



Responding to the Explosions in Beirut, Lebanon

November 2020

Project HOPE has been responding to the massive explosions which rocked Beirut's port and surrounding areas in Lebanon on August 4. The ignition of 2,750 tons of ammonium nitrate being stored in one of the port warehouses led to one of the biggest non-nuclear explosions in history, causing massive destructive and devastation throughout the city. The incident caused more than 200 casualties, 6,000 injuries and left more than 300,000 homeless.

Project HOPE was on the ground in Beirut immediately following the explosions and partnered with a local NGO, the Rene Moawad Foundation, to provide relief and assistance. In the immediate aftermath, Project HOPE and RMF supported community clean-up efforts, distributed facemasks and provided wound and trauma care while actively sourcing and distributing medicines and medical supplies. Project HOPE also distributed N95 masks at a search and rescue site in Gemmayzeh.

Three months later, Project HOPE is continuing to provide assistance in coordination with the World Health Organization (WHO), the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), local partners and health facilities to meet long-term health needs and mitigate COVID-19 risks as cases continue to rise. Major accomplishments to date are highlighted below.

Response Highlights

Since August 2020

- 30,000 patients reached with medicines and disaster health kits
- 20,000 health care workers supported with medicines, medical supplies and PPE
- 24+ hospitals, health facilities and health NGOs supported

Distributing Medicines and Supplies

Since August, Project HOPE has distributed medicines and medical supplies, including personal protective equipment (PPE), and hygiene kits to 10 hospitals and nine primary health centers (PHCs) in the most affected areas of Beirut, Mount Lebanon and North Lebanon. These supplies have benefitted an estimated 30,000 patients in addition to 20,000 health care workers. Medicines and supplies distributed include:

- **Two interagency emergency health kits** (each kit contains enough medicines for 10,000 people for a three month period);
- **3,100 disaster health kits**, which include soap and basic hygiene products;
- More than **23,000 syringes** including prefilled saline syringes and 3mL syringes; and
- More than **92,600 pieces of PPE** including 9,600 KN95 masks, 1,970 N95 masks, more than 25,000 surgical and procedural masks, 46,300 exam gloves and other items such as shoe covers, isolation gowns, and surgical gear.



Assessing Primary Health Needs

Project HOPE also completed a **rapid needs assessment of 11 PHCs**, all within 10 kilometers of the blast radius, to determine needs around health services and supplies. The assessment was done in coordination with WHO, UNFPA and the Primary Health Care Network. Findings noted critical gaps and needs in sexual and reproductive health (SRH) and psychosocial services at these facilities which could be addressed the programming support. The SRH health indicators were based on the minimum initial service package for reproductive health in emergencies (MISP). The tool was also sensitive for infection prevention and control (IPC) in the context of COVID-19, which is being monitored closely as cases are increasing due to reduced ability to socially distance since the blast and limited supplies of PPE and IPC materials. Health facilities reached during the assessment included: Karageuzian PHC, Boulghorjian PHC, Karantina PHC, St. John the Baptist Health Center, St. Antoine Akkawi PHC, Saideh PHC, Youth Orthodox PHC, LAUMCRH PHC, RMF MMU, Lebanon Needs Health Center, Centre Development de Beyrouth.

Increasing Access to SRH and Psychosocial Services

With generous support from the AT&T Foundation, Project HOPE is building off assessment findings and implementing a three-month program to increase access to sexual and reproductive health and psychosocial services for vulnerable and displaced populations. In coordination with two local implementing partners, the project is expected to reach a total target population of **12,750** vulnerable women of reproductive health age and **500** mothers and children through psychosocial support activities over the three month intervention

About Project HOPE

Project HOPE is a leader in global health and humanitarian relief programs. We are committed to transforming lives and uplifting communities by empowering healthcare workers to teach and deliver innovative, lifesaving solutions, every day and in times of crisis. We work at the epicenter of today's greatest health challenges including infectious and noncommunicable diseases; maternal and child health; and disasters and health crises. Throughout our history, with the support of our partners, HOPE has responded to more than 45 natural disasters, outbreaks, and humanitarian crises around the world.

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