



Lebanon: Beirut Port Explosions

Situation Report No. 8

As of 28 August 2020

This report is produced by OCHA Lebanon in collaboration with humanitarian partners.

HIGHLIGHTS

- UNFPA estimates approximately 81,000 of those affected are women of reproductive age (15-49 years), including 24,000 adolescent girls.
- Protection partners estimate 152,200 persons are in need of protection services. Since the beginning of the response, over 2,700 psychological first aid sessions were provided to those in need.
- Sports for development sessions were launched for youths and adolescents in Quarantina, Getaiwi and Basta.
- Since the beginning of the response, over 50,000 hot meals/ready-to-eat meals were distributed in 11 neighbourhoods.
- A total of 4,458 weatherproofing kits were distributed, including in Achrafieh, Bourj Hammoud, Geitawi, Mar Mikhael, Gemmayzeh, and Quarantina.
- Network connections problems in 130 buildings were addressed, and a total of 648 water tanks was installed so far, serving 192 buildings. Also, WASH partners distributed 4,341 hygiene kits and 624 baby kits to the most in-need families in Bachoura foncière, Rmeil and Quarantina.



Close-up of a damaged building from the Beirut Port explosions of 4 August 2020.
Credits: OCHA



\$344.5M

Financial requirements (US\$)



300,000

People targeted



180+

Reported deaths



6,500+

Reported injured

SITUATION OVERVIEW

The explosions have had a devastating impact on Beirut, and will have broad and long-term consequences on the country as a whole due to the deepening Lebanon's economic and multi-faceted crisis, compounded by the COVID-19 epidemic. Lebanon's central bank governor warned the bank may not be able to continue using its foreign currency reserves to finance trade and subsidize wheat, fuel and medicines. A lift of subsidies would mean that essential commodities would be priced according to the market exchange rate, a significant spike compared to the current rate of LBP 1,500 to the US dollar. Experts warned the already impoverished population would struggle to pay for medicine, expected to cost around five times higher than the current cost.

UNFPA estimates approximately 81,000 are women of reproductive age (15-49 years), including 24,000 adolescent girls, were immediately affected by the explosions. According to reports from the National Mental Health Program of the Ministry of Public Health, in addition to the need to provide psychological first aid (PFA) and support to address post-traumatic stress disorder, women and girls affected will also require support related to sexual reproductive health and gender-based violence (GBV).

As a result of the explosions, some 170 buildings are at risk of partial or total collapse, according to the Head of the Lebanese Syndicate of Engineers. The LRC-led multi-sectoral needs assessment shows that support with shelter repairs is indeed the top priority in most affected areas, with over 35 per cent of the assessed households (6,100) relaying it as their main priority. The UN and partners are responding accordingly, and a total of 4,458 weatherproofing kits were distributed, including in Achrafieh, Bourj Hammoud, Geitawi, Mar Mikhael, Gemmayzeh, and Quarantina.

With regards to health, WHO reports that more than 80 primary health care centers are severely damaged from the explosions. Quarantina Public Hospital, a hospital located a few hundred meters from the epicenter of the explosions, for example, is still reeling from the damage. Support is ongoing to Quarantina Hospital to resume child-health screening activities and outpatient consultations. Also, according to an UNFPA assessment of 55 primary healthcare facilities within 5 kilometers of the explosions, less than 50 percent of the centers reported they maintained the full package of sexual and reproductive health services (SRH), including maternal and newborn care, and treatment for sexually transmitted infections. To address these issues, 22,540 dignity kits were distributed to women and girls in affected areas through SRH and GBV implementing partners. The distributors of the dignity kits also provide women and girls with information on services for SRH, mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS), and prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse, and awareness raising activities.

On 28 August, 676 new COVID-19 cases were confirmed in Lebanon as the country has started relaxing lockdown measures. The number of healthcare workers with COVID-19 rose to a total of 594, out of the 15,613 cases in country, including 148 deaths and 4,260 recoveries. The number of hospitalized patients continues fluctuating and increased to 298 – an increase of almost 50 per cent in the last 24 hours – with approximately half of those patients receiving treatments in dedicated COVID-19 wards and 90 patients in intensive care units. While the physical bed capacity has increased, the capacity in human resources remains suboptimal, with currently a gap of some 100 nurses needed to provide adequate care in dedicated public hospitals, according to WHO. COVID-19 community transmission with multiple clusters is confirmed ongoing, with approximately 30 per cent of confirmed cases not yet having a clear source of infection. The Interior Ministry announced it would relax lockdown measures following pressure from people and businesses. Starting Friday, 28 August, a curfew will be implemented from 22:00 to 06:00. Businesses, including restaurants, cafes, malls, markets and gyms, will be permitted to operate at 50 per cent capacity.

HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE

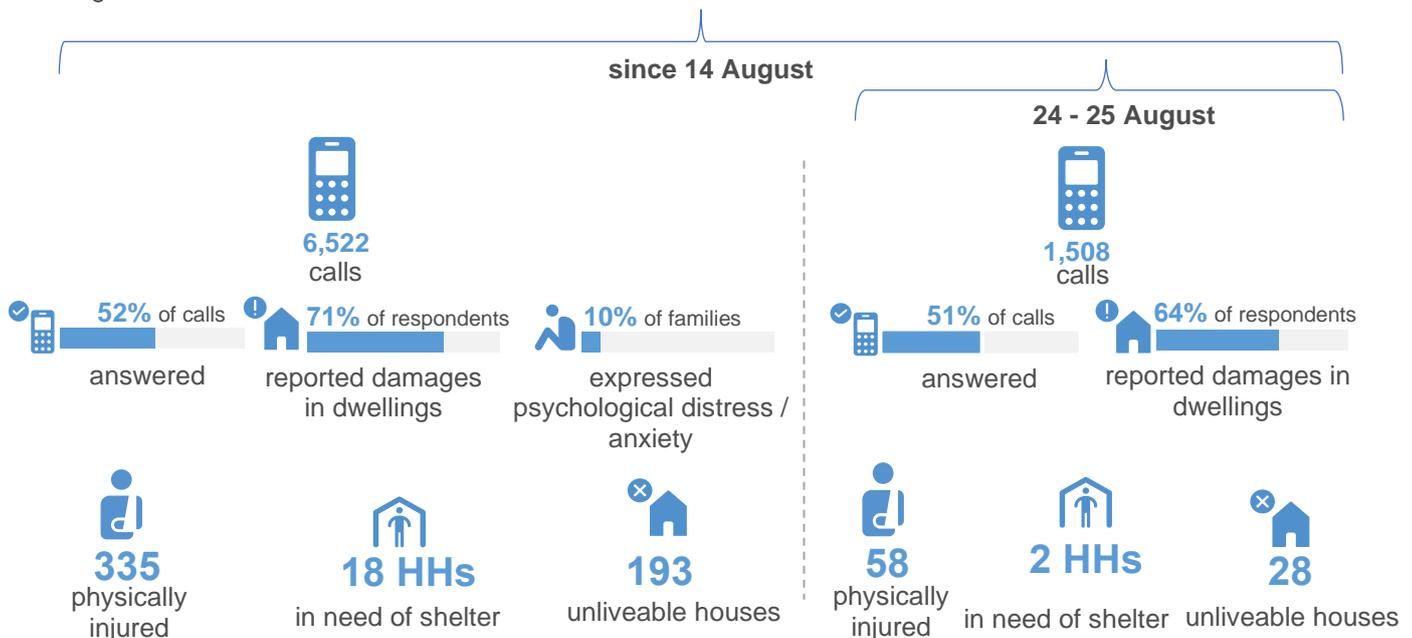
Protection

Needs:

- The explosions created several and complex layers of traumas, related to both the event itself and its consequences, such as the loss of life of family members and/or friends, and the destruction of homes and belongings. Psychological first aid (PFA), psychosocial support and, when required, specialized services, are and will be needed for those affected to recover. Also, damaged housing units put the safety of people at risk, especially women and girls. In addition, when and if seeking alternative shelter, children, the elderly and people with special needs are even more vulnerable. Lastly, separated families, disrupted communities, leave many facing great protection risks, including sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) or trafficking. Protection partners estimate 152,200 persons are in need of protection services.
- As per the available results of the LRC-led multi-sectoral needs assessment, of the 6,100 assessed households: 57 per cent report having at least one member with a chronic illness; 5 per cent are pregnant or lactating women; 8 per cent report having a physical or mental disability, and 3 per cent report having a disability caused by the explosions.
- UN Women and ABAAD are maintaining a dedicated safe helpline for women and girls at risk and/or experiencing GBV in the affected areas. On 10-24 August, 245 calls were received, indicating a need for shelter, health and WASH assistance, including hygiene and dignity kits, and mental health and psychosocial support. ABAAD is responding to needs related to protection, mental health and psycho-social support, and have referred other needs to health, WASH and shelter partners. Also, 243 on-site psychological first aid sessions provided psychological support, assessing needs, listening, comforting, and helping to connect information.

Response:

- Protection partners continued to respond in areas closest to the explosions, such as Mar Mikhael, Bourj Hammoud, Gemmayzeh and Achrafieh, as well as those facing lower levels of damage, such as Jdeideh and Dekwaneh, engaging with communities to ensure a grounded and participatory approach.
- Since the start of the response, over 2,700 PFA sessions were provided; 700 during the reporting period, with over 350 to children; 1,000 hygiene kits and over 5,500 medicines were distributed; over 600 persons received non-food items, such as clothes and mattresses.
- During activities and distributions, partners paid particular attention to the identification and referral of vulnerable people, especially those exposed to SGBV. Partners include: ABAAD, ADRA, Caritas, Concern, Helem, INTERSOS, Makhzoumi, Save the Children, Tabitha-Dorcas, UNFPA, UNHCR, UNICEF, UN Women and World Vision.
- Refugees of all nationalities who had been living in areas impacted by the explosions are severely affected. As of 25 August, 15 refugees (Syrian refugees) are confirmed dead; UNHCR remains actively engaged in tracing reported missing individuals.



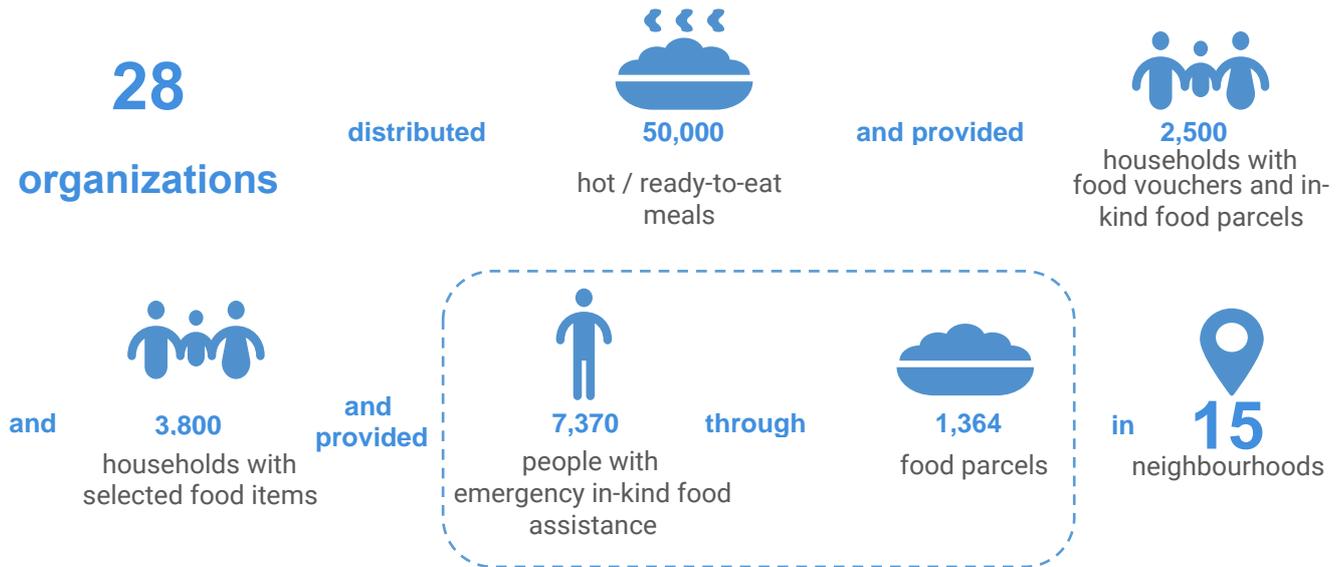
Education

Response:

- UNICEF launched sports for development sessions for 54 youths and adolescents, with six coaches conducting activities at the UNICEF tents in Quarantina, Getaiwi and Basta. Specifically, Hoops NNGO is using life-skills materials and tools developed with UNICEF, focusing on sports to decrease tensions and increase resilience; participants started to bring along family members to join in the sessions and activities.

Food Security

Response:



N.B. These figures are not necessarily representative of the entirety of the food security response on the ground.

Operational partners

Coopi	Mada	Food Heritage Foundation	ESDU	AUB	LLWB
Farah Social Foundation	Michel Daher Social Foundation	Merath	LSED	Caritas Lebanon	IHH
HRD	Amel	CARE Lebanon	Rifak El Dar	Beit El Baraka	ADRA
Tabitha-Dorcas	DPNA	Save the Children International	Anti-Racism Movement	Basmeh & Zeitooneh	AACA
WVL	MCC	Popular Aid for Relief and Development	WFP		

- Offloading of the WFP shipment of 12,500 metric tons of wheat flour continues. Also, WFP established temporary augmented storage capacity with mobile storage units set up at Beirut Port for humanitarian goods and cargo.
- All WFP-contracted shops across the country are fully operational, including 20 shops affected by the explosions and whose maintenance/repair works is ongoing.
- In Bourj Hammoud and Achrafieh, 710 households received cash assistance through Save the Children International and Tearfund. As the focus shifts to food assistance through cash-based transfers, WFP phased out support to communal kitchens. Also, and as cash-based assistance will scale up for the 150,000 most affected and vulnerable starting in September, in-kind distribution to the most vulnerable will equally be phased out.

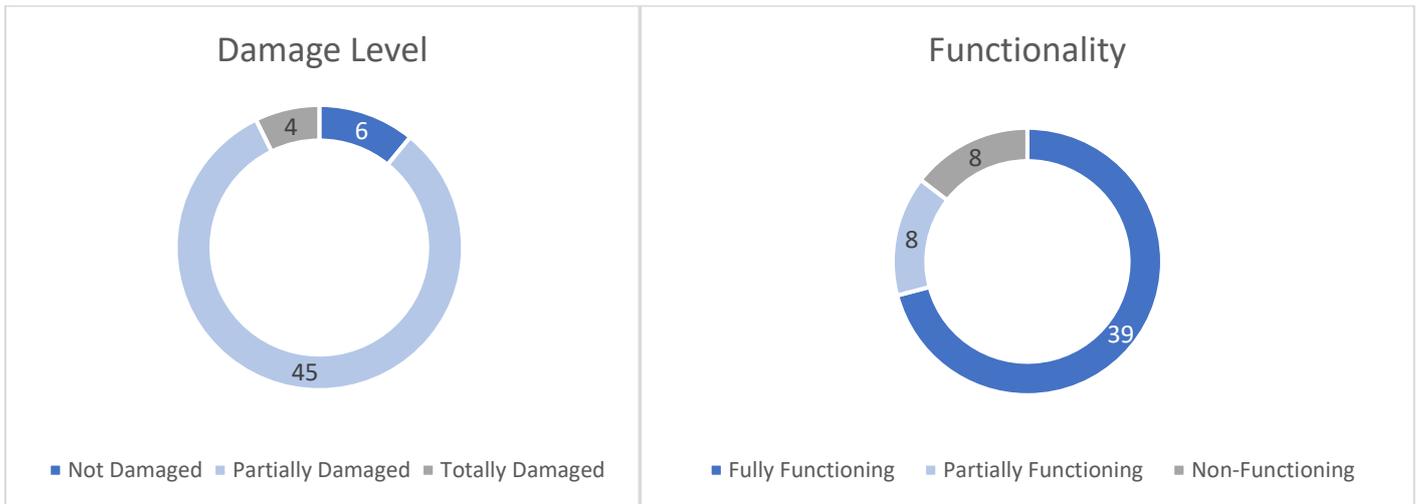
Gaps & Constraints:

- A lack of coordination with all humanitarian partners on the ground, especially with and among NNGOs and community-based organizations, was identified as a gap by food security partners.
- Several partners are redirecting previous existing funding, in turn possibly impacting their ability to continue to respond to the needs under the Lebanon Crisis Response Plan 2017-2020.

 **Health**

Needs:

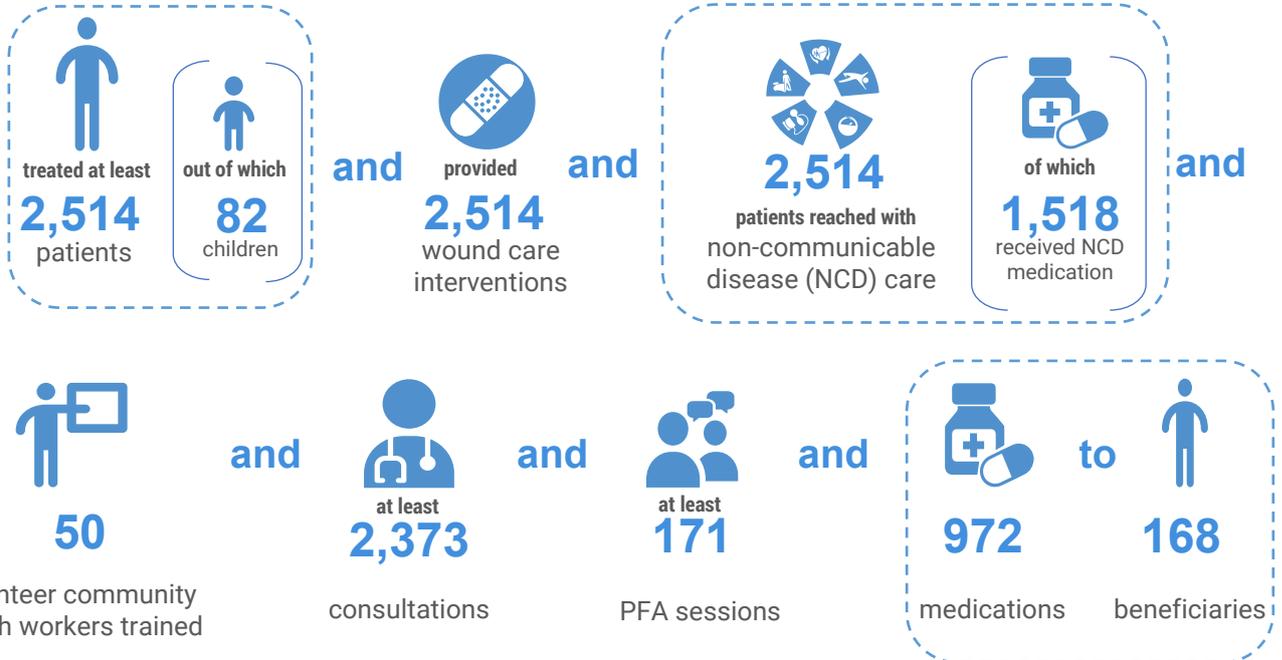
- UNFPA finalized the assessment of 55 primary healthcare centers (PHCs) and shared it with partners. Underscoring the need for comprehensive, integrated services, the assessment found that less than half of assessed PHCs offered integrated management of childhood illness, basic diagnostics (labs), diabetes medicine, contraceptives and MHPSS, including psychotropic medicines, or referral for GBV services. The visualization here below shows both functionality and damage.



Response:

PHC services and psychosocial support

since the start of the response **16 organizations**



N.B. These figures are not necessarily representative of the entirety of the health response on the ground.

Operational partners

INARA	Order of Malta	MSF	Lebanon Needs	UNFPA	Amel
Al Makassed	Restart	UN Women	Caritas Lebanon	Makhzoumi Foundation	Chabrouh Center
IDRAAC	IMC	Relief	CARE Lebanon		

Hospital support

- The Swiss Agency for Development & Cooperation/Humanitarian Aid (SDC/HA) continues working with the Emergency Medical Team (EMT) Module “Mother & Child”. Support is ongoing to both St. George’s Hospital to resume general activities (outpatient, surgery, emergency) and Quarantina Hospital to resume child-health screening activities and outpatient consultations. Also, SDC/SHA is covering hospitalization fees for nine patients who do not have insurance. Temporary rehabilitation of the pediatric ward at St. George’s Hospital included repairs within the neonatal intensive care unit (NICU), the pediatric intensive care unit (PICU) and the OB/GYN wards; at Quarantina Hospital the outpatient department was rehabilitated. The EMT will end deployment on 31 August.

Medicines, supplies and distributions

- Direct Relief delivered 60 tons of medical supplies valued at \$12.7 million. Through Anera Lebanon, these supplies will be delivered to multiple health facilities in Beirut, including American University of Beirut Hospital, Lebanese American University Medical Center, Hotel Dieu de France, Rafic Hariri University Hospital, and the Children Cancer Center of Lebanon. IOCC teams in Quarantina distributed 148 dignity kits to PLW. Lebanon Needs donated 9 boxes of medications and medical supplies to affiliated clinics in Monot, Hotel Dieu Hospital and Min Beit La Beit. Also, WHO distributed a Russian in-kind donation of three surgical kits and three trauma kits to three public hospitals.
- UNICEF supported 20 youths to produce and distribute 6,420 facemasks to affected families, while CARE Lebanon distributed facemasks to 150 people. COVID-19 medications, medical supplies and personal protective equipment (540 protective gowns, 40 protective goggles, 2,500 IIR mask, and 5,000 examination gloves) were also donated to Quarantina Hospital by SDC/HA.
- UNOPS delivered the following items to the Ministry of Public Health: 597,025 N95 masks; 25,000 high-risk gloves; 1,000 cadaver bags; 22,000 shoe covers; 90 alcohol; 25 syringe pumps; 25 infusion pumps; 498,550 disposable gowns; 249,900 goggles; 16 transparent plastic boxes; 4 sharp containers; 50 vital signs monitors; 12 defibrillators.
- UNFPA distributed 22,540 dignity kits to women and girls in affected areas through SRH and GBV implementing partners since the explosions. More than 1,000 kits were distributed from 20-26 August through partners such as Acted, Al Mithaq organization and Lecorvaw. The distributors of the dignity kits also provide women and girls with information on services for SRH, GBV, mental health and MHPSS, and prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse, and awareness raising activities. Also, to address contraceptive shortages, 22,467 packs of modern contraceptives arrived in Beirut.

Awareness raising

- UNFPA-supported outreach workers continue to provide women and girls with information on services for sexual reproductive health, GBV, MHPSS, and prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse.
- UNICEF and IOCC teams counsel on prenatal, breastfeeding and IYCF practices through lactation specialists, phone calls and extended tents. UNICEF reached 872 people in need; IOCC teams in Quarantina provided IYCF counseling and awareness to 364 pregnant and lactating women (PLW) and caregivers. Also, IOCC conducted an IYCF workshop on 25 August to address formula milk providers and inform them about the importance of breastfeeding, as well as to discuss how to provide nutrition support in a way that is in line with the Global and International Guidance on IYCF in emergencies. Makhzoumi Foundation provided IYCF counseling for PLW through phone calls and at UNICEF tents in Basta and Geitawi.
- PU-AMI continues WhatsApp communications to affected communities regarding available services related to both COVID-19 and the explosions.

Gaps & Constraints:

- The COVID-19 epidemic is preventing organizations from adhering to a full in-person care capacity; as such, many services are offered remotely.
- Some organizations were overloaded with the numbers of beneficiaries and referrals before the explosions. With the increase in number of referrals after the explosions, organizations reported having even longer waiting lists.
- Organizations offering outreach activities in severely affected areas report that the lack of PHC services in certain areas is a challenge as many beneficiaries need to be referred to specialized services.

Shelter

Needs:

- The LRC-led multi-sectoral needs assessment shows that support with shelter repairs is the top priority in most areas, with over 35 per cent of the assessed households (6,100) relaying it as their main priority.

66% of respondents

 have shattered windows

68% of respondents

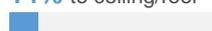
 report damage to external door

58% of doors

 do not close

36% of HHs

 report major damage to their homes

14% to ceiling/roof

 12% to columns

 10% to beams


- Vulnerable segments of the population, including the elderly or people with disabilities continue needing tailored support and assistance.

Response:

- Shelter partners' response continues to be based on door-to-door assessments and determination of eligibility for assistance.
- Shelter partners distributed a total of 4,458 weatherproofing kits since the beginning of the response, including in Achrafieh, Bourj Hammoud, Geitawi, Mar Mikhael, Gemmayzeh, and Quarantina. Of the those reached, 72 per cent are Lebanese, 25 per cent are Syrians and 3 per cent are of other nationalities. As partners expand distribution to areas hosting a higher number and/or concentration of other affected refugees and migrants, the proportion of assisted Lebanese compared to that of other nationalities continues to decrease.

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)

Needs:

- WASH partners have assessed 3,939 buildings, out of which 130 were found to have no running water, either due to local public network issues or damaged network-building connections; 386 buildings were not accessible at the time of the visit (either unoccupied or unwilling to be assessed).
- The water systems of 737 buildings is damaged, and 5,909 roof tanks are in need of either being repaired or substituted. Also, the wastewater system of 470 buildings is damaged.
- Out of 26 manholes assessed by the Water Establishment of Beirut & Mount Lebanon, with technical support from UNICEF, 16 were found to be needing repairment.

Response:

- Network connections problems in 130 buildings were addressed, and a total of 648 water tanks was installed so far, serving 192 buildings.
- WASH partners distributed 4,341 hygiene kits and 624 baby kits to the most in-need families in Bachoura foncière (LRC), Rmeil (Concern and Medair) and Quarantina (ACTED).
- Local water tank providers were approached to scale up their production of water tanks so to address the most urgent needs in the affected areas; UNICEF supply department expanded its authorized suppliers' list, and manufacturers tripled their production rate.

Logistics

Response:

- Logistics partners approved a Concept of Operations, including proposed activities on civil-military coordination and information management. Also, a WhatsApp group for the partners to flag issues and share updates was created.
- The Customs Authority informed the Logistics sector that humanitarian partners can request a special permit, through an established system, allowing for immediate clearance of goods, as well as the suspension of duties and taxes.
- Following bilateral interviews to finalize a gaps and needs analysis, there are no significant gaps and needs in terms of access to existing infrastructures and/or logistics services, such as transport or common storage facilitation.

Gaps & constraints:

- Logistics partners identified gaps in coordination, as well as in technical logistics expertise, support and collaboration.
- Timely and consistent information on logistics services and available infrastructures on the market remains a gap, specifically with regards to current road transport, as well as storage services and assets.
- Partners identified gaps with regards to updated logistics information on downstream supply chain operations, including administrative procedures and the status of entry points into the country.

GENERAL COORDINATION

The explosions at the Beirut Port created significant immediate humanitarian needs, for which a Flash Appeal was coordinated through the Humanitarian Country Team and launched on 14 August. The Flash Appeal, and financial contributions towards it, are being tracked on the Financial Tracking System (FTS) on [the FTS](#), and 117 projects are uploaded on <https://projects.hpc.tools/>. Each UN coordinated inter-agency response plan and appeal has a page on FTS, which present all funding linked to the requirements of the response plan/appeal; this funding is a subset of overall funding to the affected country. The response plans/appeals are a key part of the humanitarian programme cycle used by humanitarian country teams to plan and coordinate a response and to communicate the scope of response operations. OCHA manages the FTS, which records all reported humanitarian contributions, including cash and in-kind donations, to record the total amount of funding and resource gaps. To give credit and visibility, contributions are reported to fts@un.org. FTS publishes data on humanitarian funding flows as reported by donors and recipient organizations on [Financial Tracking Service](#), with more information about the FTS [here](#).

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