

#BuildingLebanonForward

UNDP'S RESPONSE TO THE BEIRUT PORT BLAST

IMPACT OF THE BLAST

The August 2020 Beirut Port explosion has caused immense damage, shattering infrastructure as well as the lives and livelihoods of people in the immediate vicinity of the blast and across Beirut. Coming at a time of heightened fragility, the blast has brought to an apex a set of multi-faceted crises which have faced Lebanon for years, including spill over impacts of the Syria crisis; a deep economic recession coupled with accelerated impoverishment and a financial and social crisis; and the vast effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. It has multiplied the challenges facing Lebanon to a state of critical urgency – in a country whose stability and prosperity are increasingly essential to the prospects of a volatile region.

RESPONDING TO THE BLAST WHILE LAYING THE PATH TOWARDS RECOVERY

In the immediate aftermath of the explosion, UNDP supported debris and waste management, emergency livelihoods, shelter, psychosocial counselling, and legal assistance for affected communities, using a mix of cash-for-work emergency employment schemes and food security support for families. In parallel, assessments were conducted to understand the impact of the blast on vulnerable populations and the economic fabric. UNDP's response aims at laying the foundation for a longer-term people-centred recovery and tackling the root causes of protracted crises. It is centred around five key areas.



SUSTAINABLE SOCIO-ECONOMIC RECOVERY

- Rehabilitation of essential services and Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs)
- Provision of recovery grants for SME sustainability
- Planning for a longer-term social protection programme



PROTECTING RIGHTS

- Ensuring the promotion and protection of human rights especially among the most vulnerable
- Strengthening the independence and effectiveness of the Judiciary and access to justice



GOVERNANCE AT THE CORE

- Providing immediate solutions on transparency and accountability
- Sustained action on anti-corruption
- Working on public administration reform with social cohesion as a key principle



A GREENER FUTURE

- Debris collection and temporary waste management solutions
- Environmentally-sound waste planning and management



MANAGING AND PREVENTING DISASTER RISKS

- Strengthening urgent national capacities
- Long-term disaster risk management and crisis coordination

BUILDING LEBANON FORWARD – AN INCLUSIVE, PEOPLE-CENTERED APPROACH

Putting people at the centre of the recovery effort, UNDP is working towards a just recovery that preserves human dignity and rights, leaving no one behind. We are achieving this through an integrated and inclusive area-based recovery in one of the most vulnerable neighbourhoods in Beirut, Karantina. This approach is providing UNDP with a pilot case for learning and replication in other affected areas across Beirut. UNDP is implementing a two-phased response strategy:

An **immediate response** over a period of 6 months, aimed at addressing the immediate impact of the explosion on the affected population. UNDP is supporting the restoration of damaged buildings and shelters, the provision of legal aid, restoration of small businesses, upgrading and equipment of damaged health structures, management of construction and demolition waste, and introduction of energy efficient solutions with the aim to address multi-dimensional needs in one integrated response.

A **medium to longer-term response** that extends over 12 months and addresses remaining needs

and priorities in the area, based on the vision and aspirations of the local community. In this context, a participatory and inclusive improvement plan will present interventions that aim at medium/longer-term development, including economic empowerment and job creation with a specific focus on the most vulnerable groups, neighbourhood improvement, and community initiatives, including environmental solutions for waste management.

PRINCIPLES OF ENGAGEMENT

Leaving No One Behind

UNDP advocates for a recovery that is people-centred, rights-based, and addresses the institutional frameworks that produce inequality and vulnerabilities.

Conflict sensitivity

UNDP's response applies a conflict sensitive lens to analysis and programming in Lebanon, while engaging the people we serve in a localised, participatory and accountable way.

Evidence-based

Data-driven analysis is the backbone of UNDP's programming. Urgent impact assessments lay a focus on the human dimension of the blast, and how it acted as an amplifier of poverty and accelerator of exclusion.



UNDP ASSESSMENTS

**LEAVE NO ONE BEHIND: TOWARDS
AN INCLUSIVE AND JUST RECOVERY
PROCESS IN POST-BLAST BEIRUT**



Maps out how the blast disproportionately impacted specific social groups, thereby exacerbating longstanding vulnerabilities.

**RAPID SOCIO-ECONOMIC ASSESSMENT
OF THE AREAS AFFECTED BY THE
BEIRUT PORT EXPLOSION**



Sheds light on how the explosion affected the wellbeing and daily lives of the people living in the affected neighbourhoods and how their socio-economic conditions are fast deteriorating.

**DEMOLITION WASTE ASSESSMENT
OUTSIDE THE PORT OF BEIRUT**



Will support the design of an environmentally sound and cost-effective waste management plan by identification and quantification of the disaster waste from the blast.