

UNHCR Flash Update on Lebanon: Beirut Port Explosions

6 November 2020



A heritage building is protected from the elements ahead of winter with plastic sheeting.
Photo © BBHR

Operational update

Shelter:

Three months after the explosions, Beirut has witnessed its first heavy rains and temperatures have decreased. This puts further urgency on the need to support the most vulnerable households in repairing their homes ahead of the upcoming winter.

UNHCR's Cash for Shelter programme targets 11,500 such households, whose homes suffered light or moderate damage in the explosion. The USD 600 one-time cash grant will enable beneficiaries to undertake the needed minor repairs.

As of 6 November, **1,853 households**, representing almost 6,300 individuals, have received the one-time cash grant at the specially arranged distribution point in the center of Beirut. This has been set up to enable recipients to easily access the assistance while respecting COVID-19 measures.

UNHCR's minor repair and rehabilitation programme also supports vulnerable households to conduct more extensive works. To date, UNHCR partners, together with affected families, have established the detailed repair needs of 3,545 housing units. Of those, repairs in 226 have been finalized and works in a further 761 are under way. Additionally, housing units are continuously identified and handed over to contractors.

UNHCR also donated 525 tarpaulins to the Directorate General for Antiquities to cover damaged heritage buildings before the onset of winter. Many have been installed to prevent further damage from the heavy rains.

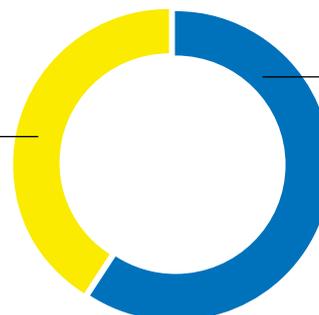
UNHCR also completed online trainings and on-site visits for its partners and the wider shelter sectors on the specificities of heritage building repair and rehabilitation in Beirut.

Funding needs

UNHCR is focusing its response to the Beirut port explosions in the shelter and protection sectors. We plan to **reach over 100,000 affected persons** through all our interventions.

Overall needs:
USD 35M

Unfunded
41%
USD 14.35 M



Funded
59%
USD 20.65 M

as of 6 November 2020

Protection:

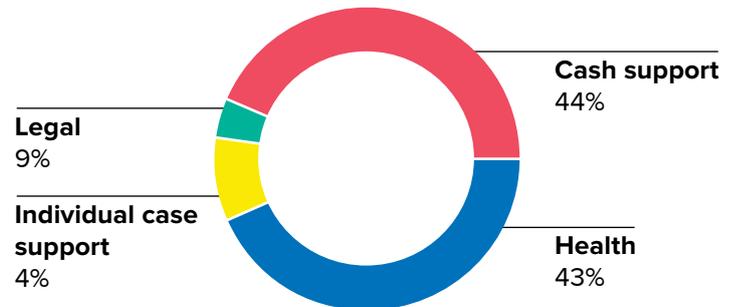
UNHCR's protection response to the explosions enables Lebanese and non-Lebanese who have been affected to access individualized support, mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS), emergency cash assistance (ECA), services for persons with specific needs, individual rehabilitation services, as well as legal aid. These services are mostly provided by our specialized partners through a referral system. This means that a protection staff who identifies an individual affected by the explosions, who has a protection risk or need, provides that information to the partner who specializes in addressing that need or risk.

As of 2 November, UNHCR has supported more than:

- **9,800** exchanges with affected individuals through home visits and outreach activities, and made **over 2,170** referrals
- **1,650** persons with individual support and tailored assistance through partners
- **1,150** households with ECA, reaching **over 3,900** individuals, helping them to address protection concerns
- **2,960** persons with specialized mental health and psychosocial support (in addition to the wider scale Psychological First Aid provided initially at the community level)

UNHCR referrals per category

Graph 1: This graph shows the share of each type of referral made by UNHCR to partners.

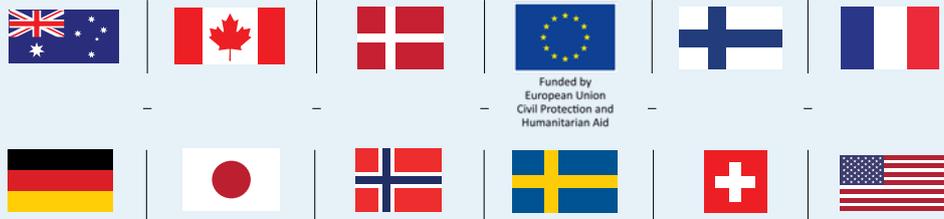


UNHCR and its partners are also in the process of developing and implementing solidarity initiatives that aim to support people on a community level, with a focus on the prevention of protection risks and the prevention of inter-communal tensions. Examples of such initiatives include the rehabilitation of stairs in Mar Mikhael, the rehabilitation of communal spaces such as libraries and gardens, and a training for trainers for psychological first aid to communities.



Households whose homes have been damaged by the blast collect their shelter cash grant in the center of Beirut. Photo © UNHCR

UNHCR Lebanon is grateful for the support of its donors to our response to the Beirut explosions, including donors of flexible funds and private donors.



**Australia | Canada | Denmark | European Union | Finland | France
Germany | Japan | Norway | Sweden | Switzerland | United States of America**

UNHCR Lebanon operation



Funding:

USD 607.5 million requested for the UNHCR Lebanon operation in 2020

53% funded as of 3 November 2020
(USD 320.5 million received)

Additional links

For further information, please visit – [UNHCR Lebanon website](#) or the [UNHCR data portal](#).

Support UNHCR's emergency response in Lebanon:

<https://donate.unhcr.org/sg/stand-with-lebanon/~my-donation>

For more details, please contact:

UNHCR MENA Regional Office in Amman at MENAreporting@unhcr.org
Anna King, Senior External Relations Officer, UNHCR Lebanon, at kinga@unhcr.org