

**13th MEETING OF THE IHO INTER-REGIONAL COORDINATING COMMITTEE
IHO-IRCC13
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Summary of support for Lebanon after the Beirut explosion

Submitted by:	Regional Hydrographic Commission, Member State or IRCC body
Executive Summary:	MBSHC support for Lebanon after the Beirut explosion
Related Documents:	
Related Projects:	

1. Introduction / Background

After the Beirut port explosion, some countries of this RHC (France, the UK and Italy) provided support to Lebanon, to assist the people and the Lebanese Hydrographic Service (LHS) in the reconstruction of the Beirut port and surroundings.

2. Analysis/Discussion

As the MBSHC Chair, I sent an email to Rear Admiral Jbaly Nazih and Commander Georges Al Darazy on 10th August, expressing condolences of all MBSHC MS for the Ammonium Nitrate explosion that occurred in the Beirut Port, causing hundreds of deaths and thousands of injuries, in addition to the damage caused in the city. They were also informed that the IHO was ready to collaborate in whatever way it was needed, from a hydrographic and navigational viewpoint, and if it was necessary, the Disaster Action Plan approved by the MBSHC in 2014, according to IHO Circular 01/2014, would be activated. Then, I forwarded the email to MBSHC MS.

SHOM and UKHO answered very quickly, reporting the following:

- The French government was in contact with Lebanese government at all times after the accident. A French Navy ship, LHD Tonnerre, with 4 SHOM hydrographers on board, sailed to the port of Beirut to provide assistance to the population and actively participate in the reconstruction of the Beirut port (arrival date 13 August).

- The UK government had contacted the Lebanese government previously to provide support and the UK Secretary of State authorised, on 6 August, the dispatch of HMS Enterprise and a hydrographic vessel to assess damage, conduct surveys in Beirut port and support Lebanon in rebuilding its infrastructure (arrival date 10 August).

Since 22 August, ITALY deployed over 500 soldiers, 2 ships with on-board helicopters, a field hospital in Beirut port with specialized Army personnel, devices for the removal of rubble, CBRN cores, 1 tool for transport in biocontainment also by helicopter, a team of the Navy Underwater Operating Group, and hydrographic support for LNHS.

The U.S. Navy offered their hydrographic assets to provide any necessary survey support to Lebanon, although it did not become necessary due to the aforementioned support operations.

3. Conclusions

The MBSHC Chair was in contact with LHS after the Beirut Port explosion. LHS authorities stated their thanks to MBSHC for their disposition to assist Lebanon. Some MS (France, the UK and Italy) of this RHC provided support with:

- Joint surveys of Beirut quays and basins.
- Production of temporary charts to be used in addition to nautical charts
- Updates of charts and ENC.

4. Recommendations

It is highly recommended to raise awareness of the disaster action plan for MBSHC, and conduct capacity building webinars/workshops on disaster response.

5. Justification and Impacts

NTR

6. Action Required of IRCC

The IRCC is invited to:

- a. note this report.