

24,600 Migrants affected by the blast  
1,358 individuals travelled with IOM assistance since explosion



IOM's DTM enumerators participate in the Multi-Sector Needs Assessment following the Aug. 4 explosion.

## HIGHLIGHTS

- ⇒ 280 people attempt dangerous boat crossing to Cyprus in September.
- ⇒ COVID-19 transmission rate growing with over 1000 daily cases and 9% positivity rate.
- ⇒ **1,953 households** visited by IOM DTM enumerators in September in wake of explosion.
- ⇒ IOM's established its' first Mobile Medical Campus (MCC) in Beirut to provide healthcare to stranded migrants.
- ⇒ **237 Migrants** have received direct assistance services since blast
- ⇒ **Cash for Work programme aids 60 households** in Beirut in response to explosion

## SITUATION OVERVIEW

Throughout September, IOM continued its' response to the Aug. 4 Beirut Port Explosion, contributing significantly towards the Lebanese Red Cross's Multi-Sector Needs Assessment (MSNA) of damaged neighborhoods from the explosion. IOM data analysts are using MSNA findings to extract specific indicators related to migrant households. These indicators show a heightened need for cash, shelter and food assistance relative to Lebanese households, plus increased difficulty accessing healthcare.

The wider situation for migrants in Lebanon since the explosion has deteriorated, with homelessness increasing. Approximately 70 Kenyan domestic workers were left stranded in September, sleeping outside the Kenyan consulate and 86 Sudanese migrants have been camping outside their embassy seeking return assistance. IOM established its' first Mobile Medical Campus (MCC) to address the health needs of the Kenyan group and has met with Sudanese community leaders to discuss options of assistance.

These incidents of camping in front of embassies and IOM's own findings clearly indicate that voluntary return is a top priority for many migrants. An IOM rapid assessment conducted after the blast showed 74% of assessed migrants wish to return home in next three months. Based on these needs, IOM has assisted 108 stranded migrants with voluntary return since explosion while demands for voluntary returns will continue to exist.

There has been a rise in numbers (largely Syrian) attempting to reach Cyprus by boat. According to UNHCR, 18 boats attempted to make the journey in the first half of September, with Human Rights Watch reporting a dozen or so fatalities. These incidents once more reflect the deteriorating socio-economic situation.

Concern is growing regarding looming price increases, prompted by news that the Lebanese state will soon be unable to provide subsidies that have so far shielded essential supplies from soaring inflation. Local media has begun reporting on pharmacy shortages and hoarding.



## DISPLACEMENT TRACKING MATRIX (DTM)

In September DTM enumerators assessed a total of 1,953 households in 8 operational zones, in Beirut accounting for 10% of the Lebanese Red Cross-led MSNA. The DTM team issued two analyses in September extracting indicators on the needs of foreign nationals following the blast, with data covering the period Aug. 6 to Sept. 8. The reports cite cash, food, and shelter as the top 3 priority needs. DTM also conducted training for the Migrants Presence Monitoring (MPM), designed to place IOM in a unique position to apply evidence-based programming to migrants. MPM is the first of its' kind in attempting to collect comprehensive data on migrants across Beirut. The collection tool has been finalized and translated into Arabic with field work to begin soon.



Refugees wear protective masks as they await their departure from Beirut. (Photo, Muse, MOHAMMED)



## COMMUNITY STABILIZATION

Cash for Work programmes were launched in Beirut targeting 60 households in areas affected by the explosion. Beneficiaries will repair and refurbish damaged residential buildings and small businesses while promoting collaboration between Syrian and host communities. Another 215 households in the North and Bekaa are targeted under a similar scheme. IOM also finalized a report on August's Rapid Market Assessment, that assessed 142 small businesses in Beirut's severely hit neighborhoods to see how they have been affected by the explosion. The data will form the basis for future Community Stabilization projects in blast-affected areas.



## BASIC ASSISTANCE

IOM's Basic Assistance teams continued needs & vulnerability assessments aimed at a total caseload of 2,000 migrant workers impacted by the economic crisis, COVID-19 restrictive measures and the Aug.4 Beirut Port Explosion. The objective is to create data on stranded and vulnerable migrant workers in Lebanon. In addition, teams conducted basic assistance assessments to identify eligible beneficiaries impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic explosion to receive "one-off emergency cash assistance". These cash distributions have now begun, with 123 beneficiaries so far receiving aid.



## MOVEMENT AND RESETTLEMENT

The Movement and Resettlement Unit resettled 801 refugees, mainly Syrian, to North American and European countries in September. Resettlement flights delayed due to COVID-19 resumed shortly before the Aug.4 explosion, with some departees being directly affected by the blast. Some approved for resettlement lost their lives or were injured from the explosion. Remote selection interviews in coordination with UNHCR continued in September ensuring departures will occur in coming months. For information on voluntary returns, please see Protection Section.



## HEALTH AND MHPSS

IOM has provided Primary Health Care to stranded migrants whose situations have worsened following the Aug. 4 explosion. IOM's first MMC was established outside the Kenyan consulate. Similar aid has been extended to stranded Sudanese migrants. IOM is engaged in reconstruction efforts at the Port of Beirut, to build a health clinic and ambulance service. This could serve to meet the heightened need for immediate life-saving care at maritime points of entry in Lebanon, following recent irregular migration attempts to Cyprus that have resulted in loss of life. Additionally, community outreach has been scaled up to ensure services are made available in-house for all patients following the damage to the patient center resulting from the explosion. IOM's MHPSS program reached 846 beneficiaries through counselling sessions, recreational activities and more. Additionally psychological first aid training was provided to IOM enumerators and migrant community leaders in follow up of the explosion.



## PROTECTION AND COUNTER-TRAFFICKING

Since the blast, IOM has been assisting 237 migrants in a variety of ways, such as direct assistance services in-country, voluntary return support, cross-border case management. With many domestic migrant workers being stranded in the past month, the desire for voluntary return continues to be high as Lebanon's socioeconomic conditions look set to worsen. Delays in return due to complications with travel documentation is affecting many migrants. In total, IOM facilitated the voluntary return of 54 migrant workers as an immediate response towards the Beirut Explosion while arrangements are in process for more returns.



IOM's Mobile Medical Campus outside the Kenyan consulate (Photo, Muse Mohammed)