

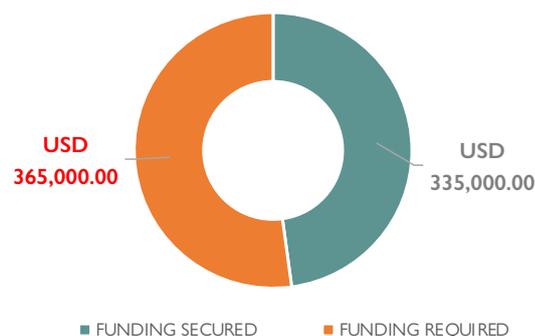


SITUATION OVERVIEW

Lebanon’s cholera outbreak comes at a time when the country is grappling with a severe economic crisis that has weakened its public health system. Fuel scarcity and currency devaluation have reduced hospitals’ capacities to respond to patients and made medical supplies unaffordable. Furthermore, the health sector is suffering a major brain drain as doctors and nurses seek opportunities abroad. There is serious concern that the water and food-borne disease could spread widely and become a major public health threat, given the limited capacity of Lebanon’s health, water, sanitation and hygiene systems, particularly in vulnerable communities. Since the cholera outbreak was declared in early October 2022, approximately 2,700 cases and 18 deaths have been recorded as of 7 November 2022.

FUNDING STATUS: IOM IS SEEKING **\$ 365,000** TO SUSTAIN ITS CHOLERA RESPONSE TO MARCH 2023

SECTOR	TOTAL BUDGET	FUNDING SECURED	FUNDING REQUIRED
HEALTH	\$ 500,000	\$ 260,000	\$ 240,000
WASH	\$ 200,000	\$ 75,000	\$ 125,000
TOTAL	\$ 700,000	\$ 335,000	\$ 365,000



IOM RESPONSE

IOM is responding to the cholera outbreak through a five-pronged approach, that seeks to strengthen vulnerable communities’ awareness of cholera; support Lebanon’s health system through provision of equipment, trainings, and supplies; provide hospital care to migrants with severe cholera cases in need of hospitalization; promote improved water, sanitation, and hygiene to minimize cholera transmission; and monitor water quality. IOM’s cholera response began immediately once the cholera threat surfaced.



Risk communication and community engagement via a team of 43 community health volunteers. To inform beneficiaries on cholera, its symptoms, preventative measures, and available health services. IEC materials are translated into migrant-spoken languages and disseminated in community spaces, including markets, workplaces, schools, house visits, via local networks, and border crossing points.



Capacity support to public health responders, medical facilities, and border crossing points, consisting of equipment, medical supplies, and trainings. This includes rapid diagnostic tests, and hospital beds.



IOM will cover hospital costs (subject to funding) to ensure provision of secondary healthcare coverage to vulnerable migrants who contract severe cholera and require hospitalization. Working through NGO partners and direct agreements with hospitals, IOM will cover the hospital costs to ensure those most in need of medical attention, receive it.



Water and sanitation support targeting vulnerable households aimed at minimizing water and food-borne transmission of cholera. This includes provision of cholera-specific hygiene kits, and water quality monitoring.



Hygiene promotion activities targeting people residing in high-risk areas such as informal tented settlements in Akkar and the Beqaa.

As a member of the cholera taskforce, chaired by the Ministry of Public Health, IOM forms an important part of the national response, coordinating closely with health and WASH sector members, including the World Health Organization. IOM translated IEC materials, and has provided migrant vulnerability mapping data to the health sector to inform the national response.