



Damaged cars and storefronts in Beirut Lebanon. The blast hit the Lebanese capital on August 4, with over 180 people killed and some 4,000 injured.

# SITUATION REPORT: BEIRUT EXPLOSION

October 5, 2020 | No. 6

## BY THE NUMBERS

**200+** CONFIRMED DEATHS  
**6,500+** CONFIRMED INJURED  
**300,000** ESTIMATED DISPLACED

Source: Lebanon: Beirut Port Explosion Sitrep #12, OCHA Lebanon, 9/23/2020

## SITUATION OVERVIEW

In the early evening of Aug. 4, explosions occurred in the Port of Beirut, Lebanon, suspected to be the result of ammonium nitrate catching fire. The ensuing explosions engulfed the entire port area adjacent to the downtown core of Beirut, damaging residences, businesses, and hospitals. The unexpected explosion and coronavirus pandemic exacerbate underlying issues, including an unstable political climate and record inflation. About half of the country is unemployed and dependent on food assistance. The port has reopened, yet operations are running slowly, and the national food stock is low.

The economic impact of the blast is significant given the port's proximity to the commercial heart of Beirut, encompassing nearly 1,300 small businesses in the affected area.



## LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF

Lutheran World Relief works in concert with Corus International, a family of faith-based organizations delivering holistic, lasting solutions to the interconnected challenges of poverty, health care access and climate change.

## ACTIONS TAKEN AND NEXT STEPS

Lutheran World Relief joins the humanitarian community and government efforts in responding. Response team personnel are on the ground, working with our preexisting office and staff, coordinating with local partners and UN OCHA system for any further needs assessments and detailed planning on response activities. The initial response phase included food parcel distribution and is presently shifting to non-food item provision, such as appliance distribution. Working with the Mahkzoumi Foundation, approximately 210 electrical appliances are being procured and distributed to families affected by the blast who have safe shelter and are in need of storage for other food distributions. Food security needs are a major focus for many organizations but very few are providing replacement equipment to prepare and safely store the food being distributed. With the support of the USAID Bureau for Humanitarian Affairs, LWR is seeking to repair over 700 households that experienced minor to moderate damage, such as door and window replacement. As winter rapidly approaches, these key repairs will help keep families safe and warm. In addition, LWR is working with local partner George N Frem Foundation to rehabilitate and restore crucial equipment for local micro-, small- and medium-sized businesses in the affected area.

We are monitoring the escalation of COVID-19 cases and exploring with our local partners how to best assist with the complex and urgent health needs. We are integrating psychosocial assessment into our already-active shelter and NFI programs to identify additional needs amongst the affected households.

In the coming weeks, the humanitarian response team at LWR will begin a transition of duties and responsibilities to the Asia/Middle East team, typical for any humanitarian response effort.



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