



BEIRUT
CITY
PROFILE
2021

EXECUTIVE BRIEF

UN-Habitat mandate

UN-Habitat, the United Nations Human Settlements Programme, is mandated by the United Nations General Assembly to promote socially and environmentally sustainable towns and cities, and adequate housing for all, and is the lead agency within the United Nations system for coordinating activities in the field of human settlements. It is mandated through the Habitat Agenda¹ to take the lead in disaster mitigation, and post-crisis rehabilitation capabilities in human settlements.

UN-Habitat's global responsibilities in emergency, humanitarian and post-crisis response are to support national and decentralized governments, and civil society in strengthening their capacity for managing human-made and natural disasters affecting human settlements. Experience has shown that the potential for development gain is high in the immediate aftermath of a crisis, and this is a key principle underlying UN-Habitat's efforts to deploy at the earliest opportunity following a disaster. UN-Habitat's added value is that it is the United Nations agency specialized in working in cities and human settlements.

Since 2006, the agency has been present in Lebanon, first involved in recovery and reconstruction efforts in South Lebanon, Beirut, and Northern Lebanon (particularly in the Nahr el Bared Camp crisis response in 2007), and in efforts to improve the living conditions in the 43 Palestinian out-of-camp concentrations. Since 2013, UN-Habitat has been involved in responding to the Syrian refugee crisis, and since 4 August 2020 to the Beirut blast.

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¹ United Nations, "United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II): The Habitat Agenda," 1996.

Urban profiles:

Shared understanding to inform urban recovery efforts at scale

The Beirut City Profile (BCP) has been developed to provide a cross-sectoral and spatial analysis to inform the ongoing efforts to respond to the compounding shocks that has impacted the Lebanese capital the recent years. UN-Habitat has over the years built a robust methodology to conduct urban analysis at the neighbourhood and city levels, as well as review of policies and legislations at the national levels to provide diagnostics of how slow and rapid onset shocks manifests in cities. Urban profiling has been core to the agency's contribution in the Middle East and North Africa region, where cities have been particularly affected by crises. With a growing trend of humanitarian crises affecting cities, urban profiling has emerged as a critical tool to form a shared understanding of needs, system gaps, and opportunities to inform response efforts. The urban profiling has taken shape as part of the agency and partners' Urban Recovery methodology, emphasising multi-sectoral, multi-stakeholder, multi-scalar and phased approaches that aims to strengthen the capacities of local authorities to prepare and respond

to crises. Acknowledging the existing systems and know-how already in place in cities faced by crises, the urban recovery programmes seek to leverage and build on these to set a transformative path going forward.

In Lebanon, UN-Habitat has published the Tripoli City Profile (2016) and Tyre City Profile (2017), a number of neighbourhood profiles and a database on neighbourhood data in partnership with UNICEF.² The BCP makes use of the methodology developed for the former city profiles, covering the core thematic areas part of UN-Habitat's Urban Recovery approach, and aligning with the pillars of the Reform, Recovery and Reconstruction Framework (3RF) of the United Nations, European Union and World Bank. The report uses existing available information on structural challenges and the effects of overlapping crises to provide a diagnosis of key factors relevant to the response efforts. The report also seeks to shed light on potential threats to further socioeconomic deterioration and increased tension.

² <https://lebanonportal.unhabitat.org/neighbourhood-profiles/>



Executive summary

Compounding shocks

Beirut City in a state of crisis

The massive destruction and human suffering caused by the blast that struck Beirut on 4 August 2020 will have lasting impacts on Lebanon's capital beyond the central areas most directly affected by the blast. The city, and the country, have experienced a series of shocks – including the protracted Syrian refugee crisis, a collapse of the economy, a political crisis, large-scale civil protests, and the COVID-19 pandemic over the past years. Moreover, a large portion of Beirut's residents live in chronic poverty. Many residents live in disadvantaged neighbourhoods across the city, and especially in pockets of poverty surrounding the inner-city centre. With the economic collapse further exacerbated by the blast, the number of families struggling to put food on the table is on the rise; every second Lebanese is now living in poverty. Tension and unrest over lockdown measures and over scarce food and household items and electricity cuts have been reported first half of 2021, signifying an emerging risk of punctual or city-wide conflicts. The ripple effect

of these compounded shocks renders the whole city in a state of crisis, beyond the neighbourhoods physically affected by the blast, where the main attention of the immediate response to the blast has been focused. A further deterioration of the situation in Beirut, as the political and economic centre of the country, may spill over to other regions of the country.

The Beirut City Profile provides a cross-sectoral and spatial analysis to help form a shared understanding of how these shocks and vulnerabilities manifest across the city to inform holistic and longer-term urban recovery. By using a spatial approach that recognizes the interconnectedness of different geographical and administrative scales, 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.



Figure 1 Boundary of the continuously built-up Beirut urban area, defined as Beirut City in this report. Source: UN-Habitat, 2020.

THE DIAGNOSIS OFFERED IN THE BEIRUT CITY PROFILE CAN BE SUMMARIZED AS FOLLOWS:

Compounding crises and overlapping shocks - with their severe economic, environmental, and social impact on Lebanon - have reinforced structural patterns of economic and social division within the rapidly growing capital city. The Lebanese Civil War from 1975 to 1990 increased sociodemographic divisions in Beirut, which manifested in more pronounced patterns of spatial segregation of populations according to economic, ethnic, and religious factors. Moreover, the conflict that erupted in Syria in 2011 and the subsequent large influx of Syrian refugees into Beirut (and other areas of the country) have placed significant additional demands on already strained infrastructure and service delivery, and have contributed to the increase of competition for jobs and housing. The economic instability has been heightened by widespread protests and the closing of economic activities and banks, to the point of economic, monetary, and financial collapse. Adding to long-standing unresolved economic and social grievances, COVID-19 and the 4 August 2020 blast are causing an already extremely precarious situation to rapidly deteriorate.

The current situation in Beirut City is one of depleted business activities, high unemployment, heightened tenure and food insecurity, and a significant rise in poverty levels. In the months after the blast, many apartments were left dark, while stores and restaurants remained closed. What used to be some of the most vibrant neighbourhoods in the city, and indeed in the country and region, was for months left quiet and empty. Although some residential buildings and businesses have managed to repair and reopen and life has modestly returned to houses and streets, economic and social activities across the city has been stifled by COVID-19 measures. The physical and psychological damage and destruction caused by the 4 August 2020 blast on people, housing, businesses, offices, and infrastructure including the Port of Beirut, will have a lasting negative effect. Escalating poverty levels demonstrate the severity of the situation. More than half of Lebanon's population is estimated to be trapped in poverty and struggling for bare necessities, almost double the 2019 rate. Extreme poverty has registered a threefold increase from 8 per cent in 2019 to 23 per cent in 2020,³ with 9 out of 10 Syrian refugees living in extreme poverty nationally, and disproportionately impacting women and female-headed households.⁴

³ Poverty in Lebanon, ESCWA Policy Brief 15.

⁴ Inter-Agency Coordination, "VASyR 2020 Key Findings," 2020.



- | | | | |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. Aain el-Minbase fondère | 16. Farn Ech-Qebbak | 28. Larylé | 42. Majzoub |
| 2. Ras Beyrouth fondère | 18. Chiyah | 30. Bouj El-Bayrach | 43. Byssout |
| 3. Msaiké fondère | 17. Tahoulat El Ghadir | 31. Harat Hraik | 44. Zaïq |
| 4. Zaqiq el-Bait fondère | 19. Chouffat El-Quroun | 32. Baabda | 45. Aarnat Chalhoub |
| 5. Mina el-Hass fondère | 18. Chouffat El-Qoubbat | 33. Louayz El-Batna | 48. Jall Ed-Dib |
| 6. Madfa' fondère | 20. Aaramoun Asley | 34. Miasles | 49. Bqerriya |
| 7. Bachouss fondère | 21. Bchamoun | 35. Delouané | 48. Anbales |
| 8. Maza'a fondère | 22. Deir Qoubel | 38. Deir mar Roukoz | 48. Harajet Mecher |
| 9. Achrafish fondère | 23. Chouffat El-Aarmoudyé | 32. Aain Saaké | 50. Naqqach |
| 10. Salfi fondère | 24. Kfar Chirra | 38. Farn | 51. Dibyé |
| 11. Rameil fondère | 25. Ouad Chahrour Es-Soufia | 38. Baouchryé | 52. Marnat Deir Assouler |
| 12. Mikassar fondère | 28. Mendache | 40. Jaldet El-Matn | 53. Harat El-Ballara |
| 13. Bouj Hamroud | 22. Boutchey | 41. Roumie | 54. Zouk El-Kharrab |
| 14. Sim El-Fil | 28. Hadath Beyrouth | | |

Figure 2 Municipalities, cadastres and unions of municipalities of Beirut. Source: UN-Habitat, 2020.

The Beirut City Profile uses a definition of Beirut City based on the continuously built-up area encompassing 31 municipalities.

The definition of the geographical footprint of “Beirut City” sets the parameters for how policies, service delivery, and assistance are informed, developed and implemented and for whom. By using the continuously built-up area, this report underscores that most of the issues facing Beirut - and the interconnectedness of economic, social, environmental, and political systems by which these manifest - are on a scale that extends much beyond the most central areas of the city and the administrative boundaries of Beirut Municipality. Recognition of this fact is paramount in diagnosing the state of Beirut City. Without spatial boundaries that recognize the updated expansive urban fabric that is today the capital, service provision and good urbanization cannot unfold. Understanding socioeconomic and social dynamics, as well as gaps in access to service provision across the city, will allow for designing holistic and cost-efficient responses anchored through an equity principle.

There is no single authority in charge of Beirut City. The 31 municipalities making up Beirut City operate within their administratively assigned territory. Beyond the three unions of municipalities (UoMs) in Beirut City,

municipalities are left without formal mechanisms to respond to the larger system which they are a part of. This poses serious constraints to unified city-wide governance and planning that would join central city areas with one another and link these with their growing suburbs. It also hinders the realization of adequate, reliable, equitable and cost-efficient provision of infrastructure and services and access to markets in Beirut.

The influx of both refugees and migrants to Beirut over the years has contributed to the expansion and informal growth of the city, with close to 300,000 Syrian and Palestinian refugees estimated to live in Beirut.

This constitutes almost one quarter of the estimated population in the city (see below point on population data). A large share of refugees lives in what is today the most densely populated neighbourhoods, such as Nabaa, Shatila, and Sabra. This is due to several factors, including affordability of accommodation, as well as proximity to economic opportunities and services. Several of the old Palestinian refugee camps as well as adjacent areas to these camps have for similar reasons seen an explosive unregulated vertical growth, and are at the same time areas of little municipal control. These areas are subject to informal and quasi-formal governance.

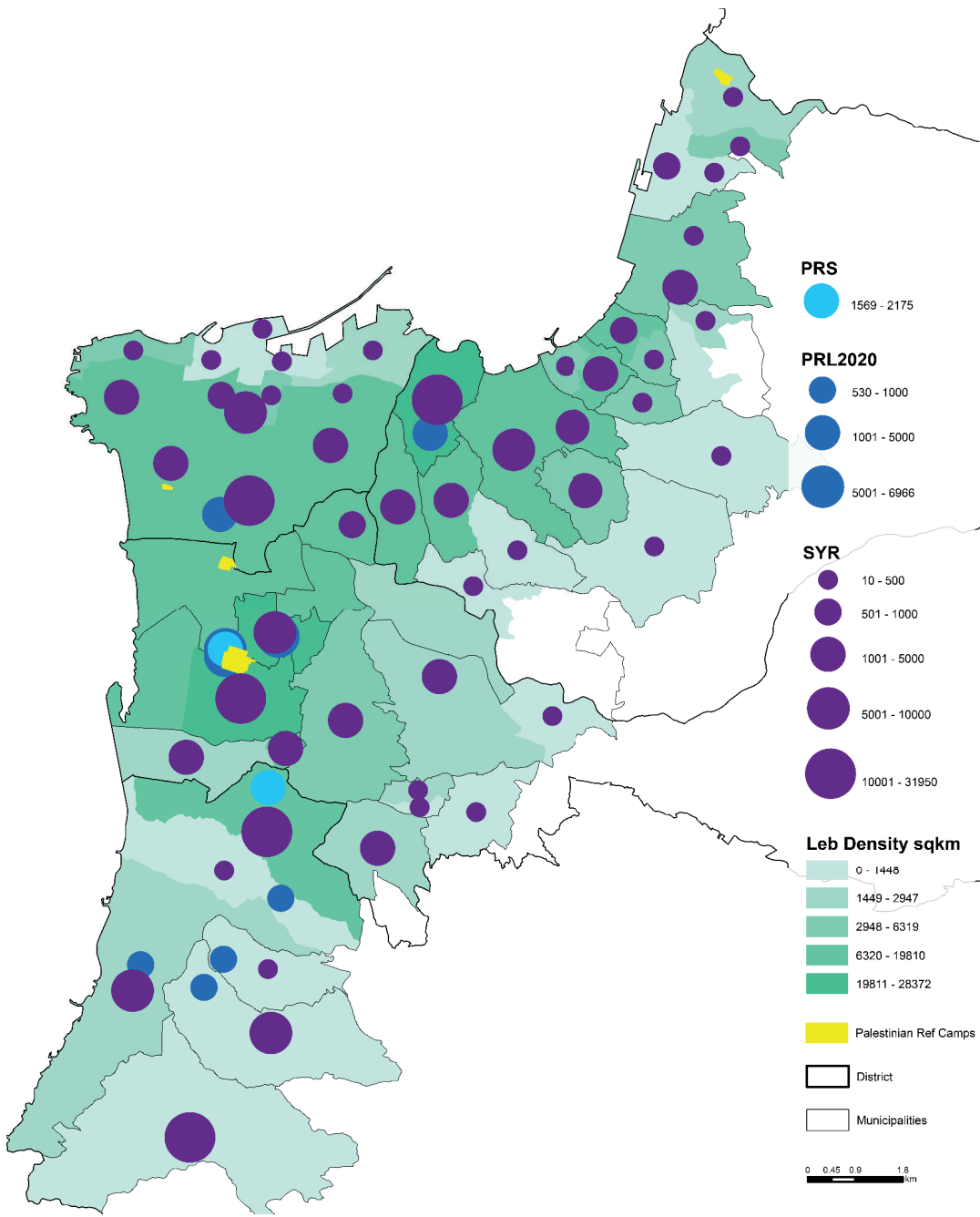


Figure 3 Lebanese and refugee population across Beirut's 31 municipalities. Source: UN-Habitat, 2021.

Current planning tools; lack of accurate, reliable, up-to-date, multisectoral and disaggregated urban data; a dire financial situation; and large discrepancies between registered and the actual number of residents render municipalities unable to adequately respond to urban disparities, the effects of the Syrian refugee crisis, or recent shocks. As a result of the 4 August 2020 blast and subsequent policy measures, the most affected municipalities of Beirut and Bourj Hammoud are required to respond to the vast damages and destruction while lacking key data to inform the response and recovery in a timely and comprehensive manner, and in a time when their municipal revenues have been considerably reduced. A plethora of assessments - including the Rapid Damage Needs Assessment (RDNA) by the World Bank, European Union and the United Nations, as well as the Multi-sector Needs Assessment (MSNA) conducted by several partners - has tried to fill this gap. However, gaps in comprehensive data across Beirut City and analysis of data in terms of longer-term planning needs and requirements of systems and services persist.

More specifically, there are no accurate population figures for Beirut City. The Lebanon Crisis Response Plan (LCRP) data puts Beirut City's total population at 1,291,280. However, experience from other Lebanese cities as well

as triangulation of population and housing data available for different parts of Beirut City⁵ suggest that the actual population figures may diverge significantly from this, particularly within certain areas of the city. Moreover, neighbourhood profile data suggests that the age composition of residents varies greatly between neighbourhoods. This is even more pronounced when considering Lebanese and non-Lebanese differences. The overall lack of reliable population data on city and local levels in Lebanon limits the ability of local authorities and service providers to conduct appropriate planning, enhance systems efficiency, and provide adequate services. There is thus an urgent need to access granular information, de-homogenize data, and identify intracity variances to inform service provision planning and overall response.

Beirut is characterized by significant socioeconomic inequalities. A large part of the economic growth in the city has been decoupled from

⁵ One key source of local data in Beirut is the UN-Habitat's city and neighbourhood profiles. These have been developed to offer a cross-sectoral perspective on urban vulnerabilities with the aim of informing holistic and inclusive interventions by local authorities, humanitarian partners, and others to respond to needs and alleviate poverty among host and displaced populations. Eight profiles have been developed for neighbourhoods in Beirut City, seven in partnership with UNICEF and one in partnership with RELIEF Centre (See Methodology section).



sustainable employment and value creation, and the economic growth pattern has led to stark inequalities. Some of the most vulnerable residents in Beirut City - including a rising number of poor Lebanese, Syrian and Palestinian refugees, and migrants living inside and outside of camps - are concentrated in marginalized neighbourhoods. Data on a neighbourhood level shows that these population groups are consistently worse off in terms of access to services, income opportunities, protection, and tenure security.

Given the structural inequalities in the labour market, the effect of recent shocks on livelihood opportunities will disproportionately affect vulnerable groups, including women, youth, disabled persons, LGBTIQ+ groups (particularly among transwomen and transmen), refugees, migrant workers and un- or low-skilled Lebanese men. Certain neighbourhoods in Beirut City will face larger repercussions based on pre-existing socioeconomic vulnerabilities in the population. Women are among the most economically deprived within each population cohort. The existence of structural gender inequalities means that the impact of recent shocks and the current economic collapse will disproportionately harm women. Among Syrians, the ratio of men to women is higher, while among residents with other nationalities,

this is reverse. This is likely to reflect the type of livelihood opportunities present for men and women in Beirut. Many female non-Syrian migrant workers are likely to have come to Beirut to find domestic work, and male Syrian migrants are likely to have come to look for manual work in construction and so forth. The dire situation for many working migrants in Beirut is reflected in the share of migrants who are, or who express their intent to, leave the city.

The multitude of actors, coordination systems and response efforts to the 4 August 2020 blast and other recent shocks poses challenges in terms of data sharing and coordination of assessments, needs identification and implementation of prioritized activities in the immediate and longer term. Specifically, volunteers - women, men, and youth - have shown impressive capacity to mobilize work on the ground in the immediate aftermath of the blast. Instant response efforts seem to have been concentrated in the areas most physically damaged by the blast, while other areas directly and indirectly affected across the city, where, for instance, the blast had severe socioeconomic impacts have received less attention. Furthermore, the somewhat unlinked pre-blast humanitarian response, and the concentrated post-blast assistance, including the myriad of civil society and private sector actors, risk



duplication of work with limited long-term effects.

The economic and financial collapse has aggravated the consequences of poor public social infrastructure and weak protection schemes.

The lack of access to comprehensive and inclusive social safety nets is affecting a large share of Beirut's population, including a growing number among the middle class. This is manifesting in different ways, such as increased prevalence of negative coping mechanisms, sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV), and more out-of-school children. Moreover, the collective and individual trauma in the aftermath of the 4 August 2020 blast has led to an acute need for mental health services.

Indications of increasing tensions have been witnessed between groups in Beirut along social, ethnic,

and religious fault lines, with risks of increased fragmentation of the city's social and cultural fabric.

Religious and political division and fights over power, economic tension, and historical legacies are among the main factors driving social tension, with a spike in intracommunal tensions reported since the 4 August 2020 blast. Moreover, there is a rising trend of "hunger-crime" (e.g., theft) in Beirut. At the same time, the post-October 2019 civil uprising and the solidarity displayed after the 4 August 2020 blast illustrate how people have come together in the face of extreme difficulties.

Service delivery and infrastructure provision has suffered from decades of civil unrest, conflict, underinvestment, lack of reliable data, unmanaged city growth, and poor governance - combined with high demand from a rapidly growing population. Insufficient

service provision affects all, and particularly vulnerable segments of Beirut's population, who experience systemic inequities in access to services and have fewer financial resources and social safety nets to make up for these gaps. Unreliable and inadequate provision of water, energy, education, and health services has led to increased reliance on private suppliers for those who can afford it. A collapsing economy, COVID-19 and the 4 August 2020 blast have further deteriorated the state of service provision, at the same time as people's purchasing power and ability to withdraw money from their bank accounts has been severely limited, and acute needs are intensifying.

A large share of Beirut City's residents is suffering from a lack of affordable and adequate housing due to a mismatch between supply and demand in terms of prices, tenure arrangements, and quality of housing. The large-scale urban renewal of Downtown Beirut after the Lebanese Civil War combined with housing policies favouring homeownership for middle-income earners in the outskirts of Beirut City has contributed to or reinforced pre-existing divisions along socioeconomic and sectarian lines. Central areas of the city have pockets of urban poverty characterized by high density, overcrowded and poorly serviced accommodations, and weak tenure security side-by-side with high-

end real estate development. Rental and housing prices have increased drastically in Beirut over this period, rendering adequate housing unattainable for a growing number of the city's population. Recent shocks might further drive this trend, while intensifying rent disputes, heightened tenure insecurity, and potentially triggering a collapse in property prices. The risks of eviction and homelessness have been reported to increase as a result of the 4 August 2020 blast, and particularly affecting vulnerable groups, including migrant workers and the LGBTIQ+ community.

Risks of water scarcity, flooding, and forest fires, further heightened by climate change, pose a serious threat to Beirut's natural environment and its residents' public health and livelihoods.

The city lacks urban governance mechanisms and planning to mitigate and adapt to these risks; in fact, the development of Beirut City has augmented the negative impact of environmental issues and climate change. Deforestation, impermeable surfaces in the city, lack of drainage systems, unsuitable construction techniques and materials, and insufficient waste management are all contributing factors. The availability of and access to public spaces, which offer significant environmental and public health benefits, have been severely reduced as a result of redevelopment and privatization.

Beirut City's rich cultural heritage and identity spans more than 5,000 years. Many historical buildings, businesses in the creative and cultural industries, and religious sites in proximity to the 4 August 2020 blast epicentre have been damaged, and activities discontinued. Two of Beirut's most important neighbourhoods in terms of social and cultural life, Gemmayze and Mar Mikhael, were among the most adversely impacted neighbourhoods by the blast. While crucial to the tourism industry, these places were first and foremost a meeting place for residents and a hotspot for the cultural scene in Beirut. In combination with COVID-19 lockdown measures and residents' rapidly decreasing purchasing power, the physical and social impact from the blast will thus have a lasting negative effect on economic activities in these areas, with repercussions far beyond. The potential exodus of active contributors to the city's cultural life and social scene could change. This poses the question of who will take part in shaping the city and creating a sense of place going forward. Conversely, in many of the city's neighbourhoods that did not suffer the same levels of damage from the blast, there is a vast stock of heritage buildings and sites that were damaged during the Lebanese Civil War and are yet to be rehabilitated. Many of these houses are surrounded by gardens and are thus equally some

of the few plots providing green infrastructure to the city. The rapid real estate development in Beirut has for years put pressure on those plots. With the current attention to heritage recovery concentrated in blast-affected neighbourhoods, the direct and indirect values of heritage buildings across the rest of the city risk being overlooked.



From shock absorption towards transformation:

Recommendations on the way forward

The compounded shocks that have affected Beirut City, as outlined above and analysed in this profile, have exacerbated pre-crisis structural issues, stressors, and vulnerabilities. Beirut has exhibited strength and resilience in the face of these challenges, especially through its civil society and youth population, underscoring the presence of building blocks necessary to set a transformative course moving forward. However, the overlapping and interconnected shocks and stressors have a reinforcing effect on one another. The continuous downturn of the economy, high poverty levels not seen for decades, and rising tensions are worrying signs for what might come next for Lebanon's capital, and the country as a whole.

This renders the whole Beirut City in a state of crisis rather than faced by multiple crises, where there are no simple pathways for recovery and sustainable development.

The Beirut City Profile is aimed to help form a shared understanding of how this situation manifests at the city scale and identify the needs and composite challenges to be addressed across the city, as well as opportunities to be leveraged in urban recovery initiatives. Drawing on the report diagnosis and along this objective, a set of principles to guide longer-term recovery of Beirut, has been put forward.

Five principles for urban recovery

1. Be based on a principle of equity and will consider the compounded crises faced by the population across the city through a holistic, “whole-of-city” approach.
2. Consider the spatial boundaries of today’s Beirut (i.e. beyond its administrative boundaries), recognising the interconnectedness of economic, social, environmental, and political systems.
3. Apply a combined “bottom-up” and “top-down” approach, acknowledging the role of interlocutors and government at the local level as “first responders” to shocks and in addressing local needs, and of the role of national counterparts in devising enabling legislation and regulations.
4. Identify avenues for aligning and magnifying interventions by the multitude of actors responding to recent shocks and long-standing grievances.
5. Follow a “build-back-better” principle and ensure that efforts to rehabilitate and upgrade basic and social services are based on holistic systems analysis and evidence-based planning, including understanding of market dynamics of current service provision.

The principles draw attention to the need for short-to-longer-term interventions to consider the broader city, beyond the directly affected neighbourhoods of the 4 August 2020 blast, to halt further deterioration of the economy, and to prevent more families from falling into the poverty trap with associated risks of rise of (new) tensions over already inadequate or lacking resources and services. They also underscore the need to consolidate the capacities and efforts of local and international actors around responses that consider both time and geographical scales to steer the recovery towards transformative change focused on strengthening local systems and capacities to absorb, adapt, and recover from shocks.

This is essential to both mitigate unequal support to communities with similar levels of vulnerabilities – be they directly affected by the blast or in dire need due to overlapping socioeconomic deprivations and long-standing marginalisation – and to ensure community interventions are balanced with macro-level and longer-term interventions. For longer-term recovery and stabilization, attention is therefore required on both localised recovery plans at the city and neighbourhood levels, and on regional and national policies and regulations.

Recovery ladder for Beirut City

In support of the Reform, Recovery, and Reconstruction Framework (3RF) of the United Nations, European Union and World Bank, the profile provides a spatial dimension to localise the identified priorities of the track 1 and track 2 interventions (short to medium-term respectively) and set the course for longer-term transformative actions.

The short- and long-term consequences for a Beirut City in crisis can be understood as multiple temporalities to be planned for and responded to in parallel. This means that interventions should be identified and implemented through a flexible and iterative process covering the immediate response and “quick wins”, including measures identified in the 3RF’s track 1, with longer-term development. The report divided these temporalities into a “recovery ladder” with three phases. Recommendations for strategic entry points on a neighbourhood, city, and national level is outlined for each phase:

1. **Absorptive**, responding to immediate needs;
2. **Adaptive**, medium-term response, including building-back-better;
3. **Transformative**, longer-term response, including disruptive and bounce-forward measures.

In the following, a summary of recommendations for each phase of the recovery ladder is presented, indicating possible strategic entry points to target both stressors and root causes of vulnerabilities and needs. The recommendations are intended as a starting point to be further developed through a cross-sectoral and multi-stakeholder engagement, building on the strategic course set by the 3RF.



RECOMMENDATIONS FOR URBAN RECOVERY AT THE CITY LEVEL

Absorptive

- Strengthen and consolidate urban data and information management.
- Identify options for a city-wide area-based coordination body for urban recovery efforts.
- Define a longer-term recovery vision and plan, outlining roles and responsibilities across the city.

Adaptive

- Support the establishment of technical offices and municipal information systems under Municipalities or Unions of Municipalities to collect, analyse and make available disaggregated data to inform planning.
- Develop and implement holistic, linked, comprehensive and phased plans for infrastructure and basic service delivery across the city.
- Support and strengthen value chains in Beirut through local economic development plans.
- Develop and implement plans for blue-green infrastructure.
- Strengthen urban spatial planning.

Transformative

- Design and implement a phased urban mobility and transportation plan.
- Design and implement bankable local economic development and infrastructure enhancement packages.
- Pilot local incubation set-ups to support innovation and entrepreneurship.
- Leverage digital technology in designing e-governance systems, including an information portal and two-way-communication platform.
- Rehabilitate heritage buildings damaged from the 4 August 2020 blast and buildings damaged from the 1975-1990 civil war, and expand list and increase protection of traditional blocks and neighbourhoods through a legislative framework for heritage buildings.



RECOMMENDATIONS FOR URBAN RECOVERY AT THE NEIGHBOURHOOD LEVEL

Absorptive

- Strengthen Social Development Centres (SDCs) (under the Ministry of Social Affairs), legal clinics (including for Housing, Land and Property rights issues), protection units at hospitals and legal clinics, as well as social teams within the municipalities.
- Create platforms to facilitate dialogue between representatives from communities, Civil Society Organisations, think tanks, academia, private sector, and central and local governments.
- Implement immediate repairs and interventions to secure minimum standards (housing, WASH etc.).
- Repair communal services (Schools, Health facilities etc.).

Adaptive

- Promote localised and participatory community action plans.

- Pilot options for community-contracting modalities and direct support of neighbourhood committees.
- Establish “community hubs” to provide activities, training, and services aimed at supporting women and youth access to livelihood opportunities and skills development.

Transformative

- Promote conflict mitigation measures.
- Design and implement inclusive green public spaces as well as street profiles with integrated street design (i.e. increasing green cover while tackling surface water management etc.).
- Elaborate and implement “whole-of-system” upgrades of infrastructural services, including assessing interlinked reliance of e.g. water and electricity systems, and identify interventions that will have the greatest impact on service access for households, communal services, and enterprises alike.
- Pilot interventions that make use of renewable energy, new technology and concepts of circular economy.
- Pilot localised mobility plans that promote soft mobility within residential neighbourhoods, connecting to greater city-wide mobility plans.



RECOMMENDATIONS FOR URBAN RECOVERY AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL

Absorptive

- Conduct comprehensive policy analysis for urban recovery, including for key urban sectors such as Housing, Heritage, Infrastructure, Economy, Social Cohesion etc.
- Strengthen the institutional, technical, and financial capabilities needed to implement climate change adaptation and mitigation actions.

Adaptive

- Assess policy and regulatory options for establishing “City Authorities” charged with planning oversight of services and economic development in key cities, including Beirut City.
- Devise a plan for disaster risk preparedness.
- Design a plan for urban climate adaptation.

Transformative

- Safeguard and evolve sustainable building design, construction techniques, and building practices, including related regulations, to “bounce forward” using traditional building techniques and material in combination with

modern technology.

- Support the activation of the National, Physical, Master Plan of the Lebanese Territories (NPMPLT's) legal commitment to balanced development of the country by the government for Beirut City

The findings and recommendations elaborated in the Beirut City Profile help to identify building blocks to devise strategies for longer-term urban recovery efforts at the city scale and in turn support recovery at the national scale. The longer-term recovery efforts will depend on the political commitment, investments, and ownership by the Lebanese national and local authorities. The report thus also informs policy, reform, and planning measures needed to support the longer-term recovery.



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