

مؤسسة مخزومي
Makhzoumi Foundation



Multi Sectorial Needs
Assessment of compounding
crisis on communities
affected by Beirut Explosion

August 2020

Prepared by Makhzoumi Foundation

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Urban Needs Assessment in Beirut
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This is a summary report of the Beirut Rapid Impact Assessment prepared by Makhzoumi Foundation teams for further interventions.

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Disclaimer

This report summarizes the findings of the Rapid Impact Assessment that took place in Beirut, Lebanon, between August 8 and September 4, 2020.

Although all efforts have been made to improve the accuracy of the information that was collected and analyzed, the assessment was produced in a quick timeframe to ensure the relevance of the estimations. This is a living document and will be updated as new information becomes available. It provides an overall picture of the effects of the explosion on individuals, physical assets, infrastructure and service delivery, but is not a replacement of in-depth sector-specific assessments.

Before describing the findings of this Rapid Assessment, here's

A word from the wounds

Between the blood of the martyrs and the pain of the wounded, and the grief of the people of Beirut and all of Lebanon for the wounded capital, and above all the rubble, the heart tears and the soul burns ... Beirut today is like a battlefield, enveloped in grief and surrounded by oppression.

One scene in Beirut breaks this blackness, and paints a spot of light in a black tunnel, and holds the breeze of hope for a better tomorrow. In light of the complete absence of the state and its apparatus, the concern of Beirut's lovers was not absent. Hands intertwined to lift the pain and remove the rubble from homes, streets and shops. The real heroes, the state in the absence of the state: the volunteers.

We're writing this statement not to promote or advertise ourselves, but rather we write it with pride in our team, volunteers, and every volunteer, who spared no effort to help their city and its people.

Thank you for your hard work in removing rubble and glass, cleaning homes, streets and shops in various areas of the capital, and transporting glass to recycling as part of the Yalla Nefroz initiative.

Thank you for your humanitarian message in treating the wounded, by providing first aid to the injured in the explosion since the night of Bloody Tuesday, and throughout these days by following up the injured and treating the volunteers who were injured during their work as well, through the mobile medical team, the health care center and the mobile clinic.

Thank you, because you are listening to the pain amid the noise of destruction, by providing psychological support to those affected by the bombing, through the psychological support hotline, clinics, and through the fun bus that roams the affected areas to carry out psychological support activities for children.

Thank you, because you are not late for the people of your city to assess the impact of the explosion on their homes and shops, and to seek to help them with everything you can.

We express our appreciation and pride for you and your efforts, Makhzoumi Foundation's staff and volunteers, who charted its course 23 years ago, under one slogan: Together we began, and forever united we shall stand.

A thousand greetings to each volunteer.

Background & Scope of Assessment

In October 2019, civil protests broke out in Lebanon in response to the announcement of several regressive taxes. The protests transformed into country-wide demonstrations condemning widespread and high-level corruption, sectarian rule, high rates of unemployment, and government mismanagement in the face of a failing economy. Already struggling economically, the protests prompted a political crisis in Lebanon, with the dissolution of the presiding government and the formation of a new one after several months of negotiations. The combination of long-existing economic woes, the political crisis, and capital controls caused rapid inflation, resulting in vast swathes of the population slipping into poverty.

The political and economic crises were compounded by the COVID-19 pandemic, with many already struggling to afford basic goods due to inflation and high unemployment rates. In response to the pandemic, the Government of Lebanon imposed a period of general mobilization in March 2020, forcibly closing businesses, restricting movement, and imposing curfew. Swift and early action spared Lebanon from a large outbreak as of June 2020, but resulted in a partial or total loss of income for people throughout the country.

In addition to the socio-economic situation that the Lebanese residents have been subjected to; Beirut was hit by an explosion on August 4th at 6:07 p.m. The Relief web reported that the number of people killed by the Beirut Port explosion has reached more than 220, with more than 6500 injured and around 300,000 people now homeless, also with at least 120 people reported missing. UNCHR (Corps, I. M., 2020), reported on 11th of August that more than 200 fatalities and missing in the explosion includes at least 34 reported refugee victims so far. The death toll among Beirut's refugee population of some 200,000 could rise further; seven refugees are still missing; 124 refugees have been injured with 20 of them suffering serious injuries.

Primary healthcare centers (PHCCs) and hospitals were severely damaged by the blast, leaving the remaining hospitals overwhelmed by the number of casualties. Additionally, many hospitals' intensive-care units (ICUs) were already near capacity before the explosion, due to COVID-19.

According to UNDP, a total of 200,000 housing units were affected by the explosions, with an estimated 40,000 buildings damaged, of which 3,000 severely. Over 15,000 establishments – some 50 percent of all Beirut establishments – are also estimated to be damaged, the majority in the wholesale, retail, and hospitality sector. The most vulnerable who, in the affected areas, may have lost both their homes and incomes (UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, 2020).

According to a recent report by the World Bank in partnership with the European Union talking about Beirut Rapid Damage and Needs Assessment, the Lebanese people and especially the most vulnerable among them are paying a high price for these crises and have become increasingly distrustful of the current political and economic system. In the aftermath of the port explosion, Lebanon is likely to witness an increase in poverty, unemployment, and insecurity.

In light of all of this, Makhzoumi Foundation has been supporting the process. A rapid needs assessment was set in place starting August 5th, immediately after the explosion. On that same day, there was planning for the assessment by the Safety and Emergency Committee, in coordination with partners. On August 8th, the surveying teams were already in the field touring Beirut according to a mapping system. The whole process was done electronically.

Duration

The total duration of the assessment is from August 5 to August 30, 2020. Figure 1. shows the timeline of the process.

Figure 1. Multi Sectorial Needs Assessment Timeline



Objectives

1. Assess the impact on the households, physical assets, infrastructure and service delivery in Beirut after the Port explosion.
2. Use the analysis data to conduct another in-depth assessment.
3. Join forces with national and international actors to rebuild Beirut.

Geographic Scope

The assessment is done in the explosion-affected areas in Beirut, mainly in ground zero, and the surrounding areas within a 20-kilometer radius of the explosion site.

Scope of the assessment

The assessment addresses the following sectors:

1. Housing.
2. Health.
3. Food Security.
4. Psycho-Social Protection.
5. Micro-economic Impact
6. Non-food and Sanitation.
7. Environment.

Data Sources

Surveyors teams did ground-based and remotely collected data. The assessment is adapted from other community needs assessments developed by Makhzoumi and its partners.

Covid-19 Risk Mitigation in the field

To mitigate the risk of the spread of COVID-19, the teams had their face masks on their nose and mouth all the time, and maintained physical distancing from the people they interviewed. They are all trained on hand hygiene best practices. The teams are also trained on psychological first aid (PFA) and Psycho-social support, which they used to address the affected individuals, whom they referred to Makhzoumi Foundation mental health and psycho-social support services.

Methodology

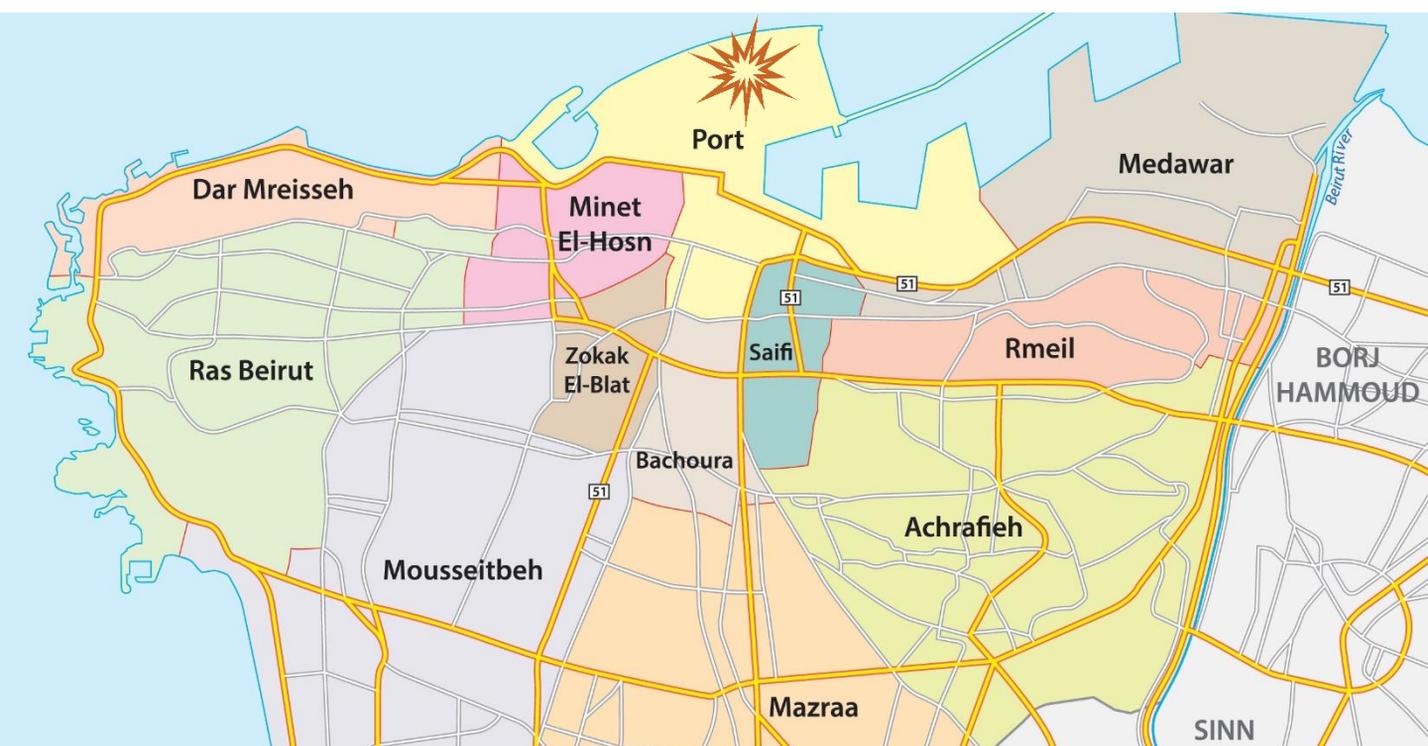
Makhzoumi Foundation conducted a phone based and door to door quantitative and qualitative survey of 1353 persons and households affected by the Beirut Port explosion living in the explosion area and within 15 km diameter. areas around the affected area. The areas surveyed include Bourj Hammoud, Achrafieh, Tarik El Jdide, Basta, Nweiry, Zokak El Blat, Msaytbeh, Mazraa, Ras El Nabaa, Bachoura, Barbour and Bourj Abou Haidar. In addition to households in the Beirut Suburbs.

The focus on those neighborhoods was due to pre-existing vulnerabilities. Those households were assessed from a list of 7000 former beneficiary by Makhzoumi Foundation, assessed earlier in 2018, for the provision of social and multi-purpose services. The surveyors are community-based volunteers and Makhzoumi Foundation staff, trained in field survey administration and interviewing. Data collection started on August 8th and concluded on August 30th, 2020. The households interviewed comprise all nationalities and gender with heads of household over the age of 18.

While the initial intention was to survey a representative sample of the former beneficiaries using simple random sampling (95% confidence level, 5% margin of error), requiring a sample size of 2000 persons, the time limitations to gather data required Makhzoumi Foundation to decrease the target sample to 1353. The phone calls response rate was average as several numbers were expired and people out of reach. This required an adjusted methodological approach, with Makhzoumi Foundation instead analyzing results using methods appropriate to a convenience sample.

Quickly collecting reliable information in a humanitarian crisis especially following a disaster such as the Beirut explosion, is the critical link to saving the lives of the most vulnerable. This is why the teams have data collected using kobo humanitarian software. Kobo Collect is a free toolkit for collecting and managing data in challenging environments and is the most widely-used tool in humanitarian emergencies.

Figure 2. Map of the Areas Affected by Beirut Port Explosion



Results and Key Findings

Demographics

1535 persons were interviewed in the field, with a 3:2 female to male ratio. When interviewed about their work status, 58% of the interviewees mentioned that they are jobless while 12% mentioned that they are employers versus 28% employed and 27% workers. All the three latter groups expressed concerns regarding losing their work. The rapid questions about the age groups included inquiry about the groups that are more prone to vulnerability: children who are aged 1 year and less, youth who are age 18 years and less, and elderly people who are aged 65 years and more. Another question that inquires about vulnerability includes information about pregnant women living in the households. 40 women were pregnant in the households interviewed during the interview time period. Those groups are in highest need for multi-sectoral services including healthcare, maternity services, and psycho-social follow up. A total of 1257 persons interviewed belong to the vulnerable groups mentioned, which indicates that 81% of the interviewed households are highly vulnerable.

Figure 3. Distribution of Highly Vulnerable Groups among the Households Surveyed

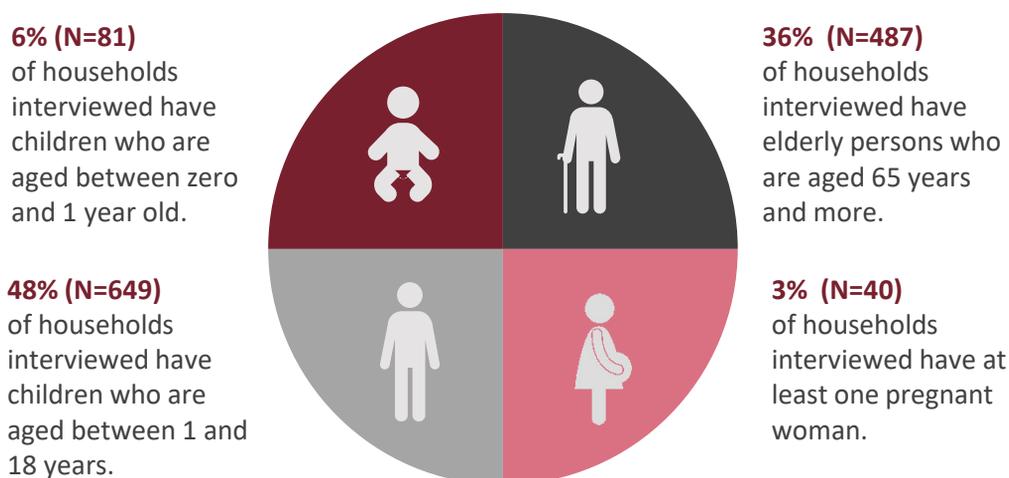


Table 1. Distribution of Interviewees by their Work Status and Gender

	Number	Percentage
Work status		
Worker	27	2
Employer	157	12
Other	55	4
Jobless	737	54
Employee	377	28
Grand Total	1353	100
Gender		
Female	839	62
Male	514	38
Grand Total	1353	100

Damage

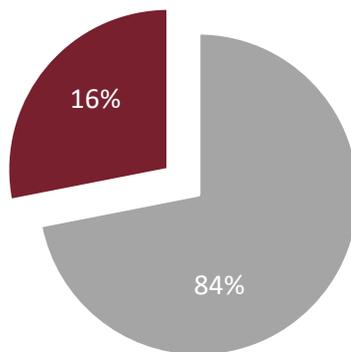
Households were interviewed for the damage estimation. The data obtained describes the homes and the workplaces physical status as minimally damaged, partially damaged, or completely destroyed. 68% of the respondents suffered from an damage caused by the explosion.

When they were asked to name the type of damage they have been subjected to, 608 households mentioned damage to materials, 28%375 mentioned emotional damage, and 27% (N=370) mentioned that they have damage in materials and emotions. Emotional loss included the loss of persons due to the explosion. Those households have either persons missing or persons deceased or severely injured. House or workplace damage included partially or completely broken glass, wood, and/or Aluminium. When asked about the completer damage to homes and/or workplace, 16% of the respondents said that their and/or workplace suffered partial damage, while 1% mentioned total damage to their home.

Figure 4. Distribution of Households Complete Damage

Partial/Complete Damage

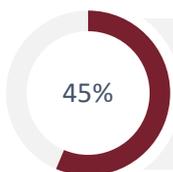
16% (N=217) respondents mentioned that they have either partial or complete damage to their homes or workplace.



No complete Damage

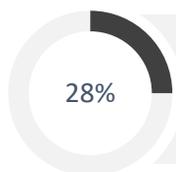
84% (N=1136) respondents mentioned that they did not have complete damage

Figure 5. Distribution of Damage types among the Households Surveyed



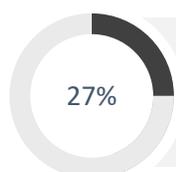
Damage to materials

45% (N=608) respondents mentioned a damage to their home and/or workplace materials including infrastructure.



Damage to morals

28% (N=375) respondents mentioned a damage to their moral status including people's loss and injury.



Damage to both materials and morals

27% (N=370) respondents had damage to both their moral status and materials.

Support

Respondents were asked whether they received support of any kind by local, international or governmental organizations. They were also asked whether one of the persons in their household who was injured by the explosion and did receive or not a support. Respondents who mentioned that they received any kind of support for them or for their household members were further asked about the type of support they received and the type of support that they need further.

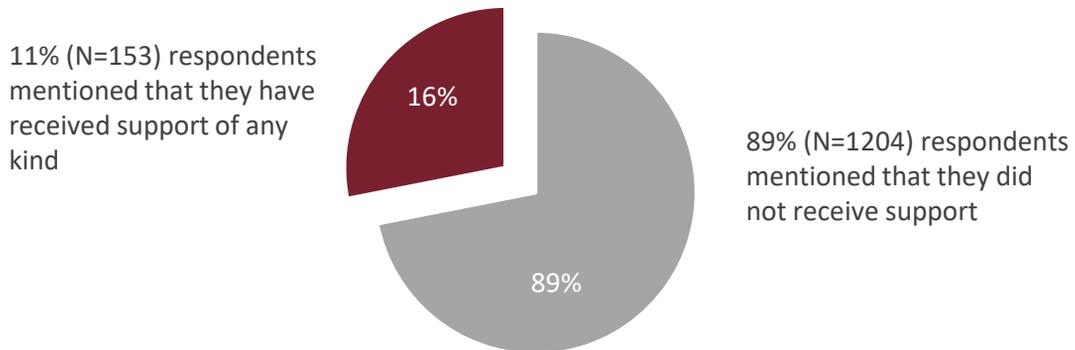
There was a mixed picture of support from other NGOs or the Lebanese government in the areas surveyed. Those that had received support had generally received either food parcels or assistance in cleaning their homes and removing the piles of glass, wood and Aluminium. Many were also supported with nylon covers to their doors and windows.

11% (N=153) mentioned that they received support of any kind while 89% (N=1204) mentioned that they did not receive any support.

78% (N=1055) persons mentioned that their workplace was not damaged and that it is far away from the explosion affected area, while 9% (N=121) persons mentioned that they are worried that they lost their jobs or projects.

When asked about the type of support they expect to have, (N=283) persons mentioned the need for food parcels. Other expectations included healthcare support, specifically mental health services. A number also requested support for furniture, clothes, and cash assistance.

Figure 5. Distribution of Households Complete Damage



Limitations

There are several limitations.

- Adjustments of survey through the ongoing of data collection process.
- Several challenges were identified from the tool used.
- Programmatic team had to change open-ended questions to close ended as the data collection was ongoing.
- Other adjustments on survey used was removing questions that duplicated information that Makhzoumi foundation already possess.
- Issues with sample and selection.
- Insufficient sample size for statistical measurement.
- Lack of previous research studies on the topic.
- The lack of reliable data will likely to limit the scope of our analysis, the size of the sample, and in finding a trend and a meaningful relationship.
- In future research there is a need to see how emergencies affect health, psychosocial needs and the impact of access to schools and education.
- Time constraints. As this is a rapid assessment for the Beirut Port explosion we couldn't extend our time frame regardless of the many challenges we faced from human resources on field, volunteers, training period and survey edits.
- Measure used to collect the data – the data gathered data inhibited our ability to conduct a thorough analysis of the results. The needs assessment was rapid and didn't include enough questions that could have helped us address particular issues.
- In future assessments or research the method for gathering data will be revised and tool verified before implementation.

Recommendations

Further research to be implemented to identify real needs of the population affected by the Beirut Port explosion. Moreover, urgent need for an action response plan to answer the needs and socio-economic, health and education gaps identified. The impact of the explosion exposes a high risk on all levels and affects multi sectors in the lives of the population affected.