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Emergency Plan of Action (EPoA)

Lebanon: Beirut-Port Explosion

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

DREF Operation n°:	MDRLB009	Glide n°:	OT-2020-000177-LBN
Date of issue:	06/08/2020	Expected timeframe:	2 months
		Expected end date:	31/10/2020
Category allocated to the of the disaster or crisis: Orange			
DREF allocated: CHF 750,000 CHF			
Total number of people affected:	TBC	Number of people to be assisted:	15,000 people
Provinces affected:	Beirut Area	Provinces/Regions targeted:	Beirut Governorate
Host National Society presence (n° of volunteers, staff, branches): Lebanese Red Cross (LRC) including: 12,000 volunteers, 379 staff, 46 EMS stations, 32 local branches, 36 primary health centres, 8 mobile clinics, 13 blood banks, 31 youth centres, 14 disaster management unit, and central HQ.			
Red Cross Red Crescent Movement partners actively involved in the operation: International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), RCRC Movement Partners.			
Other partner organizations actively involved in the operation: Lebanese Armed Forces (LAF), Internal Security Forces (ISF), Civil Defence, Ministry of Health (MoH) and all governmental national bodies.			

An Emergency Appeal is being prepared to be launched in the coming days

A. Situation analysis

Description of the disaster

On 4 August 2020, at 6 p.m. local time, a massive explosion blasted in the Beirut port area, as a giant orange mushroom cloud rose above the capital, causing an enormous shock wave that rippled through greater Beirut and surrounding areas, extending up to Bekaa area.

The sound of the explosion could be heard as far away as the island of Cyprus, located in the Mediterranean Sea 240 km away. According to the Jordanian Seismological Observatory, the explosion was equivalent to a 4.5 magnitude earthquake. The blast flattened the city's port, surrounding



Figure 1. Beirut Port Explosion.
Source: BBC

structures and infrastructures have been fully damaged and partially damaged on a further radius, many buildings have collapsed or at risk of collapsing, roads blocked due to fallen debris and open cracks in the ground, mass destruction of vehicles all over the city, shattered glass has been reported miles away from the blast, as glass pieces scattered by the pressure deeply injuring and wounding thousands of people.

The cause of the blast remains unclear, but initial reports claims it started with a fire in a firework storage, which extended to high-flammable and explosive material stored in one of the many port warehouses causing a massive explosion that shook the entire city and surrounding areas, numbers of people killed and injured is yet to be defined, yet initial assessments reports indicate more than 135 people were killed and an additional 5,000 people were injured, 20 people reported missing and 300,000 estimated people homeless. Scores more remain missing.

Army helicopters and civil defence continue to put down the flaming fires and open the streets. Emergency Shelters are also prepared to receive the displaced people in schools and other structures as many houses have been partially and fully destroyed.

Hours later, the Lebanese Red Cross country wide branches remain on full alert responding with their ambulance services transporting the wounded to overwhelmed health facilities, reaching injured with first aid posts on site, and full activation of all blood banks.

Summary of the current response

Overview of Host National Society Response Action

Lebanese Red Cross

within minutes after the explosion, the Lebanese Red Cross (LRC) mobilized and deployed its Emergency Medical Teams (EMTs) and ambulances to the site, to provide emergency first aid and evacuate the injured to the closest medical facilities available. As of 23:00 (4th of August), all available LRC ambulances from North Lebanon, Bekaa and South Lebanon are being dispatched to support with rescue and evacuation of patients. Up to 75 ambulances and 375 EMTs and staff are currently responding in Beirut to help the most vulnerable. LRC also quickly established first aid and triage stations in at least two locations downtown to provide assistance to those with non-critical injuries. LRC are also received blood donors at blood transfusion centres activated in all country, with the urgent need of all blood types, with open centres in Tripoli, Jounieh, Antelias, Spears, Zahle, Saida and Nabatieh.



Figure 2. EMTs LRC providing life-saving treatment and transporting the injured to the hospitals.

Photo Credit: Nabil Mounzer/EPA

Currently, the Disaster Management Sector (DMS) in the LRC is setting multiple temporary shelters, which are ready to receive 1000 families in the coming 72 hours. The DMS will also provide the households with meals, hygiene kits and all basic needs. In addition, a hotline number was launched to help the citizens.

Needs analysis, targeting, scenario planning and risk assessment

Needs analysis

Thousands of peoples have been affected, while all health facilities in Beirut and surrounding areas are being crowded with all incoming sort of injuries, adding the psychological impact of the blast. Many people remain stranded on the streets, as many houses have been destroyed. Many people are being reported missing.

The impact of the explosion initiated LRC high-alert thus immediate intervention through their EMS teams, BTS branches, and DM units in order to provide first aid and pre-hospital care, scaling up to relief distributions. Expansion of the operational capacities of the National Society is now necessary to maintain continuity of its services as the leading humanitarian service provider, auxiliary to the public authorities. The identified priorities are to support and strengthen the LRC First Aid, Ambulance, Blood Transfusion services, and Relief distributions in order to ensure delivery to the affected people, in addition to reinforcement of operational EMS stations.

Targeting

LRC will be targeting 15,000 most vulnerable affected people.

Operation Risk Assessment

LRC is highly recognized and well accepted all-over the country. LRC vehicles and personnel have exclusive accessibility throughout the country along with ISF and LAF. In response to the recent events in the shadow of COVID-19, the LRC will continue to apply operational safety and security measures during its operations to ensure that it maintains access to the affected population, as far as possible, without undue risk to its personnel.

B. Operational strategy

Overall Operational objective:

Lebanese Red Cross:

This operation aims to support the continuity of LRC operations in delivering:

- **First Aid and prehospital services** to the affected population through the replenishment/provision of First Aid consumables and transportation running costs, in addition to reinforcement of LRC medical emergency centers
- **Blood transfusion services** through the replenishment/provision of medical consumables, laboratory tests, and running costs

The National Society will be provided with institutional visibility for better identification of the Red Cross to enhance accessibility to the areas of operation. This operation will also cover the volunteers' incentives and meals, based on shifts in different branches.

The DMS will be supporting on providing support for most vulnerable families to meet their basic needs (Food and shelter items).

D. BUDGET

International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

all amounts in
Swiss Francs
(CHF)

DREF OPERATION

MDRLB009 - Lebanon - Beirut Port Explosion

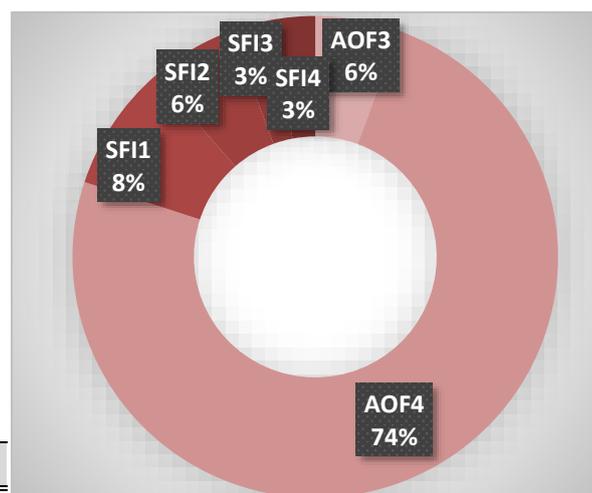
06/08/2020

Budget by Resource

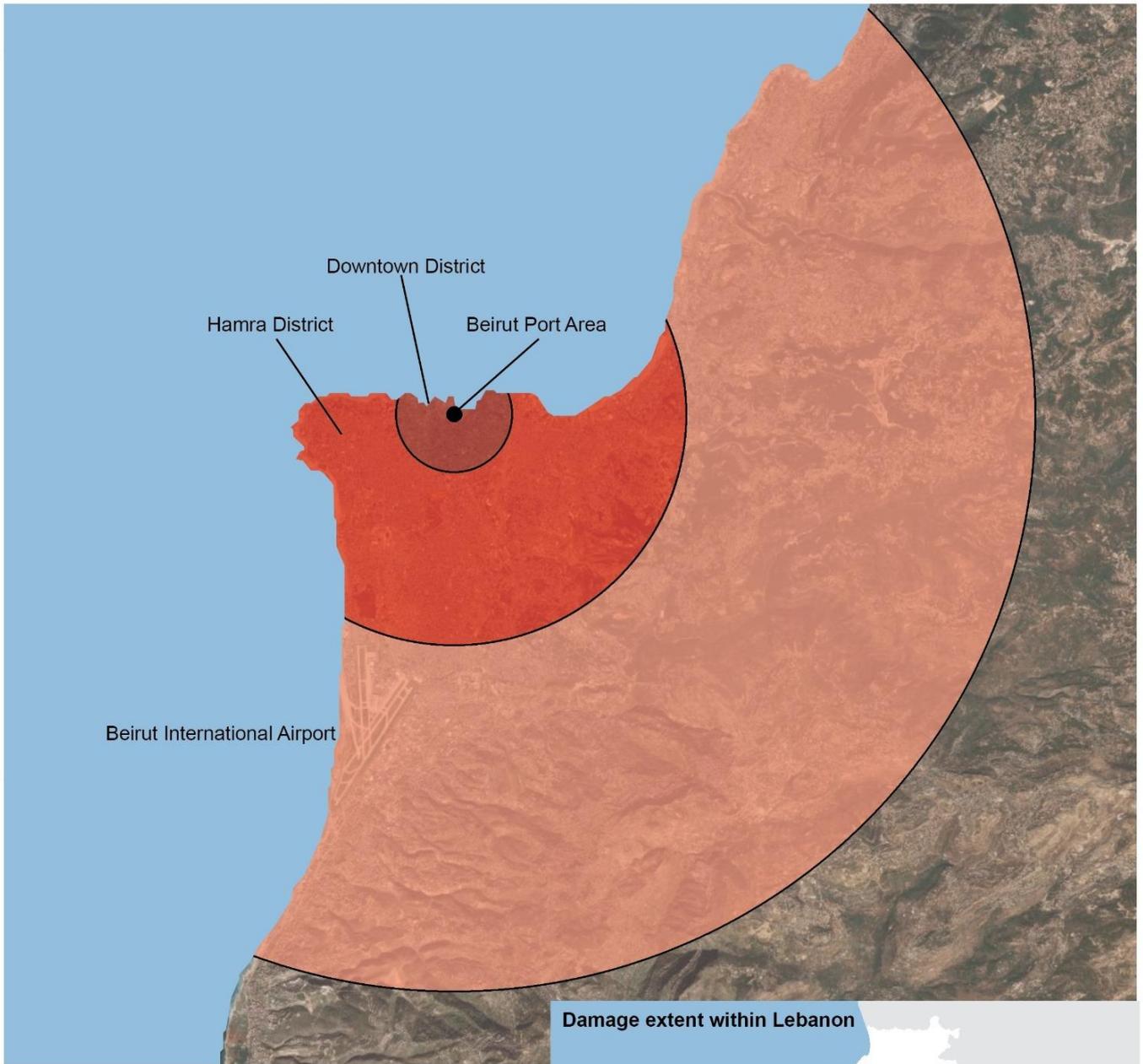
Budget Group	Budget
Food	40,000
Medical & First Aid	224,000
Other Supplies & Services	6,000
Relief items, Construction, Supplies	270,000
Other Machinery & Equipment	28,000
Land, vehicles & equipment	28,000
Transport & Vehicles Costs	163,200
Logistics, Transport & Storage	163,200
National Society Staff	6,600
Volunteers	195,000
Personnel	201,600
Workshops & Training	10,000
Workshops & Training	10,000
Office Costs	5,000
Communications	5,400
Other General Expenses	21,027
General Expenditure	31,427
DIRECT COSTS	704,227
INDIRECT COSTS	45,775
TOTAL BUDGET	750,002

Budget by Area of Intervention

AOF1	Disaster Risk Reduction	
AOF2	Shelter	
AOF3	Livelihoods and Basic Needs	42,600
AOF4	Health	557,634
AOF5	Water, Sanitation and Hygiene	
AOF6	Protection, Gender and Inclusion	
AOF7	Migration	
SFI1	Strengthen National Societies	63,900
SFI2	Effective International Disaster Management	43,878
SFI3	Influence others as leading strategic partners	19,596
SFI4	Ensure a strong IFRC	22,394
TOTAL		750,002



Lebanon: Beirut Port Explosion, 4 August 2020



- Approximate explosion location
- Confirmed extensive damage (up to 2km)
- Confirmed extensive damage (up to 8km)
- Confirmed extensive damage (up to 20km)



Data Sources: ESRI, BBC, Social Media, IFRC, Lebanese RC

The maps used do not imply the expression of any opinion on the part of the International Federation of Red Cross Red Crescent Societies or National Societies concerning legal status of a territory or its authorities.

Contact information

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

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For Resource Mobilization and Pledges:

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For In-Kind donations and Mobilization table support:

- Dharmin Thacker, Acting Head of Logistics, Procurement and Supply Chain Management, phone: +961 5 428 505, email: dharmin.thacker@ifrc.org

For Performance and Accountability (planning, monitoring, evaluation and reporting)

- **IFRC MENA Regional Office, Beirut:** Nadine Haddad, Regional PMER manager, phone: +961 71 802 775; email: nadine.haddad@ifrc.org

How we work

All IFRC assistance seeks to adhere to the **Code of Conduct** for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO's) in Disaster Relief and the **Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Humanitarian Response (Sphere)** in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable. The IFRC's vision is to inspire, **encourage, facilitate and promote at all times all forms of humanitarian activities** by National Societies, with a view to **preventing and alleviating human suffering**, and thereby contributing to the maintenance and promotion of human dignity and peace in the world.

The IFRC's work is guided by Strategy 2020 which puts forward three strategic aims:



Save lives,
protect livelihoods,
and strengthen recovery
from disaster and crises.



Enable **healthy**
and **safe** living.



Promote social inclusion
and a culture of
non-violence and **peace**.
