

# Lebanon: Beirut Explosions

## Situation Report #7



21 September 2020

### KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- Lebanon recorded a record 1,006 new cases of COVID-19 on September 20<sup>th</sup>
- Project HOPE plans to roll out programming to address gaps in care following **assessment at ten primary health care facilities** in Beirut focused on sexual and reproductive health (SRH), GBV and child protection.
- Project HOPE, in coordination with the René Moawad Foundation (RMF) will distribute **two interagency emergency health kits (IEHKs)** donated by MAP International over the coming days.

### SITUATION OVERVIEW

Almost 7 weeks after the explosion at the port in Beirut and the situation on the ground remains critical. Shelter, structure rehabilitation, food distribution, and protection remain response priorities. On September 20, Lebanon recorded a record 1,006 new cases of COVID-19 and 11 deaths. 4,993 new cases of COVID-19 have been confirmed in the last 7 days.<sup>i</sup> As of September 16, more than 824 health care workers had been diagnosed with COVID-19, an increase of 71 cases over a 7-day period.<sup>ii</sup> According to the WHO, over the past month the number of patients requiring hospitalization doubled and the number of patients in the ICU almost tripled.

Lebanon implemented a 1:00am-6:00am curfew on September 16<sup>th</sup> following a spike in COVID-19 cases. Previous, longer curfews were weakened to accommodate businesses who protested the impact of the curfew on the already weak Lebanese economy. Shortages of... also continue to impact Lebanon's health system

The combined disaster and weak economic conditions in Lebanon have also led to increased reports of gender based violence (GBV), following both the port explosion and the implementation of a lockdown. The UNFPA is expanding their programming around GBV and reproductive health that initially targeted Syrian refugees to now include the Lebanese population in the most impacted regions.

### Quick Facts

- A warehouse, reportedly containing 2,750 tons of ammonium nitrate, exploded on August 4 in Beirut port
- 29,303 confirmed COVID-19 cases in Lebanon
- 824+ health care workers diagnosed with COVID-19
- 292 health facilities were affected
- \$200-245 million in losses to the health sector

## PROJECT HOPE RESPONSE

Project HOPE continues to provide immediate assistance to affected populations and health facilities in Beirut through the procurement and distribution of medicines and medical and hygiene supplies, in partnership with the RMF. Project HOPE, in partnership with RMF, continues to respond to needs on the ground by providing immediate assistance through the procurement and distribution of medicines and medical and hygiene supplies. Project HOPE is working to identify the most effective ways it can address health service delivery gaps for vulnerable populations, as identified in its recent Primary Care Facility Assessment.

### Primary Care Facility Assessment

In a recent assessment of primary health centers, Project HOPE identified gaps in service delivery for sexual and reproductive health (SRH), GBV case management and mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) delivery at primary health care facilities in the Beirut area. Project HOPE will address these gaps with programming to:

- Support case management and psychosocial support activities for children, including training for parents and caregivers
- Establish women and girls protection networks and services within PHC catchment areas, in addition to mobile
- Strengthen SRH protocols at health facilities targeted through training and supervision

### Medicine and Supply Distribution

This week, Project HOPE will receive **two IEHKs** in Beirut, including basic and supplemental modules, donated by MAP International, which will then be distributed to the **Karantina Government Hospital, Base Camp Clinic**, and through **RMF dispensaries**. The four IEHKs Project HOPE has brought to Lebanon include enough medicines and medical supplies for up to **40,000 people** for three months. Project HOPE will also soon begin distribution of **5710 Disaster Health and Hygiene Kits** via RMF Mobile Clinics to patients visited. Additional PPE will also be distributed to help protect healthcare workers and patients.

Project HOPE will continue to source items based on identified gaps and requests and ensure items are distributed to where the need is greatest.

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#### Sources

<sup>i</sup> <https://coronavirus.jhu.edu/region/lebanon>

<sup>ii</sup> [https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/Beirut%20Port\\_SitRep%20No.11.pdf](https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/Beirut%20Port_SitRep%20No.11.pdf)

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