

RAPID DISASTER RESPONSE PLAN

AUGUST 2020

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Beirut port, 5 August 2020. Photo by Pasqual Gorriz (UN)



Lebanon's main grain silo destroyed at Beirut port, 6 August 2020
Photo by Narod Haroutunian (ABAAD)

SITUATION OVERVIEW

On August 4, 2020, a major explosion occurred in Lebanon at the National Port of Beirut, causing massive damages to buildings in its capital and suburbs. At least 154 persons were killed, more than 6,000 injured, and many are still missing according to media reports. Additionally, 300,000 people have been made homeless, including 80,000 children who have been displaced, as reported by UNICEF. The blast affected Beirut and an approximate surrounding area of 20 kilometers, causing severe damage to properties and infrastructure throughout the area, with some in risk of collapse. Hospitals in Beirut that were already struggling to cope with COVID-19 cases, are stretched beyond capacity and some are affected with structural damages which have hindered operations and medical interventions, even for the most critical cases.

The destruction of the Port of Beirut exacerbates Lebanon's already existing economic crisis, with growing concerns over food supplies as the national wheat silo was hit. The devastating explosion will further limit the government's ability to import food.

On 5 August, the government declared a state of emergency in Beirut for two weeks.

Humanitarian actors in Lebanon are called to immediately activate supply chains for efficient mobilization of funding and distribution of vital aid to the affected communities in a well-coordinated approach.

PORT OF BEIRUT BY THE NUMBERS

\$313 million
total revenues
in 2017

\$124 million
net profits in
2017

120,000 tons
total capacity of
silos

**56 DIRECT
GEOGRAPHICAL
LINKS**



27
Europe

12
Middle
East

8
China

5
Far
East

4
North
America

Source: Forbes Middle East

NEEDS ANALYSIS

The scale and magnitude of the disaster has left hundreds of thousands of people in need of immediate aid including food, shelter, water, fuel, protection, as well as support to rebuild their lives and livelihoods. People affected are also suffering from psychological distress and trauma due to the blast that has led to a tragic loss of lives, with many missing and thousands injured, in addition to the damages on properties, homes and businesses.

This crisis comes at the same time as other major challenges that Lebanon has been facing since October 2019. This includes an economic crisis that has spiralled in unemployment and the continued devaluation of the Lebanese Lira. More than 800,000 individuals are reported as being currently unemployed and more than 50% of the population is living below the poverty line. The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic plummeted the country into deeper economic difficulties. It goes without saying that financial uncertainties, heightened tensions and the disruption of life-saving services have also exacerbated already existing gender-based violence risks at home and public spaces. Coordinated efforts and critical interventions in different areas across all sectors are therefore required to help people cope and overcome the disaster and complex crises of economic collapse and a global pandemic.



Armenia Street in Mar Mikhael, 6 August 2020
Photos by Narod Haroutunian (ABAAD)



ABAAD'S RESPONSE

ABAAD identified priorities to help alleviate the impacts of the crisis and scale up its specialised services in order to ensure provision of life-saving services to the affected people. In addition to the field centres through which the interventions below will be provided, ABAAD will deploy two emergency response field teams to ensure presence at the heart of the affected area to increase access for rightholders to information and services.



ABAAD has launched a dedicated information hotline (24/7) for affected communities to manage urgent requests, such as basic needs (food, hygiene and dignity kits), mental health, protection and GBV services in addition to referrals to other specialised agencies in WASH, shelter and health services.

ABAAD's team can be reached at: 81-799907

BASIC ASSISTANCE

Identify vulnerable households and individuals in the affected area in addition to those who are displaced and currently being hosted in other governorates.

Conduct needs assessment and accordingly provide food parcels, hygiene items, dignity kits and else.

MENTAL HEALTH

Provide psychological first aid and follow up, along with psychosocial support (stress and anger management and coping with grief) to affected individuals in all areas across Lebanon.

GBV RESPONSE

Conduct safety audits.

Outreach, assess and identify the most vulnerable women and girls in the affected areas for specialised GBV follow up (with special attention to continue access to Clinical Management of Rape services).

Provide GBV case management and PSS services on site through mobile safe spaces units.

Continue admitting high-risk GBV cases in ABAAD's three temporary emergency safe shelters across Lebanon. ABAAD has secured three new safe spaces that will serve as COVID-19 isolation units before admission for new cases.

Continue coordination and lobby for GBV mainstreaming initiatives among all sectors and support various clusters to integrate GBV into their preparedness and response interventions.

CAPACITY BUILDING

Build and enhance the capacities of civil society volunteers to deal with people suffering from psychological trauma, including those with disabilities, following the Do No Harm and rights-based approaches.

Provide self-care to front liners and responders.

COMMUNITY INTERVENTIONS AS GATEWAY TO PROTECTION PROGRAMMING

Set up of an emergency food service for evacuees, emergency workers and disaster volunteers until longer term programs are established.

Engage community members and volunteers in emergency social services set up of, and referrals to, lodging and clothing services.

AWARENESS & SENSITISATION

Develop and disseminate education and communication materials on available services, on Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) and complaint mechanisms, in particular among vulnerable groups such as women and children.

Conduct awareness and sensitisation sessions on key messages around COVID-19 and GBV.



Gouraud Street Beirut, 6 August 2020
Photo by Narod Haroutunian (ABAAD)

CROSS CUTTING INTERVENTIONS

ABAAD's team will ensure minimizing spread of COVID-19 by following the precautionary measures to ensure safety of its team and rightholders. In addition, particular attention will be provided to ensure child protection response to separated and/or unaccompanied children, persons with disabilities and elderly. ABAAD will be ensuring PSEA mechanisms and accountability to affected persons (AAP) are adhered to and applied during the emergency response.

COMMUNICATION & VISIBILITY

As part of its commitment to openness, transparency and accountability, ABAAD will ensure the dissemination of accurate and timely information to rightholders and stakeholders. ABAAD's online platforms will serve as channels of communication to ensure widespread dissemination of information on available services, and to give public visibility to response efforts conducted by ABAAD and its partners. ABAAD will also communicate key issues of concerns as targets for national and international advocacy efforts

ABAAD'S EMERGENCY APPEAL

ABAAD is launching an emergency appeal that aims to highlight critical areas of humanitarian interventions to protect the lives of the people who are mostly affected by the Beirut Port explosion and its immediate socio-economic impacts. The appeal brings forward the set of activities required to support people to cope with the impact of the explosion within one coherent frame, and is designed to advance activities from joint work plans and a common budgetary framework.



Mar Mikhael Beirut, 6 August 2020
Photo by Narod Haroutunian (ABAAD)

To contribute to ABAAD's efforts through donations:

ABAAD's Bank Details
Account Name ABAAD-Resource Centre for Gender Equality
Bank Branch Furn el Chebbak
Bank Code 0007
Bank Name BBAC
SWIFT BBACLBBX
Bank account USD 0007-490979-005
Bank account LBP 0007-490979-001
Bank Address Riad El Solh, P.O.Box 11-1536, Beirut-Lebanon

USD LB390028000000000007490979005
EURO LB150028000000000007490979049
LBP LB500028000000000007490979001



Beirut port, 6 August 2020. Photo by Narod Haroutunian (ABAAD)

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