

Ensuring Accountability in Reconstruction and Reform Efforts in Lebanon: Phase Two Field Survey Findings Report

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I. INTRODUCTION

A powerful explosion at the Beirut Port on August 4, 2020, left Lebanon, already facing an unrelenting torrent of crises, with a serious humanitarian crisis. The explosion claimed more than 200 lives, more than 6500 injured, and left over 300,000 Lebanese homeless. Based on the Beirut Rapid Damage and Needs Assessment conducted in August 2020, through a joint initiative of the World Bank Group (WBG), in cooperation with the United Nations (UN) and the European Union (EU), it was estimated that damages ranged between \$3.8 and \$4.6 billion USD and losses ranged between \$2.9 and \$3.5 billion USD.

In response to the disaster, international and regional actors have joined efforts to assist Lebanon, sending medical food donations and rescue teams to Beirut to tend to urgently needed relief. On August 9, 2020, an international support conference pledged almost \$298 million in immediate relief aid and the EU set its mapping system to support Lebanon to assess the damage and plan for reconstruction. Recognizing the endemic corruption and mismanagement as core factors leading to the blast, international actors have called for strong transparency and accountability reforms for the Lebanese government and state institutions to regain the trust of its people and supporting countries. In addition, due to the major discontent of the Lebanese people towards their government, many Lebanese are demanding that money and aid in the form of food, medical care and housing be channeled only through trusted local organizations.

Several recent reports and documentaries have questioned the transparency and accountability of international assistance related to the Port of Beirut (PoB) explosion. There are claims that millions of dollars have been misused or wasted to corruption. In order to fill this information gap, the American University of Beirut (AUB)² conducted a data collection exercise that included (1) Six hundred fifty aid beneficiaries in the PoB area over two rounds. The first round was conducted in April 2022 for 250 beneficiaries and the second round in October 2022 for 400 beneficiaries, (2) Key Informant Interviews³ (KIIs) with 50 experts in the field, whereby 25 were conducted in the first round (March - April 2022) and another 25 in the second round. This report presents preliminary findings from the field surveys phase two, which were carried out as part of the project led by AUB and the Lebanese Transparency Association (LTA) and funded by Transparency International: "Ensuring Accountability in Reconstruction and Reform Efforts in Lebanon (EARREL)."

The project aims to ensure greater accountability and transparency of humanitarian aid and reconstructions efforts, particularly for those most affected by the Beirut port explosion. It will do so by

¹ Al-Hajj, S., Dhaini, H. R., Mondello, S., Kaafarani, H., Kobeissy, F., & DePalma, R. G. (2021). Beirut Ammonium Nitrate Blast: Analysis, Review, and Recommendations. Frontiers in public health, 9, 657996.

² The AUB project team is composed of: Dr. Leila Dagher (Principal Investigator), Dr. Ghina Tabsh, Ola Sidani, and Oussama Abi Younes.

³ Findings from Key Informant Interviews are presented in a separate report.

better equipping local civil society and journalist networks in their roles as watchdogs, by supporting state actors to improve government reforms and manage crisis in transparency, and by equipping citizens to monitor and report corruption, particularly in areas of Beirut most affected by the explosion.

In the next phase of the project, the team will triangulate and contextualize the data collected via different methods to conduct an in-depth analysis of the data. The final report will subsequently present further examination of the aid process in the aftermath of the PoB explosion, and the tools best suited to strengthen and sustain the fight against fraud, waste, and abuse of international aid.

II. METHODOLOGY

This section describes the methodology that was developed and implemented during the field survey phase of the project, including: (a) the questionnaire and IRB approval; (b) the sampling strategy; (c) the data collection process including the challenges and limitations; and (d) the data cleaning process.

A. Developing the Questionnaire

The package submitted to the Institutional Review Board at AUB on November 20, 2021 included the IRB application, the consent script, and the survey questionnaire (see Appendix A for an updated version of the questionnaire). The questionnaire was developed by the AUB team to facilitate the gathering of the desired information from a representative sample of aid recipients in the port of Beirut area. An extensive literature review conducted by the team informed the design of the data collection tools in terms of themes and specific questions. After several rounds of revisions, the IRB approval was granted on February 25, 2022. For the second round, the survey was revisited by both LTA an AUB teams in light of the findings of the first survey report. Minor changes were implemented and the survey was finalized accordingly.

B. Eligibility and Recruitment Process

The sample size of 400 surveys for the second round was predetermined by LTA research team and communicated to AUB research team. The actual data collection took place between 30 September 2022 and 19 October 2022. The names (and all identifying information) of all the respondents shall remain anonymous and undisclosed in the report as per AUB IRB rules. In the selection process, the team prioritized diversity and representativeness, to gain a more holistic picture about the aid process. The following inclusion criteria were employed to determine the survey candidates' eligibility.

Gender: balanced inclusion of both male and female beneficiaries- making sure to meet the donor's minimum target of 30% women.

Household versus Business: balanced inclusion of both households and businesses.

Nationality: Lebanese and non-Lebanese beneficiaries.

Age: Above 18 years old.

Neighborhoods: All neighborhoods in the six zones (as categorized by the Lebanese Armed Forces LAF) that were affected by the blast. The primary concentration in this phase is to focus on the areas closer to the blast.

C. Data Collection Process

The firm Bridge Outsource Transform (BOT) was recruited again to conduct the surveys for the second round since they were already trained, coached and delivered good quality work in phase one. To be well-prepared for the data collection process, the AUB team of researchers in collaboration with the LTA

team had initially conducted three coaching sessions to enhance the capacities of the BOT team of enumerators in order to properly perform the task.

As part of the project implementation preparations, the first training session for the BOT team of enumerators was held, on Monday 1 March 2022, by the AUB research team, where they met online with the BOT management to explain the full and detailed scope of the project. As such, both teams discussed the logistics, the means of communication and reporting as well as the needed number of enumerators and field support needed. It was agreed to deploy five enumerators to cover the Beirut explosion area (directly adjacent to the Port) while taking into consideration the zoning map prepared by the LAF after the blast. A field advisor and quality manager from BOT team also supported the team of enumerators. Dr. Leila Dagher, had secured a permission for the data collectors to ensure their safety during fieldwork from the LAF Intelligence. The follow-up on the data collection process was monitored by the field supervisor, the quality control manager at BOT team, as well as Dr. Ghina Tabsh from AUB team via monitoring the online link where the data are updated on a daily basis.

The second coaching session for the team of enumerators was conducted online on Thursday March 3, 2022 at 12:00 pm. The session lasted for an hour, during which the survey was explained thoroughly to the enumerators and several discussions followed to clarify each question to the enumerators to enable them to probe on and to clarify the questions in the field where needed. The session also included the "Do's and Don'ts" and expectations during the fieldwork.

The third coaching session was held by the LTA team on Thursday 7 March 2022 at the LTA office in Sodeco Square, where the enumerators were introduced to the aim of the EARREL project, how their work would contribute to it, and the seriousness and the responsibility that is expected from them. The no harm and integrity measures were highlighted in this session to ensure that the data collection process is in line with the research ethical standards.

The survey was translated by a professional translator on Thursday 10 March 2022 and was consequently digitized. During the third week of March, the data collection process using digital devices was launched for pilot testing. During the pilot phase, close follow up and communication with the enumerators was taking place to make sure that the process flowed smoothly. In addition, the quality of the data was double-checked before giving the team the green light to proceed with the targeted 250 questionnaires. For round two, a refresher training session was conducted by Dr. Ghina Tabsh on 29 September 2022 for the BOT team of enumerators. Data collection was completed and finalized by Wednesday October 19, 2022.

The survey revolved around the Beirut blast recovery and reconstruction aid received by beneficiaries who resided in the most damaged areas in Beirut. The tool included 52 questions and lasted on an average for 20 minutes per beneficiary on the Survey CTO tool. Some surveys took up to 45 minutes to explain, elaborate and get the consent from the beneficiary. Recruitment faced some challenges as the target participants were drained by the number of interviews/surveys they have been invited to participate in post-explosion. All 400 interviews (see Table 1) were conducted anonymously, in person

with a consented audio recording, by a team of 6 enumerators under the supervision of BOT Project Manager Carlo Haddad and Team Supervisor Samer El-Hajal.

Table 1. Breakdown of Respondents

Survey Type	Number
No Consent (omitted)	64
Did Not Benefit from Aid	206
Benefitted From Aid with Consent- Actual Surveys Completed	
Businesses (180, 45%)	400
Household (220 , 55%)	
Total Candidates	670

D. Data Cleaning

BOT and AUB research team validated and cleaned the data all throughout the collection process and continued after closing the data collection process once the targeted number of surveys was secured. Random samples of surveys were double-checked via listening to the recordings, especially those held during the pilot phase and first week of the data collection process, to ensure the quality of the collected data. After completing the data collection phase, BOT and AUB research teams went over the excel sheets to unify the data, make sure it's consistent and to check for any anomalies and outliers. The cleanliness of the dataset, a good indication that the survey was well designed, allowed for the inclusion of all surveys.

A total of 400 surveys were collected and validated. The final dataset is saved in excel format with all the relevant recordings on a shared drive accessible to the AUB research team as conditioned by IRB office at AUB.

Next, for the data analysis, the data were coded and uploaded to SPSS software to generate the statistics. The AUB research team first reviewed the statistics and findings after which they agreed on further segregations and cross tabulations to generate the findings report.

III. SURVEY FINDINGS

A. Eligibility and Demographics

This section presents the eligibility criteria followed, along with the sample demographics to enable the researchers to understand the specific characteristics of the respondents better. This will ensure the inclusion of the different beneficiaries, namely, households or businesses, males or females, different age groups, different needs, different nationalities, and different areas. The aid was received by the beneficiaries in several areas, and the most recurrent areas in descending order were: Achrafieh, Ain El Mreisseh, Bourj Hammoud, Karantina, Karm El Zaytoun, Geitawi, Mar Mikhael, Rmeil, Gemmayze, Badawi, Al Marfaa, Saifi, Sassine / Mar Mitr, Sioufi, Sodeco, St. Georges, Roum and others.⁴

The last part of this section investigates the type of aid received and further details that are essential for this study, including but not limited to, renovation particularities.

Type of Respondent

The sample included both household and business beneficiaries who benefited from aid disbursement. More specifically, the sample included 55% households and 45% businesses. For the businesses, the respondents are 79% owners or owner's son, and 21% are workers. On another note, 41% of the household respondents are unemployed.

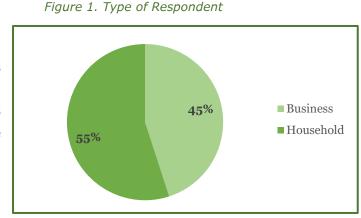


Figure 2. Gender Distribution

Gender

We aimed for gender parity in our sample; thus, the data collection team tried their best to balance the sample accordingly. Overall, 47% of the respondents who benefited from aid disbursement are females, while 53% are males. More specifically, for households, 32% of the respondents were females, and 24% were males. As for businesses, the ratio of males exceeded that of females, 30% to 15%

30% 32%
24%

Female Male Female Male
Business Household

respectively. In general, female participants tend to be more responsive; hence, the ratio of females for

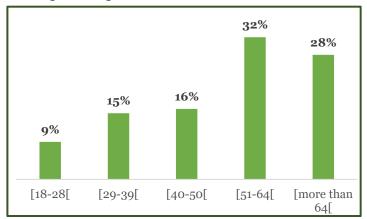
⁴ For the detailed aid distribution per area and per street, refer to Appendix B.

the household sample is higher, while for businesses, we targeted the owner or the worker to answer the survey, and these are mostly men.

<u>Age</u>

The data collection team worked on collecting data from a diversified sample of different age groups above 18. Around 28% of the beneficiaries who benefited from aid disbursement are above 64 years old; 32% are between 51 and 64 years old. Only 9% are between 18 and 28 years old, while the remaining 31% of the beneficiaries are between 29 and 50 years old.

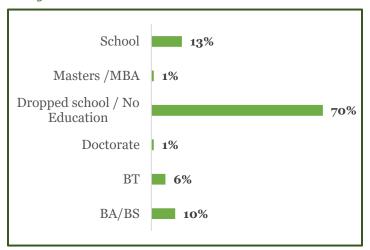
Figure 3. Age Distribution



Level of Education

The respondents come from different educational backgrounds. A majority of 70% of the beneficiaries who benefited from aid disbursement were school dropouts. Almost 13% have school level education, followed by 10% who have Bachelor of Arts or Science (BA/BS) degree. Only 1% have Doctorate educational level or Masters/MBA level. The remaining 6% of beneficiaries have a Technical Baccalaureate Diploma (BT).

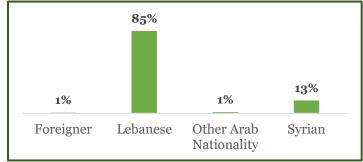
Figure 4. Level of Education Distribution



Nationality

Overall, 85% of the beneficiaries who benefited from aid disbursement are Lebanese, in addition to 13% who are Syrian. The remaining beneficiaries are 1% Palestinian, and 1% foreigners form other nationalities.

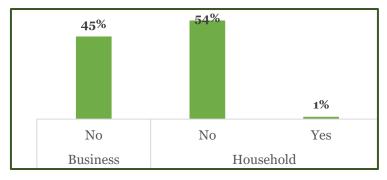
Figure 5. Nationality Distribution



Aid Prior to the Explosion

Among the respondents 99% did not receive any aid prior to Port of Beirut explosion. Only 1% of the beneficiaries who benefited from aid post-Port of Beirut explosion were benefitting from aid support before the explosion. The aid prior to the explosion was received from UNICEF and Dafa NGO consisting mainly of food items.

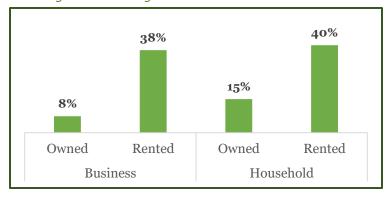
Figure 6. Aid Prior to Port of Beirut Explosion



Housing Status

The sample included beneficiaries who benefited from aid disbursement and who are either owners or tenants of a household or a business; 23% landlords and 78% tenants. More specifically 8% of the businesses and 15% of the households owned, while 38% of the businesses and 40% of the households rented.

Figure 7. Housing Status

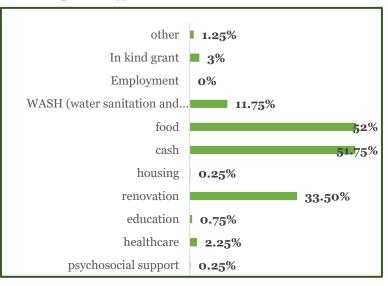


Type of Aid Received

Four types of aid support prevailed for both households and businesses; cash, food, renovation, and to a lesser extent WASH. Delving into more details among the household and businesses, the findings in this project indicate that the renovation type of aid supported 15% business rentals and 11% households in addition to 5% business owners and 3% households.

Moreover, a good number of beneficiaries (52%) who benefited from aid disbursement received cash aid. Also, around 52% of beneficiaries who benefited from aid disbursement received food aid and 34% of

Figure 7. Type of Aid



beneficiaries who benefited from aid disbursement received renovation aid. Around 12% of beneficiaries

who benefited from aid disbursement received WASH aid, while 3% of beneficiaries who benefited from aid disbursement received in kind grant. About 2% of beneficiaries who benefited from aid disbursement received healthcare aid. About 1% of beneficiaries who benefited from aid disbursement received other aid. Similarly, around 1% received education aid. Only 0.25% received housing aid and another 0.25% received psychosocial support. None of the respondents in this sample received employment aid.

Renovation and Contract Type

Many of the beneficiaries who benefited from renovation aid corresponding to 48% have an old contract (of which 24% are businesses and 24% are households). Almost 27% have no written contract (of which 16% are businesses and 11% are households). Only 25% have a new contract (of which 17% are businesses and 8% are households).

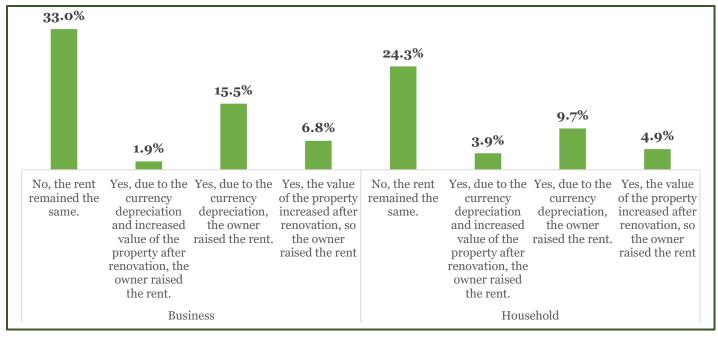
24.27% 24.27% 17.48% 15.53% 10.68% 7.77% New Old Old No New No written written contract contract Business Household

Figure 8. Contract Type

Rent Increase Post Renovation

Findings in this project showed that among those who received renovation support, 57% did not face any rent increase after the renovation; the percentages are split between 33% businesses and 24% households. On the other hand, 43% experienced some rent increase and the main reason stated is currency depreciation. Few businesses and households (12%) indicated that the increase in rent was due solely to the increase in value of the property after renovation.

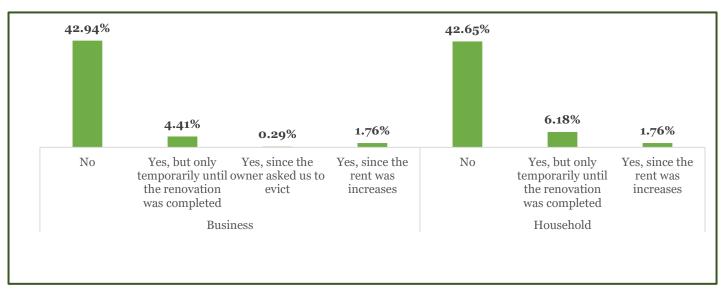
Figure 9. Rent Increase Post Renovation



Relocations due to Rent Increase

The vast majority of the respondents corresponding to 86% did not have to move due to rent increase, this percentage was split to 43% businesses and 43% households. Only 24% had to move, some of which only temporarily until the renovation was completed.

Figure 10. Need to Move Due to Rent Increase

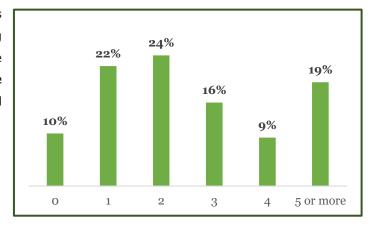


B. Relevance and Effectiveness

The Relevance of the Received Aid to the Beneficiaries' Needs

About 32% of the beneficiaries who benefited from aid received either 0 or 1 visit from aid providers preceding the actual disbursement. The remaining majority corresponding to 68% received 2 or more visits of which 19% received 5 or more visits. More than half of the beneficiaries (54%) who benefited from aid were not asked about their needs.

Figure 11. Number of Visits Before Disbursement



Almost 38% of the beneficiaries who benefited from aid rated the relevance of the aid to their need as acceptable. Only 7% of them believe that the aid is relevant of which 3% believe that it is perfect. However, about 62% of the beneficiaries believe that the aid is not relevant to their needs of which 35% believe that it is not relevant at all. It is worth noting that almost all those who rate the aid as irrelevant are those who received food.

Table 2. Relevance of the Received Aid

Relevance of the Received Aid			
Frequency/Count		Percent	
Not relevant at all	138	35	
Somehow relevant	109	27	
Acceptable	125	31	
Very relevant	17	4	
Perfect	11	3	
Total	400	100	

The Level at which Aid Was Perceived as Sufficient by the Beneficiaries

The majority of the beneficiaries who benefited from aid corresponding to 77% believe that the aid was not sufficient, of which 60% believe that it was not sufficient at all. Only 5% believe that the aid was either very sufficient or perfect. The remaining 18% beneficiaries feel that the aid was acceptable.

Level at Which the Aid Was Sufficient Frequency/Count Percent Not sufficient at all 240 60 Somehow sufficient 66 17 Acceptable 18 73 Very Sufficient 17 4 Perfect 4 1 **Total** 400 100

Table 3. Level at Which the Aid Was Sufficient

More specifically and after establishing that among the major types of aid received and given that food aid was mainly irrelevant, further investigation regarding cash and renovation aid shows that 76% and 73% respectively consider the aid as not sufficient.

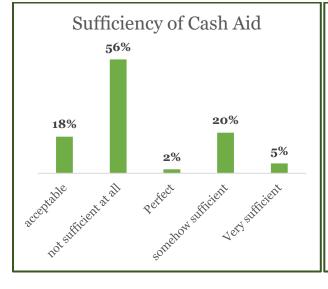
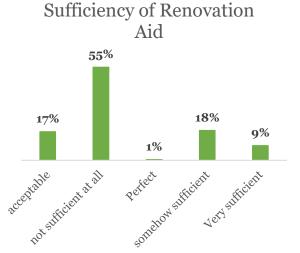
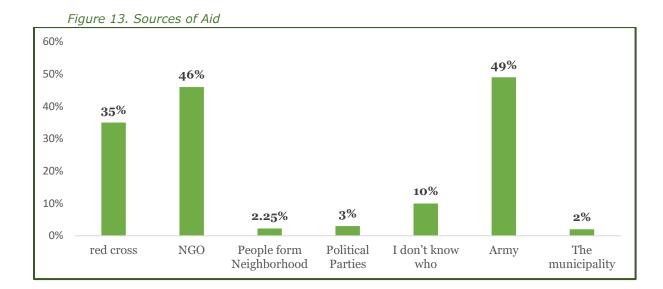


Figure 12. Sufficiency of Aid



C. Efficiency

Almost 14% of the beneficiaries received aid from both the LAF and the NGOs. The table below shows that 49% of the beneficiaries received aid from the LAF with almost a similar percentage (46%) receiving aid from the NGOs. Moreover, 35% received aid from the Red Cross. The political parties along with the municipality and people from the neighborhood, served less than 8% of the beneficiaries. There are 10% of the beneficiaries who are not sure who was their aid provider.



The Level at Which the Aid or Support Result in Positive Changes for the Beneficiaries

Almost half of the beneficiaries who benefited from aid, corresponding to 51%, believe that the aid resulted in an acceptable positive difference for them. Only 22% believe it resulted in considerable change or solved the problem considerably or completely. The remaining beneficiaries, 6% believe that the aid resulted in somehow positive difference for them, and 22% no difference at all.

Table 4. Sufficiency of Aid

The Level at Which the Aid or Support Result in Positive Changes for the Beneficiaries		
Frequency/Count	Frequency/Count	
No change at all	87	22
Somehow	22	6
Acceptable	203	51
Considerable Change	3	1
solved the problem completely	85	21
Total	400	100

D. Accountability

People Who Needed Support but Were Not Helped, Despite Asking for Help

The respondents were asked if they knew individuals who needed help but never received assistance despite asking for it. Around 22% of the beneficiaries who benefited from aid indicated that they know someone who needed support but was not helped, in spite of asking for help.

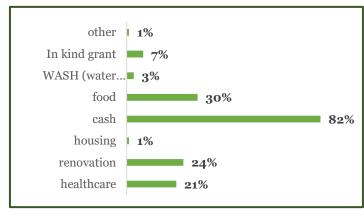
22% No Yes

Figure 14. Requested Aid but Did Not Receive Any

14

The highest percentages accounted for the need for cash (82%), food (30%), renovation (24%) and healthcare (21%). Other aid types had lower demand; 7% in-kind grant, 3% WASH help, 1% housing help and 1% other help. Other types of aid were mentioned as well such as furniture, clothes and 33% work-related tools.

Figure 15. Type of Aid Needed



Privacy of Beneficiaries

The vast majority of the beneficiaries (89%) who benefited from aid either strongly agree or agree that their privacy was respected when receiving the aid and during communication with the donor. Only 7% disagree, while 4% are neutral.

Table 5 Privacy of Beneficiaries

Privacy of the Beneficiaries Was Respected When Receiving Aid			
	Frequency/Count	Percent	
Strongly Disagree	15	4	
Disagree	12	3	
Neutral (Neither Agree nor Disagree)	17	4	
Agree	257	64	
Strongly Agree	99	25	
Total	400	100	

Communication and Follow-up by Aid Providers

A considerable majority of beneficiaries (93%) mentioned that communication with the donor stopped after receiving aid. However, only 3% said they frequently communicate with the donor.

Figure 16. Communication with the Aid Providers

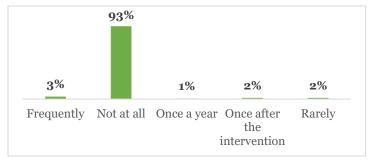
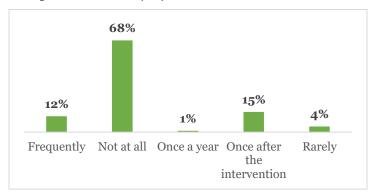


Figure 17 Follow-up by Aid Providers

The majority of the beneficiaries (68%) mentioned that there wasn't any follow up or evaluation from the donor's side at all. However, only 12% mentioned that there was follow up or evaluation from the donor's side frequently.



Availability of a Grievance Mechanism by Aid Providers

40% of the beneficiaries mentioned that there is no grievance mechanism in addition to 36% who don't know if there is a grievance mechanism. However, only 2% used the grievance mechanism and they took the necessary action. The rest either know that there is a mechanism but did not need to use it (17%) or used the grievance mechanism but no action was taken (5%).

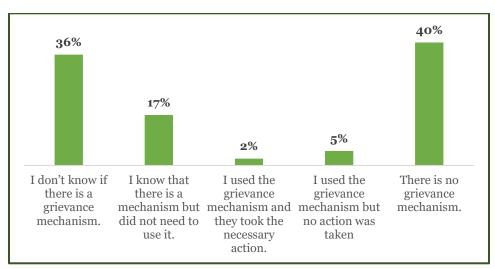


Figure 18 Grievance Mechanism

E. Transparency

The majority of the beneficiaries who benefited from aid corresponding to 83% did not know how and where to request information about support they might be eligible for, compared to only 8% who believe that it was very easy. About 83% of the beneficiaries who benefited from aid were not able to access all the information they required to apply for support at all, in contrast to 8% who believe that it was very easy. About 85% of the beneficiaries who benefited from aid were not able to track the disbursement of the support at all, while 6% believed it was very easy. Another 12% believe that it was acceptable.

The two main aid providers were the LAF and the NGOs. The aid disbursement process was considered somehow smooth and unbiased. The beneficiaries reported similar views regarding biasedness regarding the two main providers.

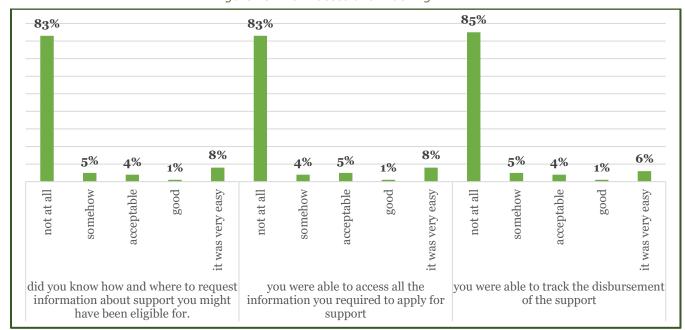


Figure 19. Aid Process and Tracking

<u>Aid Providers' Response to the Beneficiaries' Request for Information</u>

The sampled beneficiaries were asked whether aid providers responded to the beneficiaries' request for information and the results indicated that 85% of the beneficiaries believe that aid providers did not respond to their request for information at all. In addition to 4% who believe that they somehow did. However, only 7% believe that they did in a timely and comprehensive manner. Finally, 5% believe that they did in an acceptable manner.

Table 6. Aid Providers' Response to the Beneficiaries' Request for Information

Aid providers response to your request for information			
	Frequency	Valid Percent	
Not At All	339	85	
Somehow	16	4	
Acceptable	18	5	
Good	4	1	
In A Timely and Comprehensive Manner	23	6	
Total	400	100	

The Process of Applying for Aid

About half of the beneficiaries who benefited from aid believe that the application process was complicated, of which 44% of them believe that it was complicated and unclear. However, the remaining half of the beneficiaries believe it was simple and clear, of which 37% believe that it was very clear.

Table 7 The Process of Applying for Aid

The Process of Applying for Aid		
Frequency Valid Percent		
1	149	37
2	33	8
3	38	10
4	3	1
5	177	44
Total	400	100

^{*}Where the range goes from "1" being very complicated to "5" being very simple and clear.

Fairness of Aid Disbursement

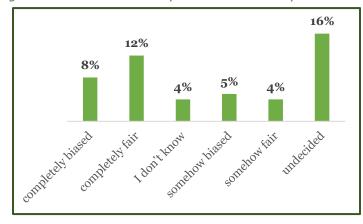
Only 23% of the beneficiaries who benefited from aid believe that the distribution of aid was completely fair, another 7% believed it was somehow fair. In contrast, 20% believe that it was completely biased and 8% believe that it was somehow biased. Other respondents (43%) were undecided or had no answer.

Table 8 Fairness of Aid Disbursement

Fairness of Aid Disbursement			
Frequency/Count Percent			
Completely Biased	79	20	
Somehow Biased	32	8	
Undecided	135	34	
Somehow Fair	27	7	
Completely Fair	92	23	
I Don't Know	35	9	
Total	400	100	

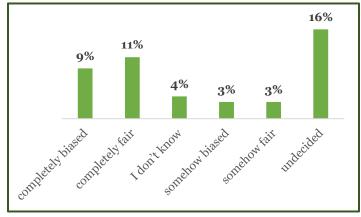
Figure 20. Aid Distribution by the Lebanese Army

12% of the beneficiaries receiving aid from the LAF rated the aid as completely fair, while 8% rated it as completely biased.



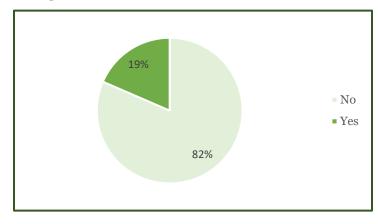
11% of the beneficiaries receiving aid from the NGOs rated the aid as completely fair, while 9% rated it as completely biased.

Figure 20. Aid Distribution by the NGOs



The majority of the beneficiaries corresponding to 82% mentioned that the criteria to benefit from the aid were not clearly explained to them by the provider.

Figure 21 Selection Criteria



F. Social Cohesion and Conflict Prevention

In this section, we investigate the role of aid disbursement in strengthening the social cohesion and in conflict prevention.

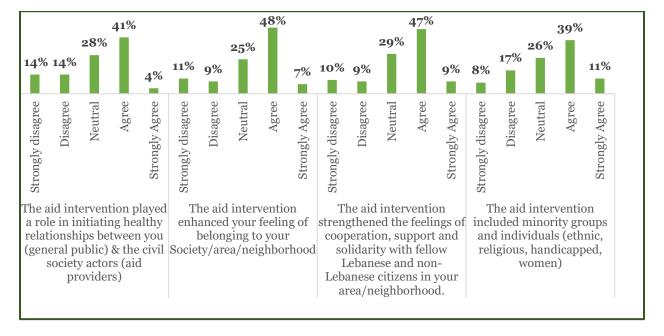


Figure 22. Aid and Social Cohesion

Our findings show that 41% of aid beneficiaries agree that the aid intervention played a role in initiating healthy relationships between them and the civil society (as a major aid provider), in addition to 4% who strongly agree. Whereas another 28% oppose this assessment, whereby they either disagree or strongly disagree.

Moreover, 48% of aid beneficiaries agree that the aid intervention enhanced their feeling of belonging to their society/area/neighborhood, in addition to 7% who strongly agree. In contrast, only 15% either disagree or strongly disagree with this assessment.

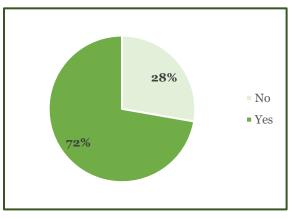
In addition, 47% of aid beneficiaries agree that the aid intervention strengthened the feelings of cooperation, support and solidarity with fellow Lebanese and non-Lebanese citizens in their area/neighborhood, in addition to 9% who strongly agree. In contrast, only 19% either disagree or strongly disagree with this assessment.

Half of the beneficiaries believe that the intervention included minority groups and individuals (ethnic, religious, special needs, women) of which 8% of them strongly agree.

G. Impact and sustainability

Among the sample in the study, 72% of aid beneficiaries still need aid in relation to the Port of Beirut Explosion recovery. The respondents mentioned multiple areas where they still need assistance. Of majority (80%) of the beneficiaries who benefited from aid and still need aid in relation to the Port of Beirut explosion recovery, almost 42% need food help, around 34% of the beneficiaries need renovation help, and 26% need WASH help. About 23% need healthcare help. Moreover, 16% of the beneficiaries, need in-kind grant help, 3% of the beneficiaries need

Figure 23. Still in Need for Aid



education help, 3% need employment help, only 2% of the beneficiaries need housing help, only 1% of the beneficiaries need psychological support, and another 1% need other types of help such as home equipment in addition to certain store items and tools.

A substantial majority of the beneficiaries (98%) are no longer benefitting from aid. However, only 1% can benefit from the assistance until today all the time.

Table 9 Ability to Benefit from Aid Until Now

Ability to benefit from the received aid till today		
Frequency		Valid Percent
not at all	379	95
somehow	11	3
acceptable	6	2
considerably	2	1
all the time	2	1
Total	400	100

The Aid's Contribution to Economic Recovery of the Businesses

The majority of the beneficiaries (66%) who benefited from renovation/construction aid of a business believe that the support did not contribute to the recovery of their business. However, only 5% believe that the aid considerably or definitely contributed.

Table 10 Aid Contribution to Economic Recovery of the Businesses

Aid Contribution to Economic Recovery of the Businesses				
Frequency/Count Percent				
Not At All	118	66		
Somehow	34	19		
Acceptable	20	11		
Considerably	5	3		
Definitely	3	2		
Total	180	100		

H. Coordination and Cooperation

Cooperation Between the Aid Providers

The majority of the beneficiaries corresponding to 72% haven't been asked to fill needs assessment survey by several aid providers

Figure 25 Needs Assessments

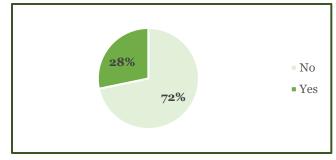
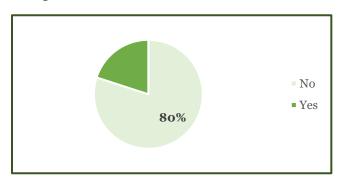


Figure 26 Referrals Between Aid Providers

The majority of the beneficiaries corresponding to 80% were not referred to benefit from a service from one NGO by another.



Perceived Level of Coordination Among the Aid Providers

Around 36% of the beneficiaries believed that there was no coordination among the aid donors but rather complete chaos, with another 13% who perceived that there is some level of coordination. In contrast, 25% of the beneficiaries perceived a good level of coordination. The remaining (8%) were not sure.

Table 11 Perceived Level of Coordination Among Aid Providers

Perceived Aid Coordination by the Beneficiaries			
Frequency/Count	Percent		
No coordination at all (complete chaos)	144	36	
Some level of coordination	50	13	
Acceptable level of coordination	76	19	
Very High coordination	67	17	
Perfect coordination	32	8	
Don't know	31	8	
Total	400	100	

Negative Feedback

Around 10% of the beneficiaries who benefited from aid have negative feedback on aid providers. Most of the negative feedback of the beneficiaries can be listed as insufficient aid, lack of response when reached out to, corruption, lack of organization and absence of follow-ups, the aid disbursement process was not fair and not complete, in addition to low-quality products used or given. Almost 26% of those with negative feedback highlighted that the process was unfair on two levels. On the first level, some people received aid but others such as their neighbors did not. On a second level, it was biased towards certain areas or sects. Some also used the term "corruption within the NGOs" to describe the aid process as unfair, biased, and inefficient. Others commented on the lack of organization during the aid disbursement process. We quote some of the expressions used here "complete chaos", "not organized, not equal to people, no protocol, and no strategy." Some beneficiaries noted that the process was humiliating "humiliating the individuals in order to receive the aid and sometimes the aid being inefficient, and the food provided was sometimes expired." Few beneficiaries indicated that NGOs helped fill out surveys with them but never came back. Others noted the lack of follow up especially regarding the quality of the renovation. For example, one respondent said, "there wasn't any follow-up regarding renovation after checking the damages", and another said, "the door broke after they fixed it." Last but not least, many commented that they called the NGOs but no one responded.

IV. CONCLUSION

The findings indicate that a huge effort was made by the NGOs, the private sector (individual initiatives) and the LAF to alleviate the pain of Port of Beirut Blast victims. The results show a major gap in terms of relevance, efficiency, coordination, and fairness. Many beneficiaries received food donations that were not very needed or in amounts that exceeded their needs. There was duplication of work by the aid providers. Some beneficiaries indicated that the aid was not enough especially those receiving cash and renovation aid. However, it is worth mentioning that the explosion and post-explosion phase, during which the aid intervention took place, is accompanied by severe economic collapse and rapid inflation. Therefore, the need for more aid cannot be strictly related to the blast but perhaps also to the excruciating economic, financial, and political crisis, the country is suffering from. Further elaborations and clarifications shall be provided in the qualitative findings report based on the 25 Key Informant Interviews that the AUB research team is conducting with representatives from NGOs, UN, World Bank, Embassies, Coalitions, decision makers and others.

Challenges and Observations

This report presents preliminary findings from the field surveys data collection part of the project led by AUB and the Lebanese Transparency Association and funded by Transparency International: "Ensuring Accountability in Reconstruction and Reform Efforts in Lebanon (EARREL)." The project aims to ensure greater accountability and transparency of humanitarian aid and reconstructions efforts, particularly for those most affected by the Beirut port explosion.

The thorough planning and follow-up from both the AUB research team and the BOT Team allowed for a relatively smooth and successful data collection process. We encountered a few hurdles that were overcome by the continuous communication between the two teams. The highlights of the challenges are summarized in the points below.

- 1. Some of the target areas were not residential and those that were, had very high security measures implemented, complicating the data collectors' access. These include, among others, the following neighborhoods: Biel, Zaytouna Bay, Downtown. ...
- Although the target was equally split between households and businesses, the data collectors
 came across many business owners who were in need but did not receive any aid. Most of them
 were visited by many aid providers for needs assessment only with no serious implementation,
 so they ended up using their own resources.
- 3. A few respondents refused to take the survey because of the audio recording despite the enumerators' multiple reassurances regarding anonymity.
- 4. The constant power outage was always an obstacle to access buildings.

5. One respondent stated that in one instance food boxes were delivered for media coverage only, then these boxes were immediately retrieved.

This survey report will be followed by another qualitative report based on Key Informant Interviews with multiple stakeholders; aid providers, donors, government representatives, and others.

V. APPENDIX

Appendix A: Tool 1 The Beirut Blast Recovery and Reconstruction Survey of Beneficiaries

الأداة 1 استبيان الإصلاح والتعافي وإعادة إعمار المساكن للمتضررين من إنفجار مرفأ بيروت

i. Eligibility and General Information / عامة علي الأهلية ومعلومات عامة

1. Did you directly or indirectly benefit from any aid after the Port of Beirut Blast (PoBB)? If answer is no, not eligible

هل استفدت بطريقةٍ مباشرة أو غير مباشرة من أي مساعدة بعد إنفجار مرفأ بيروت؟ إذا كانت الإجابة كلا، فغير مؤهل.

- Yes / نعم
- No / کلا
- 2. Business or Household / محل او منزل
 - Business / محل مؤسسة
 - Household / منزل
- 3. IF Business:

ما هو موقعك في العمل؟ / ?What is your position in the business

- 4. Sex / الجنس
 - Male / ذکر
 - Female / أنثى
- 5. Age /العمر
 - [18-28[
 - [29-39[
 - [40-50[
 - [51-64[
 - [more than 64[/ فكثر من /
- 6. Educational Level / المستوى العلمي
 - School / شهادة مدرسية
 - شهادة البكالوريا الفنية / BT
 - شهادة جامعية / بكالوريوس / BA/BS

- شهادة الماجستير /ماجستير في إدارة الأعمال / Masters /MBA
- Doctorate / شهادة الدكتوراه
- Dropped School No education / أوقف دراسته غير متعلم
- 7. Are you currently employed? / إياً على أنت موظف حاليًا؟
 - Yes / نعم
 - No / کلا
- 8. Nationality / الجنسية
 - Lebanese / اللبنانية
 - Syrian / السورية
 - Palestinian / الفلسطينية
 - Other Arab Nationality / جنسية عربية أخرى
 - Foreigner / أجنبي
- 9. Area where aid was received [please add all areas in the zones]

- Achrafieh
- Ain El Mreisseh
- Al Marfaa
- Bachoura
- Badawi
- Biel / Zaytouna Bay
- Bourj Hammoud
- Daoura
- DT/Bab Idriss
- Furn El Hayek
- Geitawi
- Gemmayze
- Grand Serail
- Hotel Dieu
- Karantina
- Karm El Zaytoun
- Khodor
- Majidieh
- Mar Mikhael
- Medawar
- Minat El Hosn
- Nassrah

• Ne	ejmeh Square
• Q	oubaiyat
• Ri	meil
• Sa	aifi
• Sa	assine / Mar Mitr
• Si	oufi
• So	odeco
• St	t. Georges - Roum
• St	t. Nicolas
• St	ursock
• US	53
 Zo 	okak El Blat
• Of	ther
10.	Location where aid was received (street)
	الموقع الذي تلقيت المساعدة فيه (الشارع)
11. IS	هل المنزل / المحل ملك او أجار؟ / ?the household / business owned or rented المنزل / المحل ملك المدل
	Owned /ملك/
	• Rented/ أجار
12.	[نوع المساعدة التي تلقيتها [اختر الخانة المناسبة / Type of Aid Received [check box]
	psychosocial support, / دعم نفسی واجتماعی
	• healthcare, / رعلية صحية
	education, / عليم عليم فالمنطقة والمنطقة والمنط
	• renovation, / ترميم
	housing, / اسکان
	• cash, / أموال نقدية
	• food, / مواد غذائية
	 WASH (water sanitation and hygiene) / مواد تنظيف (تعقيم المياه والنظافة العامة /
	• Employment / فرصة عمل فرصة عمل
	• Other / غیر ذلك
13. If	the received aid is renovation, then did the rent increase after renovation?
- · -·	كانت المساعدة عبارة عن ترميم، فهل زاد الإيجار الشهري بعد الترميم؟
	 Yes, due to the currency depreciation, the owner raised the rent.

نعم، بسبب تدهور العملة لجأ المالك إلى رفع الإيجار .

- Yes, the value of the property increased after renovation, so the owner raised the rent نعم، ازدادت قيمة العقار بعد الترميم، فرفع المالك الإيجار.
- Yes, due to the currency depreciation and increased value of the property after renovation, the owner raised the rent.

نعم، بسبب تدهور العملة وبسبب ازدياد قيمة العقار بعد الترميم، لجأ المالك إلى رفع الإيجار.

• No, the rent remained the same.

كلا، بقي الإيجار كما هو.

- 14. Did you move/have to move as a result of the rental support/renovation?
 - No
 - Yes, but only temporarily until the renovation was completed
 - Yes, since the rent was increases
 - Yes, since the owner asked us to evict
- 15. If the received aid is renovation, what is the contract type?

إذا تلقيت مساعدة ترميم، فما هو نوع العقد؟

- Old / قديم
- New / جدید
- No written contract / لا يوجد عقد خطى
- 16. Were you benefitting from any type of aid before the Port explosion?

هل كنت تستفيد من أي مساعدة أخرى قبل إنفجار المرفأ؟

- Yes / نعم
- No / کلا
- 17. If yes, please describe type/form of aid/value of aid/source of aid

إذا كانت الإجابة نعم، أذكر نوع المساعدة/شكل المساعدة/قيمة المساعدة/الجهة التي قدّمت المساعدة؟

.....

ii. Relevance and Effectiveness / الملاءمة والفعالية

18. Rate the relevance of the received aid to your needs.

ما مدى ملاءمة المساعدة التي تلقيتها مقارنة باحتياجاتك.

- 1 not relevant at all / 1 ليست ملائمة على الإطلاق
- 2 somehow relevant / 2 ملائمة بعض الشيء
- 3 acceptable / 3 مقبولة

- 4 Very relevant / 4 ملائمة جدًا
- 5 Perfect / 5
- 19. Were you asked about your needs?

هل سئلت عن إحتياجاتك؟

- Yes / نعم
- No / کلا
- 20. Rate whether the aid was sufficient.

هل كانت المساعدة كافية أم لا.

- 1 not sufficient at all / 1 ليست كافية على الإطلاق
- 2 somehow sufficient / 2
- 3 acceptable / 3 مقبولة
- 4 Very sufficient / 4 کافیة جدًا
- 5 Perfect / 5 ممتازة
- 21. How many visits preceded the actual disbursement?

- 0
- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5 أكثر من / 5 or more
- 22. To what extent did the aid or support result in positive changes for you?

- 1 no change at all / 1 لم تغير شيئ على الإطلاق
- 2 somehow / 2 بعض الشيء
- 3 acceptable / 3 مقبولة
- 4 considerable change / 4 تغيير كبير كبير
- 5 solved the problem completely / 5 ممتازة 5

iii. Efficiency / الكفاءة

23. Were you offered support by different entities? [check box]

هل حصلت على الدعم من أطراف مختلفة؟ [اختر الخانة المناسبة]

- No / کلا / No
- Yes NGO / غير حكومية غير منظمات غير
- Yes, People form Neighborhood / نعم، أشخاص من الحي
- Yes, Political Parties / نعم، أطراف سياسية
- Yes, I don't know who / نعم، ولكن لا أعلم من
- Yes, army / نعم، الجيش
- Yes, municipality / نعم، البلدية
- 24. Did you feel there was coordination in aid disbursement?

هل شعرت أنّه كان هناك تنسيق خلال توزيع المساعدات؟

- 1 no coordination at all (complete chaos) / 1 فوضى تامة 1 / (لا يوجد تنسيق أبدًا (فوضى تامة 1
- 2 some level of coordination / 2 مستوى معين من التنسيق
- 3 acceptable level of coordination / 3 مستوى مقبول من التنسيق
- 4 Very High coordination / 4 تنسيق عال جدًا
- 5 Perfect coordination / 5
- 0 I don't know / 0 لا أعلم
- 25. Did the provided aid contribute to alleviation of your suffering?

هل ساهمت المساعدة المقدمة في التخفيف من معاناتك؟

- 1 not at all / 1 كلا على الإطلاق
- 2 somehow / 2 بعض الشيء
- 3 acceptable / 3 بشكلٍ مقبول
- 4 considerably / 4 بشكلٍ كبير
- 5 solved the problem completely / 5 ممتازة 5

iv. Accountability / المساءلة

- 26. TO your knowledge, does the aid provider has a grievance/complaint mechanism?
- حسب معلو ماتك ، هل لدى مقدم المساعدة آلية للتظلم / الشكوى؟
- I know that there is a mechanism but did not need to use it./ أعلم أن هناك آلية لكني لم أكن بحاجة لاستخدامها
- I used the grievance mechanism and they took the necessary action./ لقد استخدمت الآلية واتخذوا
- I used the grievance mechanism but no action was taken./ لقد استخدمت الآلية ولكن لم يتم اتخاذ أي إجراء
- There is no grievance mechanism. / لا توجد آلية
- I don't know if there is a grievance mechanism./ لل أعرف ما إذا كانت هناك آلية

- 27. Was your privacy respected when receiving the aid and during communications with the donor? هل تمّ احترام خصوصيتك عند تلقى المساعدة وأثناء التواصل مع الجهة المانحة ؟
- 1 Strongly disagree / 1 لا أوافق أبدًا
- 2 Disagree / 2 لا أوافق
- 3 Neutral (Neither agree nor disagree) / 3 محايد (لا أوافق ولا أعارض 3 المحايد (الماقع والماقع والماقع على الماقع والماقع و
- 4 Agree / 4 أوافق
- 5 Strongly Agree / 5
- 28. Do you still communicate with the donor?

- 1 Not at all / 1 كلا على الإطلاق
- 2 Once after the intervention / 2 مرة واحدة بعد التدخل
- 3 Once a year / 3 مرة في السنة
- 4 Rarely / 4 نادرًا
- 5 Frequently / 5 غالبًا
- 29. Was there any follow up or evaluation from the donor's side?

- 1 Not at all / 1 كلا على الإطلاق
- 2 Once after the intervention / 2 مرة واحدة بعد التدخل
- 3 Once a year / 3 مرة في السنة
- 4 Rarely / 4 نادرًا
- 5 Frequently / 5 غالبًا
- 30. Do you know of anyone who needed support but was not helped, in spite of asking for help?

- Yes / نعم
- No / کلا
- 31. If yes, what kind of help was needed. [check box]

- psychosocial support, / دعم نفسي واجتماعي
- healthcare, / رعاية صحية
- education, / تعليم
- renovation, / ترميم
- housing, / إسكان

- أموال نقدية / ,cash
- food, / مواد غذائية
- WASH (water sanitation and hygiene) / مواد تنظيف (تعقيم المياه والنظافة العامة /
- Employment / فرصة عمل
- In Kind Grant / مساعدة عينية
- Other / غير ذلك

v. Transparency / الشفافية

32. From a scale of 1 to 5, did you know how and where to request information about support you might have been eligible for.

- 1 Complicated and unclear / 1 معقدة وغير واضحة
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5 Simple and Clear / 5 بسيطة وواضحة
- 33. From a scale from 1 to 5: you were able to access all the information you required to apply for support

- 1 Complicated and unclear / 1 معقدة وغير واضحة
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5 Simple and Clear / 5 بسيطة وواضحة
- 34. From a scale 1 to 5: aid providers responded to your request for information

- 1 Complicated and unclear / 1 معقدة وغير واضحة
- 2
- 3
- 4
- بسيطة وواضحة 5 Simple and Clear / 5
- 35. From a scale 1 to 5: you were able to track the disbursement of the support

- 1 Complicated and unclear / 1 معقدة وغير واضحة
- 2
- 3
- 4
- بسيطة وواضحة 5 / Simple and Clear
- 36. On a scale from 1 to 5 rate the process of applying disbursement.

- 1 Complicated and unclear / 1 معقدة وغير واضحة
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5 Simple and Clear / 5 بسيطة وواضحة
- 37. The distribution of aid was

- 1 completely biased / 1 متحيزة تمامًا
- 2 somehow biased / 2 متحيزة بعض الشيء 2
- 3 undecided / 3 مقبولة
- عادلة بعض الشيء 4 somehow fair / 4
- 5 Completely fair / 5 عادلة جدًا
- 6 I Don't Know / 6 لا أعرف
- 38. Were the selection criteria to benefit from the aid clearly explained to you by the aid providers?
- 1 No / 1 75
- 5 Yes / 5

•

vi. Strengthening Social Cohesion and Conflict Prevention

تعزيز التماسك الاجتماعي ومنع النزاعات

39. Do you believe that the aid intervention played a role in initiating healthy relationships between you (general public) & the civil society actors (aid providers)?

هل تعتقد أنّ المساعدة ساهمت في إر ساء علاقات صحية بينك (عامة الناس) وبين الجهات الفاعلة في المجتمع المدني (مقدمي المساعدة)؟

- 1 Strongly disagree / 1 لأ أو افق أبدًا
- 2 Disagree / 2 لا أوافق
- 3 Neutral (Neither agree nor disagree) / 3 محايد (لا أوافق ولا أعارض 3 / المحايد العرض 3 المحايد العرض 3 المحايد العرض 3 المحايد العرض 3 العرض 5 ال
- 4 Agree / 4 أوافق

- 5 Strongly Agree / 5 أوافق بشدة
- 40. In your opinion, the aid intervention enhanced your feeling of belonging to your Society/area/neighborhood?

```
هل برأيك ساهمت المساعدة في تعزيز شعورك بالانتماء إلى مجتمعك / منطقتك / الحي الذي تعيش فيه؟
```

- 1 Strongly disagree / 1 لا أوافق أبدًا
- 2 Disagree / 2 لا أوافق
- 3 Neutral (Neither agree nor disagree) / 3 محايد (لا أوافق ولا أعارض 3 محايد اله أوافق ولا أعارض 3 المحايد اله أعارض 3 المحايد (المحايد اله أعارض 3 المحايد اله أعارض 4 المحايد المحايد اله أعارض 4 المحايد المحايد اله أعارض 4 المحايد المحايد
- 4 Agree / 4
- 5 Strongly Agree / 5
- 41. In your opinion the aid intervention strengthened the feelings of cooperation, support and solidarity with fellow Lebanese and non-Lebanese citizens in your area/neighborhood.

- 1 Strongly disagree / 1 لا أوافق أبدًا
- 2 Disagree / 2 لا أوافق
- 3 Neutral (Neither agree nor disagree) / 3 محايد (لا أوافق ولا أعارض 3 /
- 4 Agree / 4 أوافق
- 5 Strongly Agree / 5 أوافق بشدة
- 42. In your opinion the aid intervention was distributed equally among PoBB?

- 1 Strongly disagree / 1 لأ أو افق أبدًا
- 2 Disagree / 2
- 3 Neutral (Neither agree nor disagree) / 3 محايد (لا أوافق ولا أعارض 3 /
- 4 Agree / 4 أوافق
- 5 Strongly Agree / 5 أوافق بشدة
- 43. In your opinion the aid intervention included minority groups and individuals (ethnic, religious, handicapped, women)

- 1 Strongly disagree / 1 لا أوافق أبدًا
- 2 Disagree / 2 لا أوافق
- 3 Neutral (Neither agree nor disagree) / 3 محايد (لا أوافق ولا أعارض 3 /
- 4 Agree / 4 أوافق
- 5 Strongly Agree / 5 أوافق بشدة

vii. Impact and Sustainability / التأثير والاستدامة

44. Are you able to benefit from the received aid till today?

- 1 not at all / 1 كلا على الإطلاق
- 2 somehow / 2 بعض الشيء
- 3 acceptable / 3 مقبول
- 4 considerably / 4 میر 4 بشکل کبیر
- 5 all the time / 5 أغلب الوقت
- 45. Do you still need aid in relation to the Port of Beirut Explosion recovery?

- Yes / نعم
- No / کلا / No
- 46. If yes, what kind of help was needed? [check box]

- psychosocial support, / دعم نفسي واجتماعي
- healthcare, / رعاية صحية
- education, / تعليم
- renovation, / ترميم
- housing, / اسكان
- أموال نقدية / ,cash
- food, / مواد غذائية
- WASH (water sanitation and hygiene) / مواد تنظيف (تعقيم المياه والنظافة العامة /
- Employment / فرصة عمل
- In Kind Grant / مساعدة عينية
- Other / غير ذلك /
- 47. If the received aid is renovation/construction of a business, ask, did the Appeal contribute to economic recovery of your business?

إذا كانت المساعدة المستلمة عبارة عن ترميم / بناء مركز عمل، هل ساهمت المساعدة في إنعاش وضع عملك الاقتصادي؟

- 1 not at all / 1
- 2 somehow / 2 بعض الشيء
- 3 acceptable / 3 بشكلٍ مقبول
- 4 considerably / 4 بشكلِ كبير
- 5 definitely / 5 بالتأكيد

48.	Do you	have	any	negative	feedback	on	any	of t	he i	aid	prov	iders?
	ساعدات؟	مقدمي الم	ي من ه	، سلبية على أ:	لديك أي تعليقات	هل						

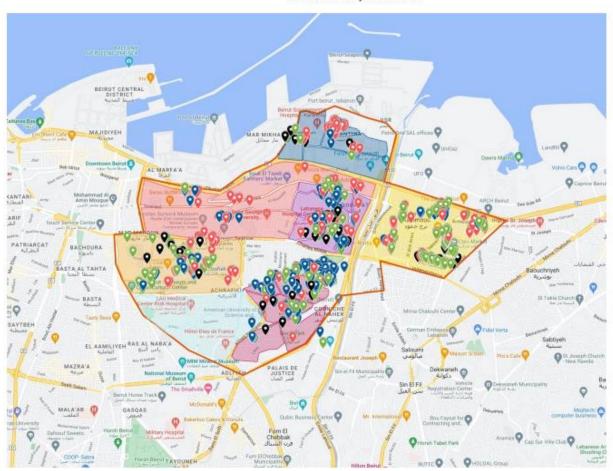
- No / کلا / No
- Yes / نعم
- 49. If yes explain please, / إذا كانت الإجابة نعم، يرجى تحديدها

viii. Cooperation and Coordination

- 50. Have you been asked to fill needs assessment survey by several aid providers?
- 1 Yes
- 5 No
- 51. There is a clear coordination mechanism for aid under crisis mode.
- 5 Yes
- 1 No
- 52. Were you referred to benefit from a service from one NGO by another?
- 5 Yes
- 1 No

Appendix B: Map of Areas where Aid was Received

PR# 10 Aid Survey Scan In Beirut



Area where aid was received					
	Frequency/count	Percent			
Achrafieh	172	43%			
Ain El Mreisseh	0	0%			
Bourj Hammoud	63	15.75%			
Karantina	58	14.50%			
Karm El Zaytoun	54	13.50%			
Geitawi	22	5.50%			
Mar Mikhael	10	2.50%			
Rmeil	8	2%			
Other	8	2%			
Gemmayze	7	1.75%			
Badawi	2	0.50%			
Al Marfaa	1	0.25%			
Saifi	1	0.25%			
Sassine / Mar Mitr	2	0.5%			

Sioufi	1	0.25%
Sodeco	1	0.25%
St. Georges - Roum	1	0.25%

Other Area Specification						
	Frequency/count	Percent				
Al-Azariye	1	12.50%				
Street Gen. Gouraud	1	12.50%				
Horsh Thabit	1	12.50%				
Zahrat EL Ehsan	1	12.50%				
Armenia Street	1	12.50%				
Abdel Fattah Hememde Street	1	12.50%				
Nah El Moot	1	12.50%				