LEBANON:
BEIRUT PORT EXPLOSION
ONE YEAR LATER
On August 4, 2020, a massive explosion ripped through Beirut, Lebanon—so powerful that it registered as a 3.5 magnitude earthquake.

**EMERGENCY OVERVIEW**

- **MORE THAN 220 DEAD**
- **MORE THAN 6,500 INJURED**
- **APPROXIMATELY 300,000 DISPLACED**
- **36% OF HEALTH FACILITIES DAMAGED**
Looking for my family members, then finding them injured was something terrifying and shocking for both my family and me. I rushed my family to the basement in case another blast was going to happen. I only see such things in movies—it was unbelievable.”

— Sarkis, a community member

My 4-year-old daughter stopped talking and still doesn’t talk since August 4. I try, her father tries and her siblings try, but no matter how many times we try to get her to talk, she refuses to utter any words. Her hair, and my hair too, is falling at an alarming rate. My boys were really scared and started asking why there was an explosion—we ran from this in Syria and we are getting the same? Is the war coming back?”

— A mother in Lebanon who chooses to remain anonymous
COMPOUNDING EMERGENCIES

This emergency situation compounded multiple, pre-existing crises affecting Lebanon:

**SYRIAN REFUGEE CRISIS**

Lebanon hosts the largest refugee per capita population in the world

**COVID-19 PANDEMIC**

Total number of confirmed cases increased exponentially following the blast, from fewer than 5,000 before the explosion to more than 115,000, within 3 months

**FINANCIAL AND ECONOMIC CRISIS**

Up to 55% of the population are living below the poverty line

**CIVIL UNREST**

Political instability and protests have affected the country since October 2019

**UNDERFUNDED HEALTHCARE SECTOR**

Crises and funding shortfalls have put the system under increased pressure
Delivering medical supplies and personal protective equipment (PPE) to 19 primary healthcare clinics and eight hospitals

Providing PPE to more than 2,000 health workers, first responders and volunteers, to help protect them from COVID-19

Conducting 530 primary healthcare consultations and delivering psychological first aid to 450 people through mobile medical units

Distributing more than 670 hygiene kits to keep families and communities safe and thwart the spread of disease

INTERNATIONAL MEDICAL CORPS RESPONDS

Within the first two weeks, we reached more than 54,300 women, men and children by:
With more than one-third of health facilities damaged, those that remained open were overwhelmed by patients affected by the blast and COVID-19. Medical storage facilities were heavily damaged, causing acute shortages of vital medicines and supplies. We:

- Provided **525,942 health consultations**
- Supplied **87 facilities with medical supplies and PPE**
- Distributed **29,313 hygiene kits**
- Distributed **4,605,840 pieces of PPE and infection prevention and control supplies, such as masks, gloves, bandages and sanitizer**
- Provided **184,213 medications, such as paracetamol and zinc citrate**
- Distributed **4,860 pieces of medical equipment, including pulse oximeters, thermometers, otoscopes and stethoscopes**
Health facilities are now offering much-needed healthcare services to members of the most vulnerable communities in Lebanon.
HEALTHCARE INNOVATIONS:
COVID-19 HOMECARE MODEL

NEED:
Hospitals at 90%–95% capacity as COVID-19 cases surged.

RESPONSE:
International Medical Corps treated COVID-19 patients with mild to moderate confirmed and suspected cases at home as hospitals were overwhelmed.

1,077 PATIENTS REACHED with COVID-19 homecare.
Due to the blast, the livelihoods of many disabled people were significantly affected; many lost their jobs and reliable access to healthcare as a result of the explosion.

**RESPONSE:**

- **7,298** physiotherapy sessions
- **112** occupational therapy sessions
- **752** speech therapy sessions
- **16,182** assistive devices provided, including hearing aids, visual aids, eyeglasses, mobility devices and more
STORIES FROM THE FIELD

“We could not find my mom at first; then we found her under the couch, speechless and unable to move. My mother was not only in physical pain, but also emotional pain because of what happened.”

— Aurore

In response, International Medical Corps provided mental health and psychosocial support for both Aurore and her mother.
MENTAL HEALTH AND PSYCHOSOCIAL SUPPORT

After a traumatic event, common mental health conditions include physical, emotional, cognitive and behavioral reactions. Longer-term effects may include depression, severe anxiety disorders and post-traumatic stress disorder. Following the blast, we:

- **Provided 2,556 psychological first aid sessions**
- **Referred 562 individuals for higher levels of mental health care**
- **Trained 191 frontline workers to provide psychosocial support and basic care**
- **Provided 10,259 in-person and remote mental health consultations**
- **Educated 3,499 people about mental health, including signs, symptoms, management and steps to seek care**
I’ve lived in the city for the past 10 years. This is my first emergency that I am responding to as a resident," says Rima Bakri, International Medical Corps’ Communications Manager in Lebanon. 

“Thankfully, my family and I were all okay; however, thousands of other were not. Our Lebanon team has been able to provide thousands of people affected by the blast with healthcare services following this traumatic event. We’re treating wounds, and the mental health team is available to provide psychological first aid to all those affected. The support that International Medical Corps has received from all over the world has been tremendous and has made a huge difference. We’re very, very grateful.”
ADDRESSING GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

Many of those displaced included women and girls, who had to live with extended relatives or strangers—increasing their risk of abuse and potential exploitation. In response, we:

- **Provided 806 consultations** to prevent and address gender-based violence (GBV) needs
- **Distributed 4,473 dignity kits and psychosocial support kits**, which include shampoo, sanitary napkins, flashlights, knitting needles, wool threads and more
- ** Reached 2,327 people** through awareness-raising sessions to protect those who are vulnerable, including women and girls
The explosion came in the midst of the country’s economic and monetary collapse. In response, International Medical Corps launched empowerment training targeted to help women by providing income-generating opportunities.

We reached 32 WOMEN with education on livelihoods planning and entrepreneurship.
INTERNATIONAL MEDICAL CORPS IN LEBANON

- Launched programs in 2006
- Served approximately 44,000 individuals with healthcare and 1,300 people with mental health care every month in 2020
- First NGO to begin providing health services for Syrian refugees in North Lebanon in 2011
- Support 70+ primary healthcare facilities and hospitals in Great Tripoli, Akkar, Beirut and Mount Lebanon, Bekaa and the South
THANK YOU TO OUR CORPORATE SUPPORTERS

and the thousands of individuals who have made our response possible.
THANKS TO YOUR GENEROUS SUPPORT,

We have reached 276,173 people affected by the explosion