



International Medical Corps deployed mobile medical units (MMUs) and mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) shelters to neighborhoods that were severely affected by the explosion. This approach enabled us to provide critical services to patients in areas where fixed facilities were totally or partially destroyed in the blast.

When a large quantity of ammonium nitrate exploded at the port of Beirut on August 4, Lebanon was already in the mist of an unprecedented economic crisis. Over the course of this crisis, the country's currency has lost around 80% of its value, and the COVID-19 pandemic and containment measures have left nearly one out of every three Lebanese unemployed, according to a survey conducted by the World Food Program.¹ Nearly 1 million people in Lebanon were living below the poverty line before the explosion and, over the past six months, the price of monthly food staples has more than doubled.

The explosion— which killed nearly 200 people and injured more than 6,000— only exacerbated Lebanon's humanitarian and financial needs. More than 40 days after the disaster, areas surrounding the explosion site remain completely destroyed or severely damaged. Some 300,000 people remain homeless. Making matters worse, there has been a dramatic increase in the number of COVID-19 infections since August 4. Experts warn that hospitals will soon be unable to cope with the increase in caseloads. The country's healthcare system was already struggling before the explosion, which badly damaged a number of healthcare facilities leaving many unable to operate. Now, many healthcare facilities are reporting dwindling medical supplies as a result of the ongoing financial crisis, and fears are growing that subsidies on medicines might soon be eliminated, leaving hundreds unable to cover the cost of basic medications.

Over the weekend, Lebanon registered a record number of new daily COVID-19 infections, with more than 1,321 cases recorded—bringing the country's cumulative total to more than 43,000 cases. Though these numbers are low compared to global standards, the World Health Organization has reported that intensive-care units in the country are at 82% capacity. The rapid increase in cases has led the Ministry of Interior to announce lockdowns in 111 towns and villages, in an effort to curb the spread of the virus.

FAST FACTS

Our Footprint

- International Medical Corps has partnerships with more than 50 primary healthcare centers (PHCCs) throughout Lebanon, supporting 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

- To date, International Medical Corps has distributed personal protective equipment (PPE)—including masks, gloves and gowns—to 27 healthcare facilities, and medical supplies to 23 facilities.
- We have distributed more than 168,000 face masks, 307,730 nitrile gloves and more than 16,000 surgical gowns to PHCCs and hospitals.
- Our team has provided more than 1,100 medical consultations and 2,000 psychological first-aid sessions through mobile medical units that were deployed to Bourj Hammoud, Geitaoui, Karm El Zeitoun, Mar Mikhael and Mdawar.

¹ <https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/WFP-0000116784.pdf>

International Medical Corps Response

International Medical Corps has been active in Lebanon since 2006. We have partnerships with more than 50 primary healthcare centers (PHCCs) and hospitals, where we support the needs of refugees and vulnerable Lebanese residing in Greater Tripoli, Akkar, Beirut and Mount Lebanon, Bekaa and the South. Immediately following the explosion, more than half

| Lebanon Response | | |
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|  PPE | KN95 masks: 7,450 | Surgical masks: 159,560 |
| | Nitrile gloves: 307,730 | Surgical gowns: 14,200 |
|  SUPPLIES | Alcohol swabs: 95,200 | Gauze: 185,400 |
| | Bandages: 1,845 | Sanitizer: 2,039 |
| | Cleaning supplies (bleach, detergent): 1,639 | |

of Beirut's healthcare facilities evaluated by the World Health Organization (WHO) were non-functional. Many facilities that remained operational were working with diminished capacity. Facilities were also overwhelmed with patients seeking care for COVID-19 and for injuries resulting from the explosion. To support these facilities, International Medical Corps procured and distributed personal protective equipment (PPE)—including gloves, masks and gowns—and supplies to 19 PHCCs and eight hospitals throughout Beirut. Since the beginning of the response, International Medical Corps' team has distributed more than 168,000 face masks, 307,730 nitrile gloves and more than 16,000 surgical gowns. We have also distributed medical and cleaning supplies to health facilities to support their operations, including alcohol swabs, bandages, cleaning solution, bleach, detergent, tongue depressors, sterilization paper, syringes and hypodermic needles.

In addition to supporting existing facilities, International Medical Corps deployed two mobile medical units (MMUs) and mental health and psychosocial support service (MHPSS) shelters to Bourj Hammoud, Geitaoui, Karm El-Zeitoun, Mar Mikhael and Mdawar, to provide medical care and mental health services to patients affected by the blast. The MMUs were deployed in the immediate aftermath of the explosion—between August 4 and August 23, our team provided medical consultations to more than 1,100 patients and provided medications to more than 500 patients. The majority of the patients who sought care at our MMUs needed wound dressings, sutures and treatment for burns.

The team also provided psychological first aid (PFA) sessions and gender-based violence (GBV) consultations to patients seeking care at our MMUs. Since the explosion, the team has provided more than 2,158 PFA sessions to people affected by the explosion. The team has also provided more than 287 GBV sessions to vulnerable individuals. As the response has evolved to focus on more long-term activities, International Medical Corps is no longer operating MMUs in these target areas. Instead, our efforts have focused on strengthening existing facilities' ability to operate in the aftermath of the explosion.



Nearly three months after the explosion, the need for mental health support services remains high in Beirut. International Medical Corps' team is providing psychological first-aid sessions and gender-based violence consultations to residents in Beirut.

However, as the need for mental health services has remained high, our team has continued to operate the MHPSS shelters, and is training frontline healthcare workers and staff from other organizations on how to provide PFA to expand coverage and offerings throughout the greater Beirut area. So far, we have conducted four PFA training sessions, reaching 59 participants, with more planned. We are continuing to work with the Ministry of Public Health (MoPH) and the National Mental Health Program to ensure that both psychosocial support and GBV services and referrals are integrated into existing healthcare infrastructure, and remain available as response priorities continue to shift.

Moving forward, International Medical Corps will continue to support PHCCs and hospitals with PPE, supplies and equipment. We are also expanding our network of support facilities in Beirut to strengthen care for vulnerable populations—including persons with disabilities—by providing specialist healthcare and distributing assistive devices. As we expand our partnerships, we will continue to work closely with the MoPH, the National Mental Health Program and our partner facilities to assess the needs and identify opportunities to expand services throughout the greater Beirut area.