

## Rapid Response Fund (RRF)

<b>Section 1: Overview of response</b>																
LEBANON	Emergency Response to the Port Explosion in Lebanon															
<b>Summary</b>	<b>MECC</b>	<b>DSPR</b>														
Implementation period	17 August 2020 to 16 November 2020 3 (months)	17 August 2020 to 16 November 2020 3 (months)														
Geographical area	Mount Lebanon	Beirut														
Sectors of response	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Shelter / NFIs <input type="checkbox"/> Protection/ psychosocial <input type="checkbox"/> Health <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> WASH <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Food Security	<input type="checkbox"/> Shelter/ NFIs <input type="checkbox"/> Protection/ psychosocial <input type="checkbox"/> Health <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> WASH <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Food Security														
Targeted beneficiaries (per sector)	Food Security: 1500 displaced people NFI's: 1500 displaced people	WASH and Food Security: 200HH Community engagement: 30 Volunteer														
Requested budget (USD)	75,000 (USD)	75,000 USD														
Is there an updated ACT Forum EPRP?	No Forum EPRP, however, there is a final draft COVID-19 contingency plan.															
<b>Section 2: Narrative Summary</b>																
<p><b>Background</b></p> <p>On 4 August, 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 reaching more than 20 km from the port area. The explosions and ensuing fires reportedly released toxic materials in the environment</p> <p>Hundreds of buildings including grain silos storing around 85 percent of the country's grain, and numerous residential places have also 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 250 people were killed, around a 100 still missing, over 5,000 injured, and more than 300,000 people left homeless in the Greater Beirut area/Mount Lebanon.</p> <p>Hospitals are overloaded with casualties. Minor to medium injuries 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 maximum capacity with COVID-19 patients, this blast has caused extra tension on the already stretched health care system.</p> <p>On 5 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 communities. Adding on that COVID-19 transmission is straining the country's health systems, as of August 4, 2020 Lebanon reported 5,062 corona cases.</p> <p>LNGO Forum members have been trying to respond, however, needs are still immense.</p> <p>The 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:</p> <table border="1"> <tbody> <tr><td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></td><td>sufficient food</td></tr> <tr><td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></td><td>safe shelter and basic non-food items</td></tr> <tr><td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></td><td>basic health services and facilities</td></tr> <tr><td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></td><td>safe drinking water, as well as sanitation and hygiene infrastructure</td></tr> <tr><td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></td><td>livelihood activities</td></tr> <tr><td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></td><td>protection services</td></tr> <tr><td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></td><td>adequate nutrition</td></tr> </tbody> </table>			<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
<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 the Lebanon economy spiralling deeper into recession since late 2019; affecting more the women, girls and the elderly. Many of the latter are still stranded alone in their damaged homes. 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.

Following are highlights from the assessment of UNOCHA, SitRep 3 on August 10, 2020:

- Only 47 per cent of 55 primary healthcare facilities surveyed can still provide full routine health services.
- Priority areas for Shelter support were identified as the following: Gemmayzeh, Mar Mikhael, Ashrafiyeh and Qarantina.
- Hot meals, food rations and other food assistance are needed for thousands of affected people
- Concerns grow that damage to the Beirut Port will exacerbate food insecurity, which was already growing amid COVID-19 pandemic and prolonged socio-economic crisis.
- The Water Sector prioritized the WASH response to support vital water facilities, hospitals and PHCs and affected households.
- Psycho-social support, family reunification and other protection services are essential.

### Capacity

The MECC has benchmarks through its humanitarian response in the region from the Palestinian cause, the civil war in Lebanon, the first golf war and Iraq crises in 2003, the war against Lebanon in 2006 to the recent Syrian crises that outbreak in March 2011. The diaconal services of the council were not limited to civil wars or sectarian conflicts but exceeded to respond to national disasters too. Along in response to humanitarian needs, the council was involved in many development initiatives at national levels. It contributed to establish many diaconal services in many churches in many countries. Diaconia and relief programs cover many sectors such as but not limited to; education, protection, shelter, NFIs, food security, livelihood, WASH, health and capacity building. The variety of programs outreached millions of beneficiaries irrespective of their backgrounds. The service in dignity and love to all people in need is the pillar of its objectives.

DSPR – Lebanon (or the Joint Christian Committees) has excellent networks and will build on their experience to insure timely and effective response. As a reputable and positively perceived organization that has strong roots in the community for more than 60 years on the ground.

DSPR / JCC has taken part in previous humanitarian relief operations implemented as ACT appeals since 2012 in the different geographical areas in Lebanon. Staff will continue to coordinate with ACT through the “Lebanon ACT Forum”.

MECC and DSPR will work in coordination and cooperation with member churches who have already opened their related schools and convents for the displaced. This intervention will also be implemented in support for affected households in targeted areas where staff will coordinate with the local committees to execute the different interventions and activities.

Implementing agencies will target those (regardless of nationality and/or religion) who sought refuge at MECC member churches related schools and venues. They are in dire need of basic needs: Food, Hygiene supplies including COVID-19 preventive material. Distribution will take place in cooperation with churches and implementing partners volunteers and staff. Goods will be bought by the implementing partners and delivered to Churches for joint distribution.

MECC and DSPR are in consultation and coordination with Lebanon ACT forum on the targets, areas and implementation. Both members have already been involved in similar activities of distribution in crisis. Targeted beneficiaries are already in place in related church venues with assessment of needs.

1-

### Proposed response

MECC will extend support to displaced/homeless people who took refuge in member churches related schools and convents in the area of Mount Lebanon and Greater Beirut. MECC will provide assistance through provision of Food, NFI's, Hygiene, blankets, clothing to those affected as they left their homes with nothing on. By doing so, MECC will be upholding people's dignity through the member churches who have already opened their doors to those displaced.

MECC will purchase goods and distribute to member churches for joint implementation through volunteers and MECC staff. While some churches do not have the capacity to respond in similar situations, they have the venues to receive the affected population. As such, MECC will be empowering member churches in their response to the crisis.

DSPR's main activity will be providing households who have partially or totally lost their houses and source of income, with initial food staples package and WASH and Hygiene kits can answer to part of this problem. Many households and communities still suffer due to the endless amount of rubble and dust due to the blast which requires clean up in attempt to provide some level of normalcy to daily lives. DSPR will support in these efforts by having a cleaning campaign run by the volunteers.

This interventions under this RRF proposal will be linked with and coordinated under the broader response of the ACT Lebanon Forum through an upcoming ACT Appeal, as well as direct response by members under the Total ACT Response.

Does the proposed response honour ACT's commitment to Child Safeguarding?  Yes  No

Please see the [RRF Guidance Note for concrete examples](#); for additional guidance please refer to <http://actalliance.org/documents/act-alliance-child-safeguarding-guidance-document/>

Problems	<p>A massive explosion hit the port of Beirut with a radius of 20 kms shockwave leaving over 200 dead, missing, over 7000 injured and 300,000 homeless o date.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Loss of housing and belongings.</li> <li>- Loss of food security and livelihoods, commerce activities.</li> <li>- Destruction of the main port, some major roads and buildings and disruption of water and electricity supply.</li> <li>- Thousands of people in temporary shelters at risk of contacting COVID-19.</li> </ul>
Target beneficiaries	<p><b>MECC:</b> Displaced/homeless individuals and families of all nationalities already sheltered in member churches related venues (schools and convents).</p> <p><b>DSPR:</b> DSPR will target 200 households of the affected communities due to the blast.</p> <p>The most vulnerable and needy families will be selected after consulting with the community leadership bodies.</p> <p>Criteria followed will consider:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Primarily those who are directly affected by the blast.</li> <li>- Women headed households.</li> <li>- Households having elderly, disabled or chronically sick people.</li> <li>- Households where the breadwinners have lost their source of income due to the blast.</li> </ul> <p>DSPR will engage 30 young men and women volunteers in the community response operations primarily through rubble removal and household clean up in the affected areas.</p>
Main activities	<p>Main activities include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Provision of NFIs including blankets and bedding sets and clothing.</li> <li>- Provision of WASH supplies such as hygiene kits and dignity kits.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Providing COVID-19 protective equipment: Soap, Loofas, toothbrushes and toothpaste, sanitary pads, napkins, shampoo, masks and sanitizers.</li> <li>- Provision of food packages/staples containing dry and canned food. (enough for 3-4 weeks per HH)</li> <li>- Set up a tent for rubble removing volunteers and replenish it with cleaning materials, snacks and water</li> </ul> <p>Support activities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Networking with community leaders and faith leaders for the community needs and of the most- vulnerable.</li> <li>- Identify the neediest households in the communities according to pre-set criteria.</li> <li>- Contact well stocked shops in the target area and set up an agreement with them as to get food and hygiene packages. This will help the sustainability of the shops (or at least those working) within the target areas.</li> <li>- Select households in the affected area and distribute food and wash packages.</li> <li>- Prepare communication and visibility materials.</li> </ul>
Specific objective(s)/ Outputs	<p><u>Output 1:</u> 175 affected HH hosted by church members will receive hygiene kits, and NFIs to meet their basic needs. (MECC)</p> <p><u>Output 2:</u> 175 HH affected hosted by church members will receive food packages to meet their basic needs. (MECC)</p> <p><u>Output 3:</u> 200 households received food, clean drinking water and medicines packages. (DSPR)</p> <p><u>Output 4:</u> 200 households received Water and Sanitation and Hygiene kits and packages provided– including household and community cleaning materials (including rubble removal). (DSPR)</p> <p><u>Output 5:</u> 30 young men and women engaged in rubble removal from DSPR office and communities for three months. (DSPR)</p>
Overall objective / Outcome(s)	To reduce the vulnerability and alleviate the suffering of people who are affected by Lebanon Port explosion.

### Reporting Schedule

Type of Report	Due date
Situation report	1 October 2020
Final narrative and financial report (60 days after the ending date)	16 January 2021
Audit report (90 days after the ending date)	16 February 2021

### Monitoring and evaluation

Both implementing organizations will be conducting monitoring activities (each according to their geographical areas and beneficiaries). Monitoring activities include those during implementation and post distribution monitoring.

MECC will do all tendering. MECC will be present at delivery. Given the fact of the nature of intervention during this catastrophic event, MECC will do personal interview to a certain percentage of total beneficiaries for each activities along with possible FGDs if beneficiaries will allow MECC to do it. MECC will take adequate safety measures to staff to be well protected against COVID-19 during the monitoring phases on the field. Taking into account the nature of disaster, MECC may not be able to

give detailed data of beneficiaries for this who are living in shelters in order to preserve their dignity. However, during monitoring visit the person monitoring will be able to randomly select people to interview and the lists will be accessible for a sampling. Monitoring be done in cooperation with the church and related existing data – rapid assessment.

MECC will be responsible for adequate procurement.

DSPR/ JCC with its head office and staff will be responsible for executing and monitoring the project followed by reporting in line with the reporting requirements of the ACT rapid response appeal. All response monitoring will be closely supported by DSPR /JCC staff in the Beirut office. Support in reporting, overview and audit will be provided at the DSPR central office (in Jerusalem). DSPR Lebanon will ensure that all activities are being implemented in a timely fashion as per the action plan and that beneficiaries receive quality assistance in a dignified and respectful manner.

Monitoring will be followed by the head office after selecting people from the staff with assigned roles to be carried out as follows:

One JCC staff and one field staff will carry out the plan. One will organize the food and hygiene disturbance while the other will be responsible to get their signature of receipt and contact details.

One field staff will organize the rubble removal operations including setting up the tent and purchasing materials, food and snacks for the volunteers.

Post distribution monitoring for DSPR entails visiting the households of the beneficiaries while ensuring that the field staff are following COVID19 precautions. Should there be a serious health concern during the time of post disturbing monitoring, DSPR staff will use the phone and mobile phones (collected during distribution) to contact the beneficiaries to conduct a phone survey on goods and services received. Names of beneficiaries will be randomly selected from the lists.

ACT Secretariat will also take part in monitoring by conducting a monitoring visit if possible. ACT will coordinate within the forum and involved members to decide the best way to do a monitoring trip.

### **Section 3: ACT Alliance coordination**

#### **Coordination**

Both implementing partners DSPR Lebanon and MECC will continue to take a pro-active role in local and international NGO forums. Through participating in coordination mechanisms and cluster working groups, MECC and DSPR Lebanon will coordinate their activities with UN agencies, ACT members and international and national non-governmental organization where appropriate and as needed with those concerned in avoiding duplication.

On the ground, coordination will mainly take place with member churches (pre, during and post implementation). Implementing partners will also coordinate with other non-implementers Forum members for possible guidance, pointers, existing assessment, and complementarity. All distributed kits will be branded with the ACT alliance and implementing partners logos

#### **MECC**

Coordination will mainly take place with member churches pre, during and post implementation. MECC will coordinate with other non-implementers Forum members for possible guidance, pointers, existing assessment, and complementarity. MECC actively takes part in the LNGO Forum and coordinates activities and assistance with those concerned avoiding duplication. The kits will be branded with the ACT alliance and MECC logos

#### **DSPR Lebanon (JCC)**

Will continue to participate in local and international NGO forums. Through participating in coordination mechanisms and cluster working groups, DSPR Lebanon will coordinate its activities with UN agencies and international and national non-governmental organization where appropriate and as needed.

DSPR/Lebanon will update the Lebanon forum on the implementation of the RRF with any occurring updates, challenges or lessons.

#### **Implementation arrangements**



MECC will coordinate and cooperate with member churches in targeted areas in order to overcome duplication of beneficiaries, sharing their data and using their existing facilities in places where people will have limited access outside their districts and can reach existing facilities related to churches or LNGOs.

There will be a joint implementation on the ground between MECC staff and volunteers and the church members. All kits will be directly distributed to the affected people .

As DSPR Lebanon (JCC) is among a few implementing agencies in Lebanon on this ACT RRF appeal and thus will implement distribution activities with other implementing partners for target families in the targeted geographical areas.

#### **Human resources and administration of funds**

The Middles East Council of Churches has liaison offices in Jordan, Syria, Cyprus and Egypt in addition to its main office in Lebanon. The Ecumenical Relief Service programs under Diaconia department has been involved in responding to the needs of homeless, refugees, IDPS, returnees and welcoming communities since its foundations in 1974. The council has benchmarks through its humanitarian response in the region from the Palestinian cause, the civil war in Lebanon, the first golf war and Iraq crisis in 2003, the war against Lebanon in 2006 to the recent Syrian crisis that broke out in March 2011. The diaconal services of the council were not limited to civil wars or sectarian conflicts but exceeded to respond to national disasters too. Along the response to humanitarian needs, the council was involved in many development initiatives at national levels. It contributed to establish many diaconal services in churches in many countries. Diaconia and relief programs cover many sectors such as but not limited to; education, protection, shelter, NFIs, food security, livelihood, WASH, health and capacity building. The variety of programs outreached millions of beneficiaries irrespective of their backgrounds. The service in dignity and love to all people in need are the pillar of MECC objectives.

MECC is currently implementing many projects in Lebanon with a yearly budget that exceeds 4M US\$ allocated for the Diaconia department. It has more than 14 international partners working with the council in different sectors. MECC is an ACT alliance member and it is a member in the national forum in Jordan, Syria and Lebanon as well as in the new ACT MENA forum. The MECC dedicated staff working on the field are well equipped with potential experience to work under stress and under different conditions to meet the end results. The efficiency and accountability of MECC team in different departments contribute toward impactful cooperation with MECC partners.

DSPR Lebanon (JCC)

has capable and experienced staff to undertake the planned activities In Lebanon. DSPR /JCC has presence in Beirut. All appeal activities and monitoring of the project will be continuous during and after the implementation of the programs. The reporting will be done according to ACT formats in the Sitrep, interim and final reports.

- DSPR Lebanon will contract directly local shops that would provide hygiene kits and food staples. Several suppliers might be required to provide faster services and larger area coverage for the impacted household.
- Staff in the field are those who will coordinate the volunteers work, the tent set up and coordinating the provision of water and snacks helping with rubble removal.

#### **Communications**

ACT Alliance, MECC member churches, partners and the related communities will be updated about the MECC response through media coverage and advocacy messages.

DSPR will hire a special team of consultants and short-term staff to produce visibility and communication stories and materials.



### Section 4: Budget Summary

#### Emergency Response to the Port Explosion in Lebanon

<b>Requesting Forum/Country</b>	ACT Lebanon Forum
<b>Appeal Number:</b>	RRF06/2020
<b>Appeal Title:</b>	Emergency Response to the Port Explosion in Lebanon
<b>Implementing Period:</b>	17 Aug 2020 to 16 Nov 2020

**EXCHANGE RATE: local currency to 1 USD**

Budget rate (please input exchange rate here)

1.00000

Please use exchange rate from this site: <https://www.xe.com/currencyconverter/>

		RRF Total	MECC	DSPR
<b>Direct Costs</b>		<b>142,980</b>	<b>71,580</b>	<b>71,400</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>Project Staff</b>	<b>9,929</b>	<b>6,029</b>	<b>3,900</b>
1.3	National Staff	9,929	6,029	3,900
<b>2</b>	<b>Project Activities</b>	<b>120,551</b>	<b>60,551</b>	<b>60,000</b>
2.2	Community Engagement	20,000	-	20,000
2.4	WASH	12,741	12,741	
2.7	Shelter and Household items	38,605	38,605	
2.8	Food Security	49,205	9,205	40,000
<b>3</b>	<b>Project Implementation</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
3.1.	Forum Coordination	-	-	-
3.2.	Capacity Development	-	-	-
<b>4</b>	<b>Quality and Accountability</b>	<b>7,400</b>	<b>3,500</b>	<b>3,900</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>Logistics</b>	<b>5,100</b>	<b>1,500</b>	<b>3,600</b>
<b>6</b>	<b>Assets and Equipment</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Indirect Costs</b>		<b>7,020</b>	<b>3,420</b>	<b>3,600</b>
Staff Salaries		3,420	3,420	
Office Operations		3,600		3,600
<b>Total Expenditure</b>		<b>150,000</b>	<b>75,000</b>	<b>75,000</b>

**ACTION**

Considering the scale of life-saving needs, the ACT Secretariat has approved the use of US\$ 150,000 from the Global Rapid Response Fund (GRRF20) and would be grateful to receive contributions to wholly or partially replenish this payment. Should there be an appeal for this emergency, the RRF payment may be considered as an advance depending on Appeal funding level.

**For further information please contact:**

ACT Regional Representative- Middle East & North Africa, Rachel Luce ([Rachel.Luce@actalliance.org](mailto:Rachel.Luce@actalliance.org))

ACT Regional Humanitarian Programme Advisor- MENA, George Majaj ([George.majaj@actalliance.org](mailto:George.majaj@actalliance.org))

ACT website: <http://www.actalliance.org>

**Alwynn Javier**

Head of Humanitarian Affairs

ACT Alliance Secretariat, Geneva