



BEIRUT EXPLOSION

6 MONTH REPORT

AUGUST 2020 - FEBRUARY 2021



BY THE NUMBERS

On August 4, 2020, Lebanon's Port of Beirut erupted in explosions. The explosions, believed to be caused by the unsafe storage of ammonium nitrate, left at least 200 people dead and 6,500 people injured. According to local officials, some 300,000 people were left homeless. The port, which handles approximately 80% of Lebanon's imports, has still not recovered six months after the explosion. Meanwhile, the country's economic meltdown and political turmoil have worsened, and the healthcare system is on the brink of collapse, weighed down by the combined weight of the COVID-19 pandemic and the effects of the explosion.

Thanks to foundation support and advance commitments of airlift from aviation partners, Airlink mounted a rapid and sustained response. Through these partnerships, Airlink delivered medical and hygiene supplies, as well as expert responders, to fight COVID-19 and help NGOs respond to one of the largest explosions in modern history.



83,584

POUNDS OF RELIEF SUPPLIES
DELIVERED



36

RESPONDERS
DEPLOYED



\$284,785

IN TRANSPORTATION
RELIEF FOR NGOS



12

NONPROFIT
ORGANIZATIONS
HELPED



112K

PEOPLE PROVIDED
WITH HEALTHCARE
& SUPPLIES



52K

PEOPLE
PROVIDED WITH
CLEAN WATER &
HYGIENE SUPPLIES



6,524

PEOPLE PROVIDED
WITH SHELTER /
OTHER SERVICES

RESPONSE SPOTLIGHT: ANERA

Lebanon's healthcare system remains under immense stress following a year responding to COVID-19, compounded by the impacts of the August 2020 explosion in Beirut. The explosion damaged at least 26 hospitals and clinics and destroyed several pharmacies, increasing the strain on the country's healthcare capacity. Hospitals that did not sustain severe damages were overwhelmed by casualties in the wake of the explosion, and the increase in COVID-19 patients. Patients in need of treatment exceeded normal operating capacity, quickly depleting an already limited supply of medical supplies, medications, and equipment.

In addition to damaging healthcare infrastructure, the blast destroyed several shipments of critical personal protective equipment, medical supplies, and pharmaceuticals being stored in warehouses at Beirut's port. To address the needs following the explosion, Airlink partner Anera began coordinating cargo movement and supply distribution to hospitals and health facilities throughout Lebanon. With support from **Qatar Airways**, Airlink coordinated transportation for **8 critical cargo shipments** on behalf of NGO partners **Americares, MedWish International, Project C.U.R.E., Medical Teams International, Heart to Heart International, and International Health Partners UK**.

Each of these shipments was distributed by Anera to hospitals and clinics after the organization completed an assessment of critical needs. The distributed aid supported a variety of healthcare programs in Lebanon including the treatment of chronic illnesses, cancer, mental health services, dialysis, and COVID-19.

WE DELIVERED...



HYGIENE
SUPPLIES



MEDICAL
SUPPLIES



RESPONSE SPOTLIGHT: TEAM RUBICON NORWAY

More than 300,000 people were left homeless after the explosion. With landlords threatening eviction when tenants could not repair their apartments quickly, and many businesses shuttered due to damage, volunteer rebuilding assistance was needed quickly.

With generous support from the **ISTAT Foundation**, Airlink provided flights for 32 volunteers with **Team Rubicon Norway**. The volunteer team contributed to ongoing rebuilding efforts throughout Beirut, helping small businesses and their owners recover from the structural and economic damage from the blast, clearing out damaged homes and apartments for residents without the resources to do so themselves, and working alongside local organizations completing projects as needed. Some of Team Rubicon Norway's specific projects include:

- Rebuilding Lebanon's largest fire station, which sustained major damages in the explosion. The department lost ten of their own members who responded to the fire in Beirut's port that preceded the explosion.
- Assisting a gallery owner whose shop was ruined in the explosion by cleaning up and replacing shattered glass, replacing the storefront, and patching and painting the walls.
- Repairing a school near the blast site, as well as a pediatric blood and cancer center.



WE DELIVERED...



SHELTER



DEBRIS
REMOVAL

RESPONSE SPOTLIGHT: AMERICARES

Through donations of airlift and logistics support from **Qatar Airways** and **Flexport.org**, Airlink coordinated the movement of pharmaceutical and medical supplies for distribution at area hospitals and medical facilities, supporting 13,900 people. Shipments containing IV solutions and anesthesia medicine expanded hospitals' immediate capacity to treat survivors of the explosion.

Some 50% of Lebanese people live below the poverty line, with 25% living on less than \$1.90 per day, and though the Lebanese government has put in place an around-the-clock curfew, many are defying the rules because they cannot afford to stay home. This, combined with winter holiday gatherings, continues to drive up infections in the country. Later shipment from Amricares provided critical support to Lebanon's healthcare system as they continue to respond to surges in COVID-19 infections.

WE DELIVERED...



MEDICAL
SUPPLIES & PPE



HELPING COMMUNITIES IN CRISIS TOGETHER

Support for this and other responses is made possible through partnerships forged in advance of emergencies. Thanks to these nonprofit organizations and airlines for their commitment to working together to deliver aid where it is needed most and help communities in crisis.



This response would not have been possible without our donors—corporate, foundation, and individual—whose support helps us quickly respond to disasters and humanitarian crises around the globe. Additional support from the following donors helped fuel our efforts:



Airlink's work continues as long as our relief partners need our support to help the people of Beirut recover from this disaster. Consider [giving generously](#) today.



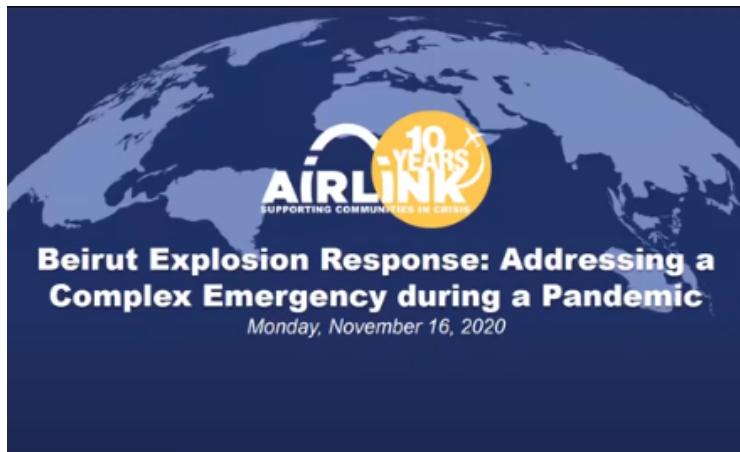
LEARN MORE ABOUT THIS RESPONSE



FLIGHTPATH Podcast: Airlink CEO Steve Smith speaks with Sarah Aoun—one of Airlink's volunteers and Head of Aircraft Investors - Capital Markets at Airbus—who was in Beirut when the explosion occurred.



FLIGHTPATH Podcast: Airlink CEO Steve Smith speaks the CEO of NGO Partner Anera, Sean Carroll, about the global response to the Beirut industrial explosion, and what it means to be the lead NGO in an international relief effort.



Deep Dive: Members of Airlink's Humanitarian Programs team sit down with staff from Anera, Project C.U.R.E., and Heart to Heart International to explore how the four organizations addressed this complex emergency during the pandemic.



Testimonial: ADRA's senior manager for social partnerships, Alex Balint, touches down in Beirut thanks to an Airlink-supported flight.





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