

# Beirut Blast

## Situation Report

August 8, 2020



### BACKGROUND

On Tuesday, August 4, 2020 a catastrophic explosion rocked Beirut, destroying most of the port and damaging buildings across the city. More than 150 people lost their lives in the blast and another 5,000 sustained injuries, and some 300,000 are temporarily homeless. First responders and residents are now rescuing people and cleaning up rubble and debris.

80% of what [Lebanon](#) consumes comes in through imports and 60% of those came through the Port of Beirut, which is no longer operating. Resources will therefore become scarcer. They will also be more expensive, given short supplies and the 89% depreciation of the Lebanese pound since October 2019.

[anera.org/donate-lebanon](https://anera.org/donate-lebanon)

### Anera's Operating Status

Anera has a team of 60 staff in Beirut and six offices outside the capital. All are physically fine, but shaken. Many had damage to their homes, as did Anera's office in Badaro. All Anera staff are on the job, though, responding to this latest, cataclysmic challenge. On Sunday, August 8, Anera staff from across Lebanon, along with partner UNICEF staff and volunteers, gathered in Beirut for a Day for Service to do clean-up and begin rehabilitation.

### Anera's Response

#### ARRANGING SHIPMENTS

Our [medical donations](#) team is working with Americares, DirectRelief, HPIC, Heart-to-Heart and Intl. Health Partners on six shipments of medical supplies to be air freighted from the US and UK to Lebanon. Shipments include emergency supplies, chronically needed medicines and Personal Protection Equipment (PPE) against [COVID-19](#), as cases rise.

#### DISTRIBUTING RELIEF ITEMS

Our staff are organizing clean-up efforts as well as distributions of water, food, cleaning supplies, hand sanitizer, masks and gloves to families and others who are picking up the pieces after the tragic explosion.

### Anera's Plans

Our rapid assessment team determined that Anera's focus areas of intervention will be medicines, health supplies, food and water, and rehabilitation. This week we will distribute PPE to local organizations, and start to rehabilitate health care centers, homes and small businesses.