



LEBANON Lebanese Red Cross Response

OVERVIEW

LEBANESE RED CROSS:

The Lebanese Red Cross (LRC), established in 1945, is the main provider of pre-hospital emergency care (ambulance service) and blood transfusion services in Lebanon, providing both these vital services to the population in Lebanon for free. Including its other services such as Medico-Social and Disaster Management, the LRC serves more than 800,000 persons annually, all services combined, through a network of more than 6000 volunteers, members and employees.

On the 4th of August 2020, at around 6:00 PM, a massive blast devastated the capital city of Beirut, killing more than 100 persons and injuring more than 4000. 2 major hospitals were devastated and closed with all patients being evacuated in the hours following the blast, and thousands of homes have been damaged leaving many people without shelter. Since mid-2019, Lebanon has been going through an unprecedented economic and financial crisis, defaulting on its debts for the first time, imposing capital controls that hamper the ability of LRC to purchase critical supplies, and causing an effective if unofficial devaluation of the local currency. The crisis has also meant that the Ministry of Public Health's (MoPH's) annual contribution of 30% (10 million dollars) to support ambulance and blood services, has completely stopped, creating a massive gap in LRC's budget.

When the first COVID-19 cases were announced in Lebanon, LRC was immediately designated by the MoPH to transport all suspected and confirmed cases, and has been doing so since February 2020. The combination of the financial/economic meltdown, with the COVID-19 crisis, the political crisis and the devastating 4th of August blast, has pushed Lebanon beyond the breaking point.



How Is LRC Responding?

As soon as the blast occurred, 30 ambulances in Beirut and Mount-Lebanon were sent to assist with the rescue effort. When the scale of the damage and the number of injured in a vast perimeter around the blast area became clearer, LRC mobilized 45 more teams from South Lebanon, North Lebanon and the Bekaa to support. Multiple triage and treatment centers were set up because ambulances crews could not reach all of the wounded. LRC ambulance convoys also helped to evacuate 2 major hospitals which suffered extensive damage.

The Medical Dispatch Center, which operates the free national emergency medical hotline "140", was scaled up to cope with the thousands of calls that were being received every minute. LRC also leveraged its social media channels to call for blood donations, collecting more than 450 blood units between the moment of the blast and the 5th of August at 10:00 AM. More blood units are being collected to help the hospitals with the treatment of severe cases. LRC has opened all of its blood centers round the clock to receive blood donations, but there are increasing needs for reagents and consumables to replenish the emergency stock and meet the demand for blood. Since the morning of the 5th of August, LRC has also been setting up temporary shelters for up to 1000 families, and providing basic assistance to help them cope with the immediate aftermath of the blast.

NEEDS ASSESSMENT

LRC Key Strengths

Geographical PRESENCE

ACCEPTANCE & ACCESS

STRONG NETWORK

Auxiliary to the Government
Leading in EMS and BLOOD

VOLUNTEER RESPONSE CAPACITY

MOVEMENT SUPPORT

LRC Sectors operates together through a coordinated, complimentary plan to always meet the needs of the population all over Lebanon.



THE LEBANESE RED CROSS SECTORS OF INTERVENTION

HEALTH

THE LEBANESE RED CROSS NEEDS FOR THE PERIOD OF 3 MONTHS TO ENSURE CONTINUITY OF THE RESPONSE

EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

BUDGET 8,413,000 USD

Due to the explosion, 75 LRC ambulances operated in Beirut and were supported by other 50 from different LRC centers in different regions rushed to respond to the field needs rescuing injured people and transporting victims to and from hospitals. As a result of the blast, 3 EMS stations (Spears, Gemmayze and Jal El Dib) were highly affected with their telecommunication equipment, IT, and station equipment partially to completely destroyed. Therefore, there is a need for 3 temporary locations to operate in the coming 3 months.

During the response, several ambulances, vans and vehicles were damaged; medical consumables, personal protective equipments (PPEs) and disinfectants along with the protective helmets and flak jackets found in the ambulances and the stations were harmed.

All equipments are needed to reoperate and to adequately respond to people's needs. Also, additional volunteers and staff are to be trained and provided with FTO support, and QI teams support including per diems, recharge cards and internet.

BLOOD TRANSFUSION SECTOR/ BLOOD PROGRAM RECOVERY

BUDGET 763,255 USD

Due to thousands of injured people, and drastic increase in need of blood components in the majority of the hospitals in the country, LRC blood transfusion services is opening the 13 BTS centers to cope with this huge increase in demand.

2 BTS centers (Spears and Gemmayze) suffered considerable damage with one of them having lost its collection, testing and preparation equipment as well as blood storage devices and need complete rehabilitation and equipment in order to recover Lebanese Red Cross blood program. Patients are transported to hospitals in remote areas after Beirut hospitals reached their maximum capacity, and consequently all centers opened to cope with the efflux of blood donors, the testing and preparation of blood products and its safe distribution to hospitals.

All technologists are called to report to BTS centers, and increased amount of reagents and consumables are needed to replenish our emergency stock and supply blood stocks to hospitals in a timely manner.

MEDICO SOCIAL SECTOR

BUDGET 384,285 USD

This emergency crisis resulted in an unprecedented urgency with massive medical needs. Hospitals are being overloaded and have reached their capacity, making the role of Health centers and MMUs even more pressing and urgent than before in the provision of primary health services, paramedical items and distribution of medication. In addition, MMUs aim to support EMS and DM as needed.

Prior to the crisis, the Lebanese and non-Lebanese residents were increasingly seeking Primary Health Centers for medical services in many regions, due to cheaper prices and increasing number of vulnerable population. Ensuring the provision of medical services by PHCs and MMUs is necessary to the increasing vulnerable people. Failing to provide such services to those in need will seriously endanger the health of the vulnerable population. Maintaining operations and medical supply to 36 health centers and 9 MMUs is financially challenging, and without financial support, MSS will be unable to address these increasing demands and needs.

The 36 LRC PHCs provided 141,811 services to Lebanese and non-Lebanese beneficiaries in 2019, with an expected significant increase as the population is increasingly vulnerable, as the financial situation in Lebanon is continuously deteriorating, and with a pressing increase in need resulting from the crisis.

STATISTICS

- More than 4000 Injured
- 100 Deaths
- 20 Missing
- Unknown damage to the buildings, cars, at the port, in the streets etc.



THE LEBANESE RED CROSS SECTORS OF INTERVENTION

RELIEF

DISASTER MANAGEMENT SECTOR

BUDGET 8,982,302 USD



We have put in place multiple temporary shelters. We are ready to receive **1000 families for 72 hours**. We will be providing food, hygiene kits and all basic needs. **HOTLINE: 71-941752**



HOW TO HELP

Thank you to everyone who has reached out to help! Please note that any third parties fundraising in the name of the Lebanese Red Cross are not authorized and not legal. If you want to help, you can **contribute directly** via our app and website: **supporttrc.app**, by **wire transfer** (see link below) or by **cheque**.

DONATE

With the large number of Lebanese residents that have lost their households within a short timeframe, and the huge increase in need for health services (blood units, emergency medical treatment...), the Disaster Management Sector will be providing a several tier response with both long-term and short-term objectives.

The main long-term objective will focus on providing sheltering and basic needs for 1,000 families in the first 72 hours of the response, to increase the number to 10,000 families affected by the explosion for a period of three months.

In terms of provision of basic need, the DMS will be handling electricity bills in the inhabited shelters, providing Personal Protective Equipments such as surgical masks and gloves, and distributing mattresses, blankets and hygiene kits. As for in-kind assistance, the DMS will provide drinking and usage water, and ready-made meals with a possibility of providing kitchen kit and raw material for families that are residing in shelters with an operational kitchen. In addition to the above, the sector will be handling solid waste management and water sanitation facility maintenance for shelters in need. The short term goals will emphasize on supporting the Blood Transfusion Sector with logistic services, management of blood donation process, and transportation of blood units to hospitals for as long as the need is evident, as well as the Emergency Medical Services Sector by the expansion and installation of two EMS operation points, with the possibility of installing additional units as needed. The former support will also include arranging for operating rooms for 60 EMS volunteers for 7 extendable days. All the above will be accompanied by monitoring of impact, situational changes, and price variations.

SUPPORT

LOGISTICS.

BUDGET 600,000 USD

The Blast did not only cause injuries, but damages to the buildings in Beirut, of which LRC HQ and surrounding branches where all the glass was shattered, equipment destroyed etc. Therefore, and in order to continue the support to the Operational Sectors, rehabilitation is needed to the relevant centers.

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