

## Summary of aid activities in Beirut in 2020

On 4th of August 2020, a tragic explosion took place in Beirut. Being there, we decided to organize an immediate help. We were directed to St. Michael's Church in the Mar Mikhail neighborhood, Port Area. We met there father Elia. Injured in the head, he was running around in the destroyed church, coordinating groups of volunteers. He welcomed us in his apartment, where the explosion tore out the balcony door and destroyed the interior. He promised to help organize a Team of people dedicated to serving those in need. He said that the Church would wait for renovation, and the most important thing is to shelter people around.

So we organized a wonderful Team of Neocatechumenate volunteers and a "mixed" (Lebanese-Syrian-Palestinian) renovation crew and then started to work.

Six months later President of Domus Orientalis fr. Przemysław Szewczyk sat down with Elia in the church room (the coordination center of numerous NGOs, the place of distribution and trauma treatment), summarizing the works we did so far. The church walls are still cracked, water is dripping from the ceiling. And around the Church, a huge job has been done ...



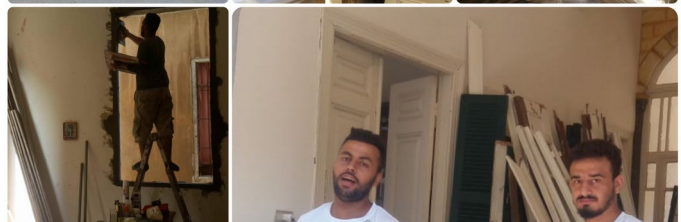
So far, we have been providing help in the 3 main areas:

### 1. Restoration of damaged apartments ("*To give them a shelter*"):

**a) Port area, Mar Mikhail district and neighboring housing estates:** work was carried out in **46 apartments** - mainly replacement of glass, windows, doors, reconstruction of broken walls.  
**Cost: \$ 25,805**



**b) Ayn el Romennieh estate:** minor refurbishment works (mainly glass replacement) were carried out on **16 apartments and one school**.  
**Cost: \$ 3,020**



**c) Replacing the glass in a destroyed sports club in Burj Hammoud**  
**Cost: \$ 1,600**



## 2. Support for the reconstruction of damaged workplaces - „Give a Job!” project *(“To give them the tools to rebuild a decent life”):*

- Assistance in the reactivation of **17 workplaces** - renovation works and the purchase of the necessary equipment. Cost: **\$ 12,496**



## 3. Distributions (*“Because it's important to be with them”*) - **\$ 4900:**

- Distribution of 50 food packages and 1000 face masks;
- Support for the field kitchen - financing the distribution of min. 100 meals;
- Help to the 30 African migrant women - payment of rent, purchase of vitamins / food / hygiene products / arranging medical visits;
- Purchase of medicines for Syrian refugees and the elderly;
- Help for single mothers (powdered milk and diapers);
- Purchase and distribution of 100 electric heaters;
- Payment for two surgeries (eye and abdominal);
- Financial support for 4 families, including the widow of warehouse workers who died in an explosion in the port
- Distribution of funds collected for the families of firefighters ([www.helpforfirefighters.pl](http://www.helpforfirefighters.pl)) took place in January 2021, therefore it will be included in the next summaries



**Total costs for all projects: \$ 47 821** (including salaries for the labour's Team)



### Partners in Poland and funds:

It wouldn't be possible to do so much work without a great material support obtained from ordinary polish donors and through our partners and friends from **Caritas of the Archdiocese of Łódź**, **Caritas Poznań** and **Pracownia Ikon Eleusa** (symbolic chapels made by Magda Sontag were sold at the charity auctions).

The accumulated funds will be enough for us to continue the work until spring, so we are asking for further, constant support ([www.domwschodni.pl/pl/post/pomoc-dla-bejrutu](http://www.domwschodni.pl/pl/post/pomoc-dla-bejrutu)).



### Partners in Lebanon:

- All above activities were carried with **St. Michel Church in Mar Mikhail**, **Redemptoris Mater Liban** ([www.redmatlib.com](http://www.redmatlib.com)) and **World Patriarchal Maronite Foundation for Integral Development** ([www.wpf.org/lb](http://www.wpf.org/lb)) and local NGO's
- Costs of the restoration of 13 apartments were shared with the Sisters form **St Augustinien Pennabli**, and 2 places with **Forum For Development Culture & Dialogue** ([www.fgcd.org](http://www.fgcd.org))
- Distribution of face masks and 20 packages was carried in a cooperation with **Together For the Family** from Zahle

### Further actions:

- Continuation of the restorations with an increasing focus on the project "Give a Job!" (also in other districts);
- Distribution;
- Accompaniment to the families we have helped so far - not only by further material support or distributions, but also "ordinary" visits, talks or joint prayers;
- Continuation of the aid project for the families of firefighters

**We are ready for the Further Mission! Walk with us! SIŁA!  
(STRENGTH)!**

