



**153**

reported deaths

**6,014**

casualties treated in  
public and private  
hospitals

**300,000**

estimated number  
of people homeless

**160**

missing  
persons reported

**15m**

US\$ required by  
WHO to support  
health needs across  
the country



WHO teams worked through the night to sort 20 tonnes of WHO health supplies delivered from WHO's hub in Dubai to Beirut on 5 August. The supplies were delivered to ten public and private hospitals in Lebanon and are enough to cover 1,000 trauma and 1,000 surgical interventions.

## SITUATION

- The death toll from the Beirut Port explosion rose to 153 people, as search teams intensified their efforts for the dozens of people still missing in and around the blast site.
- Search and rescue operations are ongoing, with more 160 persons reported missing.
- Thousands of personal protection equipment (PPE) items stored in MOH containers have been destroyed.
- According to UNICEF, 100,000 children have had their homes damaged and are displaced in Beirut, while 120 schools serving 55,000 children are in various states of damage.
- Major challenges are being faced by the 3 psychiatric hospitals in Lebanon which have stopped admitting patients fearing spread of COVID-19 infection in the absence of adapted isolation and treatment facilities. The 2 private hospitals which had well equipped mental health facilities (St Georges Hospital and Hotel Dieu) have been severely damaged by the blast and currently not functioning.
- Large number of volunteers and scouts' movements armed with shovels and brooms are actively cleaning the streets following the massive blast.

## HEALTH NEEDS

- Ongoing trauma care through provision of medical, surgical supplies and equipment to hospitals and primary healthcare centers, and deployment and coordination of emergency medical teams.
- Assessment and management of the environmental impact of the explosion associated with potential chemical or radiological contamination
- Health facility functionality assessment is under preparation with WHO support to estimate the damage and needs of the most affected hospitals and PHCs

- Addressing humanitarian needs and public health risks associated with the displacement of 300,000 left homeless by the blast

## WHO RESPONSE

- Coordination with the national health authorities, UN agencies and INGOs is ongoing to mobilize resources and organize relief. A need assessment platform has been created by OCHA to collect and consolidate relevant data and conduct analysis to inform and guide relief support.
- Support provided to the MOPH destroyed warehouse continues actively despite many challenges, among which are the lack of alternative power supply in the new temporary premises as well as pressing needs to rapidly store and manage the distribution of supplies. Today essential medicines and supplies, HIV and TB drugs have been safely extracted and transported to the Rafic Hariri University Hospital (RHUH). The stockpiling operation is being managed by a group of volunteer pharmacists under the close supervision of MoPH and WHO.
- In light of the activation of eight international Emergency Medical Teams (EMT), WHO is deploying an experienced to support the Ministry of Health in the management of the emergency response and rescue operations.
- WHO is working towards meeting the urgent needs of psychiatric patients through the provision of medicines and supplies to hospitals and PHC centers across Lebanon. A proposal is being developed to support the purchase of psychotropic drugs.
- NGOs are being mobilized to provide MHPSS services through the PHC network along with the full activation of the EMBRACE mental health hotline to respond to the escalating number of patients suffering from the psychological shock and stress associated with the crisis. A mapping is being conducted of available specialized and non specialized MHPSS services. A Psychologic First Aid (PFA) training is underway for frontline health workers and Media professionals. A set of IEC materials has been developed to this effect.
- In close collaboration with MoPH, WHO has initiated an assessment of the public health impact of the blast, conducting a comprehensive health facility damage and needs assessment in the affected area along with the access to health services of displaced persons.
- WHO in close coordination with MOPH will be implementing the Health Resources and Services Availability Monitoring System (HeRAMS) exercise. HeRAMS is a collaborative approach aimed at ensuring that core information on essential health resources and services is available to decision makers. In Lebanon, the use of this system will allow health experts to assess the damage and level of functionality of health facilities and the availability of essential resources and services and to monitor their evolution over time. This will support decision making in regards to prioritization of actions and resource allocation.
- WHO and the American University of Beirut (AUB) Nature Conservation Center developed guidance about necessary protective measures to be taken by individuals in order protect them from the harmful effects of the particles resulting from fumes as a result of the explosion. The guidance was disseminated on social media pages and to all health partners and NGOs in order to reach communities living in areas affected by the blast. <https://www.facebook.com/wholeb>