MAP International Responds to Beirut Blast, Partners with Project Hope and UPS Foundation to send Disaster Relief

Brunswick, GA, August 26, 2020 -- MAP International, a Georgia-based global health organization, is responding to urgent requests for health supplies and medicines following the explosion that rocked Beirut, Lebanon, just over three weeks ago.

On August 4, 2020, 2,750 tons of ammonium nitrate that was stored at the port in Beirut caused an explosion that ripped the city to shreds, including several popular areas: Mar-Mikhael, Gemmayzeh, and Achrafieh. To date, the death toll has risen to 181, over 6,000 people have been injured, approximately 3,000 people have been displaced, and many more are missing.

Lebanon is in the midst of an ongoing economic crisis, they are dealing with governmental instability and the Syrian refugee crisis, and they are battling the COVID-19 pandemic. Coupled with these other current crises, the Beirut blast has wreaked havoc on an already vulnerable and struggling city.

In addition to suddenly forcing thousands of people into homelessness, the blast also destroyed grain silos, causing further food security issues. Many migrant workers have been forced into the streets, with no way to return home. Anger and frustration over the government’s inaction have led to protests.

From a public health standpoint, the situation is dire. Three hospitals were destroyed in the blast and five others were severely damaged. A large stockpile of medicines and vaccines that were being stored at the port was also destroyed, and there is an urgent need for chronic disease and cancer medications. At least 10 containers of PPE were lost in the explosion as well.

MAP International is working with Project Hope to send Interagency Emergency Health Kits (IEHKs), and the UPS Foundation has generously agreed to provide air freight for this response. One IEHK contains enough health and hygiene supplies to serve 20,000 people for 90 days, and MAP has been able to send two IEHKs to date.

“I’d like to add my thanks and appreciation to UPS for providing the airfreight of much needed medicines and supplies to Lebanon. We are grateful for UPS continued support and partnership,” said Steve Stirling, President and CEO of MAP International.
MAP International has received an additional request for 5,000 DHKs (Disaster Health Kits), which is being processed, and MAP is anticipating additional responses from UPS. One DHK from MAP can support one person living in a shelter for an entire week. MAP DHKs include antiseptic wipes, soap, toothbrushes, toothpaste, and other essential items such as basic first aid supplies to help prevent secondary illnesses and even death.

Rated as one of the top charities in America by Forbes magazine, MAP International distributed the equivalent of 44 million medical treatments to 13.3 million people in 98 countries in 2019 alone. The organization has worked to provide hope to millions of people around the world for over 65 years. They bring medicines and health supplies to those in need so people might experience life to the fullest. Please visit www.map.org to learn more.