prior to distribution to bakeries and millers to bolster the national bread supply.

In response to the explosions, USAID/BHA provided \$10.5 million to WFP, aiming to improve food security conditions for 300,000 people affected by the explosions. Relief actors also continue to conduct food security assessments and distribute hot meals to first responders and households without functioning kitchens. As of late August, food sector actors had reached an estimated 80,000 people in 18 neighborhoods in Beirut with emergency food assistance, including hot meals and food parcels, the UN reports. Moreover, nutrition partners are conducting infant and young child feeding training sessions, aiming to reach 4,000 pregnant and lactating women.



**6**

Number of USG-procured IEHKs delivered to Beirut

## HEALTH

Humanitarian organizations continue to address health needs in Beirut, providing essential supplies, medicines, and personal protective equipment (PPE); deploying mobile medical units (MMUs) to help absorb the caseload from damaged hospitals; and mobilizing additional medical staff through emergency medical teams (EMTs). From August 4 to September 9, health organizations provided at least 5,000 medical consultations to individuals affected by the explosions, the UN reports. Additionally, the UN World Health Organization (WHO) is supporting three EMTs to conduct infection prevention and control trainings at six public hospitals across Lebanon to expand COVID-19 response capacity.

On August 11, USAID/BHA coordinated with DoD to airlift six USAID/BHA-procured interagency emergency health kits (IEHKs)—containing critical medical commodities sufficient to support up to 60,000 people for three months—to Beirut. The kits were distributed to the American University of Beirut (AUB) and Lebanese American University to support life-saving health interventions. USAID/BHA is also supporting Caritas to expand primary health care services—including PSS—at four Beirut clinics, as well as provide mobile and home health care services to populations unable to visit clinics. In addition, State/PRM partner the International Medical Corps (IMC) has provided PPE and

other medical supplies to 62 primary health care facilities, eight hospitals, and two MMUs.



**40,000**

Number of buildings damaged by August 4 explosions

## **SHELTER AND SETTLEMENTS**

The August 4 explosions rendered approximately 170 buildings at risk of partial or total collapse, and nearly 40 percent of 6,100 assessed households identified shelter repair as a priority need, the UN reports. In response, USAID/BHA is supporting Lutheran World Relief (LWR) to assist with critical repairs to ensure that damaged homes are safe, secure, and habitable for the most vulnerable explosion-affected households. USAID/BHA is also supporting Caritas to provide explosion-affected communities with basic household items, such as mattresses and stoves, as well as rent support for people whose houses were destroyed by the explosions. Additionally, shelter and settlement partners—including State/PRM partner the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)—had distributed more than 7,060 shelter kits to explosion-affected households and repaired or rehabilitated structures for 1,140 households as of September 9, the UN reports.



**25**

Percent of households lacking connections to main water supply networks

## **WASH**

Although most of Beirut’s water supply infrastructure remains functional, the August 4 explosions damaged some water lines connecting houses to supply networks, generating safe drinking water needs. In response, DoD provided safe drinking water for affected populations immediately following the explosions. Additionally, to address hygiene needs resulting from lack of water access and displacement, USAID/BHA is partnering with the AUB—in coordination with Lebanese Red Cross (LRC)—to distribute emergency hygiene kits to those affected by the disaster. Meanwhile, State/PRM partner IMC and two other organizations had distributed 1,410 hygiene kits to individuals in affected neighborhoods as of September 9.

## **LOGISTICS AND RELIEF COMMODITIES**

From August 6 to 9, DoD delivered five flights of relief commodities, including nearly 230 MT of meals-ready-to-eat, medical supplies, and safe drinking water, to Beirut as part of the USG’s disaster response efforts.

## USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE LEBANON EXPLOSIONS RESPONSE IN FY 2020<sup>1</sup>

IMPLEMENTING PARTNER	ACTIVITY	LOCATION	AMOUNT
<b>USAID/BHA</b>			
Non-Food Assistance			
Caritas	Health, Shelter and Settlements	Affected Areas	\$2,400,000
LRC	WASH	Affected Areas	\$100,000
LWR	Shelter and Settlements	Affected Areas	\$2,200,000
	USAID/BHA Airlifted Relief Commodities	Affected Areas	\$47,751
	Program Support Costs		\$20,200
<b>TOTAL NON-FOOD ASSISTANCE FUNDING</b>			<b>\$4,767,951</b>
Food Assistance			
WFP	Cash Transfers for Food, Local and Regional Food Procurement	Affected Areas	\$10,500,000
<b>TOTAL FOOD ASSISTANCE FUNDING</b>			<b>\$10,500,000</b>
<b>TOTAL USAID/BHA FUNDING</b>			<b>\$15,267,951</b>
<b>DoD</b>			
	Logistics Support and Relief Commodities	Beirut	\$3,794,200
<b>TOTAL DoD FUNDING</b>			<b>\$3,794,200</b>
<b>TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE LEBANON EXPLOSIONS RESPONSE IN FY 2020</b>			<b>\$19,062,151</b>

<sup>1</sup> Year of funding indicates the date of commitment or obligation, not appropriation, of funds. Funding figures reflect publicly announced funding as of September 16, 2020.

<sup>2</sup> This total does not include State/PRM funding for refugee response activities in Lebanon. Existing State/PRM partners have reoriented activities to respond to the needs of individuals affected by the August 4 explosions.

## PUBLIC DONATION INFORMATION

- The most effective way people can assist relief efforts is by making monetary contributions to humanitarian organizations that are conducting relief operations. A list of humanitarian organizations that are accepting monetary support for disaster responses around the world can be found at [interaction.org](https://www.interaction.org).
- USAID encourages monetary contributions because they allow aid professionals to procure the exact items needed (often in the affected region); reduce the burden on scarce resources (such as transportation routes, staff time, and warehouse space); can be transferred very quickly and without transportation costs; support the economy of the disaster-stricken region; and ensure culturally, dietarily, and environmentally appropriate assistance.
- More information can be found at:
  - USAID Center for International Disaster Information: [cidi.org](https://www.cidi.org)
  - Information on relief activities of the humanitarian community can be found at [reliefweb.int](https://www.reliefweb.int).

USAID/BHA bulletins appear on the USAID website at [usaid.gov/humanitarian-assistance/where-we-work](https://www.usaid.gov/humanitarian-assistance/where-we-work)