

Beirut explosion has increased water challenges and networks need \$60 to 80 million to fix

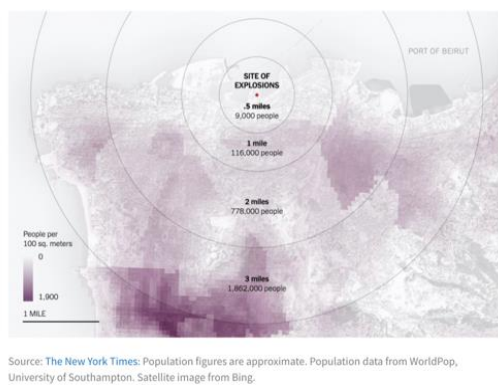


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The Beirut explosion, which destroyed more than 300,000 houses and affected more than a million people, will also hit water supply in the affected areas, which are within a 5km radius and inhabited by more than a million people. As a result of the intensity of the explosion, which left a hole with 43 m deep and 100 m in diameter. The explosion with a magnitude of 3.3-4 on Richter scale, according to seismic monitoring centers in the region, will inevitably have led to the damaging, dismantling and burning of water pipes and thus affect water supply in quantity and quality terms as the public network is unable to deliver water in the same quantity and quality as before.

The Middle East Water Forum (MEWF) experts have identified the length of the networks in that region in the different diameters and sizes of the main and submain pipelines through population density and infrastructure maps to be about 600-800 km, which will cost to fix about \$60-80 million. Until these networks are repaired and rehabilitated, water quality must be monitored and the principles of water crisis management to be followed to prevent any other disasters.

The rehabilitation works to fix the damaged networks and the needed maintenance may be a priority for the international community to help the people of Beirut to restore their minimum human rights, namely drinking water.

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