



IMPACCT

IMPortation And Customs Clearance Together !

COVID-19 Lebanon

Bulletin n° 7 - CIQP : 25 August 2020

(Bulletin on Customs, Immigration and Quarantine Procedures)

Latest updates highlighted in **yellow**.

OBJECTIVE

This document provides a situational update on airport status and Customs entry points during the COVID-19 pandemic. This document also provides an update on the impact of the explosion at the Port of Beirut, on customs and importation procedures, on 4 August 2020.

EMERGENCY SITUATION IN LEBANON

PORT OF BEIRUT BLAST:

On 4 August, a warehouse at the Beirut Port exploded, causing casualties and material damage to the port and surrounding buildings. On 5 August, the Government of Lebanon declared a two-week state of emergency in Beirut. Reports indicate that **180 people have been killed and more than 6,000 people have been injured. At least a dozen people remain missing.** Search and rescue operations are ongoing. This emergency comes in the context of civil unrest, economic crisis, and a COVID-19 outbreak, causing a major burden to Lebanese public infrastructure including the transportation and health sectors. **The humanitarian community seeks \$565 million to respond to port explosions.**

Initial requests for field hospitals, firefighters, and search and rescue teams are no longer required.

The state of emergency has been extended until 18 September. The Lebanese Armed Forces remain in control of the airport and port in Beirut. (Lebanon Logistics Sector, 18 August 2020)

COVID-19:

Number of COVID-19 cases on the date of the GHRP: 304

Number of COVID-19 cases on 25 August 2020: 12,698 ↑

COUNTRY BRIEF

Lebanon was included in the second edition of the United Nations' 2020 COVID-19 Global Humanitarian Response Plan (GHRP) published on 6 May 2020, within the Regional Response Plan for Syria. There is no Humanitarian Response Plan for Lebanon.

Internal restrictions have been imposed by the government. The President of Lebanon declared a 'State of Medical Emergency' on 15 March 2020. On 1 July, the Minister of Interior and Municipalities issued a memo lifting a months-long nighttime curfew and allowing businesses to open beyond midnight. Due to the increase in COVID-19 cases, from 28 July until 10 August 2020, the government of Lebanon is re-imposing some preventative measures for the spread of COVID-19.



IMPORTATION MEASURES TO RESPOND TO CRISES

QUESTIONS	ANSWERS
GLOBAL HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE PLAN	
Is there a Humanitarian Response Plan for the country?	No – but included in Syria RRP.
SEA PORT STATUS	
What is the status of sea ports?	<p>Most humanitarian imports have been redirected to the Tripoli Port, which is about 85 kilometres north of Beirut.</p> <p>Assessments are underway in coordination with the Ministry of Health to identify available capacity, material needs and operational gaps. Initial priority needs include additional medical professionals, mobile medical units (MMUs) and medication for acute and chronic conditions. Personal protective equipment (PPE) for health workers is another priority, as the explosions destroyed large stocks at the Beirut Port.</p> <p>Beirut Port’s Container Terminal was only partially affected by the blasts. On 8 August, the facility resumed offloading ships.</p> <p>6 cranes are now fully operational. Regarding the general cargo, some quays (12, 13, and half of 11 and 14) are also operational and offloading operations resumed a week ago. (WFP, 21 August 2020)</p> <p>The rest of the Beirut Port is expected to be inoperable for at least one month, pending repairs, debris removal and safety clearances. This may have adverse consequences for some supply chains, as Tripoli Port has approximately a third the capacity of Beirut Port. Rerouted vessels may congest the port.</p> <p>Three cargo flights have arrived with logistics equipment to enable the port to become operational, including mobile storage units. The Logistic Cluster started assessing warehouses at the port and airport on 11 August. An assessment of Tripoli port is planned on 12 August.</p> <p>(source: OCHA, 10 August 2020;</p>



	<p>CMA CGM offers free-for-user cargo transport (shipping and loading only) from Marseille, France to Beirut, Lebanon. ETD 21 August (TBC). Interested partners are invited to insert transport needs in the Logistics Cluster's CHOCOLAT tool, or to contact CMA through AideHumanitaireLiban@cma-cgm.com.</p> <p>(source: Global Logistics Cluster, 11 August 2020)</p> <p>DHL Express has two 10 tonne trucks with driver available for any required transport until at least the end of this week. Interested partners can request contact details from cyril.martin@wfp.org.</p> <p>Airlink is working on options for free of charge cargo services for NGOs responding to the emergency. Organisations are invited to contact ops@airlinkflight.org for any air cargo needs. (Lebanon Logistics Sector, 18 August 2020)</p> <p>Beirut port was totally out of service of temperature controlled storage spaces after the blast, due to the destruction of refrigerated storage areas, or due to electricity problems. It is now partially working, and customs is working with the Ministry of Health in order to allow for direct release of these shipments to be stored inland in adequate facilities, and procedures will be finalized afterwards. (Lebanese Customs, 20 August 2020)</p>
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AIRPORT STATUS and FLIGHT RESTRICTIONS

<p>What is the status of international flights?</p>	<p>Beirut Rafic Hariri International Airport was officially re-opened on 1 July, operating at 10 per cent of capacity in comparison to operations prior to its closure and flights are operational.</p> <p>Flights to Lebanon have restarted. Passengers arriving from Angola, Benin, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Chad, Congo, Cote d'Ivoire, Djibouti, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Eswatini, Ethiopia, Gabon, Gambia, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Iraq, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, Tanzania, Togo, Uganda, Zambia or Zimbabwe must have a hotel reservation confirmation for 48 hours for either Lancaster Hotels, Golden Tulip Hotel or Radisson Blu Martinez.</p> <p>(source: IATA, 19 August 2020).</p>
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IMMIGRATION and QUARANTINE



<p>What quarantine measures apply for travelers?</p>	<p>Passengers must have a medical certificate with a negative COVID-19 PCR test result issued at most 96 hours before arrival. Another PCR test will be done on arrival. This does not apply to passengers younger than 12 years.</p> <p>Passengers are subject to quarantine for 48 hours.</p> <p>Passengers transiting through Beirut (BEY) to Syria must have a pre-approval from the Syrian Authorities. This does not apply to nationals of Syria, or passengers with a Travel Document for Palestinian Refugees (Document de Voyage pour les Refugies Palestiniens) issued by Syria.</p> <p>A health declaration form must be completed online here.</p> <p>(source: IATA, 19 August 2020).</p>
<p>What lockdown and curfew measures apply?</p>	<p>On 4 August, the Government cancelled the general lockdown measures that had been put in place to prevent the spread of COVID-19. (source: UNICEF, 6 August 2020).</p> <p>A lockdown due to the spike in COVID-19 cases will be announced to be in place from Thursday 20 August for a duration of two weeks. Clarification will be sought on what the implications for humanitarian operations are.</p> <p>(Lebanon Logistics Sector, 18 August 2020)</p>
<p>IMPORTATION and CUSTOMS PROCEDURES</p>	
<p>What importation procedures related to taxes and duties have been introduced?</p>	<p>The Council of Ministers of the Republic of Lebanon has decided to sign a decree on exemptions of all taxes and duties on donations and aid from foreign entities to Lebanese ones. This will apply to grants and aid that are imported as of 4 August 2020, and is applicable for one year, until 3 August 2021.</p> <p>Fees that are now waived listed in the decree include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fiscal stamp fee; • Customs fees, including the minimum fee for the customs financial, and port fees; • Fees imposed according to Article 59 of Law No. 144 (21 March 2019 - General Budget Law and Supplementary Budgets for the year 2019); • VAT (Value-Added Tax) on import operations related to these grants and aid; • The delivery of money and the provision of services that are, by nature, taxable on the added value. <p>This applies to donations and aid provided to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lebanese public administrations, institutions, municipalities, municipal unions, and other public law persons and associations, and the bodies and sects; from external parties



	<p>based on letters issued by the High Relief Commission with the purpose of implementing these donations and assistance.</p> <p>(source: Council of Ministers, 10 August 2020 (original, Arabic)).</p> <p>The IMPACCT working group are currently liaising to collate the national HS codes for the products that are needed based on the list of HS codes provided by WHO and WCO.</p> <p>Lebanese Customs have an expedited procedure for urgent shipments called the “special permit” that they began applying after the Beirut blast. It requires the beneficiary to present the importation documents (bill of lading or airway bill, invoice, packing list, etc) to the Director General’s office to acquire this permit which allows for immediate clearance of goods and the suspension of duties and taxes.</p> <p>Importers then must submit regular clearance documents and pay all taxes and duties, or benefit from the exemptions provided by the government in relation to the Beirut blast.</p> <p>The heads of customs in Beirut port, Beirut airport, Tripoli, Sidon, Masnaa customs, can be approached any time to present any documents or requests for information and facilitation of procedures. No special requirements or conditions need to be met to benefit from fast-track customs clearance except the regular requirements. (Lebanese Customs, 20 August 2020)</p>
<p>What border closure measures apply (land, sea) that affect the importation of goods?</p>	<p>According to an operational update, airport status is as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Beirut International Airport remains open for passenger and cargo flights. • Customs brokers at the airport are fully operational to facilitate the arrival of materials. <p>(source: OCHA, 10 August 2020).</p> <p>Road cargo operations are impacted by restrictions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Foreign trucks are subject to transshipment; • There are some restrictions for road networks within cities and between cities or regions; • Cross-border road freight operations are affected by slight delays/disruption in local pick-up, land border restrictions, and driver/equipment constraints.



	(source: Agility, undated).
What measures relate to the opening/closing times of Customs offices?	<p>The Syrian border with Lebanon is open for cargo movement, with a 2-5 day waiting time. All drivers crossing the Lebanese-Syrian border must obtain a PCR test certificate for COVID-19. (source: Syrian Logistics Cluster, 30 June 2020).</p> <p>Medicines and medical equipment can be imported through two main entry points are Beirut port and Beirut airport. (Lebanese Customs, 20 August 2020)</p>
What other/general procedures apply regarding the importation of goods relevant to humanitarian operators?	<p>The international airport contains refrigerated areas designed for the storage of several kinds of merchandise including medicines and medical equipment (source: WCO, 2020).</p> <p>According to a customs update on 12 August, the ASYCUDA (Automated System for Customs Data) system is current up and running, and administering Lebanese customs.</p> <p>According to a customs update on 12 August, facilitation measures have been granted to customs brokers; they can clear goods from other cities.</p>
RESTRICTIONS to EXPORTS	
What restrictions to export certain goods apply in response to the COVID-19 pandemic?	<p>A directive preventing the exportation of certain items of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) was issued on 22 February 2020. The following items were included, published on the Lebanese Customs website:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Surgical puncture resistant gloves; • Heavy duty gloves; • Boot leg and shoe cover; • Impermeable overall suit; • Surgical masks and N-95 respirator; • Impermeable hood cover and hairnet; • Disposable gowns especially impermeable protective gown; • Chemotherapy gown; • Face shield; • Impermeable boot; • Aprons; • Long sleeved gown. <p>(source: Lebanon Customs Administration, 22 February 2020).</p>
OTHER	
What is the availability of UNHAS flights to the country?	<p>For WFP flights, there is no lockdown and special approvals are not needed in the below cases: nationalities that are exempt from visa processing prior to entry (list found on GSO website), UNLP holders, Syrian and Palestinian nationals if they fulfil the criteria</p>



	of entry and residence in Lebanon applicable prior to COVID-19 measures, travelers transiting through Syria must have proof of approved entry into Syria in order to be granted a transit visa (source: OCHA Lebanon, July 2020).
Has the country ratified Annex J-5 of the Kyoto Convention ? If so, when?	Not ratified.
Has the country ratified Annex B.9 of the Istanbul Convention ? If so, when?	Not ratified.
ASYCUDA user?	Yes.
ASYREC user?	No.

USEFUL LINKS

CIQP Bulletins for other countries are available [here](#).

Country-specific:

Director General of Civil Aviation, [Circular No. 45/2 \(Arabic\) \(28 July 2020\)](#)

Director General of Civil Aviation, [Circular No. 45/2 \(English\) \(28 July 2020\)](#)

[International Medical Corps, Beirut Explosion Situation Update No. 3 \(17 August 2020\)](#)

Ministry of Public Health, [List of needed medicines following Port of Beirut explosion \(6 August 2020\)](#)

Lebanon Republic Customs Administration, [Customs Directive \(22 February 2020\)](#)

Lebanon Council of Ministers, [Decision No. 48/2 \(10 August 2020\) \(Arabic\)](#)

Lebanon Council of Ministers, [Decision No. 48/2 \(10 August 2020\) \(English\)](#)

Logistics Cluster, [Lebanon country page](#)

Ministry of Customs, [website](#)

Ministry of the Economy, [news page](#)



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[OCHA, Lebanon: Beirut Port Explosions Situation Report No. 5 \(17 August 2020\)](#)

[WFP, Beirut Port Explosions Situation Report No. 2 \(17 August 2020\)](#)

Other links:

[*Agility, Global Shipping Updates: COVID-19*](#)

[*Bollere Logistics, COVID-19 Impact Update*](#)

[*International Air Transport Association \(IATA\), Coronavirus Outbreak – Update*](#)

[*IATA, Government Measures Related to Coronavirus \(COVID-19\)*](#)

[*IATA, Air Cargo Operations status - COVID-19*](#)

[*International Civil Aviation Organization \(ICAO\), COVID-19 airport status*](#)

[*International Organization for Migration, Points of Entry Status*](#)

[*International SOS, Travel Restrictions, Flight Operations and Screening*](#)

[*United Nations, Global Humanitarian Response Plan: COVID-19*](#)

[*United Nations, Global Humanitarian Response Plan: COVID-19 – May Update*](#)

[*United Nations Economic Commission for Europe, Observatory on Border Crossings Status due to COVID-19*](#)

[*Wilhemssen, COVID-19 Global Port Restrictions Map*](#)

[*World Customs Organization, HS classification reference list for COVID-19 medical supplies \(3rd edition\)*](#)

[*World Customs Organization, COVID-19 – WCO Updates*](#)

[*World Customs Organization, List of national legislation of countries that adopted temporary export restrictions on certain categories of critical medical supplies in response to COVID-19*](#)

[*World Customs Organization, World Health Organization, List of priority medicines for customs during COVID-19 pandemic*](#)

[*World Health Organization, Coronavirus disease \(COVID-2019\) situation reports*](#)

[*World Trade Organization, COVID-19: Trade and Trade-related measures*](#)

[If you have any questions / comments / additions, please contact:](#)



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