

BEIRUT BLAST

ICRC RESPONSE, UNTIL DECEMBER 2020

The explosion, which shook Beirut on August 4th, left over 200 people dead and over 6,000 injured. On top of a spiralling economic crisis and a raging coronavirus pandemic, Lebanon was already in a fragile state and the impact of the explosion will be felt long after the initial blast. We are responding with all our resources to the consequences of the explosion.

Our assistance following the explosion

HEALTH

Beirut health facilities were damaged and overwhelmed. **We responded immediately to medical supply needs and we continue to support the victims of the blast.**

Within 8 hours of the blast, the ICRC provided medical material to **12 hospitals**, which received the highest number of wounded from the explosion.

During the following days, 65 hospitals across the country were assessed to determine their needs and provide them with the necessary support.



A total of **20 tons** of medical supplies (weapon wounded kits, dressing materials and personal protective equipment) were distributed to:

6 emergency medical service providers involved in the transportation of wounded patients,
28 public and private hospitals that received wounded patients, and
9 Primary Health Care centers that were handling wound dressing upon the patients' discharge from hospitals.

The Beirut Fire Brigade which was heavily impacted by the blast.

Lebanese Armed Forces first artillery regiment.



Mobility aids and assistive devices were distributed to 13 hospitals, 1 Emergency Medical Service (EMS) station and 2 nursing homes.

70 Individuals are receiving physiotherapy sessions.



Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) sessions were offered to 140 individuals and Help the Helpers sessions were provided to 50 front-line workers.



Individual follow up on 188 patients, admitted across supported hospitals, was ensured to assess their needs to ensure the continuity of care provision in terms of mental health & psychosocial support, physical rehabilitation, and/or care for underlying chronic conditions.

“ Through the support provided, the ICRC has covered the needs of 5,118 Emergency Room admissions and 732 hospital admissions related to the blast across Beirut and Mount Lebanon Governorates. ”

ECONOMIC SECURITY

Following the explosion, 300,000 people were left with destroyed or severely damaged homes across the city. People lost their homes and their jobs, and many were not able to secure an income.



24,083 families received food parcels (i.e. a total of **120,415 individuals**).



Over **1,519 families** were supported with one-off emergency cash.

Over **1,262 families** are being supported with multipurpose cash up to **6 months**.

50 small businesses which were affected by the blast are being supported.

WATER AND HABITAT

The explosion impacted basic services such as water and electricity supply across Beirut. Shortly after the blast, **we assessed the damage to the infrastructure and provided engineering services and other types of support**.



We supported the authorities in rehabilitating the electrical network supplying electricity to **120,000** people living in Achrafieh and its vicinity.



We implemented rehabilitation works at the **waste water lifting station** close to the port.



We rehabilitated of the **Lebanese Red Cross centre** in Gemmayze.



At Rafik Hariri University Hospital (RHUH) we reinstated major electric installations & restructured the temporary Emergency department to improve the triage & treatment conditions.

PROTECTION

RESTORING FAMILY LINKS (RFL)

After the blast, the fate of many people remained unknown. **To search for the missing persons, the Lebanese Red Cross (LRC) immediately joined efforts with health facilities all over the country to elaborate a comprehensive list of all the victims.**

In the second phase:



The ICRC's and the LRC's RFL/Missing teams consolidated the different lists of requests received from family members looking for missing persons.

Psychosocial support was provided to families when needed.

Jointly, the LRC and the ICRC **assessed the needs of the families and supported** them with financial aid, shelter, food and medical needs.

Contacts were made with different concerned embassies to offer RFL services for injured and deceased migrants.

CARING FOR THE DEAD

The number of dead resulting from the Beirut explosion overwhelmed local capacity. Such large-scale disasters often pose challenges to authorities to ensure the dignity of the dead is preserved, human remains are identified with certainty and the bereaved provided respectful attention.



Within the 72 hours following the blast, we set up a **temporary mortuary** in coordination with LRC and provided relevant authorities with five refrigerated mortuary vehicles, self-protective equipment and body bags.



We provided operational teams, high level authorities and decision makers with recommendations and advice regarding the adoption of coordinated measures and appropriate identification techniques.

We donated one fridge with nine storage units to RHUH.

We provided Internal Security Forces with DNA kits and reagents to ensure the continuity of their forensic identification activities.



We started developing a National Mass Fatality Response Plan in cooperation with LRC and relevant entities.

COOPERATION AND COORDINATION WITHIN THE MOVEMENT

The ICRC rapidly confirmed its support to the LRC's Emergency Medical and Blood Transfusion Services, in coordination with the International Federation of the Red Cross and partner National Societies.



The LRC mobilized and deployed **375 staff** as emergency medical teams and **75 ambulances**. These teams:

Established **first aid and triage stations** to aid those who sustained non-critical injuries.

Transported 3,710 injured to medical facilities.

Evacuated two hospitals that suffered extensive damage.

We continue to work jointly with the LRC and other movement partners to respond to the needs of those affected by the blast.



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