

## Lebanon

Amman, 6 August 2020

**SITUATION**

On August 4, 2020, at around 6:00pm, a warehouse at the Beirut Port containing large quantities of ammonium nitrate exploded. After an initial explosion, a subsequent blast caused widespread damage, with reports of damage more than 20 km from the port area. The explosions and ensuing fires reportedly released toxic materials in the environment<sup>1</sup>.

Hundreds of buildings including grain silos storing around 85 percent of the country's grain, and numerous residential places have been damaged or destroyed, including many healthcare facilities and several major hospitals in Greater Beirut area, due to the blast. Official governmental reports estimate that more than 135 people were killed and over 5,000 are injured, and more than 300,000 people left homeless in the Greater Beirut area. Beirut's governor estimated the damages costs ranging from \$3-5 billion, and calls for international aid to Lebanon.

Hospitals are overloaded with casualties and that many patients have been treated on sidewalks and in parking lots, others have been referred to nearby health care centres/ hospitals in the nearby areas. While many ICUs are already reaching capacity with COVID-19 patients, this blast has cause extra tension on the already stretched health care system.

On 5<sup>th</sup> August, the Government of Lebanon declared a two-week state of emergency in Beirut. While Lebanon is already struggling from the financial crisis, economic contractions and the USD devaluation, and hosting large number of refugees this explosion came to deepen the crises and put extra pressure on both the Lebanese population, the Lebanese government and the refugee's communities. On top of these, COVID-19 is straining the country's health systems, and as of August 4, 2020 Lebanon has reported a total of 5,062 cases.

**NEEDS**

The port explosion has put Lebanon on a state of crisis with Beirut suffering from structural damage at the port and surrounding commercial and residential neighbourhood. The affected persons find themselves in a desperate situation, with many unmet vital humanitarian needs such as access to:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	sufficient food
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	safe shelter and basic non-food items
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	basic health services and facilities
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	safe drinking water, as well as sanitation and hygiene infrastructure
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	livelihood activities
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	protection services
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	adequate nutrition

The dire situation is further compounded for the affected people with vulnerabilities across the board with Lebanon economy continuing going into deep recession since late 2019; affecting more the women and girls. There is a pressing need to provide immediate assistance to alleviate the plight and to ensure that the needs of the most vulnerable are covered first.

**STAKEHOLDERS**

The following national and international entities are present and doing their best to respond to the crisis:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	National government	The government is one of the main sources of data and information on urgent and basic needs. It is leading the search and rescue operations. Coordination with some countries for aid, including Turkey, Jordan and Iraq that already started the aid for Lebanon.
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<sup>1</sup> <https://reliefweb.int/report/lebanon/lebanon-beirut-port-explosions-situation-report-no-1-5-august-2020>

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	UN Agencies	UN agencies play a big role in coordination, i.e.: OCHA, WHO, UNICEF UN is mobilizing assistance to support the ongoing government-led emergency response. WHO delivered trauma and surgical supplies to support the authorities to fill in needs and gaps.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	INGOs	Limited information is available about planned response however, some INGOs started responding through national Organisations mainly on food distribution and basic needs.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Red Cross Red Crescent Movement	The Red Cross, Lebanese Red Crescent and the Civil Defence, were the first to respond to the casualties and transport critically injured people to hospitals, treating minor to medium on-site and provide basic assistance whenever possible. Lebanese Red Cross has sent all of its emergency medical support to the scene for support.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	National NGOs	Through the LINGO Forum, national NGO's are coordinating to extend assistance: Basic needs, street cleaning, helping in finding shelter.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Faith based groups	Churches and monastic orders have already opened convents, monasteries and church related schools to host the Lebanese people who have left without a roof.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Affected communities	Actively participate in search and rescue efforts; and host affected people.

The emergency response is currently being coordinated by ACT Lebanon forum in coordination with Government bodies, UN agencies, INGOs, FBOs. To ensure that the humanitarian response is well coordinated and complementary, the ACT forum will take part in meetings with all relevant sector stakeholders and establish an open line of communication with crisis affected persons and communities to ensure a humanitarian response based on participation and feedback.

#### **ACT Alliance**

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	ACT Lebanon forum/ JSL forum has been working in Lebanon since 2014, now in the planning phase to help people affected. ACT Forum members include Act Church of Sweden, Diakonia, DSPR, MECC, NCA, and LWR
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	ACT members works in areas affected by the crisis, and is assessing the impact of the disaster to better understand the needs and vulnerabilities
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	ACT Lebanon Forum, with support from ACT Secretariat, is currently monitoring the situation and planning a rapid needs assessment to have an in-depth context analysis and better understanding of existing vulnerabilities.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	ACT Lebanon forum is monitoring the situation and emergency teams are ready/preparing to respond according to the results of a contextual analysis and rapid needs assessment.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	In collaboration with relevant stakeholders, the ACT Lebanon forum has identified needs in housing/ shelters, food security, Health and PSS and cash and has resolved that if funded, it will have the capacity to properly bridge the identified gaps.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	The ACT forum is in discussion on submitting a funding proposal to the ACT Secretariat to provide assistance in Shelter rehabilitation/ NFI, food assistance, hygiene items, and cash for work to ensure that the affected persons' basic needs are met with regards to their needs. The Secretariat is mobilizing support for an RRF at this stage, with the consideration of an Appeal to be made based on Forum discussions and donor interest.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	ACT Alliance is ready to respond, providing food packages, Hygiene kits and shelter assistance, Cash assistance and PSS support to most affected households in the coming months.



Furthermore, ACT Alliance will engage in advocacy on the national and international level to ensure that the voices of those affected by the crisis are amplified.

**Any funding indication or pledge should be communicated to the Director of Operations,  
Line Hempel ([Line.Hempel@actalliance.org](mailto:Line.Hempel@actalliance.org))**

For further information please contact:

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