

## Summary of the Domus Orientalis and Caritas of Łódź aid projects in Beirut in the period of August 2020 – December 2021.

On the 4th of August, 2020, a tragic explosion hit the city of Beirut. Being there, we decided to organise an immediate relief effort. We were directed to St. Michael's Church neighbourhood, around the Port Area. There, we met Father Elia, who helped us organise a wonderful Team of high-spirited and strong-willed volunteers and a "mixed" (Lebanese-Syrian-Palestinian) team of workers. Just few days later we've started to work.

Since August 2020, we helped to restore **85 apartments** and **5 other places**, we provided support to **36 workplaces** ("Give a Job!" project), distributed and delivered **food packages, medicine, heaters**, etc. We also conducted a **support project for the families of firemen** who sacrificed their lives while trying to extinguish the fire, created **Young Team Of Domus Orientalis (YBTE)** and launched a project called **"The First Step"** - which helps to cover school fees for 40 children.



Total costs for all projects: **94 910,27 USD** (including the salaries for the labor's Team) and **2640 EUR**

So far, we have been providing help in the **5 main fields**:

**1. Restoration of damaged apartments / providing with furniture and other home appliances** (*"To help them shelter back"*): **50 962,50 USD**:

**a) Port area, Mar Mikhael area and surrounding neighbourhood housing estates:** work was carried out in **66 apartments** - mainly replacement of glass, windows, doors, reconstruction of broken walls, provision with equipment and furniture, so people can return their homes.

**b) Ain el Remmenneh estate:** minor refurbishment works (mainly glass restoration, except one building where we installed lift) were carried out for **19 apartments**.

**c) 5 other places:** glass restoration in a destroyed sports club in Burj Hammoud, restoration at the roof in a school in Clemenceau, glass exchange in a school in Ain el Remmaneh, works at the st. Michel's Church and providing with coolers for the school in Ashrafiyeh.



## 2. „Give a Job!” project (*"To give them the tools to rebuild a decent life"*) -28 725 USD:

Assistance in the reactivation of **36 workplaces**, including the renovation works and the purchase of the necessary equipment.



## 3. **Distributions and other emergency help** (*"Because it's important to be with them"*) – 8258,24 USD:

- Distribution of 150 food packages, 100 heaters, 1000 face masks;
- Support for the field kitchen in financing the distribution of min. 100 meals.
- Help to the 30 African migrant women including payment for rent, purchase of vitamins, food and hygiene products, arrangement of medical visits.
- Purchase of medicines for Syrian refugees and elderly, payment for two surgeries (eye and abdominal) and one medical treatment for a child.
- Help for single mothers (powdered milk and diapers).
- Distribution of the clothes for the poor people in Ain el Remmaneh/Chiyeh.
- Financial support for 6 families, including the widow of warehouse worker who died in the explosion of the port, Little Sisters of Nazareth and the workers of St Michel Church.



#### 4. „The First Step” and „YBTE” projects („Cause Young people are the Hope!”)

##### a) „The First Step” - 2640 EUR:

In autumn, we launched a scholarship project for children from the **Notre Dames Des Anges** school in the **Badaro** neighborhood in Beirut. The school is located near the Tayuneh roundbout and the Ain el Remmaneh district, where tragic clashes took place on October 14, 2021 (7 people died and 30 were injured).



We are currently looking after 40 children, with the prospect of extending the support. The project is coordinated by Melissa, who is a member of the Domus Orientalis Young Team in Lebanon – **YBTE (YoungBestTeamEver)**.

##### b) YBTE – 2531,53 USD:

The Young Team was created to stimulate other aspects of activities, such as ecological projects, cultural and educational activities and inter-religious dialogue. YBTE is also introducing the project "Wojtek Helps!".



So far, apart from the coordination of the "First Step", YBTE conducts the following activities:

a) **Green Projects:** 6 public beach cleanings and 1 street cleaning in Ain El Remmaneh.

b) **Workshops with children:**

- 5 series of workshops "Wojtek Helps!": in the Church of St. Michael, at Chiyeh Park and twice at the Badaro School for First Step Children;
- Games and fun in Chiyeh Park combined with the distribution of 100 pencil cases for the poorest children;
- Workshops on the occasion of St. Barbara in Chiyeh Park and St. Michael;
- Christmas activities in the church of St. Michael and at the House for Girls in Cherfe: donation of 35 packets for girls (each received pajamas, a coloring book and a packet of sweets) and 10 gallons of oil, a box of cheese and two cartons of canned food for the kitchen.



c) **Psychological Support:** Hiba is currently working with the Nadine's family, running a therapy for 3 children / Leia's therapy was included in the project for firefighters families.

d) **Media:** Anthony has created a number of amazing videos to promote our activities.



## 5. Support for the families of 10 firemen who died at port on 4<sup>th</sup> of August, 2020 ("United in Pain", [www.helpforfirefighters.pl](http://www.helpforfirefighters.pl)) - 4433 USD:

- First phase of the project was conducted with polish firemen under the supervision of the Main Chef of the Fire Brigade in Poland. Together with we collected 3200\$, which we delivered to all 10 families in January 2021. Promo materials for the project were prepared by Michał Kłosiński.
- As a next step we organised additional financial support for the family of M. Hawa, for the widow S.Khaki and for the 3 families from Qartaba.
- We are also providing psychological support to Lea, daughter of R. Khaki, and a walker for her brother
- As a part of "Give a Job!" we helped to the family of R. Mallahee to open 2 shops



### **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).

For your donations please use the link <http://domwschodni.pl/en/post/united-with-beirut-summary-of-our-mission>



### **Partners in Lebanon:**

- All above activities were carried out under the umbrella of **St. Michael's Church in Mar Mikhael**, in collaboration with different NGO's like **Redemptoris Mater Liban** ([www.redmatlib.com](http://www.redmatlib.com)).
- We are constantly collaborating in cost's sharing with **the Sisters of St Augustine in Pennabilli, Italy**, who organized a fundraiser to help the affected people
- Other partners we collaborate ad hoc: **Shift and Arcensiel**
- **In 2020 we also conducted projects with WPF, FDCD and TTF.**

### **Further actions:**

- Further restorations in destroyed areas aiming provision of furniture etc. with an increasing focus on the project "Give a Job!" (also in other districts),
- Distribution of food packages and other emergency help.
- 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;
- Developing the **Young Team of Domus Orientalis (YBTE)** projects, cultural and educational activities, psychological support, eco projects.
- Continuation of the aid project for the families of firefighters.

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

