**THE danish emergency relief fund**

**Alert note**

**Guide to submission of alerts**

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

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

**Instructions:**

To raise an alert please complete section A: Basic information

And

* section B for rapid onset humanitarian crisis

or

* section C for slow onset humanitarian crisis

or

* section D for spike in a protracted humanitarian crisis

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

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

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

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| Organisation: | *DIGNITY – Danish Institute Against Torture* |
| Contact person name: | Giorgio Caracciolo  |
| Contact person position: | Senior Regional Manager |
| Contact person’s email: | gca@dignity.dk |
| Contact person’s tlf: | +45 60109413 |
| Contact person’s skype address: |  |
| Type of crisis: | * *slow onset humanitarian crisis (please fill out section B)*
* *X rapid onset humanitarian crisis (please fill out section C)*
* *spike in protracted humanitarian crisis (please fill out section D)*
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| Affected country(-ies): | Lebanon |
| Affected area(s): | Beirut, Lebanon |
| Affected population(s): | 135 persons killed, 5.000 injured and 300.000 people displaced from their homes  |
| Please describe the nature of your organisation’s local presence and capacities in the affected area(s): | DIGNITY with its partner Restart Center for Rehabilitation of Victims of Violence and Torture works to respond to the increased demands for rapid mental health services and psychosocial support. Restart Center is a local, non-governmental organization that was established in 1996 in Tripoli, North Lebanon. The work of Restart Center provides context to health-based rehabilitation within all pillars of the national and regional fight against torture and violence: prevention, accountability and reparation. Since 1996, the Center has been providing specialized mental health services to survivors of torture and violence in BML and North Lebanon (NL) and has served around 27,000 individuals to date, particularly SGBV and torture survivors, persons deprived of their liberty in places of detention, refugees, trauma survivors, children with special needs, vulnerable women, vulnerable host communities, children and youth affected and/or involved in armed conflicts, persons with mental disorders and other vulnerable groups. |
| Please provide a brief description of the crisis:  | The deadly and devastating chemical explosion on August 4th that killed at least 135 persons, injured 5.000 and left 300.000 people displaced from their homes in Beirut[[1]](#footnote-1), puts extraordinary pressures on primary health structures. The explosion left homes and business destroyed, risking the security, sanitation and livelihoods of the city’s inhabitants.Several health facilities were damaged by the explosion as Saint George Hospital University Medical Center, and Hopital des Soeurs du Rosare, were ravaged, killing and injuring patients and staff, and adding to current strains already imposed on the official health structures due to the COVID-19 crisis[[2]](#footnote-2), where hospitals are overwhelmed and front-line workers exhausted.Adding to the socio-economic crisis faced by Lebanon, the August 4th explosion occurs at a time where Beirut’s most vulnerable citizens risk being left behind.There is a concrete risk that such sudden level of distress and trauma – added to several months of durenes (lack of water, electricity, COVID-19 crisis, poor economy) may lead the local population as well as local powerholders to destabilise the already fragile socio-political context. Immediate health relief both physical and mental can mitigate such risk.   |
| Please indicate whether you intend to submit a proposal for funding should the DERF be activated for this crisis | *Yes* |

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

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| b.1 Where is the crisis? *Describe the areas affected*The explosion happened near the Port of Beirut, flattening structures in a two-mile radius. b.2 What is the nature of the crisis? *Please describe the type of crisis (e.g. earth quake, other natural disaster occurring without warning) and describe potential local social and political implications (e.g. for specific target groups).*Not only are hospital services unavailable here and now, the explosion will also add to a crisis of unemployment and food security, as the port stored 85 % of Lebanon’s grain supply which was rendered inedible by the explosion[[3]](#footnote-3). NGOs have previously raised the dire situation in Beirut, as the economic crisis pushed 500.000 children into ‘a struggle for survival’[[4]](#footnote-4), due to increasing food prices, a crisis that will only deepen with the recent events. The explosion puts additional strain on all official welfare structures in Beirut, and its consequences will impact the most vulnerable the hardestb.3 What information do you have about the situation? What is the source of that information? *Please provide available information on**affected populations including specific vulnerable groups and access to these* *urgent emergency and/or protection needs* *other actors responding and coordinating (including government, community structures, the UN, INGOs)*Refugees and marginalized families and children are left most vulnerable in the current situation. Natural disasters, to which the August 4 explosion can be compared, are correlated with spikes in individual-level vulnerability, particularly in terms interpersonal violence within households, disproportionately impacting women, ethnic and racial minorities. More concretely, the explosion has led less housing available, and adds new barriers for access of vulnerable groups to basic health services[[5]](#footnote-5). Loss of loved ones, failure of social system, collapse of social cohesion and massive destruction causes increased mental distress among already vulnerable groups which in turn may result in increased violence[[6]](#footnote-6).  There are reports that less urgent patients are rejected at hospitals. Those suffering from mental health disorders and other non-urgent patients risk being overlooked in the given situation*Please insert link(s) and/or attach relevant documentation to the alert email*b.3.1. Describe as specific as possible when the crisis has started. August 4th 2020[[7]](#footnote-7).b.3.2. How could DERF grants make a difference for the crisis affected population?*Please consider the following points:** *Rapid disbursement:*
* *Short intervention (0-9 month)*
* *Meeting needs of hard to reach populations not catered for by other donors*

While the international community is actively attempting to raise funds for this extraordinarily life-threatening crisis, the humanitarian response has yet to be established. Rapid disbursement or short interventions could support life-saving interventions for the vulnerable, displaced populations by* contributing to the food security of host and refugee populations
* supporting basic sanitary needs to reduce the risk of COVID-19 contagion (WASH)
* assisting the primary health structures to meet the increased demand for basic mental health services, and to assist in breaking a spike in domestic violence
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1. https://reliefweb.int/report/lebanon/lebanon-beirut-port-explosions-situation-report-no-1-5-august-2020 [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. https://www.nytimes.com/2020/08/05/world/middleeast/beirut-lebanon-explosion.html [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. https://www.nytimes.com/2020/08/05/world/middleeast/beirut-lebanon-explosion.html [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. https://www.savethechildren.net/news/more-half-million-children-beirut-are-struggling-survive [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. Gearhart et al. (2018): The Impact of Natural Disasters on Domestic Violence: An Analysis of Reports of Simple Assault in Florida (1999–2007) <https://www.liebertpub.com/doi/10.1089/vio.2017.0077> [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. Rezaeian (2013): The association between natural disasters and violence: A systematic review of the literature and a call for more epidemiological studies. https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3908534/ [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
7. https://reliefweb.int/report/lebanon/lebanon-beirut-port-explosions-situation-report-no-1-5-august-2020 [↑](#footnote-ref-7)