



In response to the explosion, International Medical Corps has distributed personal protective equipment (PPE) to more than 2,000 civil society volunteers who are leading recovery and clean-up efforts throughout Beirut.

The number of people killed by the Beirut Port explosions has reached more than 220, with more than 6,500 injured and some 300,000 people now homeless. The explosion occurred as Lebanon faces multiple crises, including an ongoing financial crisis (which had already increased the country's poverty rate) and the COVID-19 pandemic, both of which have been further exacerbated by the blast. According to a study on poverty released on August 19 by the UN Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA), more than 55 percent of the country's population is now trapped in poverty and struggling to secure basic necessities. Extreme poverty has increased, from 8% in 2019 to 23% in 2020. The poverty rate and vulnerability rates are expected to increase even more in the coming year, due to rising inflation and the impact of the explosions on incomes, food availability and prices.

Additionally, COVID-19 cases have doubled since the explosions. The country recorded its highest number of new daily infections on Friday, with 628 new cases and three deaths. Though many cases may be asymptomatic, there has been an increase in hospitalizations. In an effort to curb the spread, the Ministry of Interior and Municipalities approved a two-week lockdown that began on August 21. The shutdown allows relief and aid work in response to the explosion to continue, and the airport will remain open.

International Medical Corps Response

In Lebanon, International Medical Corps activities focus on the needs of both refugees and vulnerable Lebanese residing in greater Tripoli, Akkar, Beirut and Mount Lebanon, Bekaa and the South. Through our partnerships with more than 50 primary healthcare centers (PHCCs) and hospitals, International Medical Corps provides quality healthcare services, mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) and gender-based violence (GBV) prevention and response programming.

In the immediate aftermath of the explosion, International Medical Corps distributed medical supplies and personal protective equipment (PPE)—including masks, gloves, gauze and plaster—to 19 primary healthcare centers and eight hospitals in Beirut. The team also provided PPE to more than 2,000 civil society volunteers who were assisting with recovery and clean-up efforts. In response to the growing health and mental health needs caused by the explosion, International Medical Corps deployed mobile medical units (MMUs) and MHPSS shelters to highly affected municipalities, including Bourj Hammoud, Karm El-Zeitoun, Geitaoui and Mar Mikhael. Together, the MMUs and MHPSS shelters provided immediate care to residents affected by the explosion, while alleviating some of the pressure on PHCCs in these

FAST FACTS

Our Footprint

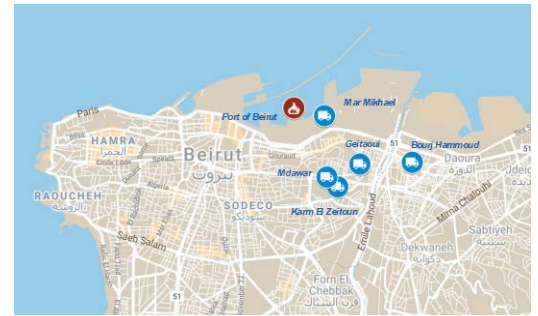
- International Medical Corps has partnerships with more than 50 primary healthcare centers (PHCCs) throughout Lebanon, supporting primary healthcare services for Syrian refugees and vulnerable Lebanese at facilities in Bekaa, Beirut, Mount Lebanon, Akkar and other areas throughout the north and south.

Our Response

- Since the explosion, International Medical Corps has delivered 24 shipments of medical supplies and personal protective equipment—including masks, gloves and gauze—to 19 PHCCs and eight hospitals in Beirut.
- The team has provided more than 1,200 medical consultations and 800 mental health consultations through its mobile medical units (MMUs), which were deployed to highly impacted areas of Geitaoui-Karm El Zeitoun, Mar Mikhael, Bourj Hammoud and Mdawar.

areas. In addition, International Medical Corps GBV team is helping women and girls by assessing their specific needs and risks, providing individual support to vulnerable women, girls and GBV survivors, and sharing essential information.

This past week, International Medical Corps deployed MMUs to Mar Mikhael, Karm El Zeitoun, Geitaoui and Bourj Hammoud. These areas were all highly vulnerable prior to the explosion, and their proximity to the blast site only increased the urgent need for assistance. Many of these areas lacked access to basic services immediately following the explosion, and they continue to need shelter, food and reconstruction support, along with psychological and health services. Between August 16–23, the team provided medical consultations to more than 615 patients and psychological first-aid (PFA) sessions to more than 530 individuals. Since the explosion, International Medical Corps has provided medical consultations for 1,221 patients, including wound care for more than 100 people and medication to 441 people. Moving forward, International Medical Corps is working closely with the Ministry of Public Health (MoPH) to ensure that our activities are in line with the country's overall strategy to strengthen PHCCs and hospitals, and improve quality and access to healthcare services. To date, International Medical Corps has provided PPE to 28 healthcare facilities, and medical supplies to 25 facilities. We plan more distributions in the coming week, as the country team transitions from leveraging MMUs to helping to reopen and strengthen fixed health facilities.



International Medical Corps' mobile medical units (MMUs) were deployed to municipalities near the Port of Beirut to provide immediate medical and mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) to individuals affected by the explosion.



An International Medical Corps physician provides wound care to a patient who was injured during the explosion.

In addition to our health activities, International Medical Corps is continuing to operate our MHPSS tents and provide PFA support to residents in highly vulnerable areas. The explosion—along with the economic and political crisis, and the COVID-19 pandemic—has only increased the need for mental health services. Since the explosion, the team has provided more than 800 PFA sessions between our MMU sites and dedicated MHPSS tents. Moving forward, International Medical Corps will continue to provide support at MHPSS tents in the targeted areas. The team is also working closely with Lebanon's National Mental Health Program to develop a series of trainings for frontline staff and will begin conducting Mental Health Gap Action Program (MhGAP) trainings.

The team is also providing support for vulnerable populations, particularly women and girls, in the aftermath of the explosion. As part of our MHPSS services, International Medical Corps provides GBV case management, according to GBV guiding principles, and has organized safe spaces that enable women and adolescent girls to access information, seek help and establish support networks. Along with providing support and information through targeted awareness-raising activities, International Medical Corps will also distribute dignity kits—which contain hygiene supplies, including toothbrushes, toothpaste, shampoo, soap, sanitary pads and underclothes—to meet the hygiene needs of women and girls.

As the country continues to recover from the explosion, refugees and vulnerable Lebanese will continue to have urgent needs related to the economic crisis and COVID-19. Families are in desperate need of shelter, with some 300,000 people displaced—including an estimated 100,000 children—and a staggering 45% of the Lebanese population is at-risk of sinking into poverty in the coming months. Health facilities, which were already near capacity before the explosion, are being stretched to their breaking point. They are in need of more medical equipment and supplies to care for the injured, and the recent spike in COVID-19 cases will make it harder for hospitals to provide continued care. In response to these urgent needs, International Medical Corps will continue coordinating closely with the MoPH, as well as with international and local partners, to address gaps, provide services and bolster response efforts.



International Medical Corps is continuing to provide medical consultations and MHPSS services in target areas around Beirut in response to the explosion on August 4.