

A photograph showing a woman and a young girl in hijabs looking out a window. The woman is in the foreground, wearing a white hijab and a dark top, with her hands clasped. The girl is behind her, wearing a white hijab, glasses, and a blue hoodie with the text 'Real Superhero ANGEL' on it. The background is a bright window with light streaming in.

# LEBANON CRISIS—OVERVIEW

On August 4, 2020, the explosion in the port of Beirut, Lebanon, caused the death of at least 218 people and injured 7,000. The blast destroyed the port and damaged homes, businesses and infrastructure.

Thanks to the generosity of Canadian donors, and a matching grant from the Canadian government, we were able to provide almost \$12 million in humanitarian aid for people affected by the blast.

We delivered immediate and longer-term assistance, in large part thanks to an already established network of trusted and capable local partners. In the immediate aftermath of the blast, our member agencies provided emergency aid

that included home repairs, food, drinking water and health care. Throughout 2021, the emphasis shifted to more long-term initiatives, such as assisting small businesses to get back up and running and other livelihood supports.

Despite significant challenges, including COVID lockdowns, currency fluctuation and the instability of power sources, the number of people reached exceeded our initial plans, and the level of satisfaction among beneficiaries was very high.

Although our members initially planned to reach 89,555 individuals, altogether a total of 143,902 people received assistance.

Canada

# ACTIVITIES AND RESULTS

## FOOD AND BASIC NEEDS

- **Monthly food vouchers** for 5,500 people were distributed in 2021.
- 1,711 families received **cash assistance** ranging from one-time to monthly allocations.

## WATER AND HYGIENE

- 8,073 people attended **hygiene-awareness** sessions.
- 8,412 family and individual **hygiene kits** were distributed to 24,605 people.
- Home repairs also included 1,142 **disinfection kits** for 4,415 people.

## SHELTER

- **283 homes and 4 shops were repaired** in a slum area.
- 273 households received **cash-for-shelter** to repair their homes.
- 264 households received support to repair their **plumbing**.

## HEALTH

- A Beirut **hospital** serving an underprivileged population was rehabilitated.
- **Medical supplies and essential medications** were donated to 1 hospital and 66 primary health care centres.
- 21,558 patients received **health care**.
- 178 persons with physical disabilities participated in **rehabilitation** sessions.
- 73 persons affected by the blast benefited from **mobility and orthopedic devices**.
- 95 individuals injured by the blast received **wound kits**.
- 512 educational materials and **COVID-19 protection and prevention** measures were distributed, along with 264 reusable fabric masks.

- 22,235 packs of **vitamins and minerals** were provided to pregnant women and 4,460 **contraceptive products** were distributed to women and men.

## MENTAL HEALTH

- Door-to-door **psychological support** was provided to 486 persons with injuries or disabilities and/or elderly.
- 4,149 people received **mental health** and psychosocial support services.
- 2,662 children at risk received **psychological and protection support**.
- **Self-care sessions** were organized for 60 health workers.

## PROTECTION

- **Positive parenting** training was offered to 486 parents/caregivers.
- 14,015 people received **gender-based violence** awareness training, through educational sessions and a social media campaign.
- **Educational and recreational activities** including crafts, dancing, literacy, arts reached 1,025 girls and young women.

## LIVELIHOODS

- 61 **vaccinated cows** along with 79.8 tons of quality feed were offered to 61 families.
- 100 adolescents were trained in life skills, English as a second language, and basic digital literacy to prepare them for the **job market**.
- **316 micro, small, and medium enterprises** and 6 social enterprises received support and Business Development coaching.

## EDUCATION

- **Student kits** were provided to 14,306 pupils attending 37 public schools.
- **School kits** were distributed to all 55 public schools in Beirut, benefitting 1,733 teachers.

## "THIS HAS HELPED ME COPE"

Mohammad was working at the port in Beirut at the time of the explosion. "I didn't know how to reach my husband until someone told me he was in the hospital," says his wife, Amal.

The family was then forced to leave their damaged home.

"It was a very stressful period," Amal says. "My children, especially the younger ones, were crying more often and wouldn't leave me alone."

Doctors of the World helped the family find a new place to live, and provided psychological support sessions for the children and follow-up medical care for Mohammad.

"They were very helpful," Amal says. "I have noticed improvement in the children's behaviour and the fear has reduced."

"This has helped me cope with all the stress we are facing."



Credit : Doctors of the World

## SPOTLIGHT ON SMALL BUSINESSES

Small businesses, already crippled by devaluation, political instability, lack of power, shortages of supplies and the COVID-19 pandemic, were severely impacted by the explosion in Beirut. Because they form the backbone of the Lebanese economy, rehabilitating their capacity to provide essential goods and services to the population was a priority. It was also a means to ensure the livelihood of their owners, employees and suppliers, and the families who depend on them.

We supported 316 micro, small and medium enterprises and six social enterprises, mainly through financial assistance and coaching. Money was used for building repair, machinery and tools, restocking products, and paying salaries and rent.

Coaching covered topics such as procurement, finances, organization, and marketing principles.

Commercial sectors reached included sewing and fashion, food and baby food processing, honey production, homemade spices, pastry, butchery, digital education, computer science, beauty salons, and recycling centres.

The businesses supported an average of 30 people, taking into account family members of owners and staff, but not including suppliers and other service providers who also benefited from the project. The small business assistance therefore directly benefitted some 10,000 people.



Credit: CLWR