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URBAN

DIGEST

LEBANON COUNTRY OFFICE

**RECOGNIZING THE NEED
FOR LEBANON'S URBAN
RECOVERY AMIDST CRISES**



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1. Introduction

Lebanon's continued and drastic socioeconomic and financial descent, further exacerbated by a severe energy crisis and subsequent water shortages, continue to make daily life in Lebanon increasingly difficult. Following a political deadlock for over one year, a new government was formed in September 2021, bringing hope for much needed reform and recovery of Beirut following the Port explosion and Lebanon as a whole.

In June 2021, United Nations Under-Secretary-General and UN-Habitat Executive Director, Ms. Maimunah Mohd Sharif completed her first official visit to Lebanon. During her visit, she toured and inaugurated several of UN-Habitat Lebanon's projects in response to the Beirut Port explosion and those focused on improving the living conditions and well-being of residents across Lebanon. Ms. Sharif launched the Beirut City Profile, inaugurated the National HIV and TB Centre in Karantina, Beirut and handed over a UN-Habitat-led multisectoral urban upgrading project in Mina, Tripoli to local authorities.

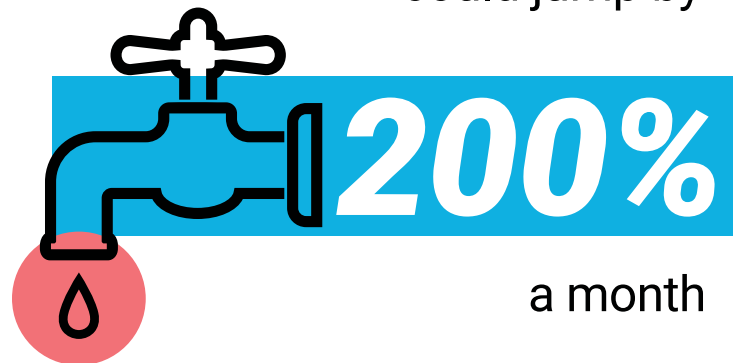
Throughout her visit, she interacted with partners and donors supporting these efforts. Her visit aimed to promote and advocate for the necessity of factoring urban dynamics into crisis response and recovery efforts – both short- and long-term – particularly in support of the people of Lebanon, during these unprecedented times.

In this edition, you can read about the key highlights of the Executive Director's visit, upcoming events and projects implemented and organized by UN-Habitat with a special focus on climate action and local authority resilience building.

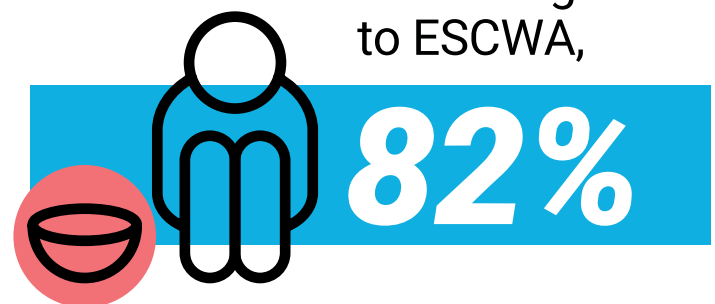
Thank you for reading!

UN-Habitat Lebanon Country Programme

UNICEF recently warned that should the public water supply system collapse, water costs could jump by



According to ESCWA,



of the Lebanese population is living in multidimensional poverty meaning that they are lacking access to services such as education, housing, health, housing, public utilities and more.

2. UN-Habitat Executive Director official visit: advocating for Lebanon's holistic urban recovery

During her first official visit to Lebanon, UN-Habitat's Executive Director, Ms. Maimunah Mohd Sharif called for urban complexities to be factored into crisis response and recovery efforts not only in Beirut, but across Lebanon. Urban considerations were highlighted as equally important in humanitarian response, as well as a key tool towards achieving sustainable development. She underlined the importance of plan-led urbanization and multi-sectoral recovery as a pivotal factor in supporting the country recover from its ongoing crises.

In her meetings with the international community, the United Nations, non-governmental organizations, local authority officials and the government – the absence of adequate planning and good urbanization was repeatedly highlighted as an impediment towards achieving sustainable development in the country, and as one of the root causes and potential solution to the multiple and ongoing socio-economic and public basic services challenges faced across the country.

Ms. Sharif visited projects implemented by UN-Habitat including those contributing to the ongoing recovery of Beirut, as well as those mitigating the protracted urban crises, such as displacement and migration, experienced across the country. She interacted with partners and donors and met with beneficiaries. While meeting with senior government officials and local authorities throughout her visit there was clear consensus on the need for strong coordination and collaboration between multiple stakeholders on all levels. The interconnectivity of all sectors such as health, education, infrastructure, housing, and others was highlighted – meaning that the efforts to revive them are indivisible.

“The international community must remain mobilised to maintain its engagement with and support to Lebanon. Not only to ensure that the heart of Lebanon – Beirut – is restored, but to assist all persons – Lebanese, refugees, and migrant communities – across the country, to cope with and overcome the harsh multiple and ongoing crises.”

*– Ms. Maimunah Mohd Sharif
United Nations Under-Secretary-General
and UN-Habitat Executive Director.*



Through timely funding secured through generous contributions from the Government of Japan, International Islamic Charity Organization (Kuwait), Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency, UN CERF, UNESCO and UNICEF the following initiatives were launched, and projects handed over during the visit.

Inauguration of the newly rehabilitated National HIV and TB Centre

Donor

Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency

Beneficiaries

900 patients per month

One of the many health facilities that was impacted by the explosion, included the only **National HIV and TB Centre** in Karantina, Beirut, serving patients from across the country, including some of the most vulnerable and marginalized members of society.

Through the support of the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency, UN-Habitat completely rehabilitated the centre inside and out. **Solar panels** have been installed to provide reliable and renewable energy to the centre making it fully self-reliant on its own electricity which is vital in Lebanon's current situation. The centre has regained structural stability and now features a **shaded pathway** into the centre making it safer, more accessible, and pedestrian friendly.

Public space rehabilitation around the centre is also underway to enhance connectivity to surrounding areas. 600 households living in Karantina received **hygiene kits** as part of this project and **public hand-washing stations** are now installed on the grounds of the centre – both contributing to community protection against COVID-19 transmission.

In the presence of the former Minister of Public Health, H.E. Dr. Hamad Hassan, the Governor of Beirut, Judge Marwan Abboud and the Ambassador of Sweden to Lebanon, H.E. Ms. Ann Dismorr, UN-Habitat's Executive Director, Ms. Maimunah Mohd Sharif handed over the fully rehabilitated centre to the Ministry of Public Health.

Watch this [video](#) to learn more.



Launch of the Beirut City Profile: a basis for reform

Under the patronage of H. E. Mr. Hassan Diab, the former President of the Council of Ministers, the Beirut City Profile was launched in the presence of the Executive Director and Ms. Najat Rochdi, Deputy Special Coordinator for Lebanon, United Nations Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator. The report offers an important multisectoral and spatial analysis about the city of Beirut, including a diagnosis of the wide spectrum of challenges that the city has encountered over the past decades, including the most recent and devastating shock, the Beirut Port explosion.

The profile's analysis highlights several topics including existing city systems. For example, unlike other cities in Lebanon, there is no single authority in charge of what makes up the Greater Beirut City. The Greater Beirut City, encompassing 31 municipalities, is consequently left without formal mechanisms to respond to the larger system which they are a part of. Recognition of this fact is paramount in diagnosing the state of Beirut.

Another is insufficient service provision. This affects all living in the city and vulnerable segments of Beirut's population in particular, who experience systemic inequities in access to services and have fewer financial resources and social safety nets to make up for these gaps. This includes many women, youth, disabled persons, refugees, working migrants and low- or unskilled Lebanese men.

Overall, the profile aims to help offer a common understanding of how multiple shocks and vulnerabilities manifest across the city. The multi-scale approach used is key for an urban recovery response, to link local needs with city systems, and enabling national policies and regulations. The analysis highlights existing systems and governance structures' respective capacities to absorb shocks and suggests how these can be further strengthened to help the city bounce back and transform from a current fragile state towards a resilient and inclusive city.

UN-Habitat hopes that the Beirut City Profile will serve as a much-needed evidence-base for all stakeholders involved in the reconstruction of Beirut and Lebanon as a whole.

Read the full profile [here](#).

“To make Lebanon safer and more sustainable, we need to take action. In this regard, the Beirut City Profile, along with other city and neighbourhood profiles that UN-Habitat has been tirelessly producing for the past months, are valuable resources to use in our joint endeavours to “Build Back Better” and wiser.”

– Ms. Najat Rochdi,
UN Deputy Special Coordinator, Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator, Lebanon.





“Normative work such as UN-Habitat’s Beirut City Profile is essential to informing tangible projects and interventions that will contribute to the far-reaching recovery of Beirut and Lebanon as a whole. Equally important is the engagement local authorities and communities in the design, implementation and sustainability of these interventions.”

*– Ms. Mari Grepstad,
Chargee d’Affairs, Embassy of Norway to Lebanon*



Restoring homes severely affected by the Beirut Port explosion

Donor

The Government of Japan

Beneficiaries

around 7,165 direct | 13,000 indirect

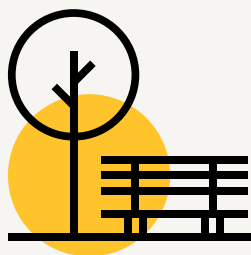
According to the Shelter Sector that is co-led by UN-Habitat and UNHCR, an estimated 291,180 individuals living in 72,265 apartments located across 9,700 buildings within three kilometres of the epicentre of the Beirut Port explosions were directly impacted. Many relocated to areas that were not directly affected by the explosion, but the majority of affected households continue to reside within their damaged homes.

Immediately after the explosion the emergency response focused on repairing homes with minor and moderate damages to seal and weatherproof homes before winter. The emergency humanitarian response phase has since transitioned to that of long-term recovery and reform, and UN-Habitat is now focusing on repairing residential buildings which have severe structural damages, which were not targeted in the initial response.

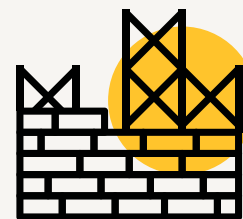
Through funding of over USD 2 million from the Government of Japan, UN-Habitat in partnership with Live Love Lebanon is rehabilitating:



11 multi-story residential buildings



Public spaces



Community infrastructure

These were severely damaged by the Beirut Port explosion. This project will help enable dignified living conditions and adequate shelter for those residing in Beirut's Gemmayzeh, Mar Mikhael, and Karantina neighbourhoods, as well as Bourj Hammoud's Maraach neighbourhood.

The initial selection of buildings were identified through the **Beirut** and **Bouri Hammoud** Building-level Damage As-

预览已结束，完整报告链接和二维码如下：

https://www.yunbaogao.cn/report/index/report?reportId=5_17298

