

Lebanon: Beirut Explosions Situation Report #2

14 August 2020

project
HOPE[®]
Emergency
Response

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

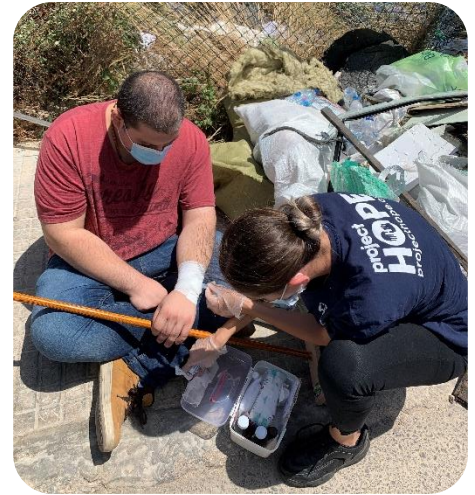
- A rapid assessment of **55 health care centers** in Beirut found less than half to be fully operational and **37 percent** sustained moderate to serious damage.ⁱ
- Health facilities report needs include **medicines and medical supplies, chronic disease medications, oxygen concentrators, psychosocial support,** and expanding **primary care services.**
- Project HOPE's Emergency Response Team (ERT) is supporting community clean-up efforts, distributing facemasks and providing basic wound care to community volunteers, and working to provide much-needed medical supplies and medicines to the medical teams deployed by the **René Moawad Foundation (RMF).**
- Project HOPE is actively **distributing two interagency emergency health kits (IEHKs),** which arrived in Beirut on August 12.
- **Additional shipments** of urgently needed medical supplies and protective gear are being coordinated and expected to arrive in Beirut in the coming days.

SITUATION OVERVIEW

Beirut continues to cope with the aftermath of the port explosions on August 4, as search and rescue missions continue and volunteer groups and local organizations work to clean up debris and respond to emergent and evolving needs.

The World Health Organization (WHO) led a rapid assessment of **55 primary health facilities** in Beirut. Of these, **20 health facilities,** including six major hospitals, sustained partial or heavy structural damage, and only **47 percent** of the facilities are able to provide full routine services. Approximately **13 percent of the facilities assessed** reported their health workers were among those injured, and 55 percent of facilities were in need of medical supplies. The number of hospital beds in the city was also reduced by **500-600.**^{ii,iii}

According to the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), many families are in need of sanitation and hygiene supplies, as basic water service at the household level and



Project HOPE team member providing wound care to a volunteer clearing glass and debris from the streets of Beirut on August 8.

Quick Facts

- A warehouse, reportedly containing 2,750 tons of ammonium nitrate, exploded on August 4 in Beirut port
- 220+ deaths
- 6,000+ people reported injured
- Up to 200 people missing
- 300,000 people are estimated to be displaced
- More than 770,000 people affected
- Number of hospital beds reduced by more than 500
- Lebanon recorded its highest daily total of COVID-19 cases on August 11

electricity across the city remain disrupted. The explosions left approximately **2,500 houses** uninhabitable.

On August 11, Lebanon recorded **300 confirmed COVID-19** cases and seven deaths, its highest daily number to-date.^{iv} Recent confirmed cases have been reported among health care workers. Community spread is expected to increase as precautionary measures are not possible and a vast number of people displaced are now forced to share close living quarters.

REPORTED NEEDS

Project HOPE's ERT met with lead physicians at key hospitals in Beirut on Monday, August 10, as well as volunteers, displaced families and community leaders. The following needs were reported:

- **Medicines and medical supplies** for hospitals, including all consumables, surgical supplies, antibiotics, and analgesics. Health facility staff emphasized the need to also prioritize chronic disease medications, as those with cardiovascular disease and diabetes are now going without due to both financial and access constraints.
- **Protective gear** for doctors and nurses treating COVID-19 patients, and **oxygen concentrators** for patients whose medical equipment was damaged or destroyed.
- **Psychological first aid and psychosocial support** for all who experienced trauma from the explosions, have been displaced, or lost friends and family.
- Expanding access to **primary health care** through existing static clinics in high-risk communities as well as mobile clinics in areas where hospitals have been impacted, including the areas nearest the port as well as the neighborhoods of Gemayzeh, Mar Mekhael, Achrafieh, Quarantina, and Burj Hammoud.

In addition to health, other needs reported are shelter, food, relief supplies, protection for vulnerable populations, and mapping of needs and services.

PROJECT HOPE RESPONSE

Project HOPE procured **two IEHKs**, which arrived in Beirut on August 12. Designed to provide basic healthcare for disaster-affected populations in resource-limited environments, an IEHK is comprised of essential medicines and medical supplies for up to 10,000 people for three months. Project HOPE will oversee distribution of these supplies in coordination with RMF and other local partners to ensure they reach priority health facilities.

Additional Project HOPE **shipments of medical supplies and medicines** are on the way to Beirut, including bandages and gauze for wound care, antibiotics, analgesics, cholesterol and high blood pressure medication. In addition, Project HOPE is preparing for a shipment of **disaster health kits**, which include items such as a toothbrush, shampoo, soap, and a personal medical kit with basic supplies like adhesive bandages and antiseptic wipes.

With community transmission of COVID-19 on the rise and in-country stocks of protective equipment running low, Project HOPE is also working to procure and ship **KN95 facemasks and other personal protective equipment** to distribute in coordination with local partners to health care workers in hotspot areas in Beirut.

Project HOPE is working to procure, ship, and distribute these critically needed supplies in coordination with local partners over the coming days. Project HOPE stands ready to rapidly mobilize additional support as additional needs are identified.

<https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/Beirut%20Port%20SitRep%20No.3.pdf>

https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/20200812_acaps_secondary_data_review_beirut_exploration_0.pdf

¹ <https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/Beirut%20Port%20SitRep%20No.4.pdf>

^{*} <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-health-coronavirus-lebanon/lebanon-registers-record-number-of-daily-covid-19-cases-idUSKCN2572G9>

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