

مؤسسة مخزومي
Makhzoumi Foundation



FINAL PROGRESS
REPORT

BEIRUT PORT EXPLOSION

OCTOBER 2020



SITUATION OVERVIEW

On August 4, 2020 at 6:07 pm, the largest non-nuclear explosion in the world hit Beirut city, originating in the port, caused by around 2,750 tons of ammonium nitrate stored in warehouses number 12. The explosion waves hit throughout the whole city causing widespread damage even beyond the Beirut area. Its sound was heard even in the island of Cyprus, which was located at 276 Kilometers distance. 220 people have been killed, over 6,000 injured, and more than 300,000 are displaced due to complete home destruction. Families have been forced to seek temporary shelter at schools, acquaintances, and administrative buildings. Significant damage to Beirut infrastructure was reported particularly in the areas surrounding the port. A state of emergency was declared in the capital for a period of 2 weeks. This comes on top of the very significant effects of the economic crisis and the Covid-19 pandemic. Almost 80 days after the explosion and the situation on the ground remains critical. Shelter, structure rehabilitation, food distribution, and protection remain response priorities.



220+

Deaths



6500+

Injured



30+

missing



300000+

Displaced



MOBILIZATION & RESPONSE

Directly after the Beirut Explosion, Makhzoumi Foundation relief efforts were mobilized, responding to the immediate needs of the affected community, in line with local actors and in collaboration with renowned partners for more than 7 weeks after the explosion.

Since inception, Makhzoumi Foundation operated on the provision of quality services in prevention and immediate response programming. The groundwork of our rapid response **handled** the emergency relief efforts **focusing on 6 core sectors**: Health, NFIs & Wash, Food Security, Shelter, Protection, with Youth engagement and Volunteering.

A big number of injured individuals were directed for medical treatment either to the Primary Healthcare Center (PHC) in Mazraa or to the Medical Mobile Unit (MMU) located in the affected streets. Psycho-Social Support (PSS) teams were dispersed on a daily basis to ensure that affected individuals are coping with bereavement and trauma of the explosion they witnessed, and cater for the needs of children and elderly.

Since the night of August 4, volunteers were operating on a daily basis in the explosion site and the damaged surrounding streets, distributing assistance, and clearing the damage.

Teams of more than 200 field surveyors finalized a baseline Multi-Sectorial Needs Assessment of communities affected by Beirut Explosion. Subsequent interventions took place accordingly based on priorities and needs.

Food Safety and Hygiene were prioritized as is the case in all crisis modes. MF immediately intervened by distributing Non-Food Items (NFIs), WASH materials, Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) materials, food parcels. Hot meals were also distributed to community members, volunteers in the points of care, and affected families.

BEIRUT EXPLOSION RELIEF SERVICES BY THE NUMBERS



1100

Activated
Volunteers



5500

Medical
Services



1353

Needs
Surveys



1780

Hygiene Kits
Distributed



3500

Food Parcels
Distributed



500

Locations
cleaned



5040

Hot Meals
distributed



950

Home
Visits



175

Tons of waste
collected



2611

Winterization
materials

MISSIONS AND INTERVENTIONS

Makhzoumi Foundation implemented worthy humanitarian missions over 7 weeks following the Beirut Port Explosion. Those missions were all called upon on a full day and night schedule over 3 emergency hotlines. The mobile lines were put in place to facilitate the access of affected individuals to service provision:

1. The mental health hotline received all psychosocial support calls.
2. The volunteers hotline received calls from individuals interested to join emergency relief teams.
3. The donations line received all calls from affected families in need of support to clear the damage inside their houses or workplace.

When the immediate chaos was settled, 200 volunteers took to the streets around the blast site. They moved the rubble, wiped the blood and rebuilt people's confidence. While most people were grieving and angry, the teams were helping to put the lives of others back together and to let them feel less helpless about their situation. Sweltering under the summer sun, volunteers fortified themselves with donations of food and water. The cleaning of Beirut streets included most streets in ground zero. This includes **Charles Helou, Armenia street, Gemayze, Saifi, Karantina, Mar Elias, Mazraa, Bashoura, Zokak El Blat, Salim Slem, Malla, Zarif, Khandaa El Ghamii, Karakol El Druze, Ras El Nabeh, Zaydanieh, Achrafieh, Sodeco, Mar Mkhayel, and Martyr's square.**

On the ground, other teams were ready for support inside 3 tents settled in 3 blast-affected areas that were located at Martyr's square, Mar Mkhayel, and Karantina. The teams in the tents responsibility was to coordinate the Rapid Response Task Forces on the ground and to collect in-kind donations and distribute them to affected individuals. Cleaning the damage did not involve on homes. Makhzoumi Foundation teams also worked inside the destroyed schools such as Gebran Twayni, Uruguay School, Frères Gemayze, Achrafieh Middle Public School, and Laure Mghayzel school. They aided as well the 3 most damaged hospitals, in Achrafieh area, which were Geitawi hospital, Wardieh hospital, and Saint George Medical Center. They also assisted stores in the explosion area by removing rubble piles and restoring their frontage. Other youth volunteers were also segregated into teams to help the displaced people pack their shattered belongings and transport them into special stores until further interventions. While taping nylon covers over the destroyed doors and windows took the majority of their time, the teams also cleaned public gardens including Basta garden.

BEIRUT

Mediterranean Sea



PARTNERSHIP IN THE HEART OF THE CRISIS

Partnership during crisis was the key to a holistic support. A successful humanitarian support requires inclusive partnerships at regional and the national levels. Makhzoumi Foundation partnership was built upon principles and values, and upon a shared vision and shared goals placing people affected by the crisis in the middle as per SDG17. Makhzoumi Foundation in collaboration with **UNICEF**, the **Lebanese University** and the **Lebanese Red Cross (LRC)** worked on identifying the damage on the Ring Bridge in Achrafieh. Moreover, in collaboration with **Bioelektra Australia**, Makhzoumi Foundation distributed cash assistance to 170 affected families. Emergency Cash Assistance was provided to families of the firefighters, the civil Defense and the Beirut Port Silos martyrs. Through the **Lutheran World Relief (LWR)** Return Project where more than 1700 surveys were done to screen households for glass repair and 240 home appliances were distributed to affected homes. In the first wave, the teams distributed 59 televisions, 21 washing machines, 12 microwaves, and 48 gas ovens. During the second wave, 100 additional appliances were distributed. **World Vision** support was in the provision of hygiene Kits and in-kind food parcels. The **Embassy of Kuwait in Lebanon** also helped by providing 250 food parcels. In-kind assistance to 292 affected families with the support of **UNHCR** included 1134 Blankets, 1193 Mattresses and 284 kitchen utensils. UNHCR also expanded its relief coverage, in addition to refugees, to *affected vulnerable Lebanese*. This expansion included case management and Emergency Cash Assistance.

A heartfelt Thank you to all our partners

The Beirut Port Explosion was a tragedy to our small country that was in the midst of an ongoing crisis.

Kindness with support and being able to put ourselves in their shoes was vital, because “we make a living by what we get but we make a life by what we give”.

Choosing to actually do something to help was simply marvelous. After August 4th, 2020, our partners did just that. By generously giving to Makhzoumi Foundation, in-kind and cash assistance, they helped save and rebuild lives after the deadly explosion. Giving hope to the injured people and displaced communities in Beirut, their impact can be traced in every street in Karantina, Gemayze, Achrafieh, Mar Mkhayel and more, where families are in need.

From all of us here at Makhzoumi Foundation, we are thanking them for all the continued support.



MAKHZOUMI FOUNDATION'S RAPID RESPONSE

Despite the heavy hit over Makhzoumi Foundation premises in Beirut, all its teams stayed fully functional based on guidance by the Founder, M.P. Fouad Makhzoumi, and the President, Mrs. May Makhzoumi. The instant the explosion eroded, the Safety and Emergency committee called for an emergency consultation to set the action plan. An operation room to manage the crisis was set in place in the midst of Beirut standing by for 24/7. All staff and volunteers were mobilized according to the crisis response Plan. Several hotlines were promptly activated based on the emergency needs. The hotline for the PSS was held active through the healthcare team. The hotline for the call for volunteers also was held active by the volunteers' unit, and the general support hotline was operating in the field for people requesting urgent help in removing glass and cleaning. Makhzoumi Foundation's priority was the wellbeing and safety of its community. This was realized through providing a multi-sectoral response focusing on Health, NFIs, WASH, Shelter, Protection and Volunteering. The Continuity of COVID-19 response activities was also an emphasis going in parallel.



THE MULTI-AREAS/zones/districts NEEDS ASSESSMENT

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.

The total duration of the assessment was from August 5 to August 30, 2020 with 3 objectives: Assess the impact on the households, physical assets, infrastructure and service delivery in Beirut after the Port explosion, use the analysis data to conduct another in-depth assessment, and to join forces with national and international actors to rebuild Beirut. Surveyors teams did ground-based and remotely collected data. The assessment was adapted from other community needs assessments developed by Makhzoumi Foundation and its partners.



HEALTH

As early as the explosion hit Beirut, the medical teams of Makhzoumi Foundation went to the ground. Physicians and nurses trained on first-aid procedures went inside the MMU and started roaming the roads in the blast area and the surrounding damaged streets. The emergency team was still in action after 70 days of the sad advent. Mazraa PHC, our main center, was open for all medical services: Medical consultations were offered for free by all specialties under the Beirut Explosion MF Fund, laboratory and radiology tests were done for every affected individual who sought help in the PHC, and essential medications were distributed with the support of the MOPH and UNICEF. The PHC was receiving external referrals of cases from other organizations working in the field. All health services were done in direct coordination with the health partners including mainly MOPH, YMCA, UNHCR, and UNICEF. Internal referrals by MF Relief unit were also taking place continuously, serving the refugees in the midst of this crisis.

Despite the emergency situation, routine vaccination did not stop. The health and safety of children remained a priority. One to one Infant and Young Child Feeding (IYCF) counseling for pregnant and lactating women was taking place whenever needed in the breastfeeding room at the PHC in Mazraa. The Non-Communicable diseases program (NCD) continued to screen all people for cardiovascular diseases including people who are directly affected by the explosion. Makhzoumi Foundation PHC was also hit severely by the explosion shockwaves. Assessment was being done currently on its infrastructure by the MOPH and Relief International. Initial results confirmed some structural damages to the health facilities and the building where it was located. Most of the damage was dealt with immediately by MF logistics and maintenance teams. Rooms that were not eligible for functioning were relocated immediately to other floors. The Ministry of Public Health and UNICEF were procuring medical kits, medications and supplies.





The MMU Rapid Response

Makhzoumi Foundation Mobile Medical Unit (MMU) was used since 2010 to provide immediate emergency care in the vulnerable communities in Lebanon. The role of this unit was normally to increase access to primary healthcare for older people who are not mobile, or who do not live near a healthcare center. This finding led into further crisis-preparedness works planned. The MMU operated earlier this year in the emergency relief during the forest fires in Mount Lebanon.

Makhzoumi Foundation MMU also dropped volunteers in front of the shattered homes in the streets surrounding the port area for home visits that took place on a daily basis for people who were at a halt, and for elderly who could not move out of affected houses.

Since the explosion, MF MMU was fully deployed to highly impacted areas of Bashoura, Zokak El Blat, Ras El Nabaa, Sodeco, Bourj Hammoud, Geitaoui, Karm El Zeitoun, Mar Mikhael, and Medawar to offer emergency health support. Its main task was dropping the healthcare volunteers, including physicians and nurses, from the PHC in Mazraa to assigned damaged streets based on a set schedule. The teams offered first-aid services including wound and burn care, general health and mental health assistance. Healthcare activities through the MMU were undertaken in a clean and hygienic environment that facilitates medical practices. There was continuous distribution of hygiene kits and IPC materials including surgical face masks, alcohol-based hand gel bottles, and gloves. At the same time, the medical teams were teaching the affected individuals about the best practices of hand hygiene.





NFIs & WASH

Makhzoumi Foundation with its partners have assessed 1300 homes for damages in water pipes and connections in an aim to work for interventions with WASH partners.

Homes accessibility was difficult on the first days after the explosion. Water systems were damaged, and tanks needed repair or replacement.

Makhzoumi Foundation distributed 1780 hygiene kits and IPC materials to the most needy families in Bashoura, and Karantina. In addition to continuous distributions at MF PHC in Mazraa. The distribution was done in partnership with MOPH, UNICEF, Arcenciel, LRC, and World Vision. Distribution of household items and essential electronics also was taking place in the affected areas based on the Rapid Impact Assessment done by Makhzoumi Foundation field surveyors in collaboration with its partners.



FOOD SECURITY

Makhzoumi Foundation worked on interventions in the food distribution based on the field Rapid Impact Assessment.

- Hot meals and ready-to-eat food were distributed to affected households:
 - ✓ 4590 plates in collaboration with the **Central Kitchen** and **Lebanese Red Cross**.
- In-kind Food Parcels were also distributed in the fields:
 - ✓ 250 parcels by the **Embassy of Kuwait in Beirut**.
 - ✓ 50 parcels by **Slimstock Inventory Optimization**.
- Wheat flour was also distributed in contribution with different partners:
 - ✓ 250 kilos & 200 bread packs by **ALPHA Association** and **Mazraa Bakery**.
- The focus now is shifted to cash-based food assistance, in collaboration with international actors.



PROTECTION

During the explosion, Makhzoumi Foundation Protection sector built on its experiences and its resources from previous crises, since 2006, starting with the Israeli bombardment of Lebanon, to the Iraqi and Syrian wars, to the forest fires in Mount Lebanon, and now to the Covid-19 pandemic.

By liaising with the office of Beirut Governor, UNHCR, the Ministry of Public health and the Municipality of Bourj Hammoud, teams were coordinating the response at the field level.

Priority was addressing mainly outreach, community engagement, psychological first aid (PFA) and referrals to Psycho-Social Support (PSS). Protection services are provided by specialized outreach teams and teams located in MF relief unit inside Hariri hospital and in PHC in Mazraa.

Both the MMU and the Fun Bus were touring the affected areas to provide protection services on a daily basis. Social animation through the Fun Bus team in the field helped children who were traumatized because of the explosion.

The psycho-social support hotline on 70793038 was also mobilized for emergency cases.

Makhzoumi Foundation response had been continuously based on its home-to-home assessments for determination of eligibility for assistance. To support with access to the affected areas in Beirut ground zero and the affected surroundings, teams were liaising with partners, local authorities, and volunteers to provide shelter assistance in Saifi, Geitawi, Mar Mkhayel, Gemayze, and Karantina. The Multi-Sectorial Needs Assessment of communities affected by Beirut Explosion. The **Multi-Sectorial Needs Assessment of Communities** affected by Beirut Explosion developed by MF emergency task force, was immediately used as a tool for the assessment of the explosion's impact. It was a flexible, transparent and a permanent record that was helping for further interventions, discussed earlier in this report. The teams did 1353 baseline surveys, in House-to-House visits, whereby they addressed questions about the explosion. More in-depth surveys were taking place. Contributions by shelter partners included distributions of home appliances, mattresses and kitchen kits.

Homes, stores, hospitals and schools in the affected areas were visited, assessed, and cleaned. Glass, stones and aluminum were removed and Nylon covers covered all the openings. Around 900 houses met the criteria to receive assistance for broken glass repair. 170 households did also receive unconditional cash assistance, in contribution by the Australian company Bioelektra. The field teams continued to work with other local actors, including the Lebanese Red Cross, on other household assessments and zoning.



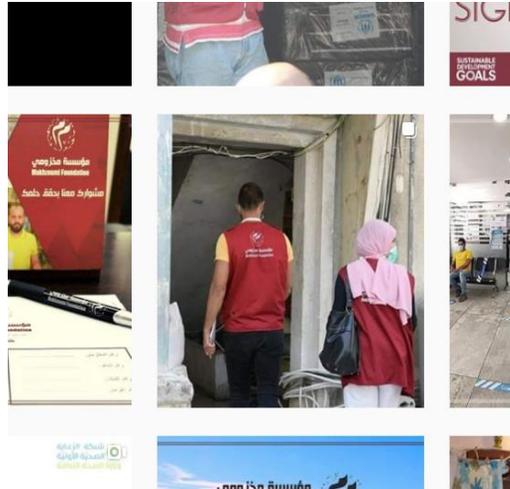
VISIBILITY

MF Social Media was present day by day in ground zero, following up with all the interventions, allowing a free voicing of the affected families needs and expressions. Media Coverage was also accompanying during the whole sad days. A donation page on Makhzoumi Foundation website on this link <https://makhzoumi-foundation.org/donate/> was secured to collect all kinds of aids received inside and outside Lebanon. In-kind donations were the biggest support. People have sent clothes, food, and medications. In summary, the generous donations are still coming through, and Makhzoumi Foundation teams are still on the run.

Facebook



Instagram



You Tube



IGTV



Lebanon 24



In the Press



A CONTINUOUS CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS & MEDIA SUPPORT

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 emotional tears and the scarred souls. Beirut on that terrible day was like a battlefield, enveloped in grief and surrounded by oppression.

One scene in Beirut broke this blackness and painted a spot of light in a black tunnel and held the breeze of hope for a better tomorrow. In the light of 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 are **the volunteers**.

We would like to thank all our volunteers for their 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. We would like also to thank them for their humanitarian message in treating the wounded and providing first aid to the injured in the explosion.



Additional Links: <https://makhzoumi-foundation.org/>
<https://www.facebook.com/makhzoumi.foundation/>
<https://twitter.com/makhzoumi>
https://www.instagram.com/makhzoumi_foundation/
<https://www.youtube.com/user/makhzoumifoundation>
<https://makhzoumi-foundation.org/beirut-explosion-crisis/>

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