

Background

On 4 August, a warehouse at the Beirut Port exploded, causing widespread casualties and material damage. Initial reports indicate that more than 154 people were killed and 5,000 injured, with an unknown number missing. The Government of Lebanon estimates that the explosions have left more than 300,000 people with no shelter in the Greater Beirut area. The port has suffered widespread structural damage and the explosion has devastated surrounding commercial and residential neighbourhoods.

The scale of the needs and the scope of the emergency response requires a multi-agency and multi-sector response. However, the humanitarian community expects to face a number of critical logistics challenges; therefore, additional logistical support might be required to ensure humanitarian organisations can deliver efficient and effective assistance to affected people.

Logistics Gaps, Bottlenecks and Needs

Pending additional key findings and recommendations following the on-going logistics assessment, the below logistical gaps have been identified:

- Over 30 humanitarian partners have called for a coordinated and efficient response from the international community to avoid logistics bottlenecks and possible overlaps in efforts.
- Partners have expressed the need to reinforce coordination in Beirut, as well as developing technical logistics expertise, support and collaboration among humanitarian actors in order to support ad-hoc requests from partners.
- Partners highlighted the need to receive timely and consistent information on logistics services and infrastructures available on the market, starting with existing road transport and storage services and assets.
- Accurate and operationally crucial information requires to be proofed, completed and updated within the existing information tools (LCA).
- In general, there is an important need for relevant logistics information regarding downstream supply chain operations including administrative and customs procedures as well as status of entry points into the country.
- In general, partners intend to use national markets and existing infrastructures. Following bilateral interviews to conduct a quick Gaps and Needs Analysis, no significant gaps and needs were reported in terms of access to existing infrastructures or logistics services such as transport or common storage facilitation.

Objectives

Based on the needs expressed and identified by the humanitarian community, the Logistics Sector aims to facilitate access to reliable coordination mechanisms and operationally relevant information to ensure a timely and uninterrupted supply of life-saving relief items to affected populations.

Planned Activities

The following services will be made available to the humanitarian community until 31 October 2020.

1. Coordination

The following coordination services will be provided to minimise duplication of efforts within the humanitarian community:

- Dedicated Logistics Sector Coordinator based in Beirut, where regular Logistics Sector coordination meetings will take place;
- Coordination with the Emergency Operation Cell (EOC), other Sectors, agencies and humanitarian organisations, including regular participation to the Humanitarian Country Team (HCT), Inter-Coordination Mechanism and other coordination meetings.

2. Information Management

A dedicated Logistics Sector Information Management Officer working remotely will be tasked with the following:

- Collect, manage and disseminate logistical information to support operational decision-making and improve the efficiency of the logistics response;
- Consolidate and share updated operational information, including Operational Overviews, Meeting Minutes, forms and Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs);
- Proof, update and complete essential logistics systemic and infrastructural data, and disseminate on the recognized platform;
- Maintain information sharing platforms including a common mailing list and a dedicated operation webpage on the Logistics Cluster website to disseminate relevant and up-to-date logistical information to the humanitarian community.

3. Military Coordination

A dedicated civil military coordination officer based in Beirut will be tasked with the continuous liaising and communication with the host nation's armed forces responding to humanitarian crises and where necessary with foreign military actors responding to humanitarian crises.
