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**LEBANON
EMERGENCY RESPONSE**
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**DISASTER
RESPONSE TEAM**

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small change. big difference

2020 Lebanon Emergency Response

Lebanon Emergency Response

Where:

Beirut, Lebanon

When:

August – December 2020

What We Did:

We worked with other members of the global Penny Appeal to provide heads of households who have lost their source of income, refugees living in distress, and families who have lost their homes with:

- food parcels that feed a family of 4–5 for up to 2 weeks
- direct cash assistance for rent
- shelter rehabilitation

We conducted a rapid need assessment to identify the most affected households through home visits and phone calls. Distributions occurred in the most affected areas in Beirut such as Al Rmeil, Geitawi, and Gemmayze. Food packs included rice, lentils, beans, and more nutritious meal essentials.

Our partners located the most impacted families that have either had their homes destroyed due to the explosion or were facing shelter eviction. The cash assistance helped households cover three months' rent. Families with women, children, and elders were the given highest priority for assistance.

The needs for each home we rehabilitated varied, depending on the level of damage and were assessed by an engineer. Some requirements included plumbing, electric, windows, and doors. The project focused on locations that were neglected, had extreme damage due to the explosion, and low-income and vulnerable families. Homes were renovated to provide a liveable shelter that maintained the dignity of families in need.



Why We Did It:

On August 4, 2020, an explosion at the port of Beirut Lebanon, took the lives of +200 people and left 300,000 residents homeless. Prior to the explosion, Lebanon was already undergoing the worst economic crisis in the nation's history. According to the UN, almost half of the country is living below the poverty line. People have lost access to basic needs such as food, medicine, and healthcare. In cities like Tripoli, the most impoverished in the country, 60% of the population has an income of only \$1 per day. Families already were struggling to cover their rent and will now have the burden of fixing their homes as well. Plus, the country also hosts more than two million refugees from Syria and Palestine who also struggle with food insecurity.

Additionally, electricity is only available 2-3 hours a day on average in most locations across the country. Prior to the explosion, families were losing access to electricity as they could not afford to pay for fuel for their generators. The explosion has only exasperated these needs.

Lockdowns and social distancing make it difficult or impossible for millions worldwide to buy basic food items. According to the UN, the COVID-19 crisis could double global hunger. Providing food packs enables communities to adhere to lockdown measures and prevents a rapid spread of the virus. Additionally, food packs allow families to spend the little money they have on other essentials in times of emergency.



What We Achieved:

We provided 2,194 food packs to Lebanese people in need and covered 3 months' rent for 32 families. We have also completed the rehabilitation process for 50 homes that were destroyed in the explosion.



50 homes repaired



+200 individuals received aid



32 families received 3 months' rent



+2,000 food packs distributed

