

**Global Cluster Coordinators Group  
Ad hoc Meeting on Lebanon Explosions Response  
Summary of Discussion and Action points  
11 August 2020**

**Global Clusters Coordination Group: ad hoc Meeting on Beirut Explosions Response  
Summary record and Action points  
11 August 2020**

| <b>Summary of Discussion</b>   | <b>Action Points</b> |
|--|----------------------|
| <p>Ms. Hilding (Emergency surge to OCHA Lebanon) briefed the Group on the situation in Beirut and the ongoing response. Specifically:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i) the explosions emergency comes on top of an already horrific situation in the country, in particular, the de facto economic collapse;</li> <li>ii) the impact and response are limited to the Beirut Governorate area;</li> <li>iii) the search and rescue/life-saving phase is over; some of the teams are staying behind to support needs assessments, etc. UNDAC and lots of surge deployed (also for COVID-19 response support);</li> <li>iv) the Government has resigned, and given the political complexities of the country, this is likely to further complicate the context;</li> <li>v) COVID-19 cases in Lebanon were increasing before the blast, and in the aftermath, it has been very difficult to maintain prevention measures, while the ongoing protests are further compounding the problem;</li> <li>vi) the HCT decided to establish an <b><u>Emergency Operational Cell (EOC)</u></b> – a temporary structure which will focus on coordinating only the response to the explosion emergency; it reports via the HCT to the HC; the HCT decided to build on existing sectoral coordination structures to address the response to the explosion emergency. The priority sectors are <b><u>food security, WASH, health, shelter, protection (including CP and GBV) and logs/ETC;</u></b></li> </ul> |                      |

**Global Cluster Coordinators Group**  
**Ad hoc Meeting on Lebanon Explosions Response**  
**Summary of Discussion and Action points**  
**11 August 2020**

vii) this all comes when the LCRP (Lebanon Crisis Response Plan) and COVID-19 response planning just started, overwhelming the existing capacity; efforts are ongoing to secure EOC co-coordinators from the NGO community;

viii) secondary data review is ongoing (also supported by ACAPS and REACH, and data from the Lebanese Red Cross), on the basis of which **a three-month Flash Appeal would be issued** (as per the decision of the HCT) by Thursday/Friday this week; the Appeal will cover immediate, life-saving activities and any recovery activities that need to be kick-started immediately.

**Questions and Answers:**

A clarification was made re: the scope of the Flash Appeal – i.e. it will focus on the key priority sectors. Other sectors would need to be included under their umbrella – e.g. Nutrition under Food Security (which goes beyond food assistance), etc. It was also clarified that the scope of the appeal would be kept narrow and to only address the needs that arose following the explosions (not adding COVID-19, etc.).

A clarification was requested about the activation of clusters/sectors and the need to ensure clarity in terms of the accountabilities and established procedures. It was confirmed that while clusters were not activated, the HCT agreed that as a temporary measure, the sectors would be accountable to the HC for the response to the explosion.

The role of UNIFIL was also clarified. The mission offered to the Government its support in the clean-up of the port, but there was no feedback on the proposal. For the time being, UNIFIL will not be providing direct assistance – however a mechanism was established for communication between the mission and the humanitarian team

In terms of logistical arrangements, the airport has maintained its operations throughout (although there might be some delays/slowdown due to high volume of material aid arriving), while some maritime traffic is redirected to the Tripoli port; the Beirut port is expected to open shortly. Most aid for Syria was redirected to other ports. The necessary logistical support is being provided through the existing Logistics sector mechanism.

**Global Cluster Coordinators Group**  
**Ad hoc Meeting on Lebanon Explosions Response**  
**Summary of Discussion and Action points**  
**11 August 2020**

**A suggestion was also made for the GCCs to reach out to the respective sector coordinators on the ground to check what support they might require at this stage,** especially with the many ongoing priorities: blast response, COVID-19 response, and LCRP review.

No update on the refugee situation was available at this time, it is clear though that refugees were affected. It was also clarified that there would be no formal activation of clusters at this time (considering the time-bound, focused response) – coordination will continue through existing sectors.

**GCCG support and deployments:**

i) Given that Food Security sector coordinator is on contract break, a temporary coordinator will be dispatched from Rome this week.

ii) Global ETC Cluster advised that dedicated capacity has been dispatched to Beirut, initially for 2 weeks, to identify and respond to any ETC needs, potentially even to address power supply needs.

iii) GBV AoR advised that the newly appointed GBV coordinator would arrive in the country by the end of this week, and that UNFPA was looking at sending a roving team from the regional office in Cairo.

iv) Child Protection AoR is looking to surge personnel to support UNICEF – the agency is looking at expanding psycho-social support, also in the context of increased movement of children within the country; however, while there is a need for monitoring, the issue of unaccompanied, separated or missing children should not arise (as was the case in the past).

v) Global Shelter (Conflict) Coordinator will deploy to Beirut for about five weeks. Meantime the cluster has been working through the existing shelter sector structures since last week and developed a sectoral response plan (shared with the Group immediately after the meeting). The Lebanese Red Cross, NRC and other national/local actors have scaled up quite significantly. UN Habitat (co-lead of the shelter sector) will be looking at longer-term shelter issues. Initial targets include shelter for up to 10,000 people (partly to be delivered as cash assistance). Different aspects of the coordination capacity are being considered (area-based coordination – neighbourhood approach, etc.). The key issue will be to address availability (both in terms of available supplies and affordability) of construction materials.

vi) Global Health Cluster informed that a dedicated Emergency Medical Teams coordinator was deployed to support coordination of the teams that arrived on the ground, more teams have been ‘pledged’ by Member States, but at this stage no additional EMTs are required. Health needs remain of particular concern, in

**Global Cluster Coordinators Group  
Ad hoc Meeting on Lebanon Explosions Response  
Summary of Discussion and Action points  
11 August 2020**

relation to a likely COVID-19 upsurge, as social distancing measures have lapsed in the immediate aftermath of the blast; community messaging needs to be reinforced by all sectors. CERF funding was released for additional PPE equipment. Damage to health infrastructure is of concern, in particular the maintaining of essential health service capacity and ensuring coping capacity for COVID-19 too.

vii) The Global CCCM Cluster informed that IOM and ILO are leading a working group on migrant workers.

vii) Global Logistics Cluster informed that demobilisation of the surge and rescue teams can cause additional stress on the airport operations, and that a part of the port of Beirut was reopening today. At the same time, the GLC sought clarification over the role of the Government at the airport, in particular regarding the relief items being offloaded and transferred to warehouse(s). In this context, it was clarified that liaison with the military is key as they play important role at airport and at the ports. Tripoli port should be able to handle all non-bulk (so non-food) supplies/goods. There is still a question of customs on relief items – decision that can only be taken by and had been requested from the Government before its resignation – this might impact many humanitarian actors. It was also confirmed the fuel situation remains stable. Lastly, it was noted that the diaspora and private sector were making donations with the plea (or even condition) that aid does not go through the Government.

viii) An offer was made by the Global Protection Cluster to provide coaching on sensitive humanitarian and protection approaches, in addition to the broader GCCG support.