



Lebanon COVID-19 Situation Report

March 25, 2021

Overview

In the middle of an economic and political crisis, Lebanon is also faced with steadily increasing numbers of COVID-19 cases: 92,975 active and 452,281 cumulative were recorded on March 25th.¹ The number of new infections regularly surpasses 2,000 people each day.² These numbers will likely increase due to the difficulties of social insecurity throughout the country, which make social distancing regulations very difficult to enforce. Our field offices report that many newly infected persons are quarantining at home using over-the-counter medicines and rented oxygen tanks.

Key Highlights from Lebanon's Ministry of Public Health Press Releases

Lockdown restrictions that the government enacted almost two months ago were lifted on Monday in an attempt to revive Lebanon's struggling service sector. Restaurants and select other places of businesses now can operate at 50% capacity, with a priority placed on outdoor seating.³ This comes in spite of the fact that Lebanon's capacity for treating COVID-19 is greatly strained. Health Minister Hamad Hassan has stated that oxygen tanks, among other supplies used to mitigate the effects of COVID-19, are at critically low supply levels.⁴

According to data from the Ministry of Public Health's website, there are 992 occupied ICU beds and 297 people on ventilators. Hospital occupancy from mid-January through March has greatly surpassed numbers from December of 2020, which puts a massive strain on functioning medical facilities.⁵ Mortality rates have followed a similar trend, with almost three times as many deaths per day in March compared to early January.

Vaccines

The MoPH confirmed an order for 750,000 Pfizer vaccines on March 23rd.⁶ According to our field offices on March 23rd, just over 50,000 people had been fully vaccinated

¹ [Lebanon Ministry of Public Health: 22/3/21 report](#)

² [World O Meter: Lebanon](#)

³ [I24 News: Lebanon Eases COVID-19 Restrictions](#)

⁴ [AP News: Syria to Send Lebanon Emergency Oxygen Supplies](#)

⁵ [Lebanon Ministry of Public Health: 22/3/21 report](#)

⁶ <https://www.moph.gov.lb/en/Pages/127/48105/>

and over 148,000 doses had been administered. The number of people registered through the country's portal stands at roughly 1 million, which is less than one sixth of the total population.

Lebanon's private sector is playing an increasingly important role in vaccine acquisition. A press release from the Ministry of Public Health confirmed that the government is encouraging private import of vaccines.⁷ Assistance from non-governmental organizations has been critical, particularly the World Bank, which organized loans to pay for the first vaccine imports back in February.⁸

Response of Anera's Partners

Anera's donors provide critical medicines, medical supplies, and PPE. Donations from Direct Relief, Health Partners International (Canada), Americares, MedWish, and International Health Partners (UK) allow Anera to distribute much needed items to hospitals, clinics, and other medical facilities in Lebanon. Over 65 shipments have arrived in distribution centers in Lebanon in this fiscal year.

Anera's Role in Vaccinations

Anera is set to play a significant role in the aforementioned private acquisition of vaccines by pledging to purchase 40,000 vaccines that will cover 20,000 people. This is part of a coordinated effort with other civil service organizations, UNRWA, and the National Committee for the Coronavirus Vaccine to vaccinate 130,000 Palestinians living in Lebanon. More information on Anera's pledge can be found [here](#).

Anera has also engaged in awareness campaigns surrounding vaccinations in order to provide information on the safety of receiving a first dose. These efforts can help to raise the number of Lebanese citizens that will register for vaccination. Our Lebanon team acquired temporary roam permits to coordinate with the Ministry of the Interior and Lebanese municipalities for this purpose.

Our Beirut team created the graph on the following page to represent the distribution of Anera's medical shipments to our local partners in Lebanon.

⁷ [MoPH Has No Problem with Private Sector's Import of Vaccines](#)

⁸ [World Bank: Fair and Transparent Distribution of COVID-19 Vaccine](#)

Segregation of Meds & Medical Supplies (By Sub-recipient)

