



LEBANON CRISIS

HUMANITARIAN COALITION RESPONSE

ONE YEAR REPORT – AUGUST 2021

**HUMANITARIAN
COALITION** 
Together saving more lives





CONTENTS

Acronyms.....	3	Impacts of COVID-19	9
Members	3	Food Security	10
Crisis and Response.....	4	Shelter and Non-Food Items.....	11
Implementing Agencies and Local Partners	5	Water, Sanitation and Hygiene	12
People Reached in First Year.....	6	Protection	12
Lebanon on the Brink.....	7	Livelihoods	14
Health	8	Education.....	15
		Disaster Response in the Ongoing Crisis	15

Photo : Doctors of the World
Cover Photo : World Vision

ACRONYMS

BDS	Business Development Services
CP	Child Protection
GBV	Gender Based Violence
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
MHPSS	Mental Health and Psychosocial Support
MoPH	Ministry of Public Health
MSME	Micro, Small and Medium Enterprise
NFI	Non-Food Item
PFA	Psychological First Aid
PHCC	Primary Healthcare Centre
PPE	Personal Protective Equipment
PSS	Psychosocial Support
SE	Social Enterprise
SGBV	Sexual and Gender-based Violence
SMEB	Survival Minimum Expenditure Basket
SRHR	Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights
WASH	Water Sanitation and Hygiene

MEMBERS

- Action Against Hunger (ACF)
- Canadian Foodgrains Bank
- Canadian Lutheran World Relief (CLWR)
- CARE Canada
- Doctors of the World
- Humanity & Inclusion (HI)
- Islamic Relief Canada (IRC)
- Oxfam Canada
- Oxfam-Québec
- Plan International Canada
- Save the Children Canada
- World Vision Canada



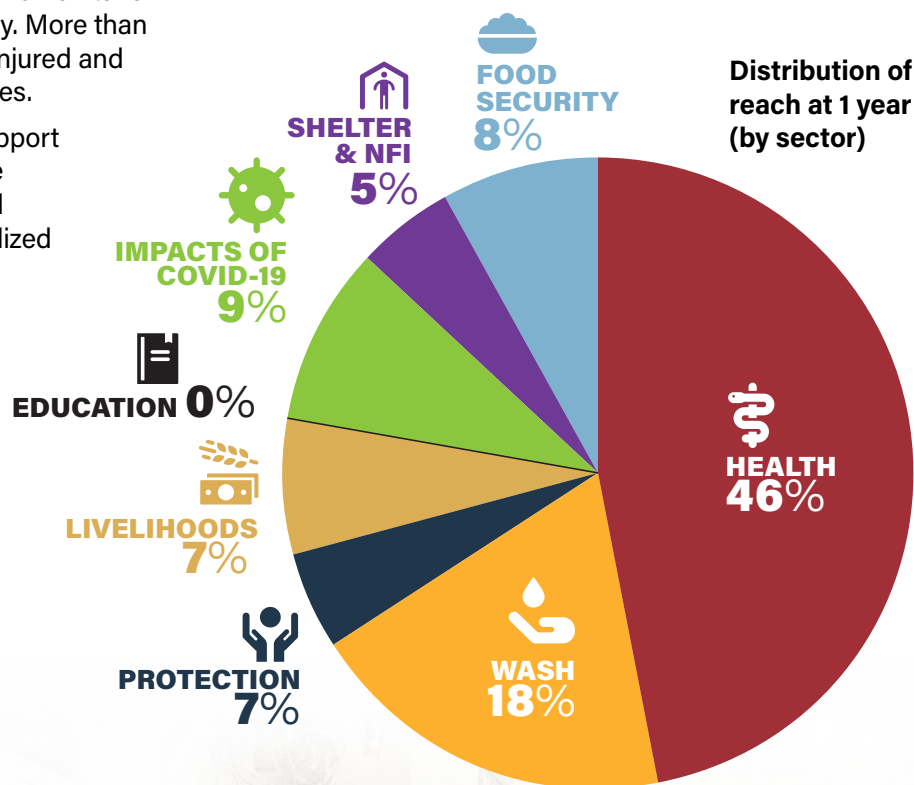
CRISIS AND RESPONSE

On August 4th 2020, an explosion in the port of Beirut, Lebanon caused devastation to the city and surrounding areas, exacerbating the humanitarian challenges already facing the country. More than 200 people were killed, 6,500 were injured and some 300,000 people lost their homes.

The Humanitarian Coalition, with support from the Government of Canada, the Canadian Lebanese community, and corporate and media partners, mobilized Canadians from every province and territory to respond to the crisis.

The appeal for Lebanon raised \$11 million in funds from generous donors and corporate partners. The Government of Canada further contributed \$8 million in matching funds, for a total combined impact of \$19 million.

The member agencies of the Humanitarian Coalition responded immediately with emergency relief and began implementing recovery programs for the most vulnerable populations.



IMPLEMENTING AGENCIES AND LOCAL PARTNERS

LOCAL AGENCY	COALITION MEMBER LOCAL COUNTERPART
Arc-en-Ciel	Action Against Hunger Lebanon
SHIFT Social Innovation Hub	CARE International in Lebanon
Popular Aid for Relief and Development (PARD)	Canadian Foodgrains Bank member Mennonite Central Committee
Abaad International Orthodox Christian Charities (IOCC) Middle East Council of Churches (MECC)	Canadian Lutheran World Relief partner (through ACT Alliance) Norwegian Church Aid (NCA)
Mousawat	Humanity & Inclusion Lebanon
n/a	Islamic Relief Lebanon
Amel	Médecins du Monde France
Alfanar	Oxfam Lebanon
Amel	Plan International Lebanon
n/a	Save the Children Lebanon
Tabitha for Relief and Development (TRD)	World Vision Lebanon



PEOPLE REACHED IN FIRST YEAR

AGENCY	SHELTER AND NFI (BASIC NEEDS)	FOOD SECURITY	HEALTH (INCL. SRHR AND MHPSS)	WASH	PROTECTION (CP AND SGBV)	EDUCATION	LIVELIHOODS	IMPACTS OF COVID-19	TOTAL
ACF	2,393						660		3,053
CARE					4,264		650		4,914
FOODGRAINS BANK	400	5,500							5,900
CLWR	163	2,476	21,000		1,238				24,877
HI			486						486
ISLAMIC RELIEF	512			9,651	48		167		10,378
DOCTORS OF THE WORLD			22,642					1,475	24,117
OXFAM							4,828		4,828
PLAN			1,801	1,131	1,323	430			4,685
SAVE			180				645		825
WORLD VISION	1,568		845	8,073	44			8,073	18,603
TOTAL REACH	5,036	7,976	46,954	18,855	6,917	430	6,950	9,548	102,666

N.B: For this context, the approximate family size of 4 was utilized to calculate the number of beneficiaries when data was available only at the household level.

The figures above include a small amount of duplication between sectors, in line with beneficiaries' participation in more than one aspect of a member organization's project activities. Coordination between local actors and within sector clusters led to de-duplication efforts, ensuring that participants are not benefitting from the same type of support from different organizations.

Additional activities in the Education and Livelihoods sectors are planned and will be implemented over the coming months.

A total of 102,666 people have been reached so far with assistance from the Humanitarian Coalition



Photo : Islamic Relief

LEBANON ON THE BRINK

Lebanon was already facing several challenges before the blast: an economic and financial crisis, a political crisis, difficult access to water, healthcare and education, and the COVID-19 pandemic. The country is also host to the highest percentage of refugees per capita in the world, putting immense pressure on its already fragile infrastructure and basic services.

In the past year, the situation has only gotten worse. The number of people living in poverty has risen from 30 to more than 50 per cent, and the cost of living is five times higher. In the midst of this economic collapse, people are relying more on outside help.





Credit : Doctors of the World

Mohammad – a port worker – suffered head injuries in the blast. He and his wife Amal and four children were forced to move because of damage to their house. The children became anxious. **Doctors of the World** helped the family find a new place to live, provided psychological support sessions for the children, and enabled Mohammad to get follow-up medical attention.

HEALTH

The port explosion resulted in heavy damage to key health infrastructure, including 23 primary health care centres and four main hospitals. Thousands of people were cut off from their primary health care services, in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, as case numbers were increasing by the day. The devastating physical impacts, trauma, stress, and anxiety caused by the explosion also heightened the need for mental health support and services for people of all ages. The reported results include activities related to primary health care, but also mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) services, as well as sexual and reproductive health (SRHR) services.

CARE provided psychosocial support (PSS) and psychological first aid (PFA) services to 1,781 individuals through outreach activities. They are also providing access to professional

psychotherapists for 13 individuals requiring additional mental health services.

Canadian Lutheran World Relief (CLWR), through their local partner International Orthodox Christian Charities (IOCC), supported the repair and reconstruction of the Rosaire Hospital, which is operated by The Rosary Sisters. This hospital's main purpose is to assist the poor, and they receive an average of 15,000 outpatients and 6,000 inpatients per year. The rehabilitation process is complete and the hospital is now open to the public. CLWR also helped 863 individuals suffering with the negative effects and trauma of the blast on their personal and family lives, through the provision of psychological first aid services.

Humanity & Inclusion (HI) provided 311 physical rehabilitation sessions, 73 assistive devices, and 95 wound kits to 346 individuals

injured by the blast or persons with disabilities affected by the blast. They delivered 222 training sessions on improved functional rehabilitation support to 107 caretakers of people with disabilities during the rehabilitation process. HI also initiated 486 psychological support sessions with individuals through door-to-door canvassing and referred those in need of specialized mental health services for further support. 720 hygiene and dignity kits were also distributed to people reached through HI's health care activities.

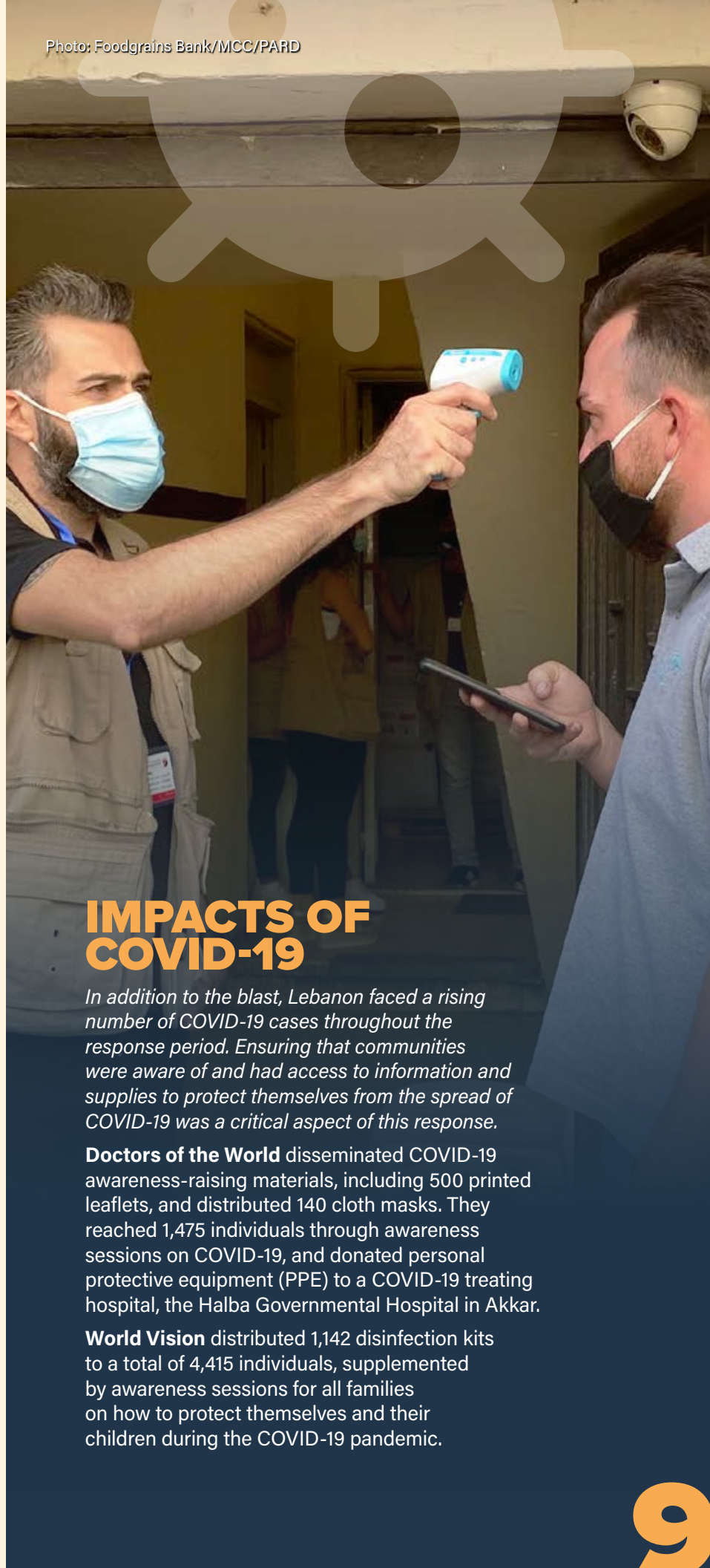
Doctors of the World also delivered two "10,000" medical kits to the Ministry of Public Health (MoPH) in Beirut, supporting the needs of 20,000 individuals with medical and essential supplies at 66 Primary Health Care Centres (PHCC) and 1 hospital. They also conducted 629 home visits and a total of 1,532 mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS)

interventions, including 1,293 individual consultations with their psychologists and case managers. They also provided an additional 400 individuals with MHPSS services through their walk-in clinic, and established a referral system for specialized mental health support, which served 105 people with 198 individual referrals for services. They facilitated MHPSS awareness sessions for 477 individuals, which included information on well-being during the COVID-19 pandemic, and a further 5 staff care sessions for NGO frontline workers.

Plan International, alongside their partner Amel, conducted awareness sessions on topics related to gender, gender-based violence (GBV), menstrual cycle and hygiene during the menstrual cycle, for 978 adolescent girls and 823 young women through WhatsApp groups. They also operated 4 adolescent-friendly spaces where 212 adolescents, 20 young women and 20 women have participated in recreational activities such as handicrafts. Further to this, prenatal vitamins (10,000 packs of Vitamin D and 10,000 packs of Zinc) were purchased and made available to women utilizing services in Amel's health centres. Reproductive Health commodities were also procured and distributed in the centres, including 1,000 condoms, 1,000 copper Ts (intrauterine devices), and 1,460 pregnancy tests.

Save the Children conducted MHPSS sessions with 100 adolescents and 80 caregivers, helping them to cope with stress and trauma.

World Vision implemented community-based PSS activities for 504 children, helping them to identify and cope with psychological distress. In conjunction, they delivered parenting sessions to 184 caregivers, helping them with stigma and social exclusion, managing their stress, identifying coping mechanisms to help with their children's psychological distress, and more. A total of 157 caregivers were also provided with PFA services.



IMPACTS OF COVID-19

In addition to the blast, Lebanon faced a rising number of COVID-19 cases throughout the response period. Ensuring that communities were aware of and had access to information and supplies to protect themselves from the spread of COVID-19 was a critical aspect of this response.

Doctors of the World disseminated COVID-19 awareness-raising materials, including 500 printed leaflets, and distributed 140 cloth masks. They reached 1,475 individuals through awareness sessions on COVID-19, and donated personal protective equipment (PPE) to a COVID-19 treating hospital, the Halba Governmental Hospital in Akkar.

World Vision distributed 1,142 disinfection kits to a total of 4,415 individuals, supplemented by awareness sessions for all families on how to protect themselves and their children during the COVID-19 pandemic.

FOOD SECURITY

Following all major disasters, ensuring access and availability of food is critical for the affected communities. The damage sustained to storefronts in neighbourhoods near the port meant that thousands of people could no longer purchase food supplies from local shops or markets. Families affected by the blast were provided with cooked meals, food parcels, and emergency cash assistance to ensure they did not turn to negative coping strategies — such as skipping meals or relying on less nutritional foods — for survival.

Action Against Hunger distributed one-time emergency cash assistance of \$300 USD to 478 households. These households were identified for support based on nutritional vulnerability assessments. Recipient households also received basic sensitization on prevention of COVID-19 infection.

Canadian Foodgrains Bank, through local partner Popular Aid for Relief and Development (PARC), provided monthly food assistance to 4,500 individuals from October 2020 to April 2021, initially through food parcels and then switching to a voucher-based system after three

months. In May, they increased the number of people receiving monthly food assistance to 5,500 individuals due to project cost savings. Each voucher is valued at 220,000 LBP per person, but this value is adjusted to reflect the recent inflation, according to the Survival Minimum Expenditure Basket (SMEB) in Lebanon.

CLWR's partner, NCA, reached 768 people through the distribution of 27,895 cooked meals, and provided an additional 1,708 people with food baskets.



Alice Harant Gobanian, a 65-year-old widow, began receiving food vouchers through **Canadian Foodgrains Bank** after the blast in Beirut, to help her feed her daughter and 7 grandchildren. Now she can buy nutritious food like meat, chicken, milk and fruit. She says she is thankful they can have three meals per day.

SHELTER AND NON-FOOD ITEMS (NFI)

The explosion caused major damage to the surrounding neighbourhoods, including thousands of family homes and apartments. People in the affected areas were provided with emergency cash assistance to fund the repair of their dwellings and replace lost or damaged household items.

Canadian Foodgrains Bank local partner, PARD, distributed 400 kitchen kits to families whose

homes and belongings were damaged by the explosion.

CLWR's partner, the Norwegian Church Alliance (NCA), reached 163 households with unconditional cash assistance (\$150 USD).

Islamic Relief repaired 133 homes and apartments damaged during the blast. These efforts have helped 512 individuals to regain safe and appropriate living spaces.

World Vision rehabilitated a total of 56 dwellings, benefitting 215 individuals from vulnerable communities. They also disbursed multi-purpose cash assistance to 1,353 individuals, over the course of 3 months.

Ahlam, her husband and two children were already having trouble making ends meet when the explosion in the port caused serious damage to their home. **World Vision** repaired their roof, replaced the old ceiling, installed a new ceramic floor, painted the walls and did other needed repairs. "I feel like we live in a real home now," she says.



WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE

Damage sustained during the blast also affected water storage systems, and resulted in the loss of basic hygiene items for many families. Many communities requested the disbursement of contextually-appropriate hygiene items that would meet their needs until local shops were repaired and reopened.

Islamic Relief (IR) repaired damaged water tanks and where needed, installed new household tanks with 1,000L capacity, benefitting 139 individuals. IR also distributed hygiene kits to 9,651 people, which contained items identified by the local community as necessary and appropriate.

Plan International delivered 1,131 emergency hygiene kits, which included menstrual pads and diapers for children and the elderly.

World Vision distributed 915 hygiene kits, reaching 3,658 people in need of personal hygiene items.



Photo : Islamic Relief

Islamic Relief distributed hygiene kits to 9,651 people, containing items identified by the local community as necessary and appropriate.

PROTECTION

Protection of vulnerable members of the community is critical in the wake of all disasters. The trauma, stress, and anxiety triggered by the blast, in confluence with the economic, social, and political pressures that Lebanon was already facing, and strict lockdowns to mitigate the spread of COVID-19, led to an increase in protection needs. NGOs worked in a coordinated manner to provide services and resources for

individuals experiencing sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV), or other forms of violence, coercion, or marginalization in their households or communities. Activities completed under the Protection sector are far-ranging, and the results below are inclusive of efforts to provide child protection (CP) services, and supports for survivors of sexual and gender-based violence.

CARE reached 4,246 individuals with protection support. They disbursed one-time emergency cash assistance (\$200 USD) to 41 individuals and 3-month cash-for-protection assistance (\$200 USD per month, \$600 USD total) to 108 individuals. The people who received cash assistance were identified through community centres, or referred to CARE's program by other service providers.

CARE, through its social workers, also conducted awareness raising sessions tailored to the needs of targeted individuals and based on their age and gender. Some 2,433 individuals attended one or more of these sessions that covered topics around the different types of violence, including domestic violence, and how to report it. Other topics included dealing with emotions, how to boost self-esteem, "My Body Belongs to Me" on sexual harassment, and early marriage.

CLWR's partner, Abaad, provided case management support for

375 female and child protection cases and facilitated referrals to appropriate service providers.

Islamic Relief conducted 3 training sessions with local Christian and Muslim faith leaders, reaching 48 leaders with information about child protection and safeguarding.

This approach is being pursued with the view of enabling faith leaders to spread these important messages within their congregations and communities.

Plan International and their local partner Amel provided

protection case management to 101 survivors and children at risk of violence. They also completed their first cycle of PSS activities with 567 participants via WhatsApp groups, and they delivered 665 PSS kits directly to the children who were participating so that they could use the contents of the kits during the online sessions.

World Vision, and their local partner Tabitha Relief for Development (TRD), made 54 referrals to special services for child protection concerns.

When she heard the explosion, 16-year-old Fatima immediately had a flashback to the airstrikes in Aleppo, Syria. Her whole family felt unsafe and anxious again.

To cope, she enrolled in activities provided by **Plan International**, where she had space to unleash her creativity and express her emotions. She also learned to accept her adolescent body and set boundaries for her own protection.



LIVELIHOODS

The explosion severely damaged the Port of Beirut, the main logistical entry and exit point of a country heavily reliant on imports, and impacted the productive sectors and small to medium-size businesses. Lebanon was already struggling under hyperinflation and currency devaluation, while the blast added a tremendous strain on the country's general economy, and perpetuated a widespread loss of livelihoods. Upon learning that affected communities wanted support to reopen their neighbourhood shops, many agencies elected to offer financial assistance and technical support to micro-, small-, and medium-sized enterprises in Beirut, in an effort to revitalize the local economy, increase job opportunities, and extend benefits to shop owners, employees, and their families and communities.

Action Against Hunger provided financial assistance and tailored technical coaching to 44 micro-, small-, and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) in the Geitawi and Qobayat neighborhoods. The funding amounts ranged in value between \$1,500 and \$5,000 USD, depending on the needs of the business. Recipient enterprises also received sensitization on the prevention of COVID-19 in their business practices.

CARE worked with 155 business owners and employees through their financial and business training supports for 48 MSMEs. The MSMEs

received cash grants of \$2,000 USD and Business Development Services (BDS) trainings focused on financial literacy and record keeping, procurement process, outsourcing, qualified human resources, business-to-business sales, customer service, marketing plans, and risk management.

Islamic Relief reached 167 people through the distribution of livestock, feed and vaccines to small-hold farmers in rural communities. They shifted away from planned support for MSMEs, and have chosen to supplement their livestock distributions and shelter repairs, in line with feedback from project participants and coordination with other NGOs.

Oxfam selected 36 MSMEs for financial and BDS support. Their support for Social Enterprises (SEs) reached 5 of 6 selected organizations with grants of \$20,000 USD, benefitting 330 individuals involved with the SEs. Oxfam's local partner, Alfamar, designed a tailored incubation process that used one-on-one management support and delivered 36 technical support workshops online, reaching 4,828 people.

Save the Children reached 160 households with multi-purpose cash assistance valued at \$985 USD per household. In coordination, they also registered 100 adolescents from these households into various livelihoods training activities, including: life skills training, one-on-one counseling, and English language lessons.

World Vision mapped micro-businesses that required financial support to repair damage and restart their businesses, targeting 100 micro-enterprises for cash support of \$800 USD.

Photo : Oxfam

Hanaa Khalil, sous-chef at SET for Food community kitchen, says when she heard the second blast, her thoughts turned to her children as she screamed: "What is happening?". **Oxfam** worked with local partner Alfamar to help SET re-open to provide food for disaster-affected families, and employment to vulnerable people.



EDUCATION

The blast caused damage to 160 schools, resulting in more than 85,000 students across Beirut being unable to attend classes. Rehabilitation of damaged schools was a priority for the upcoming 2021-22 school year, in addition to ensuring that school-aged children have access to necessary school supplies.

Plan International completed rehabilitation of the Sainte Louise-Clemenceau School, and the school

will be ready and safe to welcome 400 pupils and 30 teachers in September 2021. The reconstruction works included repair of damaged doors and windows, electrical work, and repair of toilets and the sewage system. In preparation for the school year, Plan will distribute kits containing relevant school supplies to 16,500 students across 37 public schools.

DISASTER RESPONSE IN THE ONGOING CRISIS

In the first year of relief and recovery operations, the threatening presence of COVID-19 and the economic volatility have forced the 12 member agencies and their partners on the ground to adapt to new realities while maintaining focus on responding to the needs of the population.

To ensure the long term effectiveness and sustainability of the programming outcomes, all Humanitarian Coalition members work through Lebanese partners and sister organizations that understand the needs of the population and have

established relationships with actors in the various sectors of intervention (see table on page 4).

Additionally, our investments in mental health, training of youth, and small business recovery, among others, are helping families and communities develop the skills and capacity to provide for their own livelihoods.

And although the programs funded through the Lebanon crisis appeal will come to an end in 2021, many of our members will continue to support the people of Lebanon through other means as the situation evolves.



**HUMANITARIAN
COALITION** 
Together saving more lives



39 McArthur Ave.
Ottawa, ON
K1L 8L7, Canada

1-855-461-2154

info@humanitariancoalition.ca

humanitariancoalition.ca

With the generous support of the Government of Canada

Canada 