



COMMUNICATIONS

Beirut explosion and support

52/20**Geneva****6 August 2020**

To: All members

From: Evelyn Kortum, General Secretary

Dear Colleagues,

You all have heard about or even seen recordings of the terrible explosion in Beirut yesterday in the early evening due to about 5 tons of ammonium nitrate stored in sub-conditions in a warehouse close to the port and central district, as well as many highly populated areas and tourist sites. This mega explosion has destroyed at least 17 containers of medicine, medical equipment and PPE, as well as the main stocks of wheat and flour endangering continued food supplies. The UN is looking at food distribution and shelter needs as well as support for the COVID-19 effort.

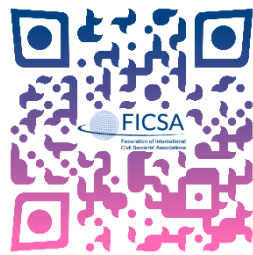
This morning the press reports 135 deaths, 5000 wounded, 300 000 homeless. The numbers are rising by the hour. President Aoun has reportedly declared a two-week state of emergency, while Prime Minister Diab has also declared a state of national mourning for the next three days.

Among the citizens of Lebanon, the international community and visitors who are injured, we have many of our colleagues and their dependents; some of them are in serious and very critical situations. To add to this devastating event, some of our colleagues either lost their homes or their residences have been seriously damaged to the point that they have become uninhabitable. We are heartbroken to see the devastation caused by the explosion, and we are worried about our colleagues and the local population. We have also received the following information with regard to UN staff: 97 UN staff have been injured (mostly minor) with some still in hospital. One UNIFIL staff (on a ship in the Port) is in critical condition. One ESCWA dependant (child) sadly died. One UNICEF staff dependant is still missing. The airport is still open and the UN Medical Emergency Response Team (UNMERT) is on alert and standby.

How can staff help?

The UN NY Staff Association informs that they have expressed their solidarity to Ms. Mona Fattah, Chair of the ESCWA Staff Council, and to her colleagues. The Staff Union has established a [fundraiser](#) to aid in the immediate needs of our ESCWA colleagues (go fund me may ask for a "tip" please feel free to disregard it, as this extra money does not go to the fundraiser). Any [contribution](#) will be helpful during this difficult time.

The UN Field Staff Union (UNFSU) has also set-up a fundraising, please visit the site below:
<https://www.unfsu.org/unfsu-charitable-donations-lebanon/>



Scan me for more info

More possibilities for helping:

The **Lebanese Red Cross** is not a governmental association and most Red Cross assistance is free thanks to the generosity of donations. The value of your donation is increased by the fact that they rely largely on volunteer Red Cross workers with only a limited number of paid staff.

Lebanese Red Cross online donations: <http://www.redcross.org.lb/SubPage.aspx?pageid=1370&PID=158>

Lebanese Red Cross offline donations:

Fresh account:

Bank name: Audi

Account Name: Croix Rouge Libanaise

Account# 8415000046

IBAN# LB38 0056 0000 0000 0084 1500 0046

Currency: USD

SWIFT: AUDBLBBX

Bank name: Fransabank

Account Name: Croix Rouge Libanaise

Account# 0101LBP1515019937411

IBAN# LB44 0001 0101 LBP1 5150 1993 7411

Currency: LBP

SWIFT: FSABLBBX

Bank name: Fransabank

Account Name: Croix Rouge Libanaise

Account# 0101USD1515019937418

IBAN# LB46 0001 0101 USD1 5150 1993 7418

Currency: USD

SWIFT: FSABLBBX

Please all stay safe and healthy.

For any further questions, please contact the FICSA Secretariat in case of questions: ficsa@un.org