

WFP Lebanon

Beirut Port Explosions

Situation Report #3

25 August 2020



WFP-supported communal kitchens in Beirut are delivering food to the most vulnerable and food insecure people's doorsteps in areas badly affected by the explosion. Photo: WFP/Edmond Khoury

Situational Update

- As of 24 August, the death toll following the explosion at the Beirut Port has reached 180 people with over 6,500 people reported injured. The government extended the state of emergency in Beirut until 18 September.
- WFP and humanitarian partners have been active across sectors to respond to the immediate humanitarian needs post-explosion. According to OCHA, 180,000 people have been provided with critical assistance. WFP is leading on the Food Security and Logistics Sectors.
- Further assessments of the Beirut Port confirmed that data connectivity has been re-established. Therefore, Emergency Telecommunications Sector (ETS) services are no longer required and the Sector has been demobilized as of 21 August.
- A sharp increase in COVID-19 cases was recorded following the explosion, which also severely damaged four major hospitals in Beirut. As of 24 August, 13,155 confirmed cases and 126 deaths have been recorded in Lebanon, prompting the government to announce a two-week lockdown starting 21 August to attempt to

In Numbers

841,000 Lebanese are estimated to be extremely poor

150,000 People directly affected by the explosion who are estimated to be in need of assistance

5,416 of the most food insecure reached so far with immediate in-kind assistance as part of the explosion response

944,156 people assisted by WFP in July 2020

Highlights

- As of 24 August, WFP provided emergency in-kind food assistance to 5,416 people most in need through the distribution of over 1,000 food parcels. WFP also provided food parcels to support communal kitchens serving 3,000 hot meals a day in the blast affected areas of Beirut.
- Offloading is ongoing of the WFP shipment of 12,500 metric tons of wheat flour that arrived in Beirut on 18 August. The wheat flour will be distributed through to millers and bakeries to help stabilize the price of bread across the country and help ensure the continuity of the national bread supply.
- WFP has established temporary augmented storage capacity at Beirut Port for humanitarian goods and cargo.

curb transmission rates. Measures include a 12-hour curfew and ban on large gatherings. Humanitarian and relief efforts are exempt from these measures.

Assessments

- WFP is supporting OCHA and the Lebanese Red Cross (LRC) with the on-going Multi-Sector Needs Assessment (MSNA). The on-going assessment aims to collect data on the impact of the explosion on communities living in the explosion affected areas.
- The second round of the web-based survey has been launched to assess the overall impact of the triple shock of the recent explosion, economic crisis and COVID-19 across different populations groups living in Lebanon. Initial results are expected in the next few weeks.
- The joint remote assessment (m-VAM) with the World Bank is ongoing. The survey started pre-explosion, but additional questions related to the impact of the explosion will provide new information to compare and assess trends and impacts. The aim of the m-VAM is to assess the food security and economic vulnerability of the Lebanese population.

WFP Operational Response

- As of 24 August, WFP has provided emergency in-kind food assistance to 5,416 of the most vulnerable of the explosion-affected people in the Karantina, Bouj Hammoud, Gemmayze, Geitawi, and Khandaa El Ghamme neighborhoods of Beirut. WFP's partner SHEILD is continuing distribution of family food parcels this week in explosion-affected areas.
- WFP also provided food parcels to support communal kitchens serving 3,000 hot meals a day in the blast-affected areas of Beirut.
- In-kind distribution to the most vulnerable of the blast-affected will gradually be phased out as cash-based assistance is scaled up for the 150,000 most affected and vulnerable starting in September. WFP together with UNHCR and UNICEF are leading on cash coordination efforts with partners to ensure as much as possible the harmonization of assistance.
- All WFP contracted shops across the country are currently fully operational. The 20 shops in the Beirut area affected by the explosion (e.g. shattered glass, damages to electrical wiring, etc.) are operational and functioning while maintenance work is ongoing.
- A rapid WFP markets assessment found that after the explosion, most WFP contracted shops across the country had on average over two weeks' stock.

Supply Chain

- Offloading has begun of the 12,500 MT of wheat flour at Beirut port and is being transported to warehouses before further distribution to millers and bakeries. The wheat flour will support national efforts to stabilize the price of bread across the country and ensure continuity of the bread supply.
- In support of WFP's wheat flour operation and humanitarian relief efforts, mobile storage units (MSU) have been set up at Beirut Port. The storage units provide temporary storage for WFP and humanitarian relief items arriving in country.

Resources

- A total of USD 14.4 million has been secured in donor contributions to help WFP meet immediate humanitarian needs.

A Story Worth Telling



A human chain of WFP and Lebanon Reforestation Initiative (LRI) volunteers, clearing debris to help make hospital rooms operational again at a Rosaire Hospital in Gemmayzeh, Beirut. Photo: WFP/Edmond Khoury

Although Nasser Deeb lives more than 80 kilometres away from the Port of Beirut, after the double explosions ripped through the capital on 4 August, he couldn't just stand idly by. He wanted to help.

Equipped with safety material and filled with the urge to help, he headed to Beirut alongside a hundred people who, like him, were participating in a joint WFP and Lebanon Reforestation Initiative (LRI) project. Having decided to volunteer in recovery efforts, they found their way to the Rosaire Hospital in Gemmayzeh, less than a kilometre away from the site of the blast.

"I want to tell my kids that I stood by my country when it needed me the most," Nasser says proudly.

Equipped with face masks and heavy-duty gloves, volunteers cleared debris to help make hospital rooms operational again. They worked with facemasks to abide by COVID-19 guidance. They sprayed water on surfaces to prevent particles and dust from dispersing back into the air and separated the debris out into glass and wood so the material can be sorted properly. Construction experts are helping to rebuild the hospital.

Thanks to all those that volunteered the hospital is partially up and running again as of Monday 24 August.

[For more information:](#)

- [WFP Lebanon Beirut Port Explosion Situation Report #2](#) 17 Aug 2020
- [WFP Lebanon Beirut Port Explosion Situation Report #1](#), 9 Aug 2020

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