**THE danish emergency relief fund**

**Alert note**

**Guide to submission of alerts**

NB: Only Danish organization with local presence either through partner organisations or own organisation in the affected areas can raise an alert.

Please read the Danish Emergency Relief Fund’s Funding Guidelines before submitting an alert (the Funding Guidelines are available here: [www.cisu.dk/derf](http://www.cisu.dk/derf))

**Instructions:**

To raise an alert please complete section A: Basic information

And

* section B for rapid onset humanitarian crisis

or

* section C for slow onset humanitarian crisis

or

* section D for spike in a protracted humanitarian crisis

Please note that the alert note must be completed with as much information as possible. CISU will need comprehensive information in order to assess the alert. However, do not hesitate to alert the DERF even when information is limited.

When completed send the alert and relevant documentation (should be described in section b.3, c.3 or d.3) to [derf@cisu.dk](mailto:derf@cisu.dk)

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| *Formalities regarding the alert text (section b, c or d):*   * *NUMBER OF PAGES: The text must not take up more than 1,5 pages (Arial, font size 11, line spacing 1.0, margins: top 3 cm, bottom 3 cm, right 2 cm and left 2 cm). Alerts exceeding this length will be rejected.* * *LANGUAGE: The text can only be submitted to CISU in English.* |

**Section A: Basic information**

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| Organisation: | *Which organisation is alerting the DERF with this note* |
| Contact person name: | Jørgen Mahnke Skrubbeltrang |
| Contact person position: | Assistant Programme Director |
| Contact person’s email: | [jsk@danmission.dk](mailto:jsk@danmission.dk) |
| Contact person’s tlf: | +45 41 999 314 // +45 6130 8168 |
| Contact person’s skype address: |  |
| Type of crisis: | * *slow onset humanitarian crisis (please fill out section B)*   *X rapid onset humanitarian crisis (please fill out section C)*   * *spike in protracted humanitarian crisis (please fill out section D)* |
| Affected country(-ies): | Lebanon |
| Affected area(s): | Beirut, Lebanon |
| Affected population(s): | 220 people are reported dead, over 6000 injured and 110 people are missing [[1]](#footnote-2) and leaving hundreds of thousands homeless or living in homes with no windows or doors. |
| Please describe the nature of your organisation’s local presence and capacities in the affected area(s): | Danmission (DM) has been present in the Middle East for more than 100 years and have had relations to the Evangelical protestant church community since then, supporting church development, poverty reduction and dialogue work. Registered locally in Lebanon, DM has an office with a Regional Manager, and four technical staff members implementing a range of projects and activities with and through local partners locally, nationally, and regionally. DM’s six on-the-ground long-standing partners in Beirut: *The National Evangelical Synod of Syria and Lebanon (NESSL), Compassion Protestant Society (CPS), the Middle East Council of Churches (MECC), The Near East School of Theology (NEST), Forum for Development, Culture and Dialogue (FDCD), and Adyan Foundation*, are all characterised by being rooted in their local communities and having high numbers of volunteers and large constituencies in which they mobilise and coordinate.  Four out of the six partners have experience with humanitarian work (MECC, NESSL, CPS, FDCD) from both Syria and Lebanon and have already outlined rapid response plans based on the urgent needs of local communities and constituencies. Adyan has sent out an appeal and started immediately implementation of two community service project in the disaster-stricken area. All partners have refocused their regular work to address the current situation and have started to mobilise their volunteers and comprehensive networks who are known and respected in the neighbourhoods. |
| Please provide a brief description of the crisis: | On August 4, 2020, a massive explosion at Beirut port took place caused by 2,750 tons of ammonium nitrate being stored in a warehouse[[2]](#footnote-3). The explosion sent shockwaves across the city and shattering windows as far as 25 km away from the blast site. Buildings at the port area were flattened, and apartments in the nearby popular and densely packed neighborhoods crumbled. The explosion at the Beirut port would have been devastating no matter where or when it took place. However, since October 2019, several drastic changes to the political, social, and economic, financial realities in Lebanon have destabilized all areas of life. Lebanon is experiencing its worst economic crisis in a century, in which many blame the rampant corruption among Lebanon’s ruling political class. In recent months, Lebanon has seen exponential inflation which has made purchasing necessities nearly impossible for even formerly middle-class families. The unemployment rate has increased drastically as well as the COVID-19 pandemic within the last three weeks. Thus, the economic, health, and political crises in Lebanon have left the country under-resourced and less able to respond to other major disasters. |
| Please indicate whether you intend to submit a proposal for funding should the DERF be activated for this crisis | YES |

**Section B: Rapid onset humanitarian crisis:**

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| **b.1 Where is the crisis?**  The explosion took place at Beirut port. Mapping of the damages shows that the nearby popular and densely packed neighborhoods of Quarantina, Gemmayze, Mar Mikhael, Borj Hammoud, and Ashrafieh are severely destroyed. Even in the Beirut suburbs, doors were blown in and windows were shattered. Two critical hospitals located close to the port – Geitawi Hospital in Mar Mikhael and St. George Hospital Ashrafieh– were severely damaged in the blast and have become unfit for medical service.[[3]](#footnote-4) In continuation, this is while the country experiences a rapid growth of the spread of COVID-19.  **b.2 What is the nature of the crisis?**  The explosion took place at a time where Lebanon already suffering a major economic downturn with families pushed into poverty, hunger and unemployment. Since October, the Lebanese Lira has depreciated by 350% on the informal market[[4]](#footnote-5) and in the month of June alone, the Lebanese Lira lost 60% of its value[[5]](#footnote-6). This rapid devaluation is especially impactful in Lebanon because it is highly reliant on imports in all sectors. A recent report estimates that Lebanon relies on imports for 65-85% of its food[[6]](#footnote-7) and most imported goods must be purchased with USD. The devaluating currency has directly impacted Lebanese traders’ abilities to purchase and import necessary goods, including wheat, fuel, diapers and other infant supplies, and medicine. As a result, food prices have skyrocketed. The World Food Programme estimates that the price of basic food parcels increased by 109% in Lebanon from September 2019 to May 2020[[7]](#footnote-8). The destruction after the explosion will add to this crisis and with Lebanon’s debt greater than [170% of its GDP](https://www.theguardian.com/world/2020/mar/07/lebanon-to-default-on-debt-for-first-time-amid-financial-crisis), and with the port explosion costing an estimated [$15bn](https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-middle-east-53668493) of damage, Lebanon needs foreign assistance to prevent it becoming a failed state.[[8]](#footnote-9)  **b.3 What information do you have about the situation? What is the source of that information?**  **Affected populations including specific vulnerable groups and access to these**  Directly affected families and individuals living in a radius of around 4 km from the port who have lost their homes and/or businesses. Vulnerable groups such as children, elderly people and people with special needs are highly affected by the situation.  ***urgent emergency and/or protection needs***  Immediate need for food staples;  Shelter for displaced families and individuals;  Rent: Paying rent before the explosion was already a significant burden for many families before the explosion due to rising prices and unemployment. Families must still pay rent, in addition to cost of necessary home repairs and the continual threat of job loss as many businesses and restaurants were destroyed in the explosion;  Renovation and small businesses: provide support to begin to rebuild. It is particularly essential to rebuild homes quickly because of the fact that Lebanon is few months away from the onset of winter; heavy winds and rain will begin in mid-October;  Psychosocial support (PSS). Addressing the psychological, emotional, and social needs of the larger communities also impacted by the explosion; and   * Social cohesion workshops and dialogues: Rebuild community members’ trust in one another and in their larger community.   ***Other actors responding and coordinating (including government, community structures, the UN, INGOs)***  DM’s assessment of the current humanitarian response is based on:  Partner assessments and direct appeals  International emergency response as indicated in the attached documentation to the alert e-mail.  Furthermore, DM’s partners make an effort to ensure proper coordination. E.g. is CPS joining other local NGOs, as part of the NGO’s Humanitarian forums in Lebanon and the operations committees for the current crisis. CPS is also coordinating with local authorities to facilitate the distribution process and other related activities. Moreover, MECC, as an umbrella organisation coordinates local churches and member churches in the entire Middle East, and throughout the relief and aid distribution process, FDCD will be constantly monitoring the situation on the ground and coordinating with other NGOs to assess what the most pressing needs of the community are and what needs of aid is already being provided by other organisations.  **b.3.1. Describe as specific as possible when the crisis has started.**  August 4, 2020, shortly after 6 pm local time (Lebanon)  **b.3.2. How could DERF grants make a difference for the crisis affected population?**  The grant will immediately support civil society actors who since August 5 have been in the streets of Beirut, helped digging people out of the rubbles, assisting people to hospitals and clinics. Many of these organisations have already made their own assessments of the situation and have identified areas of rapid response and disbursement as well as outlined plans for the coming months, however they are not supported by the international relief funds or other bigger relief interventions. Thus, the support granted by DERF will support the Lebanese civil society and the people of Lebanon in rebuilding their capital again and support local communities and grassroots. |

1. <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-53722909> (11/08/20) [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
2. AFP News Agency, “Lebanon: What we know about deadly Beirut explosion, in 500 words,” *Al Jazeera,* August 5, 2020. https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2020/08/lebanon-deadly-beirut-explosion-500-words-200805105001592.html [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
3. Nicholas Durant, “Doctors, patients recount apocalyptic scenes in Beirut hospitals,” *The Daily Star,* August 5, 2020. https://www.dailystar.com.lb/News/Lebanon-News/2020/Aug-05/509889-doctors-patients-recount-apocalyptic-scenes-in-beirut-hospitals.ashx [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
4. World Health Organization (WHO), “COVID-19 Emergency Appeal: Lebanon,” July 17, 2020. World Health Organization (WHO), “COVID-19 Emergency Appeal: Lebanon,” July 17, 2020. [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
5. Liz Sly, “The lights go out on Lebanon’s economy as financial collapse accelerates,”: *The Washington Post,* July 20, 2020. https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/middle\_east/the-lights-go-out-on-lebanons-economy-as-financial-collapse-accelerates/2020/07/19/3acfc33e-bb97-11ea-97c1-6cf116ffe26c\_story.html [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
6. David Wood, Jacob Boswell, and Sami Halabi, *The Empty Plates and Pockets of Lebanon,”* May 2020. http://www.thinktriangle.net/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/Going-Hungry-The-Empty-Plates-and-Pockets-of-Lebanon.pdf [↑](#footnote-ref-7)
7. World Food Programme (WFP), “Assessing the Impact of Economic and COVID-19 Crises in Lebanon,” June 2020. https://docs.wfp.org/api/documents/WFP-0000116784/download/ WHO, “COVID-19 Emergency Appeal: Lebanon,” July 17, 2020. [↑](#footnote-ref-8)
8. <https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2020/aug/10/lebanon-political-corruption-international-donors-regime> (11/08/20) [↑](#footnote-ref-9)