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BUSINESS GUIDE

BEIRUT PORT EXPLOSIONS

LEBANON RESPONSE

AUGUST 2020

CRISIS OVERVIEW

On August 4th at approximately 18h00 local time, a warehouse at the Beirut Port containing large quantities of ammonium nitrate exploded. After an initial explosion, a subsequent blast caused widespread destruction, with reports of damage more than 20 kilometers from the port area. The explosions and ensuing fires reportedly released toxic materials in the environment. At least 178 people were killed, and an estimated 6,000 people were injured, while some 30 people remain missing.

While the full extent of the impact is still being assessed, early reports indicate significant damage to infrastructure (including health, water and sanitation, and schools) and critical infrastructure essential for food supply and livelihoods. More than 47,000 apartments sustain some level of damage, affecting more than 170,000 residents. At least 20 primary health care centers have been severely damaged and at least six hospitals have been rendered partially or fully inoperable. An additional 120 schools, used by 55,000 Lebanese and non-Lebanese children, sustained various levels of damage. The food stored in warehouses at the Beirut Port was also destroyed by the explosions, including 85 per cent of the country's cereal reserves, and it is estimated that, at regular consumption rates, the remaining grain supply in country is sufficient for 4-6 weeks. The trauma suffered extends beyond the physical

reconstruction and mental health needs will remain manifest, especially for already vulnerable populations.

The explosions come as Lebanon faces a multi-faceted crisis. In recent months, economic contraction, increasing poverty and rising prices have compounded needs among Lebanese and non-Lebanese communities, including the large refugee population in Lebanon. An increase in COVID-19 transmissions is straining the country's health systems. Social tensions and civil unrest continue to grow in many parts of the country and led to the Government's resignation on August 10th.



HOW CAN THE PRIVATE SECTOR HELP

The Beirut Port explosions created significant immediate humanitarian needs and severe long-term consequences. A comprehensive, effective response to this emergency requires three phases of activity to quickly transition from humanitarian relief into recovery, reconstruction and eventually longer-term economic recovery. A humanitarian Flash Appeal focusing on the first phase and the early parts of the second phase of the responses (with financial requirements of USD 565 million) was issued on August 14th.

1 CONTRIBUTE FINANCIALLY

Relief professionals encourage cash donations because they allow aid professionals to procure the exact items needed (often in the affected region); reduce the burden on scarce resources (such as transportation routes, staff time, and warehouse space); can be transferred very quickly and without transportation costs; support the economy of the disaster-stricken region; and ensure culturally, dietarily, and environmentally appropriate assistance. It is recommended that companies support organizations that have demonstrated experience. You can also make a direct contribution to humanitarian responders and initiatives on the ground, including to:

The Lebanese Red Cross: www.redcross.org.lb

Lebanon Humanitarian Fund (CBPF): <https://crisisrelief.un.org/urgent-help-needed-for-lebanon>

Global Compact Network Lebanon (GCNL): GCNL has launched a new campaign called the Beirut Rescue Fund revolving around 4 relief pillars in the areas of Medical Assistance, Shelter & Renovation, Food Security and Education in line with priorities identified locally and by the international community. It aims to raise local and international funds to support relief efforts on the ground. The Beirut Rescue Fund is compiling a list from among the more than 200 UN Global Compact private sector and non-business participants based in Lebanon to map current initiatives and match with donors based on careful scrutiny and assessment. To donate see here: www.globalcompact-lebanon.org/donate

2 IN-KIND AND SERVICE SUPPORT

For businesses wishing to contribute to the relief efforts by providing in-kind goods or services, please write to ocha-ers-ps@un.org. Be as specific as possible with what you wish to donate, including the timeframe for delivery, if you will cover shipping and any other conditions. We will then guide you to the most appropriate organizations. Companies with employees, suppliers, customers in the region, or those with existing agreements with responding humanitarian organizations should reach out and provide support directly to these groups.

3 CONTRIBUTIONS TO LONGER-TERM RECOVERY

Recovery and development activities should resume at the onset of the crisis, while humanitarian needs are still being addressed. Longer term contributions of technical expertise, infrastructure (re)-development and economic investment are key and must be coordinated with national priorities so that risk conditions are not built back. The United Nations encourage donors to support activities that allow the local private sector to “get back in business” as soon as possible. The United Nations entities, under the leadership of the Resident Coordinator and the advice of the UNDP, are currently working with partners in Lebanon in developing a recovery strategy.

For more information please contact:

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4 COMMERCIAL OFFERS

If your offer is commercial in nature, please refer to the UN Global Marketplace www.ungm.org for more information.

CRITICAL REMINDERS

- The UN Secretary-General encourages companies to coordinate their response efforts with the United Nations and the humanitarian coordination system in order to ensure coherence with priority needs and to minimize gaps and duplications with the other responders.
- All response activities should be guided by the humanitarian principles of humanity, impartiality, neutrality and independence. Stakeholder engagement is key to corporate engagement in humanitarian response. Ensuring communities are at the center of, and driving humanitarian action, is critical to ensuring appropriate and timely aid and protection reaches the people most in need. Working collaboratively with existing local institutions, social networks and civil society is critical in this endeavor.
- It is important to ensure that donated items meet **Sphere Standards** and reflect priority needs as outlined in the Flash Appeal (see below).
- Business contributions to the UN response efforts must comply with the Guidelines on Cooperation between the UN and the Business Sector www.business.un.org/en/documents/guidelines

RECOGNIZING YOUR CONTRIBUTION

OCHA manages the Financial Tracking Service (FTS), which records all reported humanitarian contributions including cash and in-kind donations. Its aim is to record the total amount of funding and resource gaps in humanitarian crises. To give credit and visibility to your generosity, please report your contributions to fts@un.org.

If your contribution is in-kind, please refer to the guide to valuation of in-kind contributions from the private sector here: www.humanitarianresponse.info/ru/programme-cycle/space/document/guide-valuation-kind-contributions-private-sector.

WE ARE HERE TO SUPPORT

For more information on how businesses can support the humanitarian response please contact:

Tamara Hallaq
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For more information on the UN Global Compact, Global Compact Network Lebanon and the Beirut Rescue Fund please contact:

Dina Harake
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WHERE TO FIND THE LATEST INFORMATION

Flash Appeal

<https://reliefweb.int/report/lebanon/lebanon-2020-flash-appeal-august>

For an updated list of maps, situation reports, events, and more please visit:

Humanitarian Response Info

www.humanitarianresponse.info/fr/operations/lebanon

Reliefweb

www.reliefweb.int/country/lbn